



THE OLIVE BRANCH

NOVEMBER 2023

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Sara C. Scungio, administrative assistant
757-566-8077 (Church Office)

Web Address: www.ob-cc.org (with Facebook link)
Office Email Address: obcc1833@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

IN THE GARDEN

Sometimes you have to wait till the ending to understand what you have seen or read. This is true with mystery books that wait until the final pages to reveal "who done it". It is equally true with certain films, where the way they end makes watching the entire film worthwhile. That is certainly the way I remember the 1984 film, "Places in the Heart". This film had excellent performances by actors such as Sally Field, Ed Harris, John Malkovich, and Danny Glover. The narrative followed Edna Spalding, a young woman who was forced to take over the running of her farm during the Great Depression, after the death of her husband.

The film contains themes of death, racism, gender inequalities, and prejudice against the backdrop of rural life and the poverty and despair of the Great Depression. It is not easy to watch. But it is the ending that has stayed with me. The final scene of the movie takes place in a church, during communion. As the communion trays are passed, the camera shows townspeople in the pews who were seen throughout the film, the living and the dead, those who were murdered, those who were forced to flee for their lives, those who hated, those who killed. Each in turn, passing communion, quietly saying to each other the blessing, "Peace of God", all while the choir sings, "In the Garden".

This supernatural and spiritual ending fits in well with the history of the hymn, "In the Garden". It was a vision that led Austin Miles to write the words to this song. On a day in March 1912, Miles let his Bible fall open to John 20:1-18, which describes the meeting of

the resurrected Jesus and Mary. As Miles read the verses, he seemed to be drawn into that meeting. In his words, "My hands were resting in the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. I witnessed the arrival of Mary, Peter, and John as they gathered at the tomb... I witnessed the appearance of Jesus. I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision, I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has appeared."

The final line of this poem-turned-hymn sums up the joy Miles felt as being in the garden with Christ: "And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."

On Sunday, October 22, we dedicated the newly established Sanctuary Garden. It is the result of a vision that we have a place on our church grounds where the words of poet Doxis Palmer may be realized:

You who walk,
Maybe with troubled thoughts,
Come, enter here and rest;
And may the sweet serenity of growing things,
And the heavenly peace
Be mirrored in the soul.

Please spend a moment in our Sanctuary Garden. Hopefully it will be a place where hatred, racism, and prejudice is forgotten, replaced by a time of sweet communion with the Lord.

Special thanks go to those who have worked hard and long to bring it to completion: Joshua Fulgham, Teri Tench, Jeremy Dill, Erich Hodson, David Pitts, Steve Garrett, and Linda Brown.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard

MEETINGS & BUILDING USE

T.O.P.S.: Tuesdays; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

Seekers Prayer Group: Tuesdays; 11:30 AM
Adult SS Room

Our Day Out: 2nd Wednesdays; 10AM-2PM;
Branch Hall

Comfort Ministry: 2nd Saturdays; 10 AM
Sandy's Restaurant

DWM Tuesday Bible Study: 3rd Tuesdays; 2 PM;
Taylor Hall

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:
Alternate Wednesdays; September 6 until June 5,
2024
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

Family Night: Wednesdays at 6PM; Branch Hall. Watch
email for details

OBCC Men's Meeting: 2nd Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch
Hall with breakfast

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; 501
Galley

Shower by Taylor Bloom: November 11; Taylor Hall

Annual Congregational Lunch Meeting: November 12;
12PM; Branch Hall

DWM Christmas Yard Sale: November 18; 8AM-1PM;
Branch Hall



SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Services:

8:30 AM Branch Hall 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Sunday School:

NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30

Nursery:

Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM



Thanksgiving Giving: November 12 & 19

Annual Congregational Lunch Meeting: November 12;
12PM; Branch Hall

DWM Christmas Yard Sale: November 18; 8AM-1PM;
Branch Hall

Community Thanksgiving Service: November 19; 4PM;
St. Olaf Catholic Church



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Kay Ainsworth, Karen Barrow, Mary Best and her son, Anita Dasher, Janet Dombrowski, Amy Ferguson & Family, Phyllis Gardner, Nancy Griffith, Irma Gustafson, Clay Harrison, Keeta Hodson, Jim Holland & Family, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Carole Kerr, Jean Lawrence, Diana Love, Dallas Mitchell, Joann Mitchell, Dianne Mongold, Bob Schmidt, Barbara Thiel, Jerry Van Cleave, Sarah Waid, David Willard, Ronnie Yeatts

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Natasha Angel (Bob & Sharon Herndon's friend), Dave Archibald (Larry & Louise Smith's son's friend), Bill Caldwell (Liz Ripley's brother), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's mother), Family of Linda Johnson (Gene Johnson's cousin), Jane Marshall (Val Mason's sister), Sue Martin (Michelle Wright's sister-in-law), Lynette Mills (Joann Mitchell's sister), Douglas Morse (Naomia Barker's brother), Alexandra Moscati (Robin Moscati's daughter-in-law), Jesse Moseley (Kaye Watson's father), Melissa Norman (Anita Dasher's sister), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Cindi Pere (Anita & Dennis Dasher's friend), Steve Phillips (Cecelia Ruskey's nephew), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's sister), Tricia Rainone (Anita & Dennis Dasher's daughter), Zak Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith's grandson), Logan Ripley (Liz Ripley's grandson), William (Bill) Slauson (Maralyn Carr's brother), Harry Stewart (Bob Schmidt's friend), Darlene West (Liz Ripley's sister), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Lola (Missy Harbour's friend's niece)



10 Dennis & Anita Dasher
24 James & Sharon Pullen



01 Curt Griffin
02 Andy Bradshaw
02 Sandy Wanner
06 Cheryl Johnson

- 06 Hunter Creech
- 08 Irma Gustafson
- 08 Jeremy Dill
- 09 Danny Pitts
- 10 Elaine Henk
- 10 Helen Bradshaw
- 13 Sean Gormus
- 15 Abby Matschke
- 15 Linda Brown
- 16 Anita Dasher
- 18 Becky Owens
- 20 Mary Apperson
- 22 Caitlin Rutherford
- 24 Richard Jones
- 25 Doug Dill
- 25 Patricia Allred
- 28 Jennifer Pullen
- 28 Sara Scungio
- 30 Naomia Barker



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on November 12 after the 11AM service.

The main issues that will require congregational approval will include the following:

- * 2024 Budget
- * Election of new officers & positions

During the annual meeting the congregation will also entertain new business brought forward.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

We enjoyed the beautiful, cool, fall day, and although we were small in number, we were big in conversations and laughter. Sheila updated us on Fun Days and our church mission project: Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. These boxes filled with toys, puzzles, school supplies, and love reach the far corners of the world to bring happiness and caring to millions of children. Have you got yours?

Our theme for September was Fall Fun and Christy Jensen delighted us with a few facts and fun about acorns. Did you know that there are Acorn Woodpeckers? As annoying as stepping on acorns can be, they are a good source of food for many of God's creatures, so please smile as you are sweeping or raking them from your sidewalks.

Chef Shelia's Chicken Broccoli casserole was enjoyed by all, and pineapple fluff with a cookie stick completed the meal.

Crafty Jane gave us an interesting insight to artists and their specialties, then asked us to make a truly dot picture. Not easy, but most interesting!

Tyler assisted by his sidekick Sheila always makes playing bingo fun!

Again, my thanks to everyone who participates as it gives my spirit a lift and brings joy to my heart watching the sharing and caring.

Hope to see everyone next month for our annual "What do we have to be thankful for?" ODO!

