



The Olive Branch

JANUARY 2017

Olive Branch Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Susan C. Fournier, secretary
757-566-8077 (Church Office)

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The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Clark Griswold opened his envelope hoping to find out the amount of his Christmas bonus. But instead of a check, his company gave him a membership to the Jelly of the Month Club. Cousin Eddie said with great joy, "Clark, that's the gift that keeps on giving throughout the entire year!" I think Eddie was onto something. I am not so sure about the Jelly of the Month Club, but I do know that Ann and I experience gifts of love that keep on giving, 365 days a year in numerous ways from so many people. I am fond of saying, over and over, how fortunate I am to be the pastor of Olive Branch Christian Church. The love and acceptance my family and I have experienced from this congregation is always genuine, constantly affirming, and continuously humbling. You are quick to share words of encouragement and generous with your forgiveness, as well as your gifts. This Christmas we have been overwhelmed by your invitations to share meals, gifts of cards, Christmas ornaments, homemade cookies and cakes, chocolate buckeyes, soup, honey, pepperoni dip, Moon Pies, a basket of goodies from Fresh Market, gift cards, a bunch of warm hugs, innumerable thanks, a poem from Clay, and an incredible and overwhelming love gift from the congregation! YOU are the gift that keeps on giving!

But the true gift of this season is the gift of the Christ child. It is from the example of this gift of grace that we learn the value of sharing and giving. It is the gift we cannot purchase; it is the gift none of us deserve. As the lyrics in the Christmas hymn, *I Wonder as I Wander*, reminds us, "I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior

did come for to die, for poor ordinary people like you and like I."

In this New Year, remember how blessed we are as followers of Jesus. He is the gift that keeps on giving throughout the entire year. Let the love we find so easy to share at Christmas be revealed in 2017, as we forgive generously, speak words of kindness and encouragement easily, and give freely.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard



CLUTTER AND UNCLUTTER

Christmas is a time for cluttering. Most us know that our lives, our homes, our schedules, and our world is all full of stuff. When unpacking Christmas decorations, we had to rearrange some of the stuff that was put into our lives and homes during the year.

The beginning of this New Year is a promising time to unclutter one's life: to slow down, to sit still, to listen. For us type A personalities, that's a hard to do. How can you feel useful and productive when you slow down, sit still, and just listen? It's easy to fall prey to the illusion that I can do this on my own.

The process of uncluttering begins by turning from a focus on me to a focus on the Lord...in other words...to repent. I grew up thinking that I must repent in order to be forgiven and changed. But,

what I have come to understand from scripture is that I am free to repent, to turn to God, because I *have been* forgiven. "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

It is God coming into the world, loving, forgiving, even dying for us that teaches us that real change will happen when God works in us and through us, not through what we do or say.

If there is anything that the action of God...from the Exodus, to the Exile, to the Incarnation...has taught us, it is that God is active in history...sometimes for us, sometimes with us, sometimes ahead of us, sometimes in spite of us, *but never* because of what we do!

My prayer is: God, give us eyes to see you and ears to hear you that your work of salvation will be done in us and through us. So let it be!

Take Care,
~Fred



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Tuesday Circle met at Interlude with thirteen in attendance. We sure missed Russell. He was such an inspiration to us. Again, after a mound of great food, Elaine had our lesson, of which she took a lot from the book by Stuart Steward, very interesting.

Hope you will start the new year with us the second Tuesday, at Interlude.

Hope you had a lovely Christmas, and a blessed New Year.

~Donna Haulsee

CWF NEWS

We celebrated our CWF Christmas dinner together the first Monday in December and a grand time was had by all. My special thanks to all who joined us, and we hope you will come again.

Carole and Shirley made the cutest candy cane place card holders which brightened up our table settings. Punch and hors-d'oeuvres whetted our appetites for the delicious food compliments of all our wonderful cooks.

During dinner my friend, Bertie Prather, entertained us with a wonderful selection of Christmas tunes. It was a pleasure to watch and listen as most of us joined in singing and remembered most of the words.

Carole Kerr read *The Littlest Angel*, and not many dry eyes were left when she finished.

I would like to say a personal thank you for the lovely card and beautiful scarf presented to me as the outgoing president of CWF. Clay Harrison's clever poem warmed my heart. It has been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve OBCC's CWF, and, as I have often said ~ thanks for always being there and giving your time and talents whenever I have asked. We are blessed with the nicest group of sisters that I have ever been a part of. I will continue to enjoy being with you in the years to come.

