



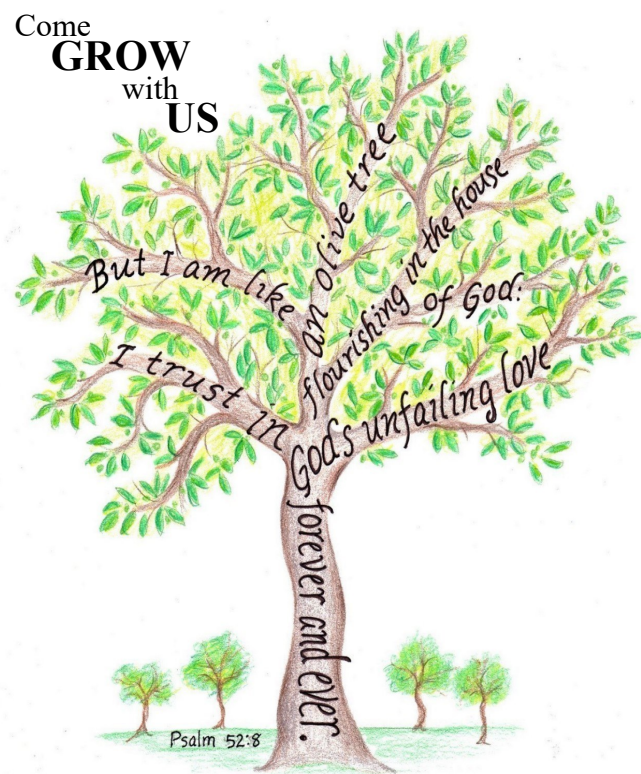
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**January 2024: Verse of the Month**

For everyone who asks receives,  
 and the one who seeks finds,  
 and to the one who knocks,  
 the door will be opened.  
 Luke 11:10

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES  
 AT OAKLAND**

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Indoor Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday** 6:30 PM Wednesday Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Worship Online (Facebook)



**CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER**

January 2024

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*Pastor David's Corner*

**New Year – New You**

2024 is here!! Surely you've seen countless GIFs, MEMES, and Facebook posts that all say the same thing: "New Year, New You." Or, perhaps most of them are making fun of the concept. Whether you're new to the saying, have adopted it for 2024, or are rolling your eyes because of how many times you've tried it and failed, let's take a second to look at the concept and see if it's just baloney or blah, blah, blah.

Some believe it means that you're going to strive for a top-to-bottom overhaul on your entire life — new clothes, new hairstyle, new friends, and so on. Others believe it means starting a journey for self-improvement or perhaps a better version of themselves, with a change of attitude, working to be happier, or striving to have a better outlook through an improved mindset. While some believe it means improving on aspects of your life that you're not happy with, which could be things you don't like about yourself such as being overweight, having an unhealthy vice, or practicing bad habits. Which sounds like you?

I used to aim my resolutions at fixing undesirable aspects of my life. The problem was that I would tackle way too many lifestyle changes at the same time (or set the bar too high) which would cause me to fail, and I wouldn't try again until the next year! Does that sound familiar? Chances are you've dealt with the disappointment of a failed resolution yourself. But does it always have to end this way?

Perhaps waiting until January 1<sup>st</sup> is part of the problem. If we're postponing a goal for New Years, maybe we don't honestly want to achieve that goal anyway, or by waiting for this once-a-year moment, aren't we simply wasting valuable days in potential to work toward the objectives, giving less time to improve?

Let's change that. Let's resolve to set periodic targets, now, and agree to only take on resolutions with God's strength! This is not to discourage you or to take any positivity away from New Year's resolutions, but to encourage and inspire you to live every day by committing to a life of continuous, ongoing improvements. Here are 4 types of goals we can and should set today.

1) Don't set resolutions in the flesh (firm decisions to do or not do something by a temporal will and resolve): set weekly, monthly, and quarterly goals instead. A fleshly resolution is a hard decision, such that when you have a bad day and break your resolution, it seems like an instant, clear-cut failure. "I said I wasn't going to skip the gym, and now that I have, I may as well not go back. I've already failed." A goal, on the other hand, is something to work toward and strive for. If you miss your goal, you can always extend the deadline, modify the goal, or know that you're getting better. Let the Lord guide you and comfort you in the process.