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		TBD
11/05/2023	Doug Dill Ann Bradshaw	
	Lois Marshall Andy Bradshaw Joann Mitchell Joshua Fulgham	
11/12/2023	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Sheila Yeatts TBD Anita Dasher Maralyn Carr	
11/19/2023	Mel Watson Don White	
	Kaye Watson Devon Watson Tyler Watson Liz Ripley	
11/26/2023	Roy Henk Andy Bradshaw	
	Ann Bradshaw Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	



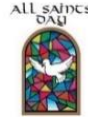
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to turn your clocks back November 5 or before bed on November 4!



offerings throughout the year. Giving thanks for your generosity!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



ALL SAINTS' DAY

Jacqueline McSherry, Friend, November 2022
 Virginia Pauline McKown, Member, November 2022
 Barbara Wheeler, Member, December 2022
 Loretta Vint Nunn, Member Family, December 2022
 John Savage, Member, February
 Bob Phillips, Member, June
 Barbara Carter Kendrick, Member Family, June
 Arlean Rodgers, Friend, July
 Elna Pitts, Member, August
 Evelyn Dale Gardner Teagle, Member, August
 Linda Johnson, Member Family, September
 Jo Ferguson VanJeune, Member Family, October

The annual special remembrance service will be held on November 5, 2023.



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

As you plan your special Thanksgiving meal, please include in your preparations a monetary contribution or a food donation to our St. Olaf Food Sharing Program. Joining together in sharing our blessings with our neighbors in need of food is essential daily support for them, especially as they prepare their Thanksgiving meal. Your "SOUPER Support" brings hope to those in need. We realize our happiness comes from what we are able to give and glorifies our Heavenly Father. "We make a living by what we get. We change a life by what we give" (WC). Your consistent commitment to our neighbors in need of daily bread is an answer to the Lord's Prayer we pray together every Sunday.

We are thankful for the meaningful daily impact you have on our neighborhood adults and children faced with food insecurity.

Reminder: Food Donations boxes are outside Pastor's office and in Branch Hall. Your food donations will be delivered to St. Olaf on Wednesday Nov. 15th.

Money donations: Make checks to OBCC. Designate Food Sharing on the check memo line. Please make the contribution before Wednesday Nov. 15th.

As we gather together on Thanksgiving, we give thanks for your sustaining support for our community outreach to our neighbors in need.

~Steve Perger, Jane & Will Hatcher,
 Andrew Pfister, Joyce Allen



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: THANKSGIVING GIVING—NOV 12 & 19

This special giving opportunity occurs on November 12 & 19. Use a special giving envelope found in the pews. Write Thanksgiving Offering in the memo line of your check. This offering is one of 6 special



HOLIDAY ITEM YARD SALE SET

On November 18 from 8 AM–1 PM, holiday décor and holiday gift items along with baked goods will be on display in Branch Hall. Holiday décor & holiday gift items are being accepted beginning November 12.

I am also looking for cakes, pies, and other special baked goods for the sale.

Be sure to check out your unused items to donate to this important fundraising effort. Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This year's community Thanksgiving service will be Sunday, November 19 at 4PM at St. Olaf Catholic Church.



4TH THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

We met at 501 Galley on October 26 and shared good food, wonderful friendships, prayers for those who planned to be with us but were unable to due to health issues, just great fellowship among Christians.

Our next gathering will be November 30 due to Thanksgiving falling on the 4th Thursday.

You will receive reminders of those dates and I encourage anyone, man or woman, old or not so old, to come out and join us for a couple of hours of getting to know each other better.

Below is a group picture of our first Lunch Bunch meeting in September:



DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER

The annual Christmas dinner will be held in Branch Hall on December 11 at 6 PM. No need to bring a dish. All food will be provided. Bring your appetite and plan for an enjoyable evening of good food and fun.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

SHOEBOXES DUE!

Our effort is the important Shoebox Project. Distribution day was October 15. The due date for all boxes is November 12. Boxes are available in the lobby & narthex with a boy/girl label.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1993, more than 198 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox.

