



THE OLIVE BRANCH

AUGUST 2025

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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

 **Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg**

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

 **Instagram: [@obccwilliamsburg](https://www.instagram.com/obccwilliamsburg)**



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Perry Yeatts was baptized July 27, 2025
101 Soundview Drive
Aydlett, NC 27916-9608
Phone: (252) 564-4903

Welcome!

INTO THE WATERS

When a baptism is part of Sunday worship, a special energy fills the room. Part of it is the excitement that comes from seeing a person dedicate themselves to following Christ, another part is welcoming a new person into the church family. For those of us who were baptized as children or as adults, a good portion of the energy in the room comes from remembering the day we were baptized.

The memory of my day is always renewed when I baptize a person here at Olive Branch. One reason is the location of the baptistry. My home church of Pfafftown Christian also had the baptistry under the communion table. The deacons would move the communion table and the chairs for the Elders and the pastor, and open a large door in the floor, exposing the baptistry tank. Here at Olive Branch our baptistry is also under the communion table, and we go through a similar process.

One of our elders made the comment to me after last Sunday's baptism for Perry that there is a wonderful symbolism found in having the baptistry under our

table. Harold is right. Baptism is the act by which the church proclaims God's grace, as revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper is the act by which we remember Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and promise to return one day to feast with all believers. Baptism is the start of our Christian journey, and the Lord's Supper provides the spiritual food we need for the journey.

I am thankful for Perry's decision to be baptized into the family of God. May the joy and the energy we felt that day remain with us, as we travel together in this faith journey. May the Lord provide more opportunities to remember our calling as disciples!

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

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:

Alternate Wednesdays; September 3, 2025 until June 10, 2026

6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

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

3rd Thursday DWM Circle of Grace: 3rd Thursdays; 11:30AM; Taylor Hall

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; Sandy's Restaurant



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



DWM Circle of Grace: August 21; 11:30AM; Taylor Hall

OBCC Board Meeting: August 19; 6PM; Adult Sunday School Room



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Pat Allred, Michael Ayers, Jeanne Bell, Irma Gustafson, Petra Hall, Jack Heslink, Keeta Hodson, Jim & Anne Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Lois Marshall, Dallas & Joann Mitchell, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Bob Sharp, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), Sean Dill (Teri Tench's grandson), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Clara Grace Goins (Patti Banks' granddaughter), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), David Leatherman (Jim & Anne Holland's grandson), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Sheila Rinehart, Burton Wilhelm (Liz Ripley's brother-in-law), Harriet Wright (Cleve Wright's mother), Asher (Bill Bowers' great-grandson), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Mo (friend of Cheryl & Gene Johnson)



05 Skip & Christy Jensen
27 Johnny & Lisa Johnson



- 01 Scott Boyd
- 06 Ben Arney
- 07 Cindy Robertson
- 11 Ellen Waite
- 11 James Allred
- 12 Christina Jones
- 13 Loretta Garrett
- 15 Jeremy Wright
- 15 Ryan Martin
- 20 Roy Sullivan
- 21 Brandon Starkes
- 21 Todd Meadows
- 23 Kim Riffle
- 24 Michael Heslink
- 26 Tyler Watson
- 27 Susan Shipley
- 28 Arayna Lambert
- 28 Joyce Allen
- 31 Bradley Watson
- 31 Kylie Rutherford



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Susan Simpson
08/03/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
08/10/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
08/17/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Lois Marshall	
08/24/2025	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	
08/31/2025	Missy Harbour	

	Mel Watson	
	Liz Ripley Jason Teagle TBD Joann Mitchell	



CELEBRATION WITH OAK GROVE

Our congregation has been invited to participate in the 115th Anniversary of the Ushers of Oak Grove Baptist Church, at 2PM on August 24th. Our choir will lead the music, and Pastor Richard will deliver the message. Last year was a wonderful time of worship and celebration, as our two congregations met together to give thanks to God. Please make plans to attend! The address of the church is 529 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Come out and support our choir and pastor!



Worship & Wonder

WORSHIP & WONDER

Worship & Wonder will not meet through August. We will reconvene in the fall. Have a great summer!



OBCC sends condolences to the family of Thelma "Inez" Mihalcoe. Inez passed away on June 25, 2025. A service was held for Inez on July 3, 2025 at Vincent Funeral Home in Providence Forge.



OBCC sends condolences to Heidi McMurdo and the family of Heidi's daughter, Kourtney Haake. Kourtney passed away on July 23, 2025.



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and expressions of condolences for the passing of my sister, Myra. We are truly blessed with a loving and caring church family.

~Jim & Carolyn Hunt



DWM DINNER & MISSION

Our next covered dish dinner will be held in Branch Hall on Monday, September 8 beginning at 6PM. We are partnering with Proclaiming Grace Outreach, so throughout the month of August until September 8, we ask you donate items that will be a blessing to this mission.

