



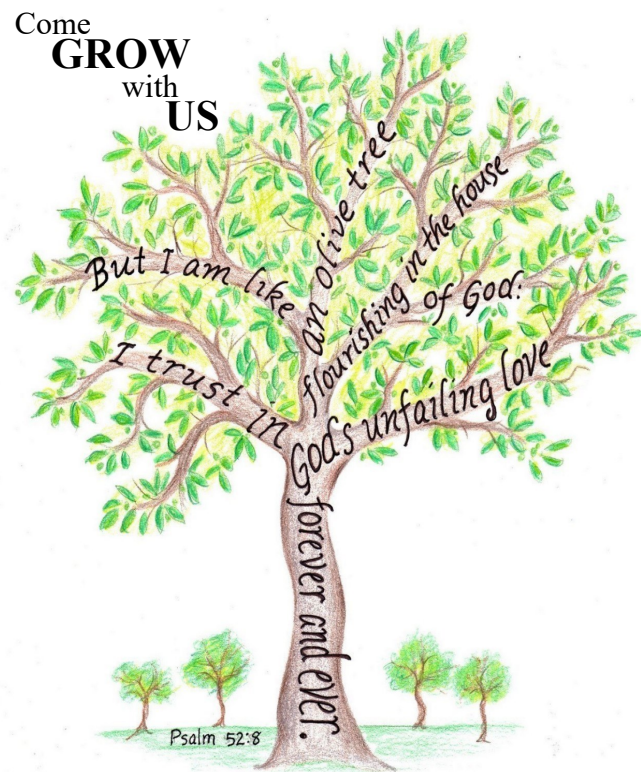
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April 2025: Verse of the Month



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

April 2025

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Pastor David's Corner

Sold Out

Moving From Believer To Disciple - There is no greater answer to this generation than a believer who is in total surrender. We are in a time where we cannot be casual about the presence of God. The fire of God does not discriminate about what culture or gender you have. When you get the fire of God, there is a passion and hunger that begins to burn in your life.

We need to break out of the lethargy and complacency that dominate modern life. We need to have fire and passion back in the church. Society has come to a point in history, where people look back and wonder why there was more excitement when I was at the games, parties, and bars, then when I was born again in the church?

The Devil's Agenda - We have such a low capacity for things that are spiritual, but we can spend hours on entertainment. The devil is strategically rewiring the brain of each generation. In America, we have an average of an 8 second attention span. This causes us to constantly look for things and we have a lot of options to spend our time on. But in other nations, we see God moving in more unprecedented ways and it's common to hear folks say, I wish God would move in America the way He does in other countries. In those places where God moves strongly, their entertainment is miracles, deliverances, signs, and wonders!

In America, the average person has so many entertainment options, why would they choose to spend time on God? We give God our leftover time and claim we want to see an outpouring like the world has never seen before. We are nervous to be undignified, cry out, shout, sing, and praise God. When you read the Scripture, you will see that when people were filled with the presence of God, they became passionate. If you look in the Book of Acts, they thought the Christians were drunk.

The Church Today - When we don't have the Holy Spirit, we won't do things we wouldn't otherwise have done or been able to do. However, when the Holy Ghost comes upon you, you become a different person. Things change.

We have to get back to a place where we are desperate for the power and presence of God that we need Him in all we do because if you can survive without Him, you will. And, you do.

A lot of us do not have the presence of God in our daily lives because we do not need the presence of God in our daily lives. We are fine without Him and most of us wouldn't even know if He showed up or didn't. Many of us go weeks upon weeks with no encounter, no fire on the altar of our lives, no prayer meetings and no move of God. We must get to the point of desperation where we do not care what others think about us and only care about what God thinks about us.

The Cost Of Discipleship - In one of His famous parables, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God as a field with a pearl of great price. When the man in the parable discovered the pearl, he joyfully sold his possessions to buy the field to get the treasure. A lot of us say we have the treasure but haven't sold anything. What have you given up? What have you sold for that treasure of the Kingdom? When God calls us, He calls us to a life of surrender.