This whole process is made possible by caring individuals who pack shoeboxes full of quality gifts for children in need. Many of these shoebox packers also use our Follow Your Box feature to discover the country where their gift will be delivered. Pray for the boys & girls in need, their communities, and the workers who distribute them.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator

SHOEBOX GIFT IDEAS



"WOW" ITEM

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal
- Shoes



TOYS

- Toy cars
- Jump ropes
- Yo-yos
- Toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrushes
- Washcloths
- Combs
- Hairbrushes
- Small water bottles



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, and markers
- Notebooks and paper
- Coloring and picture books
- Solar calculators



ACCESSORIES

- Socks
- Sunglasses
- Jewelry and watches
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)



DO NOT INCLUDE

- candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; scary or war-related items; seeds; food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items or glass containers; aerosol cans



WALKERS AND CRUTCHES AVAILABLE

We have a collection of walkers and crutches available to borrow. If you have a need for a walker, cane, or pair of crutches, please contact the office.



BRING YOUR LEAVES

If you have bags of leaves that you are planning on taking to the dump, please bring them to OBCC! We will use them to fill in the woods as needed to cover up what was washed away. Thank you!

~Steve White, Cemetery Chair



CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

The tree tags will be hung likely by November 19 and gift bags will likely be due by December 3. Number of tags are TBD. Updates will be posted via OBCC Reminder e-mails and bulletin announcements.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



FALL COMMUNITY FUN FAY

What a great day we had! My heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered to make this a special day!

I appreciate all the time that people gave to make this happen and for all the donations of food and drinks; they were very helpful and greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to Rev. Robin Moscatti for being Raney the Clown. Children and adults loved the face painting work!

The band "Work In Progress" was out of this world! Many thanks to Marney for bringing them here for us.

What can I say about our kitchen staff? Missy, Kay, and Doug: your famous hot dogs are the talk of the town, and so are all the delicious soups! What a treat on a rainy day.

Thanks to Edie for manning the Country Store and to Marney for manning the silent auction.

Thanks goes out to Abby for all the games for the children and the great photo scene! Lots of pictures were taken.

Thank you also to Pastor Richard and Will Hatcher for the great work on the scavenger hunt.

The winner of the Quilt raffle was Justin Tench, and Carol Pitts won the Afghan raffle.

Many, many thanks to Steve White and Dennis Dasher for getting the Nature Trail ready!

This was a job well done, OBCC Family! Thank you for all your help in making this such a successful day!

~Sheila Yeatts





OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 17!

Outside from 3-6 PM. Help to make this the best one ever! We are still looking for a donkey as well as volunteers to help out. Please Contact Ann Bradshaw if you can participate or help.



CHURCH DECORATING PARTY

Come and help get the church ready for Christmas on November 25 at 2PM. Please contact Sheila Yeatts, Missy Harbour, or Abby Matschke to say yes. Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts, Missy Harbour, Abby Matschke



BRIDGES OF CHANGE

You may have noticed baskets/tubs for Bridges of Change. It is a domestic violence shelter in New Kent. They have an ongoing need of the following items: Laundry Detergent, Paper Towels, Black ink Pens, Small notebooks for Journaling, Dryer Sheets, Talc-Free Baby Powder, Hair Spray, Shampoo and Conditioner, Napkins, Toilet Paper, Air Freshener Spray, Lysol Spray, Foil, Baggies, Baby wipes, Diapers, Dishwashing Detergent, Hand and Body Soap, Feminine Hygiene Products (not bladder leakage pads), and Razors. If you are out shopping and think about picking up some of these items, just drop them off at Church and I will arrange a pickup. Thank you!

~Abby Matschke



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you all for all the food, visits, cards, prayers, and all the love! They are all so greatly appreciated. I don't know what I'd do without my Olive Branch family. Thank you!

~Joann Mitchell



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you all for delicious food, beautiful cards, special visits, and all the help and support you have given me and Dennis during my recovery! I love and miss you all dearly and am looking forward to being back with my wonderful Olive Branch family soon. Thank you!

