

FEBRUARY 2022
GOOD TIDINGS NEWSLETTER
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN UCC
"Celebrating 150 years of Faith, Hope, and Love"
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10AM



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OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH
The Beginning

In the January Oakland Newsletter, there was a reminder of an important year in the life of our church. 2022! This year we celebrate our 150th anniversary: 1872-2022. Let's start at the beginning of our story.

In December, 1871, Dr. William B. Wellons, organizer of several Christian Churches in the Suffolk/Nansemond County area, and trustees for the Christian Church now about to be organized as Oakland Church, purchased 2 acres of land here in the bend of the road outside the village of Chuckatuck. Under the leadership of Dr. Wellons, the church was organized early in 1872 with 30 charter members. Later that year, the church was welcomed into the Eastern Virginia Conference of Christian Churches in session at Hebron Church, near Carrsville, Virginia.

On this 2 acre site stood a small church, just 36 ft. x 40 ft., previously owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1871 they united with the Methodists Protestant Church (Wesley Chapel) in Chuckatuck and chose the Wesley Chapel site as their home church. This site was vacated. The original building was enlarged in 1893 when a vestibule was added to the front and 18 to 20 ft. were added to the rear, and again in 1962 when a central entrance, the narthex, and steeple were added. This is our present day Fellowship Hall! Stand in the middle of the room sometime, look around you, and just think of all the history that has been made here. It was where our forefathers worshiped from 1872 until 1925, and again in 2007 when the sanctuary was being refurbished and many of the stained glass windows were removed and trucked off to the western part of Virginia to be repaired; where opening exercises for Sunday School were held from the very beginning to just a few years ago; where quarterly conferences were held - after morning worship, in the afternoon or at night; where dinners were served - Memorial Day dinners, as well as pot luck suppers; where scouts, beekeepers, and church committees met; where Fall Fest and bazaars before it were held; where family reunions, and funeral receptions were held and wedding receptions took place.

This small building became our Fellowship Hall and has been the center of our church life for 150 years!

This information was compiled by Ann S. Johnson from records of history taken from Dr. N. G. Newman and Mildred G. Knight



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022. In many churches it is a time for preparation for joining the church, culminating on Easter Sunday with baptism and church vows. The church has a long tradition for preparing new members for their journey of Faith.

We are told in a new liturgy for baptism suggested by the United Church of Christ entitled "What Do You Seek?" that "in the ancient church, the forty days of Lent were a time of intense preparation for baptism and a time of renewal and penitence for the baptized. The season begins on Ash Wednesday when the community of faith is confronted with its absolute dependence on God who gives breath to each and to the whole community itself. Moving from that confrontation, the community is invited to journey with Christ through the lectionary readings of Lent, encountering the deeper meaning of baptism. Lent can be the time when we are deeply formed in the image of Christ. The season culminates on Easter when we share in Christ's resurrection and baptism."

Maybe it has been a long time since you have thought about your baptism. Or maybe you are thinking about being baptized and making a commitment to the church. Either way, the liturgy of baptism keeps before us the same question: "What do you seek?" Think again what it was you sought when you made your commitment to the church. And if you are going to join the church, truly search your heart for what is that is being sought by you and what will be expected of you.

In the liturgy when the one presented for baptism is asked the question "What do you seek?" the candidate says, "I seek to know Jesus Christ." I encourage all of us to look at our baptism with prayer and meditation upon the phrase "I seek to know Jesus Christ" in the Lenten Season soon to come. The strength, testimony, and the Church's role in the world begin and end with our baptism. All rest upon how seriously we take and commit ourselves to: "I seek to know Jesus Christ".

At the end of the liturgy for baptism there is a blessing. I offer you that blessing now in prayer and confidence that this Lenten Season will put you on a focus journey and straight path of deeper commitment and love for Jesus Christ and His Holy church.