Proclaiming Grace Outreach's mission is serving the needs of those who are disadvantaged or in economic hardship in Upper James City County and New Kent County with a holistic approach and bridging the gap between services offered in Williamsburg and Richmond. By loving all our neighbors, the world will see us reflecting the love and heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Proclaiming Grace Outreach is in need of the following items:

- Box of cereal
- Box of instant potatoes
- Jar of peanut butter
- Box of macaroni and cheese
- Jar of jelly
- Can of fruit
- Can of tuna
- Jar of applesauce
- Can of chicken
- Can of tomatoes
- Can of sweet potatoes
- Box of cookie mix
- Box of crackers
- Box of brownie mix
- Package of rice
- Can of chicken noodle soup
- Package of oatmeal
- Can of tomato soup
- Package of pasta
- Can of corn
- Jar of spaghetti sauce
- Can of mixed vegetables
- Can of carrots
- Can of green beans
- Microwave popcorn
- Package of stuffing mix
- Box of corn bread mix
- Box of Jello
- Box of cake mix
- Can of icing

Your donations make a difference. Thank you! Please join us for our DWM dinner to find out more about Proclaiming Grace Outreach's mission as Executive Director Melanie King will speak at the meeting.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It was a very humid day for ODO but no rain which made it wonderful for traveling. Anita and I decorated the hall with lots of flags, stars, and stripes to remind all of us about this great nation we live in. Barb printed a beautiful tribute entitled "The Flag" which we read together as we stood and honored our flag, country,

service men and women, and loved ones. Wonderful voices blended together in singing patriotic songs.

Christy brought some unusual flags to share with us and just a reminder she recently returned from a trip to Japan and next month for ODO she is going to share her trip with us including screenshots of beautiful and amazing places!

Everyone participated in a moving and inspiring discussion of memories regarding the fourth and what it stands for, family members who gave their life for our country, and respecting the flag.

Our chef Joann and her helpers Anita and Jane delighted our taste buds with sliders and hot dogs, coleslaw, beans, chips, and delicious cakes for dessert. Crafty Jane helped us make the cutest koala bear decoration and reminded all of us that Epic Australia is the theme for this year's VBS.

We finished our day enjoying the laughter, fun, and silliness that always happens when we play bingo. Clever Tyler used his computer skills and had some pretty cool bingo cards on his screen. Norm is still the luckiest player and Anita keeps trying to find his lucky card.

ODO is a wonderful way to have a day just for yourself- food, fun, and family, who could ask for anything more. Please come and join us on the second Wednesday of every month!

May God's Grace give all of us peace and happiness.

May God be with you and keep you safe always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator



OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

At our July breakfast meeting we marked our third anniversary since restarting an active Men's group at Olive Branch. The restart was initiated after a sermon by Richard where he explained our focus should lead us to "Being Church" instead of just "Doing Church". In those three years we have focused on both outreach projects and support for church events and maintenance of the church properties. Our major outreach project is providing Thanksgiving meals for

12-15 needy families identified by Williamsburg Faith in Action. We have also provided a breakfast meal following the Easter Sunrise Service and assisted Steve White and Dennis Dasher with the erection of the Nativity Scene as well as providing funding for the animals for that event. Maintenance projects include painting of our storage shed and the fence around the sanctuary garden.

Our monthly breakfast meetings are at 9:00am on the second Thursday of each month. The meetings include devotions, a program, fellowship, and discussion of our projects. One of the goals has been to get to know each other better than a handshake on Sunday morning. We are accomplishing that goal in every meeting. Individuals have shared their life and faith journeys, their families and their hobbies. We normally have 8-15 men attend. If you haven't been to a meeting yet, give some thought to attending our next meeting on August 14 at 9:00am in Branch Hall.



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

On a beautiful but perhaps a bit humid day, the July Circle of Grace met for a delicious lunch in Taylor Hall. The ladies each brought delightful and beautifully arranged salads, fruits, and tasty cookies. I am always telling everyone about the wonderful chefs at OBCC.

We were delighted to learn about Lois from Lois Marshall at our June circle which is pictured below. For July's circle, Elaine Henk reintroduced us to Mary Magdalene. There are so many stories that we have all heard about her including that she was possessed by demons. Listening to Elaine's lesson gave us all some new insights to her character and the love and devotion she had for Jesus. The nicest part about our circle is the conversation following the lesson. Beautiful thoughts, interesting questions, and real-life stories make it a very special and spiritually uplifting afternoon.

Our theme this year is "Women from the Bible". Hopefully more will join us next month as we see which biblical lady will appear.





