



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

Website: www.oaklanducc.org email: office@oaklanducc.com Ph # 757-255-4353

MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

By: Ann Johnson, Oakland's Historian

Stained Glass Memorial Windows

We have a long history of moving and refurbishing our beautiful stained glass memorial windows that can be found throughout the church. These windows have given us much pleasure over the years. In earlier times, church members might have looked at a family window and said, “My great-grandmother used her farm rent money to pay for that window.” Today, let's talk about Oakland's windows.

When the little 1872 church was enlarged and remodeled in 1893, a new vestibule was added to the front, 18 to 20 feet were added to the rear, a new roof was put on and new pews were installed. **Also added** were ten single-light Lancet stained glass memorial windows: four on each side and two in front. I call these the A-shaped windows. Believe it or not, nine of them can still be found in the church today: two, in the Community Life Center; two, in the Children's Annex; and five, in the sanctuary area. One window was broken as it was being moved.

The A-shaped windows are not the only stained glass memorial windows in the church. In 1923, our pastor, Dr. I. W. Johnson, led us in a major building program, and in November, 1925, we dedicated this sanctuary with its eleven picture stained glass memorial windows. I call these the arched-shaped windows. There are three large picture windows and eight smaller ones with a small picture or symbol on the upper part of the window. In the large Gayle window, we see the “Good Shepherd” holding a lamb in his arms as “Mama” ewe looks on; then in the window over the altar, we see Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: You can almost hear Jesus say: “Not my will but thy will be done”; and finally in the Eley window, we see Mary at the Empty Tomb. She hears His voice: “Mary, Mary, do not look for me here.” Look at the smaller windows. The Lamp and Book are in the Martin Window, White Lilies in the Copeland window, Star over Bethlehem in the Newman window in the north entrance, Beehive in the Moore window, Open Bible in the Luke window (On a sunny morning, the reflection skips across the wall in front of the Altar.). Last, the Alpha and Omega, God at the beginning and God at the end, in the Crumpler window in the central entrance.

What a legacy our forefathers left us: stained glass memorial windows that tell two stories—the story in the picture window and the story of the family who gave the window.



Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

Music Corner

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,
their young will play together; a little child will lead, a little child will lead.
In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.
The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.
They will war no more, they will war no more; a child will lead them all,
will lead them all.
In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;
In the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace,
Creation will be at peace.

Words by J. Paul Williams

As we continue to witness millions of lives in turmoil in Ukraine, the choir sang this anthem on Sunday that just seemed to fit with the time we are living in. It is time for us to fervently pray for peace.

When you sing, you pray twice! You are invited to come and be part of the Oakland Chancel Choir! We meet each Thursday at 7:30PM. Questions? Contact Paul @ peputnam@yahoo.com
Peace and Blessings to you throughout this Lenten Season,
~Paul

Thank you

***To The Olde James River Jazz Band
for the special music
during our February 27th Sunday service!***



Kids

OCC FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP! AT OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH



18 | **Grades PK-5**
March | **6:00-8:00 pm**

VIDEO TIME

GAMES and CRAFTS

SNACK 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,
March 16, 2022.*



Kasie Wilson	1
Steve Wilson	3
Zoie Wise	6
Joe Barnes	9
Ann Johnson	11
Clayton Curliss	12
Nick Sarick	13
Roger Burton	15
John Mitchell	18
Frank Daniels	19

Roger Gunter	19
Keira Osborne	19
Cheryl Rudd	20
Samantha Fly	23
Darden Langston	27
Marie Marr	27
Robert Smith	27
Lynn Barrett	27
Dana Mitchell	29



Loaves and Fishes

Drive Thru Food Pantry

Third Thursday of the month food bags are distributed to those who need a helping hand!

The following churches and groups are working together to keep this community need going, providing 30 to 35 healthy bags of food.

Little Bethel Church, Diamond Grove Church, **Oakland Christina Church**, Wesley Chapel Church, Chucktuck Ruritans, Eastern Star, and Healthy Suffolk



*How can you help! We are asking for donations of either **a roll of paper towels or a roll of toilet paper** that we can include in our monthly food giveaway bags.*

Suffolk Winter Shelter for the Homeless

Thank you

Whether you contributed **time** at the Sandwich Party, **talent** by cooking up a "hot meal", **treasure** through a monetary donation, or **prayer** toward the Suffolk Winter Shelter....You made a difference!

I especially wanted to thank the Isle of Wight Community Outreach Program for sharing their resources, especially Cheryl Rowlands for extending them to us and making our meal preparations much easier.

Through our combined efforts we delivered 136 bags of food for a total of 408 meals, touching the lives of 34 homeless adults in need. For 4 nights, I witnessed the impact your generosity had on the lives of those receiving the meals prepared by our church. It was a good thing and surely a God thing. Thanks, friends!

Dana Mitchell



~~ *Men's Fellowship Group* ~~



15 | **7 PM**
March | **Sal's Pizza**

Sal's Pizza
2815 Godwin Blvd. in Suffolk,
Please Join Us!

If you have any questions please contact: **Roger Burton** 757-373-2817 or 757-373-4080



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
March 15 7:00 pm

Hosted by Ginny Fly and Cindy Cowan
In Oakland's Church Community Life Center
Suffolk, VA 23435
Devotions: Dana Mitchell



*The bushes have been removed
in preparation for the parking
lot improvements.*



Parking Lot Improvements

April 18th through April 30th

*Please bear with us during this process
Alternate car entries will be by either of the two
dirt roads. Flat shoes are suggested and we may have
to enter the church through the Community Life Center*

*Thanks to an anonymous donation of \$50,000 designated to the parking lot that
will ease the financial impact to Oakland.*

In other News Suffolk's Board of Zoning Appeals granted a variance for us to have an electronic sign. Now we have to apply for a sign permit, to satisfy the city that our sign conforms to height, size, and design regulations. More fees and wait time, at least we're over the first big hurdle! Pam, Rob, Roosevelt, and Doug all spoke at the hearing. So glad it went well.



What Does "Generosity" really include?

Being generous has always been a big part of who and what Oakland is all about. The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God where **"the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it"**.

The paradox? **Generous people get back far more than they give.**

First, a clarification: The paradox is **NOT** a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, **there are more important things to give than money**, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How can one measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity's real "payback" is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving in many ways. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

Our financial Stewardship Campaign for 2022 is over, so let us aim to now give away more of our time, to serve our neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, and extravagant in love.

Then let's pray that God will guide each of us and help us experience the paradox: **Givers get back more than they give away.**

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!"

2 Corinthians 9:11

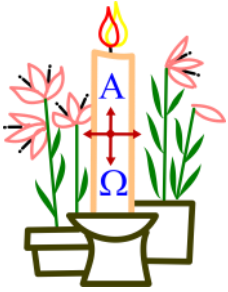
Holy Grounds—Sunday Welcome Table



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!



ALTAR FLOWERS

The Flower and Altar Chart is in the Fellowship Hall
on the front blue bulletin

If you would like to put flowers on the altar in honor or memory of a loved one please sign up on the chart and Connie will contact you to find out what you would like to have put in the bulletin

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

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

March 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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