Receive the mark of the cross on your forehead.
As a sign of the way you are to go,
And as a sign of Christ with you in strength and love,
May the power of the Holy Spirit lead you to know
And to follow Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peace, Eddie





Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Music Corner

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus; no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

I have sung this hymn for years, and never knew where it came from. Did you know that this came out of Northeastern India in a region known as Assam? This was written about 150 years ago when missionaries from Scotland & Wales went to India to share the good news of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful beginning for this simply profound song!

Mardi Gras Sunday will be Sunday, February 27th @ 10:00AM. After a couple of years, we will welcome back the Olde James River Jazz Band to our sanctuary. Share with your neighbors and invite them to come and be uplifted with some great music!

Handbell Choir and Chancel Choir will resume regular rehearsals Thursday, February 3rd at 6:30PM and 7:30PM respectively.

Do you have a favorite hymn that you would like to know some more about? Send an email to Paul Putnam at peputnam@yahoo.com.

In Christ's peace, love and music,

~Paul

MARDI GRAS SUNDAY

**The Olde James River
Jazz Band**

**Special Music during our Sunday
Worship Service**

FEBRUARY 27th



Kids

**OCC FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP!
AT
OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**18
FEB**

**Grades PK-5
6:00-8:00 pm**

EVENT COMPONENTS

VIDEO

SNACK TIME

ESCAPE ROOM ACTIVITY

GAMES

CRAFT TIME

**DINNER: LITTLE CAESARS CHEESE
AND PEPPERONI PIZZA!**

*Please RSVP to Connie Burgess at
jesseandconnieburgess@gmail.com or 757-635-8710
before 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.*



Oakland's Legacy Program

Oakland's Legacy Program consists of two parts:

The first part, "Oakland's Legacy Members", is for those who have informed the Legacy Committee, or the church office that they plan to leave a gift to the church upon their death. With their permission, their names will be recorded on the Oakland's Legacy Members plaque.

The second part, "Oakland's Legacy Angels", is for those whose gifts to the church have been received after their death from their will or estate plan. Unless they wish to remain anonymous, their names will be permanently engraved on the Oakland's Legacy Angels plaque.

The Legacy Committee has purchased a leather journal where all Legacy Angels gifts, and how each was used to benefit our church, will be recorded and become a permanent part of Oakland's history.

These two plaques hang side by side in the Fellowship Hall just to the left of the entrance to the sanctuary.

For more information about Oakland's Legacy Program, you may contact any member of our committee: John Gayle, Parker Howell, Ann Johnson, Pam Saunders, and Mary Jane Naismith.

Suffolk Winter Shelter for the Homeless

If you're wondering how you can help with our Suffolk Winter Shelter...



1) Donate any of these items (we'll need total of 160 of each)

⇒ by leaving in **kitchen by Sun. 2/13 marked for SWS:**

- Granola bars or trail mix - potato chips or pretzels
- individual fruit juices—pieces of fruit banana, apples or oranges
- individual oatmeal or cereals

2) Help make sandwiches and breakfast bags on Thurs 2/17 at 10:30am. (**Contact Dana to sign up**) Depending on how many hands volunteer, it shouldn't take more than 60-90 mins. (FYI: The sandwich bread, deli meat, and water is being donated by The Isle of Wight Community Outreach Program via our own Cheryl Rowlands.)

3) Contact Dana to make and package a "hot meal" for 40 people (may want to sign up in pairs or teams of 3) on Thurs. 2/17, Fri. 2/18, Sat. 2/19, or Sun. 2/20 to be packaged and ready by 4pm. The Isle of Wight Community Outreach Program is also donating chicken quarters, boneless hams, and pork butts from which you can start the meal. They'll be thawing in the church fridge by Tuesday morning. You just need to plan the entree around 1 of those meats, plan and purchase the sides, and dessert. You may submit receipts to church for any/all of your expenses.

THANKS!!!!

⇒ **What's still needed—Call Dana Mitchell (535-6793)**



~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~

15

FEB

7 PM

Cracker Barrell

4700 Portsmouth Blvd, Chesapeake.

That is a 6 mile straight shot from Kim's house. There is plenty of room inside and tables can be put together if needed.

Please Join Them!