May God bless you, and may the New Year be filled with love, joy, and happiness.

~Marney Brickhouse



MONDAY CWF WILL MEET

on January 16th at 7 PM in the Education Building.

~Carole Kerr



NOTES FROM THE WILD SIDE.....

Lauren and Bryant read the Advent message on the 18th. We had our Christmas party on that day, as well. Curtis and Ryan were in attendance. We had lunch, played games, and did a gift exchange.

You can check out the video of our candy cane challenge on our Facebook page. We are ready to see what God has planned for us in the coming year.

We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year!!!

~Abby Matschke

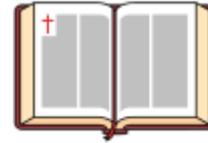


The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 3rd at the Ann & Andy Bradshaw home.

Hope to see you!

~Dick & Betty Barber





SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS

The following scriptures will be used during the Sunday worship services this month.

The **underlined passages** are the primary passages for Pastor Richard's sermons.

- January 1 Psalm 131; **Luke 2:21-38**
- January 8 Psalm 51:6-17; **Luke 3:1-22**
- January 15 Psalm 146; **Luke 4:14-30**
- January 22 Psalm 90:14-17; **Luke 5:1-11**
- January 29 Psalm 2: 1-8; **Luke 6:1-16**

Church Family: Pat Allred, Vicki Anderson, Charles & Betty Boy, Duie Brantley, Jackie Gardner (Bonnie Willard's sister), Lucy Hall, Lena Jeffries, Ruby Jones, David Love, Karen Marrow, Joann Mitchell, Ellen Sullivan, Richard Thiel, Sarah Waid

Family and Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, our nation, Melissa Fulgham (Josh & Jessica Fulgham's mom), Laura Jessee (friend of OBCC), Barbara Johnson (Robin Moscati's mother), Lisa Johnson (Gene & Cheryl Johnson's daughter-in-law), David Kerr (son of Bruce & Carole Kerr), Rob Key, Jr. (Gail & Bob Key's son), Peggy Parker (neighbor of Thackers), Joyce Perger (Steve Perger's mother), John Phillips (Bob & June Phillips' son), Gay Razey (friend of Bells), Edward Rourke (friend of Bells), Bobby Rupert (friend of McPhees), Robert Scheels (friend of Cheryl & Gene Johnson), Louise Simmons (Cris Simmons' mother), Judy Stewart (friend of Barkers), Jamie VanCleave (Jerry VanCleave's granddaughter)



SERVING THIS MONTH

Elders

- January 1 Ralph Hutton, Jim Thacker
- January 8 Joyce Allen, Skip Jensen
- January 15 Fred Rothermel, Robbie Robertson
- January 22 Donna Perger, Judy Eley
- January 29 Landa Simmons, Diana Love

Deacons

- January 1 Lisa Day, Tracey Creech
Tracey Hutton, Phillip Day
- January 8 Abby Matschke, Boyce Mason
Danny Pitts, Elna Pitts
- January 15 Keeta Hodson, Lewis Williams
Harold Barker, Patty Barker
- January 22 Will Hatcher, Jane Hatcher
Mel Watson, Kaye Watson
- January 29 Janet Neal, Kevin Waid
Phyllis Taylor, Harold McKeel

Deaconess

Patty Barker

Children's Church

- January 1 OPEN
- January 8 OPEN
- January 15 OPEN
- January 22 OPEN
- January 29 OPEN



- January 1 OPEN
- January 8 OPEN
- January 15 OPEN
- January 22 OPEN
- January 29 OPEN

Yikes! No flowers!



- 02 Bob Phillips
- 06 Kayla Walker
- 07 Elna Pitts
- 08 Phyllis Gardner
- 09 Chase Banks
- 09 Sheila White
- 11 Christine Banks
- 11 Harold Barker
- 11 Kathryn Henderson
- 11 Micki Meadows
- 12 Anne Darst
- 12 Travis Garrett
- 15 Erich Hodson
- 17 Shirley Harrison
- 18 Amy Gilliam
- 21 Joy Abid
- 21 Brittany Nice
- 25 Margie Dieleman
- 26 Joshua Johnson
- 27 Clay Harrison
- 30 Linda Hutton
- 31 Skip Jensen



- 00 Nancy Cates
- 09 Danny & Elna Pitts



DEACON HELPING PROJECT

Deacons stand ready to provide assistance to members who could use a little help...running an errand, driving to an appointment, help around the house. Deacons serve...not just on Sundays. Contact any of the deacons for help you need.