Surrender is saying God I will give You everything. If You want me to keep anything it is up to You. Give God everything and allow Him to change your life. Allow God to cleanse you of all distractions. That is surrender. That is being sold out.

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Eddie & Candy Anderson
 - Sue Bruce
 - Gary Clontz
 - Terry Cox
 - Marlene Crider
 - Lela Crump
 - Peggy Dean
 - John Efird
 - Cindy French
 - Sam & Wanda Goodwin
 - Ray Greene
 - Nan Helms
 - Mike & Renee Helms
 - Grady & Judy Hill
 - Rodney Johnson (Renee Helms' Son)
- Prayer requests continued on page 4.

Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be Wednesday, April 2nd at 7:30 PM.



Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Lives are being changed both now and for eternity through the impact of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Easter Sunday

April 20th

As we prepare for communion, let us examine our hearts, seek reconciliation, and reflect on Jesus' sacrifice, remembering the new covenant in His blood and body.



March Attendance

- Sunday, March 2 (45 Indoor + 104 Online)**
- Wednesday, March 5 (50 Online)
- Sunday, March 9 (40 Indoor + 127 Online)**
- Wednesday, March 12 (68 Online)
- Sunday, March 16 (40 Indoor + 119 Online)**
- Wednesday, March 19 (50 Online)
- Sunday, March 23 (52 Indoor + 88 Online)**
- Wednesday, March 26 (46 Online)
- Sunday, March 30 (49 Indoor + 79 Online)**



Haley's Ministry Prayer Requests & Praises

- Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and provision in all areas of life.
- Please pray for the Lord to fill up their team of Unto staff traveling to Guatemala June 18-25th. They need two more people!
- Thank you for praying for Matt & Haley's trip to Japan. Pray for the seeds that were planted and for the many faithful missionaries serving in Japan.



Celebrating Baptisms

Pastor Ron & Living Streams Worship Center held their first baptism service on Sunday, March 23rd. Thank you for praying for Pastor Ron & this church plant.



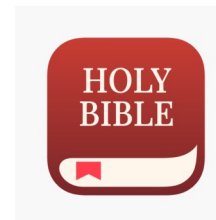
You can learn more about Pastor Ron & the Living Streams Worship Center at thelivingstreams.com



Bible Event in the Bible App

A QR code for each Sunday's Bible event in the Bible app is now in the church bulletin. To access the Bible event in the Bible app, just open the camera on your smartphone and aim it at the QR code as if you were focusing in to take a picture. A link should pop up on your phone that you can click on and go straight to the Bible event in the Bible app.

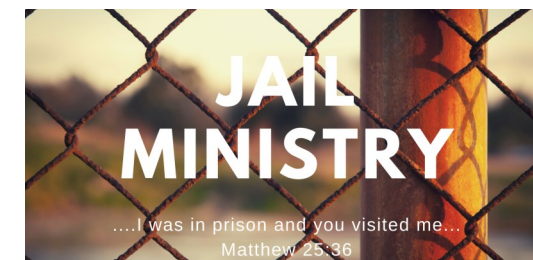
Each Bible event contains the Scripture for that Sunday, as well as links to the bulletin, newsletter, and webpage.



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!



APRIL 2025

Entrance for Housing Development

Mattamy Homes, the developer of the subdivision(s) coming behind Oakland, is presently talking to Oakland's leaders about purchasing a strip of land to use as an entrance to the subdivision. The strip of land is located between OBC and the Mormon church.

Here is a **not-to-scale** picture of the land that Mattamy Homes is potentially looking to purchase from OBC:



Dolls on Mission Workshop

If you would like to help make the dolls for Dolls on Mission, the next workshop will be held on Saturday, April 12th from 9-12 (lunch will be served) at Benton's Cross Roads Baptist Church.



If you have any questions, please contact the UBA at 704-283-8383.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection 2024 Report

Over 11.9 million shoeboxes were received globally.

Over 1.1 million were received in the Carolinas.

In Union & Anson Counties, 22,699 shoeboxes were received - a 15% increase from 2023!