~Anita Dasher



ONLINE DIRECTORY: PICTURES NEEDED

The OBCC Directory is now online! You can access your account at members.instantchurchdirectory.com. We would greatly appreciate any pictures you could add to the directory to help our newer members put faces to

names. If you would like to have your picture taken, Sara will be happy to take your picture in the office and upload it to the directory for you. If you have any questions regarding how to access your account or add a picture, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to help.



NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH

November is National Family Caregivers Month in the United States. It's observed to call attention to the hard work of more than 50 million family caregivers across the country.

Caregivers provide several different types of support. In providing personal care, caregivers assist with personal hygiene, getting in and out of beds/chairs and walking, and meal preparation and feeding. Medical care involves organizing and giving medications, managing and attending medical appointments, and arranging nursing or other support. Other life management tasks include shopping for food, clothing, and other essentials, providing transportation, managing finances, housekeeping, communications, and arranging respite care providers, to name a few.

Caregiver Action Network (the National Family Caregivers Association) began promoting national recognition of family caregivers in 1994. They spearheaded the annual national celebration of a national caregiver awareness month every November.

The 2022 National Family Caregiver Month presidential proclamation reads:

"Family caregivers are the backbone of our Nation's long-term care system, doing essential work with devotion, often at great emotional and financial cost. We owe them. It is time to bring their service out of the shadows and celebrate and support them in living their own happy, healthy, and fulfilling lives."

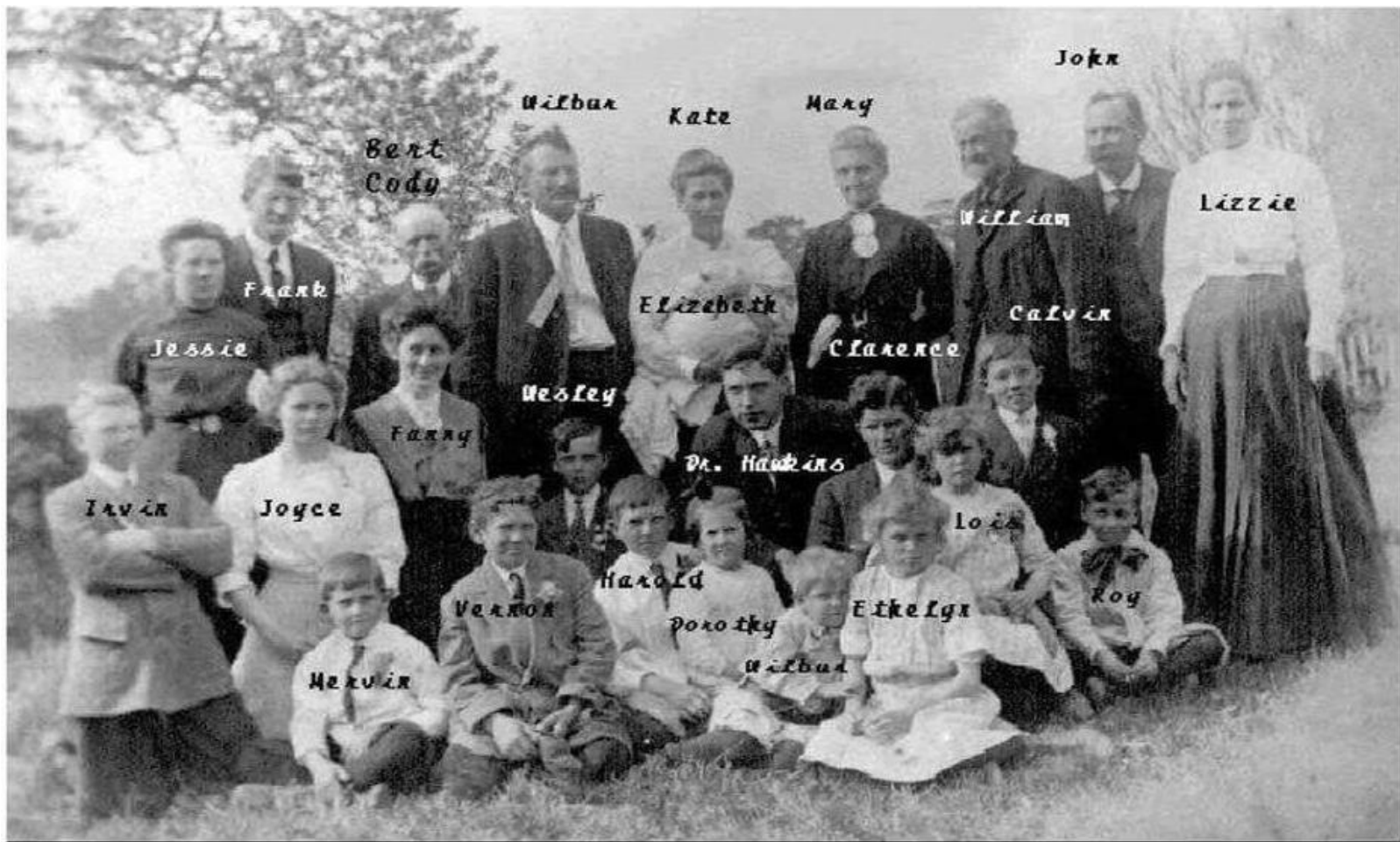
On the last page of this newsletter, you will find *A Caregiver's Prayer* and *Beatitudes for Caregivers* shared with us by Christy Jensen at Riverside. We recognize and thank all our caregivers this month, and always!