~Patty Barker



CWF ONGOING PROJECT SUCCESSFUL!

CWF has established the PHP (personal hygiene product) project to provide young women at Toano and Warhill Schools with critically needed personal items. Without these items, young women are forced to stay out of school at certain times due to lack of necessary PHPs. Donations toward this ongoing project have been generous and provided us with abundant funds for the current time. Supplies are very much appreciated by the schools!

~Sheila Yeatts, Missions



HANDCHIME SESSIONS HAPPY TO ACCEPT ONE MORE NEW MEMBER: Rehearsals are now at 7:30 PM on Thursdays. Contact Irma Gustafson to get more details (757-234-0774 or irmagus@cox.net)



FOOD SHARING PROGRAM UPDATE

Winter is a hard time for many families in our community. Please remember them and help to provide them with some warming and nourishing food in these cold months.

Love
~Jane & Will Hatcher



ALZHEIMERS DONATIONS ABUNDANT!

WOW! The final number was \$4,851.96 I am so grateful!



Thanks for support!
~Phyllis Taylor, Coordinator



SALVATION ARMY GIFT BAGS STUFFED AND PLENTIFUL:

Olive Branch came through again with flying colors, filling 60 bags for children and adults.

Thank you from me and the Salvation Army. There were many smiling faces on Christmas Morning.

~Donna Haulsee



THANK YOU CHOIRS!

During December our congregation received special gifts from our choirs that greatly enhanced our enjoyment of Advent and Christmas. Our Bell Choir under the direction of Ann Bradshaw filled our worship service on December 11th with joyous sounds. Our Choral Choir, under the direction of Emilio Pesante and accompanied by Steve Hall, bolstered our Christmas Spirit with their cantata during the December 18th service. The Chime Choir, under the direction of Irma Gustafson, enhanced our Christmas Eve services with their beautiful tones. Next time you see a member of our choirs, thank them for their gifts to our worship services!

~Pastor Richard



TO THE ENTIRE OBCC FAMILY:

I am so grateful for your very generous gift!! Thank you! I am blessed to be a part of this church family and to feel loved & valued. I cherish your support, acceptance, and love. I still smile every time I turn into the driveway. I look forward to a New Year full of opportunity to help make what you do easier and smoother.

Happy Christmas and Merry New Year!!
~Susan, your office secretary



Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated for the Christmas card and love gift given to me last Sunday. It is an honor and a privilege to serve OBCC by caring for your smallest ones. At Christmas, I will be celebrating the birth of our Lord with my son in Kentucky. Please pray for our family as we travel.

Christmas Blessings,
Pam Williams (Nursery)



I would like to thank all of the OBCC Church Family for their generous Christmas Gift! You are the most loving church family! Special thanks to our Wonderful Choir for all of the hard work, and the lovey gifts! Special thanks to Steve Hall for always making us sound our best! Thank you to Pastor Richard and the Board for giving me a chance to worship with OBCC! It has been, and continues to be, an honor and a privilege to direct the OBCC Choir!

Merry Christmas!
Emilio



I'd just like to thank the congregation and choir for such a generous gift at Christmas. Accompanying the choir has always been a pleasure and something I look forward to each and every week. Now onward to 2017 and eagerly participate and share musically to the worship services.

~Steve Hall



OUR DAY OUT

Our Day Out is a day of rest for the caregivers of folks in our congregation. Having begun in October of 2015, we are just over one year old and, sadly, have lost three of our friends (guests we call them) to death. Another one has found venturing out to be too difficult in light of her 103 years of age. Still another has recently suffered a serious illness and probably will not join in our fun day again. We volunteers are greatly saddened by these losses, as this day is one that provides us with more joy than we give, we feel quite sure.

Therefore, we are now including members in our congregation who are shut-in and lonely, but not in need of a caregiver. We just want to provide a happy day out, enabling them to see a smiling face receive some hugs, join in laughter, sing, eat good food, make a craft item to take home, and share in some games and some memories of days gone by. Larry will become our B-I-N-G-O caller starting in January! FUN!

If you are aware of anyone in the congregation who falls into either of these categories, please let me know. We are also in need of more volunteers, as some have found it necessary to retire after the first year due to other church related activities that require a lot of time. We certainly understand that. We are in need of drivers to pick up some of our folks. Even if you cannot give us a full day (from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.), perhaps you can drop someone off at 10 and pick them up at 2. Or if one-way is all you can provide, we'll take that! If you can be a fulltime volunteer, we need you! I promise a day of blessings.