March 2025

Offerings

\$13,941.00

Budget Needs

for April

\$17,571.84

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	2 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 Jail Ministry	4 Sanctuary Reserved (Morning)	5 FH/Kitchen Reserved (Evening) Hispanic Church
6 Session 6: The Sign of His Light 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	7 6:30 PM Spring Ladies Bible Study	8 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	9 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	10 Jail Ministry	11 FH/Kitchen Reserved (Evening) Living Streams	12
13 Session 7: The Sign of His Power over Death 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM	14	15 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	16 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	17 Jail Ministry	18	19 Sanctuary Reserved 11 AM – Noon Living Streams
20 Easter Sunday Session 8: The Ultimate Sign 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	21	22 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	23 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	24 Jail Ministry	25 FH/Kitchen Reserved (Evening) Living Streams	26 FH/Kitchen Reserved (Morning/ Afternoon) Living Streams
27 Session 1: God's Hand in Calling Us to Serve 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 11:30 AM Living Streams	28	29 6:30 PM Living Streams Bible Study	30 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship			

PRAY

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Lillian Lewis
- Richard & Tammy Lovingood
- Richard Lovingood's Sister
- Mike Lunsford
- Pam Majewski
- Lorraine McClellan
- Debbie McKnight
- Louise Parker
- Richie Raines
- Carolyn Street
- David Welch (Irene's Son)
- Irene & Don Welch

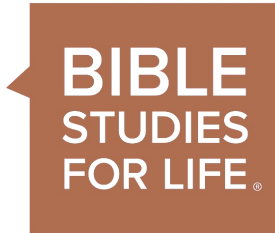
Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS

- April 6: The Sign of His Light
- April 13: The Sign of His Power over Death
- April 20: The Ultimate Sign

ELISHA: SEEING THE HAND OF GOD AT WORK

- April 27: God's Hand Calling Us to Serve



Bible Studies For Life Summary

Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work

I am a less-than-average guitar player but dream of becoming a guitar virtuoso. Recently, I had the opportunity to play an electric guitar that had been endorsed by one of the best guitar players in the world, Eric Clapton. It was an exact copy of the one he uses on tour. When I strapped it on and plugged it in, it felt awesome. I couldn't believe I was getting a chance to play it! I played a few chords, hoping to sound like Clapton, but was disappointed by what I heard. Once again, I was reminded that it's not the guitar that makes the music, it's the hands.

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In our study, *Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work*, each session includes a miracle. In each instance, it was God's hand at work through Elisha. This might cause us to wonder how ordinary people like you and me could be used by God. In this study, we'll discover that when we're in God's hands, He can do amazing things. We're like the guitar; in the right hands, great things can happen. Let this study encourage you to make yourself available to God and watch His hands at work in your life.

New Sunday School Class

Thank you for coming out to the new co-ed Sunday School class that started on March 2nd! If you are looking to join this Sunday School class, led by Julie & Lisa, they meet at 9 AM in a classroom near the fellowship hall.

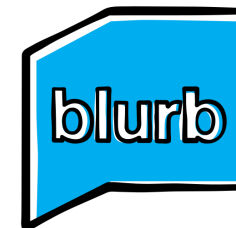


Ladies Bible Study

The final meeting for the Spring Ladies Bible Study will be on Monday, April 7th at 6:30 PM!

Saving Grace Ministry Team

The desire of our new ministry team, Saving Grace, is to help our congregation by meeting immediate needs. Food, meals, household goods, a listening ear and prayer. We are here. Please call or email the church office. All help will be confidential.



Bulletin/Newsletter Blurbs

Do you have a small business that offers services that our church members may be interested in? Send your business/contact info and service details to the church office to be 'advertised' in the bulletin.

Upcoming Youth Events

- April 2:** Slushies & Jesus
- April 9:** Pick up litter around Oakland
- April 16:** Decorate the cross for Easter
- April (Date TBD):** Clean up the Prayer Path



Each of these event dates could change, depending on the weather.

If you know of a middle or high schooler looking for a youth group, invite them to join us on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall or Sundays at 9:00 AM in the white-carpeted Sunday School room.