OBCC HISTORY

David Nunn has graciously shared a photo of William and Mary Hunt and their family from 1912. See the photo below of a family that has been a part of our Olive Branch family for many years:



William and Mary Hunt with their family in 1912

A Caregiver's Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me better understand and believe I can all things with your strength and help

As I go about the many daily tasks of caregiving, give me energy.

As I watch my loved one oh-so-slowly walk across the room, give me strength.

As I answer his/her repeated question just one more time, give me patience.

As I look for solutions to whatever is the most recent concern, give me wisdom.

As I reminisce about the "good old days," give me a moment of laughter.

As I get to know my loved one in a new way, seeing both his or her strength and frailty, give me joy.

As I sit beside my loved one's bed waiting for his or her pain medication to take effect, give me comfort.

Lighten my burden, answer my prayer, and give me the strength to do what so often seems impossible. Give me a quiet place to rest when I need it and a quieting of my anxieties when I'm there.

Help me to be a light for others on this caregiving journey.

Thank you for connecting me to the Martha W. Goodson Center at Riverside

Amen

Beatitudes for Caregivers

Blessed are those who sleep poorly because they're worried about their loved one or because their loved one wakes in the middle of the night and needs help.

Blessed are those who mourn because their loved one, though still alive, is struggling everyday with dementia.

Blessed are the meek who force themselves to speak up and speak out to make sure their loved one receives the help he or she needs.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for answers to why this is happening to their loved one.

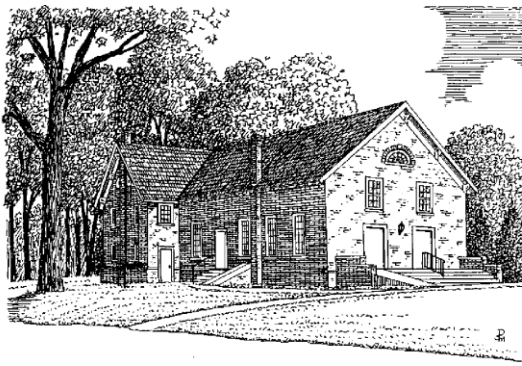
Blessed are those who show mercy, kindness and compassion to their loved one, everyday

Blessed are those who help their loved one find moments of peace.

Blessed are those who are sometimes misunderstood, not appreciated and taken for granted in their role as caregiver.

Today we honor you Caregivers for all that you do.

You are doing the best that we can.



Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Norge, VA
Permit No. 2

The Olive Branch

© published by

Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024
(757) 566-8077

Electronic Service Requested

*Note: No longer wish to receive our
newsletter? Address changed?
Please contact the church office.*