Love in Christ,
~Louise Smith, 206-1960



The Adult Sunday School Class meeting upstairs in the education building starts a study of Genesis on January 1. It is a great time to join the class to learn about our beginnings and the patriarchs. Enjoy good fellowship and refreshment while learning from God's written word.

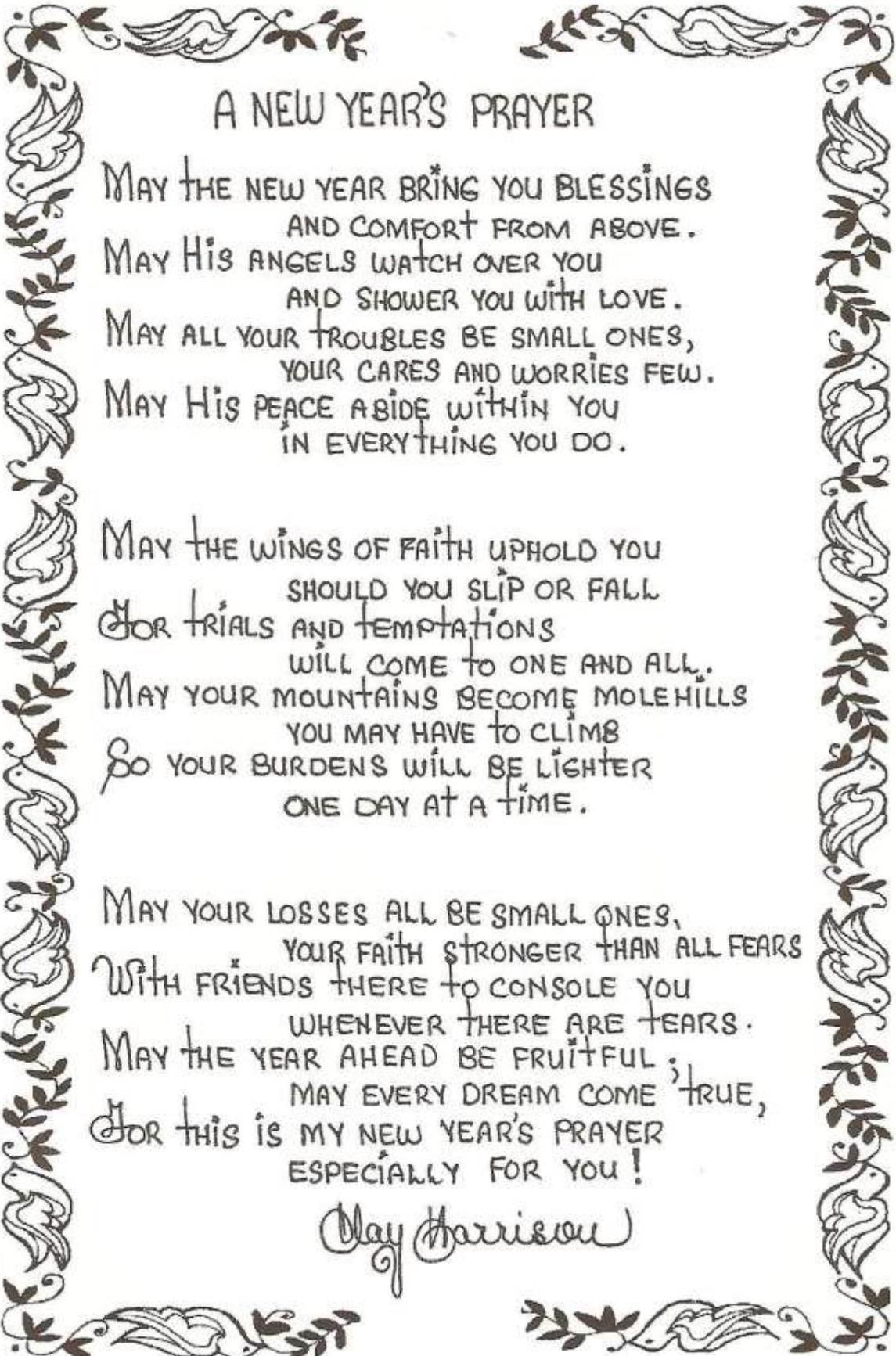
~Andy



Hear the stories again for the first time: A new study of the parables begins Sunday, Jan 8, in Landa's Sunday School class, meeting in the kitchen area of the Old Fellowship Hall.



