



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

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MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH
By: Ann Johnson, Oakland's Historian

A Boy, A Candle, and A Match

Let me tell you the story of a boy, a candle, and a match. In 1951, Dr. Hardcastle was called to be the pastor of our rural church. It was not long before he noticed 2 young boys who sat in the front row in church every Sunday. Where were their parents? Both of the parents sang in the choir, and not having a Mrs. Carole Matt who would have wanted them to sit with her, the boys sat on the front row where their mom and dad could see them.

Dr. Hardcastle wanted to add an Altar Boy to the worship service. He asks the parents if they would allow the older boy to light the altar candles. When the mother talked to the boy, I imagine the first thing he asks was "What do I have to do?" That boy, Bradley Simpson became our first acolyte.

I telephoned Bardley last week. He is now retired and lives in Chesapeake. I told him I wanted to know what he remembered about being an acolyte. He replied, "It was so long ago, I'm not sure, but I think I was 12, maybe younger. I can remember waiting in the foyer for an usher to light the big candle I held." He also stated he carried a pad of matches in his pocket in case the flame went out on the way to the altar. "After I lit the altar candles and blew out the big one, I went back to my seat in the front row. When the service was over, someone else blew out the candles." I asked him if he wore a special vestment—a white surplice over a long black cassock. "No, I wore my Sunday suit."

Bradley was our only acolyte for several years. Other boys began to serve as acolytes, but Bradley told me, "I never remember a girl being an acolyte." It took a few more years before girls began to serve as acolytes.

Today both boys and girls in grades 3 and above service as acolytes with an adult leader, Mrs. Susie Eaton, to instruct them in their duties.

The acolyte plays an important role in the worship service. As they come up the aisle, they remind us that it is time for us to prepare our hearts for worship. as they bring the light of Jesus to the worship service. At the end of the service the acolyte carries the flame out of the church and the people follow to do good things in Jesus' name.



An Easter Message



Easter is almost upon us. It is a wonderful time of the year. All around us are the beginnings of new life. As Christians though, we have another stop to make before we can celebrate the Season of Easter.

The stop we have to make along the way to Easter is not a pretty place. The sights and sounds are not pleasing to our eyes, ears, and hearts. The images are haunting, almost repulsive. But we have to make the stop, if we want to get to Easter. There are no detours around Calvary.

Once during a Lenten season in Dallas, as told by Robert C. Morgan in his book, *LIFT HIGH THE CROSS*, stood a cross on the lawn of a local church. The cross was so offensive to some that petitions circulated to have the ugly structure removed. People did not want to look at it because they felt it was a sacrilege and a desecration.

The cross stood ten feet high. It was constructed from weapons of crime and violence— guns, pistols, knives, bayonets, bullets, bombs, and broken bottles. Like a monster from the deep, the cross rose out of the remains of an automobile that had been smashed almost flat in a traffic accident. The cross's base was surrounded by razor barbed wire, the kind one sees around prison compounds.

The cross was in the path of people going from place to place. They had to pass it. They had to see it. There were no detours. The cross was a terrible reminder of the suffering due to the sins of the world and the suffering of God for those sins.

Easter is coming. For some, it will just be Easter. For others who make the stop at Calvary, and look upon the ugly cross, experience the sights and sounds of a dying Jesus we will become the Savior of those who stand with him until he can bring Easter into their lives, the ugly cross will take on a meaning of its own about a God who loved the world to give his Son.

Easter is coming. We have to make a stop first. We have to have the Good Friday to have Easter Morning. There are no detours of the Friday noon.

In the light of early morn, as the brand new day was born,
They bound Him, full of shame and scorn, and carried Him away.

As they tried to satisfy cruel shouts of "Crucify!"
There He was sent forth to die on that most dreadful day.

The mountains quake, the demons leap, As all of heaven's
angels weep; for the Son of God is seen to swoon,
"Neath the weight of the cross, on a Friday noon.



Paul Putnam - Minister of Music

He Lives

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today,
I know that He is living, whatever they may say,
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.
He Lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today,
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, Salvation to impart,
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my Heart.

"He Lives" was written by Presbyterian Minister, Alfred H. Ackley and published in 1933. For almost 90 years this Easter Resurrection song has had an important part of Easter worship celebrations. I have always loved this song because of the joy it brings as I play and sing it. Is this one of your favorite Easter songs?

As Easter approaches, I invite you to come and sing with the Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir is not only a wonderful group of people, dedicated to the ministry of music here at Oakland, but we are a family within the church family. Feel free to ask any choir member on Sundays about their experience being part of the Chancel Choir. We meet on Thursdays at 7:30PM. Questions?

Email Paul: peputnam@yahoo.com

Happy Easter!
~Paul

Music Corner

Communion

After much consideration and discussion the council decided that starting May 1st we will serve communion in a way that gives everyone a choice. Upon entering the building on Communion Sunday those wishing to continue using disposable communion cups at communion time can get them from a nearby table as they enter the Sanctuary. (one at each of the two front doors).

At communion time the Deacons will pass down the pews the regular trays with juice in plastic cups and pieces of bread for those who wish to take communion this way. We feel this will satisfy everyone's request.

Blessings,
Carole Matt
Head Deacon

Weclome our New Members

*Mike and Alicia Phillips
Cheryl Rudd*

Mike, Alicia and Cheryl have been attending church regularly and made the commitment to join Oakland on March 20, 2022.

*Mike and Alicia have 4 young children
Tessa, Harvey, Haydn, and Troy*

Cheryl has already joined our Hospitality Committee!

Welcome to the family!



