

THE OAK GROVE CHRONICLE

Oak Grove Christian Church

DECEMBER, 2014

Just a Thought . . .

God's love is the greatest gift of all

Read: Ephesians 2:1-9

It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. [Ephesians 2:8]

Prayer: Dear God, help us to humbly receive the gift of your son, Jesus, and to keep gratitude in our hearts all year long. Amen

SERVING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Mike Waters
Robert Fuller
Alt. Andy Cravens

SERVING COMMUNION

Danny Adkins
Bob Grose
Harold Motley
Carlton Ramsey
Alt. Richard Motley

Serving Communion to Choir
Donald Burnette

Oak Grove Christian Church
Michael G. Waters, Minister

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Chatham, VA 24531

Church Telephone
434-432-3207
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www.ogchristianchurch.org

A Moment With Mike . . .

It has been perfectly demonstrated that the holidays are not always picture perfect. During a season when Hallmark believes that everyone is gathering with family and friends to eat, drink and celebrate the festive season, we all know that some people are dealing with loneliness, grief, and unspeakable sorrow. The holidays do not prevent tragedy and difficulties from visiting. For those suffering depression, sorrow, loneliness, and grief the holidays can be an especially difficult time. Let us be keenly aware and do what we can to help those people stay connected to others. As our family ate our Thanksgiving meal this year, I was particularly impressed that my nephew had invited a friend from work to eat with us. His friend had no family in the area and would have been alone on Thanksgiving. Considering the amount of food that my niece and sister had prepared, his presence was not a difficulty at all. It may have seemed like a very small gesture. But to that young man, I am sure that it made a difference in his day!

So our challenge is to not just mouth the words "Keep Christ in Christmas", but to actually keep Christ in Christmas in our thoughts, actions, and attitudes. My friend, Chris Stanley said it this way: *"So many cry out to keep Christ in Christmas, being concerned about His name being replaced with an X. And yet, when it comes to the day, so many push Him aside for the sake of gifts and the hustle and bustle. Make His birth the center of your holiday, not as justification for indulgence."*

There will be lots of stuff this season that we hope will help you and your family stay focused on the central meaning of this season. Two of the most noticeable will take place on the Sunday before Christmas, December 21. Our morning service will be a blend of music and reading that will serve to tell the old, old story in a way that will make it fresh and brand new all over again. In the evening, our young people will tell the story in a way that only they can. That will be combined with a brief candlelight service and followed by refreshments. Make sure you mark your calendars!

May God bless you and yours this Christmas season!



In His Service,
Mike



THE DO IT YOURSELF NATIVITY PLAY & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 @ 6:30 PM

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The season is near that you will be signing and addressing your Christmas cards. Don't forget there is a church mail box in the room behind the sanctuary that can be used for Christmas cards for those who attend. Also, don't forget to check your box each Sunday before or after the worship service during December for mail. We try to distribute the cards, but it is hard to get all the cards to everyone.



CHURCH COOKBOOKS

THE LADIES CIRCLE HAS SOME OF THEIR
COOKBOOKS LEFT

THESE MAKE NICE GIFTS

COST IS \$15

If you would like to purchase one (or several) please see a member of the circle.

December Birthdays

- 1-Lindsey Jefferson
- 2-Tara Dalton
- 4-Thomas Motley
- 6-Ann Craddock
- 8-Tina Cravens
- 12-Joanne Ignacki
- 16-Kera Meadows
- 18-Joan Motley
- 18-Ruby Cravens
- 18-Jonah Franke-Fuller
- 19-Diane Oswald
- 22-Connie Jarrett
- 22-Adair Blurton
- 24-Ellis Motley
- 24-Edward Adkins
- 27-Curtis Vaughan
- 29-Mark Cravens
- 31-Donna Motley



INSPIRATIONAL WISDOM ON HOW TO LIVE A HAPPY AND FULFILLED LIFE

People know what you are by what they see, not by what they hear.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. ~ Matthew 5:16

The heart is the happiest when it beats for others.

Greater love hath no man than this, That a man lay down his life for his friends. ~John 15:13

Success comes in cans; Failure comes in can'ts

I can do all things through Christ Which strengthens me ~Philippians 4:13

BELL TOWER PROBLEM SOLVED

Although it was very cold and windy on Saturday, November 15th, Robert & Jeff Fuller worked diligently to mount the plexiglass panels on the outside of the openings in the bell tower. This will solve the problem of leaves gathering and the rain and snow entering the openings which caused a problem of water coming down the tower and leaking into the vestibule. They did an excellent job as you can hardly tell the plexiglass has been installed. Thanks to all who help with the upkeep of our church building and grounds.

THANKS FOR THE CANDY

On behalf of the youth, thanks to those of the congregation that furnished candy for the trick-or-treat bags. The response was great. There was a full bag and half bag for each youth.

With Sympathy

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Frank & Betty Fuller and family at the loss of Jeff Fuller on Sunday, November 23rd due to an automobile accident.

This leaves a big hole in the heart of his family and in the hearts of our church family.

An account has been established to benefit his son, Jacob Davis. Donations can be made to any American National Bank, or by check mailed to Frank and Betty Fuller, 21028 U. S. Hwy 29, Chatham, VA 24531. You may also place a check in the offering plate on Sunday. Be sure to earmark it for the benefit fund (Jacob Davis).

A TALE OF THE CANDY CANE



The account of the candy cane's origins circulates every Christmas season and is more likely a fun story than historical fact. No matter; tales often contain truth. This tasty treat can convey important elements of our Christian faith.

The stripes remind us of the heart of Christmas, our Savior, Jesus: white for his purity; red for his blood shed on the cross. The candy cane resembles the curved staffs of the shepherds — the first people to visit the Christ-Child and worship at the manger. And when the cane is turned upside down, it becomes a letter J, for "Jesus."

Indeed, Jesus turns our lives upside down and inverts our presumptions: A poor baby born in a stable becomes King of kings and Lord of lords; enemies aren't for hating but loving; blessings aren't for hoarding but sharing; the world works for war, but Jesus calls us to live in peace; receiving is better than giving; sinners are made saints; and death is conquered as God grants us eternal life.

CHURCH BOARD REPORT

THE 2015-2016 OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS, ALONG WITH THE TRUSTEE & ELDER LIST, WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE CONGREGATION FOR A VOTE THE LAST SUNDAY IN DECEMBER.



Serving at the Lord's Table
 Mike Waters Robert Fuller
 Alt. Andy Cravens
Serving Communion
 Danny Adkins Harold Motley
 Bob Grose Carlton Ramsey
 Alt. Richard Motley
Serving Communion to Choir
 Donald Burnette

DECEMBER

2014

Camp Pitt Report

NOVEMBER

Camp Pitt \$ 1.65
 Birthday Fund \$ 1.11
 Total \$ 2.76

*	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
*Birthday **Anniversary	1 *Lindsey Jefferson	2 *Tara Dalton	3 7:30 PM—Choir	4 *Thomas Motley	5	6 *Ann Craddock		
7	8 *Tina Cravens	9	10 7:30 PM—Choir	11	12 *Joanne Ignacki	13		
14 Board Meeting	15	16 *Kera Meadows	17 6:30 pm—Choir Christmas Dinner	18 *Joan Motley *Ruby Cravens *Jonah Franke- Fuller	19 *Diane Oswald	20		
21 6:30 PM— Christmas Play & Candlelight Reception to follow	22 *Connie Jarrett *Adair Blurton	23	24 *Ellis Motley *Edward Adkins	25 	26	27 *Curtis Vaughan		
28	29 *Mark Cravens	30	31 7:30 PM—Choir *Donna Motley					
								