Bring on
the
NEW YEAR!



A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU BLESSINGS
AND COMFORT FROM ABOVE.

MAY HIS ANGELS WATCH OVER YOU
AND SHOWER YOU WITH LOVE.

MAY ALL YOUR TROUBLES BE SMALL ONES,
YOUR CARES AND WORRIES FEW.

MAY HIS PEACE ABIDE WITHIN YOU
IN EVERYTHING YOU DO.

MAY THE WINGS OF FAITH UPHOLD YOU
SHOULD YOU SLIP OR FALL

FOR TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS
WILL COME TO ONE AND ALL.

MAY YOUR MOUNTAINS BECOME MOLEHILLS
YOU MAY HAVE TO CLIMB

SO YOUR BURDENS WILL BE LIGHTER
ONE DAY AT A TIME.

MAY YOUR LOSSES ALL BE SMALL ONES,
YOUR FAITH STRONGER THAN ALL FEARS

WITH FRIENDS THERE TO CONSOLE YOU
WHENEVER THERE ARE TEARS.

MAY THE YEAR AHEAD BE FRUITFUL;
MAY EVERY DREAM COME TRUE,

FOR THIS IS MY NEW YEAR'S PRAYER
ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!

Clay Harrison



The Olive Branch

NFH=New Fellowship Hall
 OFH=Old Fellowship Hall
 EB=Education Building
 SANC=Sanctuary

January 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
1 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship New Year's Day	2 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB) OFFICE CLOSED	3 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 2:00 PM Small Group Mtg 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	4	5 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	6 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	7 10:00 AM Comfort Ministry (SS Room)																																																																																					
8 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Dominion Village 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	9 9:00 AM Worship Meeting (EB) 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)	10 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 11:45 AM CWF Tuesday Morning Circle (All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. Interlude-5395 Riverview Rd) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	11 10:00 AM -2:00 PM Our Day Out (NFH)	12 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	13 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	14																																																																																					
15 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	16 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB) 7:00 PM CWF Monday Evening Circle (EB) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED	17 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	18	19 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 5:00 PM Burndt Ordinary Meal 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	20 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	21																																																																																					
22 8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Dominion Village 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	23 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)	24 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	25	26 10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 11:00 AM Naomi's Lunch Bunch (Jimmy's) 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)	27 5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)	28																																																																																					
29 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church	30 10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB) 7:00 PM Elders Meeting (OFH)	31 10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Dec 2016</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Feb 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						
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Scripture:

And behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying,
This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
Matthew 3:17

Have you ever seen a baptism? Do you know what a baptistery is? A baptistery is the part of the church which is used when the sacrament of baptism is performed by the minister. The person being baptized walks down the steps into the water and is baptized like Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. When a person walks out of the baptistery, they are babes in Christ; and their Heavenly Father looks down upon them and is proud of them just as he was when Jesus was baptized. When Jesus came out of the water, God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Even though God is proud of his children, he doesn't want them to remain babies all their lives. He wants them to grow as Christians. Some people walk out of the baptistery and they stay babes in Christ all of their lives. Even though God still loves them, he probably isn't very proud of them. He wants them to grow spiritually, just as they grow physically. To grow spiritually, a person should regularly attend Sunday School and church in order to learn more about God and his son,

Jesus, and how God wants us to live our lives for Him.

Jesus is Baptized Crossword

Word List:
believe Jordon
water honey
father John
public preaching
repentance dove

Across

- 2. He prepared the way for Jesus.
- 5. John the Baptist was doing a lot of this along with baptizing others.
- 8. As a Christian it is important to ask for forgiveness and mean it, this is called ____.
- 9. This came out of the sky to Jesus right after he was baptized.

Down

- 1. Baptism is a ____ display of our belief in God.
- 2. The name of the river where Jesus was baptized.
- 3. Something sweet that John ate in the wilderness.
- 4. This is used a symbol to wash our sins away.
- 6. We are should be baptized in the name of the ____, Son and the Holy Spirit.
- 7. This is the main thing you need to do before you are baptized.