2) Set future-focused goals that excite you or spiritually uplift you. Most people set resolutions that don't energize them, so it's pretty easy to quit. Looking ahead, what gets you pumped up? What motivates? What is Spirit led? It's hard to save money, but when you're motivated by a trip to Hawaii and a chance to serve others in Jesus' name, all of a sudden you find the ways and means to save. Just saying!

3) Don't be afraid to change directions. Resolutions can be horribly inflexible. Consider changing goals throughout the year which have the same end in mind. You can start with one exercise, then shift to another, but you're still moving and getting healthier. Add fruits & veggies for three months, then . . .

4) Let go of the past and move forward. This is big. Many people are walking around with the weight of all their past failures holding them down. Start with a clean slate. Go to Jesus. Let Him help you. You can do so much more than you think you can! Start small. Take manageable steps. Commit to life change. Perhaps next year, we'll look back and see our most recent trip around the sun in a more positive light!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy

Anderson

Elise Byers

Jerry & Brenda Carnes

Gary Clontz

Terry Cox

Marlene Crider

Peggy Dean

John Efird

Cindy French

Sam & Wanda

Goodwin

Ray Greene

Doris Hannah

Prayer requests  
continued on page 4.



**Happy New Year!**

### **Choir Rehearsal**

The next choir rehearsal will be Wednesday,  
January 17th at 7:45 PM.



### **Church Membership**



For those who desire to join Oakland Baptist Church,  
please fill out a church membership card, located on  
the front row of chairs in the sanctuary. Ask an usher  
or Pastor David for guidance.

### **Deacon's Meeting**

January meeting date: to be announced.



### **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

January 21



Our Bible Studies for Life curriculum has a  
special focus session titled *A Cry for Justice* that  
highlights God as sovereign and author of life.

### **December Attendance**

**Sunday, December 3 (57 Indoor + 119 Online)**

Wednesday, December 6 (46 Online)

**Sunday, December 10 (52 Indoor + 171 Online)**

Wednesday, December 13 (84 Online)

**Sunday, December 17 (43 Indoor + 123 Online)**

Wednesday, December 20 (94 Online)

**Sunday, December 24 (52 Indoor + 139 Online)**

Wednesday, December 27 (61 Online)

**Sunday, December 31 (No Indoor + 171 Online)**



### **Disciple-Making Conference**

Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

9 AM-4 PM

\$15

Hickory Grove Baptist Church (Mallard Creek Campus)

13200 Mallard Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262



Most ministry leaders are squeezed into a mold of measuring  
success by what happens at church on the weekend.  
What if your church was known more for multiplying disciples  
than adding worship attenders? At the 2024 Disciple-Making  
Conference, you will be inspired and equipped to become a  
church on mission to win, build and send missional disciples.

Breakout Sessions: 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 1:45 PM

For more information or to register, visit  
[ncbaptist.org/events/2024-disciple-making-conference/](http://ncbaptist.org/events/2024-disciple-making-conference/)

### **Easter Sunday**

Save the Date: March 31st

Who are you inviting to Easter Sunday Worship this year?



## **BACKPACKS OF HOPE**

### **Backpacks of Hope**

The backpacks ministry is back in swing for 2024. Pray for this ministry and for the Monroe Middle School students who will receive food each week. Bags include a selection from the following items:

Applesauce, Beanie Weenies, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Chicken Noodle Soup, Fruit Cups (Fruit Medley, Orange Slices, Peaches), Grits, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pop Tarts, Pork & Beans, Pudding Cups, Raisins, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli, Shells & Cheese, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup

If you feel led to purchase these food items or easy-to-make items that middle schoolers would enjoy, please drop items off in the church office throughout the school year!