JEWELS

Third Tuesday of every month 7pm

Sisters in Christ

We are a group of Oakland's Christian Women who seek to enrich our lives through strong spiritual and personal growth in a small group setting. It is a perfect opportunity to get to know each other. Everlasting bonds are formed at these monthly gatherings. Please join us!

Next Jewels Gathering

February 15 7:00 pm

Hosted by Kim Waller and Sharon Ingold

@ 171 Secretariat Drive



<i>Gene Arcand</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Waylon Harris</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Tammy Howell</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Jesse Williams</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Troy Phillips</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Lucas Gup</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Shelley Helms</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Joshua Harrell</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Lynn Knight</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Jimmye Hayes</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Kadie Bunch</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Amy Csisar</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Kirk Barrett</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Rose Bowers</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Roosevelt Jones</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Bryn Blanchette</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Dale Boyer</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Greyson Blanchette</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Dori Mitchell</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Eddie Walker</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Kimmy Curliss</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Randy Rowell</i>	<i>26</i>
		<i>Peyton Wise</i>	<i>28</i>

Holy Grounds—Sunday Welcome Table



Do you enjoy a cup of coffee and a snack or two before or after church? Well, lots of folks do and the Holy Grounds table is a great way of providing a light snack, welcoming new people to our church, and encouraging fellowship.

The table is located along the left side of our Fellowship Hall and we need folks to sign up to provide food and drink items. Some sweets (be they home made or bought), fruit and juice are all that are needed. If course, any light food you prefer to make is welcome. There is a sign up sheet at the table. Coffee grounds are in the kitchen for anyone's use.

PLEASE sign up to help! Remember, many hands make light work!

Oakland Outreach

There is a tremendous amount of growth in our community and we need to find ways to let our new (and old) neighbors know about our wonderful church. If you would like to join a group of folks whose purpose is to brainstorm ideas and help implement plans, please call Pam Saunders. There is work to be done and we

OUTREACH

WOW!

150th Year Celebration

Can you imagine being in our original building 150 years ago? Ann Johnson brought it to life for us several Sundays ago. We look forward to more tidbits from her in the Sundays to come. We imagine folks arrived decked in their "Sunday Best" by horse and buggy and/or by walking. Sundays would have most likely been the spiritual and fellowship highlights of the week. How times have changed!

Denise and I are in the infancy 150th Celebration planning stage and welcome anyone who might like to join plan and implement the plans for that day. Creative ideas are needed. We anticipate special music, a bountiful reception, gifted speakers addressing the past and the future, and an enticing slide show. We will be inviting past staff members, inactive members, and members who have moved. Naturally, we pray our regular church members will be present. We anticipate a big crowd and pray COVID will be on the downswing. Please let us know if you would like to help.

One feature that day will be a slide show. We are seeking old pictures that you might have from our church and/or church events. We will gladly scan your pictures and return them to you. Please look around and see what you might have.

Blessings! Please lend us your hearts and hands!

Pam Saunders
Denise Spady

DEACON INSTALLATION AND ORDINATION

Sadie Boyer, Sandra Butler, Betty Rhodes, Mary Anne Riddick,
Sunday, January 30, 2022



Laying of hands on our newly ordained deacons

JOIN US ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY

CELEBRATING 150
YEARS

OUR ROOTS ARE
PLANTED FIRMLY
ON FAITH, HOPE,
AND LOVE

Est. 1872

We Welcome You

If you believe that God is calling you to be a member of this congregation, please let us know with a call to our church office. We can help you join by baptism or profession of faith, as a transfer, or by reinstatement.

It would be wonderful to have you in our Church Family!

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To share God's love with all people,
To serve the Lord with humility and kindness,
To grow with the Lord in wisdom and strength.

Oakland Christian United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 2008
Suffolk, VA 23432

FEBRUARY 2022

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Interim Pastor: Rev. Eddie Walker
Minister of Music: Paul E. Putnam
Secretary & Newsletter Editor: Connie Edwards
Financial Secretary: Janice Roberts
Nursery Attendant: Kimberly Curliss

Telephone: (757) 255-4353

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