The Olive Branch

Jesus is Baptized Word Search

F P Q U M C B O S E F L D T P
 S N E V A E H T C Y A O O F R
 X G U J L J S N E H T B V P E
 O S O I O U A N I I H M E D A
 B H E R C T O T B A E Y T H C
 N V D O N H M P I Q R S H C H
 E O L E W I L D E R N E S S I
 N E P O C I L B U P I U A T N
 K E T R I N I T Y H Y P W L G
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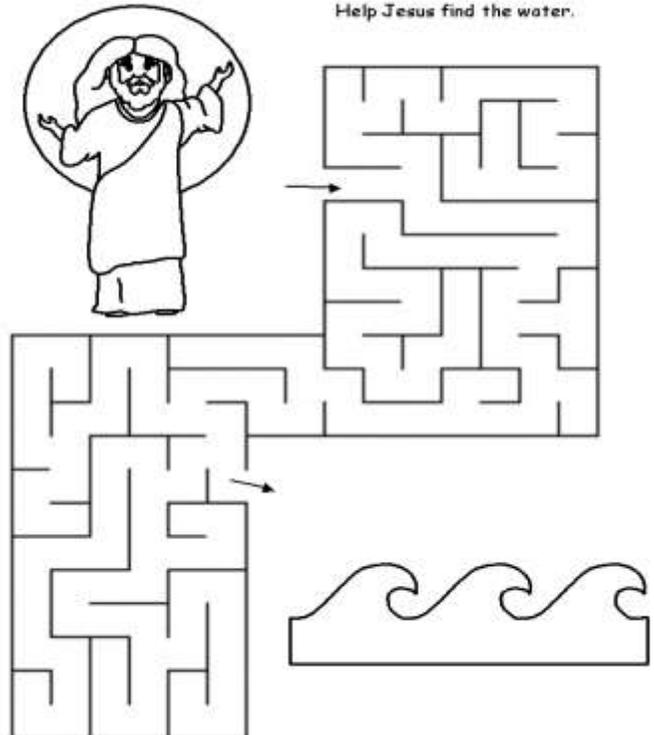
believe
 dove
 Father
 heavens
 honey
 John
 Jordon
 locusts
 open



preaching
 public
 repentance
 spirit
 symbol
 trinity
 wash
 water
 wilderness

Jesus is Baptized Maze

Help Jesus find the water.





The Olive Branch



PIANO GIFT RECEIVED WITH THANKS!



Lafayette High School

4460 Longhill Road | Williamsburg, VA 23188
(757) 565-0373 | FAX: (757) 565-4268

Anita Swinton
Principal

Michele Newcomb
Assistant Principal

Howard Townsend
Assistant Principal

December 2, 2016

The Rev. Richard D. Cline
Olive Branch Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Rev. Cline:

This is to thank you and the congregation of Olive Branch Christian Church for donating the Sommer Baby Grand piano to the music department of Lafayette High School. Your thinking of Lafayette as the beneficiary of this musical equipment is truly appreciated and extremely important to our school. We understand how special this musical instrument was to your church and please know that it will become just as special to our music department.

Again, thank you, for your kind act will long be remembered and seen as a valuable contribution to the Lafayette High School community.

Respectfully,

L. Anita Swinton

WJCC School Board

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Jamestown District

Kyra Cook
Vice Chair
City of Williamsburg

James W. Beers, Ph.D.
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Stonehouse District

Sandra S. Young, M.S.Ed.
Berkeley District

December 13, 2016

Olive Branch Christian Church
Attn: The Rev. Richard D. Cline
7643 Richmond Road
Toano, VA 23188

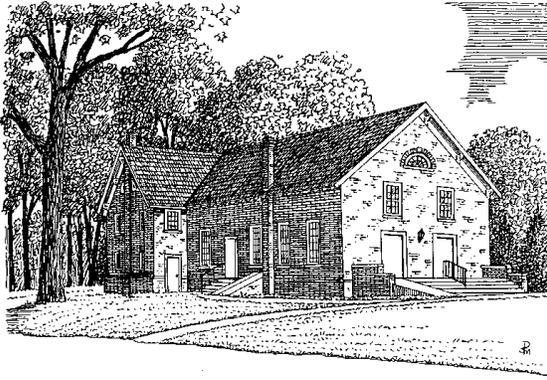
Dear Rev. Cline,

We received your generous donation of Sommer Baby Grand Piano for Lafayette High School and would like to extend our sincerest thank you. Your support and commitment to student success is truly appreciated.

On behalf of the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, thank you again for your kindness and partnership with our community's schools.

Warmest Regards,

Olwen E. Herron, Ed.D.
Artistic Superintendent



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