# JANUARY 2024



**December 2023**

**Offerings**  
\$23,915.71

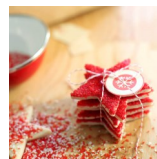
**Budget Needs**  
**for January**  
\$17,787.33

### Christmas Eve Service

Thank you for participating in & coming out to our Christmas Eve Service!



### Christmas Eve Breakfast & Cookie Swap



Thank you for bringing in your favorite quick-bite to share & cookies to swap!

### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2023 Goal: \$2,000

Raised: \$2,300



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM No Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>4</b> Jail Ministry	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
<b>7</b> On Site Activities Canceled	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>11</b> Jail Ministry	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Session 1: Life-Changing Faith 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> Jail Ministry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> FH Reserved
<b>21</b> Special Focus: A Cry for Justice 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>25</b> Jail Ministry	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Session 2: Yielded Faith 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship			

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Hedgepeth Family
- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Christine Hinson
- Shelia Horne
- Lillian Lewis
- Tammy Lovingood
- Mike Lunsford
- Majewski Family
- Evan Manly
- Louise Parker
- JoAnn Perrin
- Richie Raines
- Robert Skinner
- Irene Welch

### Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

#### A NAME LIKE NO OTHER

January 7: The Protection of God's Name

#### OWNING A FAITH THAT MATTERS

January 14: Life-Changing Faith

January 21: Special Focus: A Cry for Justice

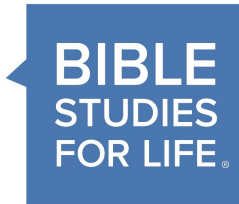
January 28: Yielded Faith

February 4: Expectant Faith

February 11: Praying Faith

February 18: Confident Faith

February 25: Maturing Faith



### Bible Studies For Life Summary

#### *Owning a Faith That Matters*

We measure lots of things these days. My watch measures my steps, the odometer measures my miles, and my 401k measures my income from investments. But when it comes to faith, can we really measure it?

That's tricky but important, wouldn't you say?

Jesus said we only need the faith the size of a mustard seed. I'm not a mustard farmer, but that's a pretty small seed. But if we have it, we can move mountains. We all need a little mountain moving in our lives when we think about the growing darkness in our world.

Faith is important to Jesus. We hear His voice throughout the Gospels, challenging

His disciples with a strong, determined voice to have faith. He asked Peter, "Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25). When the disciples lost their courage in a storm, He called them: "You of little faith" (Matt. 8:26).

It wasn't one of their brightest moments. Jesus wants us to have faith, but not shallow faith that's a mile wide and an inch deep. Throughout the Gospel of Luke, we'll discover that Jesus wants us to have deep faith.



### Senior Nutrition Program Volunteers

Union County's Senior Nutrition program helps improve the lives of seniors in the community, and it relies on volunteers like you, who help prepare and deliver meals. Gather your friends and help serve the seniors of Union County by delivering meals. The time commitment can be as little as two hours, with opportunities in Indian Trail, Mineral Springs, Marshville, and Monroe.



#### Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ Driving meals to homebound clients
- ▶ Putting on activities at any of the congregate meal sites
- ▶ Helping in the kitchen

If you are interested in volunteering your time, email [SeniorNutrition@unioncountync.gov](mailto:SeniorNutrition@unioncountync.gov) or call 704-292-2567.

### Backpacks of Hope Encouraging Cards

If you are interested in sending encouraging cards to the 10 middle schoolers who receive backpacks of food each week, please place your cards in the church office throughout the semester.

Cards may include prayers, Bible verses, or the Gospel. The cards should be written in print and signed with your name.



### Jail Ministry

Pray for the jail ministry team and the people they minister to; pray that they will respond to the gospel that is presented.

Looking to get involved in the jail ministry? Please contact Stacey!

### Township Church Plant

Shawn Payne, the lead pastor at Township Church in Clayton, NC and one of Pastor David's connections, has expressed needs for their church plant.



If you feel led to support this church plant, we are aiming to cover one week's rent for them at Cleveland Elementary: \$625.

Please pray that their needs are met so they can better reach those in Clayton, NC.