Kids



OCC FRIDAY FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP! AT OAKLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH

22 | Grades PK-5
April | 6:00-8:00 pm

VIDEO TIME

GAMES and CRAFTS

SNACK TIME

DINNER PROVIDED

*Please RSVP to
Connie Burgess at
jesseandconnieburgess@gmail.com
or 757-635-8710*

before 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20th



Kids

EASTER ACTIVITIES

EASTER BAGS — will be handed out Sunday April 3rd and April 10th at church.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Easter Sunday, April 17— Children Church teachers will host the hunt during Children's Church.



April
BIRTHDAYS



Sharon Curliss	4
Dani Howell	4
Mindy McCann	8
Wanda Gerard	10
Lisa Shearin	10
Charlotte Fly	10
Riley Billings	16

Betty Dickinson	17
Deborah Harrell	20
Danna Vroman	20
Christian Taylor	21
Harvey Phillips	21
Melanie Kelly	21
Wendell Sodergren	27

~~ Men's Fellowship Group ~~



19 | **7 PM**
April | **El Rodeo**

EL RODEO
15 E. Windsor Blvd
Windsor
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
April 19 7:00 pm

Hosted by Mary Haddad
4950 Exeter Drive
Suffolk, VA 23434

BOCE: Board of Christian Education

Calling all interested Sunday School Teachers!

The Board of Christian Education is looking to return to Sunday School classes for all ages. Please let us know, if you are interested in serving as a Sunday School Teacher.

If you are interested please speak to Dani Howell or you can email the BOCE at

OakandBOCE@gmail.com.





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*



GET READY! GET SET! GO!

**Don't miss the upcoming seminar, presented by Kyle Arcand,
on Charitable Giving that can actually benefit YOU!**

Mark your calendar ---

Sunday, May 1 5:30 p.m. in our Community Life Center

Kyle will discuss various methods for any Charitable Giving, including ways to minimize your taxes, and thus maximize your gift.

Learn about Charitable Giving

Legacy Gifts

- Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA
- Endowments
- Trusts
- Donor-advised funds
- Donation of stocks or property

COST: FREE + INCLUDES A LIGHT MEAL (WHAT A DEAL!)

This seminar is open to the community, so please tell your friends about it.

Brought to you by---

Your Stewardship Committee



Search Committee:

Thank you all for the faith you have put in our committee. Profiles continue to slowly trickle in for our review. Our committee has begun making initial contact with candidates and will continue to review profiles as we receive them. Additionally, we have expanded our search pool of candidates and are excited to see the what's to come. We ask for you to continue holding us in your prayers as we continue our search for Oakland's next Pastor.

Dani Howell,
Rob Rhodes, Jesse Burgess, Suzanne Langston, Clare Mitchell, Mary Ann Riddick, Carole Matt,
and Robert Fly

Thank you

The Deacon Luncheon was wonderful and it was great to be gathered together around the table!

Our Deacons: Rainell Rowell, Danna Vroman, Dana Mitchell, John Gayle, Ella Mae Winslow, Susie Eaton, Carole Matt, Sadie Boyer, Sharon Winslow, Sandy Butler, Betty Rhodes and Mary Anne Riddick.



150th Year Celebration

150 Years of Faith, Hope and Love

May 22nd we will celebrate 150 years of Faith, Hope and Love at our beloved Oakland UCC. We hope you have been enjoying the fabulous snippets of history that our historian, Ann Johnson, has been sharing during selected worship hours.

Your Anniversary Committee is hard at work. We are planning a special service and reception and pray that many will worship with us that day.

Please let us know of any folks you would like to make sure receive invitations.

Please let us know of any part of the service you would like to see included that day

Please share any pictures you might have, especially weddings and christenings.

Please share any church memorabilia that might be hiding in your home.

Please spread the word and save the date.

The Anniversary Committee members are Connie Burgess, Dana Mitchell, Sharon Winslow, Dani Howell, Denise Spady and Pam Saunders. We welcome your suggestions!

Blessings! Please lend us your hearts and hands!

Sunday, April 3 Communion

9 am Sunday School

10 am Worship

11:15 Sunday School

Tuesday, April 5

9:30 am to 12 pm Mar-Jongg—CLC

10 am Loaves & Fishes - Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 7

9 am to 3:30 pm Rug Hookers—CLC

6:30 pm Bells—Bell Room

7:30 pm Choir— Choir Room

Friday, April 8

9 am to 3:30 pm Rug Hookers—CLC

Saturday, April 9

9 am to 3:30 pm Rug Hookers—CLC

Sunday, April 10

9 am Sunday School

10 am Worship

11:15 am Sunday Schools

Tuesday, April 12

9:30 am to 12 pm Mar-Jongg—CLC

6 pm—9 pm Beekeepers—CLC

Wednesday, April 13

7 pm BSA OA—Fellowship Hall

Extended Calendar

April 14 Maundy Thursday April 15—Good Friday April 17 Easter Sunday

April 18 Mon Junto - 10 am - 3 pm - CLC & Godwin Sunday School Room

April 18 Mon Suffolk Sister Cities Meeting — 6 pm— CLC

April 19 Tue Local Book Club 12:30 pm - 3 pm - CLC

April 19 Tue Jewels 7 pm - At Mary Haddad's

April 19 Tue Men's Fellowship 7 pm -El Rodeo Mexican - 15 E. Windsor Blvd

April 20 Wed BSA District - 5:45 pm - 9 pm - Fellowship Hall

April 21 Thur Loaves & Fishes Food prep 10 am - Distribution drive thru 11am - CLC

April 22 Fri Youth Fri Friends 6 pm to 8 - FH

April 23 Sat Beekeepers 8 am to 4 pm - CLC

April 30 Sat BSA—Banquet—CLC

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

April 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

Office Hours: 10 AM to 3 PM Monday - Thursday

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