4TH THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

In spite of these "dog days" of Summer, rather than staying in our air-conditioned homes, 17 brave souls ventured out to Sandy's Pancakes and Waffles in June, expecting a time of fun and fellowship to enjoy with our meals. I didn't see anyone leaving looking disappointed.

We welcomed Betty Bennink, Melvin Braxton, and Ron Grosso into our Friendship Circle, each saying they would return in July.

Some whose absence we had felt for a while returned while some regulars were unable to come this time for various reasons. They were solely missed.

We still have space for more in our meeting room, so we look forward to new and old faces joining us for our next gathering on the 4th Thursday of each month. Come expecting a blessing!

~Louise Smith



FALL TRIP TO BIBLE MUSEUM

There is a signup sheet posted in the back of the Sanctuary for anyone interested in going to the Bible Museum in DC this fall. This is to see how many people would be interested in going, so I can figure out cost, date, and the best way to plan. Thank you!

~Abby Matschke



FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

Mark your calendars! Our Fall Community Fun Day will be on Saturday, September 20 from 12 PM—4 PM. There will be live music, food, raffles, baked goods, and a silent auction. Contact Sheila Yeatts with any questions.



OAK GROVE FASHION SHOW

Thank you to everyone who came out to support the Historic Oak Grove Baptist Church! We had a wonderful time enjoying a delicious luncheon and beautiful fashions provided by Belk and Supreme Styles. Thank you to our fabulous models and all who helped make this event so special and successful!





St. Olaf Food Pantry
104 Norge Lane
Williamsburg, VA 23188 • 757-564-3819



Olive Branch Christian Church

Rev. Richard Cline

7643 Richmond Rd

Williamsburg, VA 23188

June 24, 2025

Dear Pastor Cline and Olive Branch members,

On behalf of St. Olaf Food Pantry Ministry, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your recent food drive benefiting St. Olaf Food Pantry and our clients.

As you know, friends and neighbors in our community are facing continued cost of living increases in all areas. With your help we can continue to provide food for those who may otherwise go without.

Without the support of community partners like you, we cannot continue to provide for those facing food insecurities in our area. Your efforts brought us 625 pounds of food and a monetary donation of \$792.00. We are blessed to have you as our partner in fighting hunger in our area.

The peace of Christ be with you,

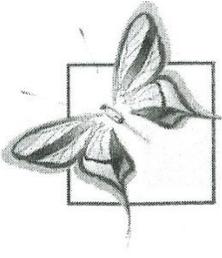
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Hamilton".

Donna Hamilton

Director - St. Olaf Food Pantry

St. Olaf Catholic Church

As a faith community working together, we will continue to bridge the gaps in the lives of the hungry; we can continue to show our love for our neighbors in part because of your commitment to making a positive change in our world.



Proclaiming Grace Outreach

The mission of Proclaiming Grace Outreach (PGO), a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, is to provide a holistic approach to the needs of our community by providing food, clothing, and other services to help the disadvantaged and those with economic hardships. By loving all our neighbors, the world will see us reflecting the love and heart of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

June 26, 2025

Olive Branch Christian Church
7643 Richmond Rd.
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Olive Branch Christian Church,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, we thank you for your recent donation of \$300.00 (check #7529) on May 12, 2025 for the Food Pantry Building Fund.

We are most grateful for your support. It is through donors like you that we can continue working hard to meet the ever-increasing needs of the residents of New Kent and James City counties.

Sincerely,

Melanie D. King
Executive Director
PGOVA.org

Thank you for
your ongoing
support!

Your contribution is fully deductible. Proclaiming Grace Outreach has not provided any goods or services to you in consideration of your gift. This letter will serve as a receipt for your records.

A faith-based non-profit corporation - Tax ID#: 26-3540439

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 224
Barhamsville, VA 23011

Office:
15730 Pocahontas Trail
Lanexa, VA 23089
(757) 741-5070

Food Pantry:
20051 Tabernacle Road
Barhamsville, VA 23011



Community Fun Day

**ENJOY LUNCH, A BAKE SALE, SILENT AUCTION,
RAFFLES, LIVE MUSIC, NATURE TRAIL WALKS, AND
ALL KINDS OF FALL FAMILY FUN!**

September 20th

11AM - 4PM

Olive Branch Christian Church
7643 Richmond Rd
Williamsburg

**When you arrive at Church,
And see the manicured grounds,
What you soon surmise is,
Unseen workers do abound.**

**Who pick up fallen branches,
Who mow the massive yard,
Who water all the flowers,
Some jobs are really hard.**

**Who put the beautiful flowers,
In the Sanctuary,
Who prepare the gravesites,
Our loved ones to bury.**

**Who provides such delicious meals,
Our hearty appetites to fill,
Who puts flags upon the graves,
Honoring our veterans still.**

**Who clean the buildings,
From toilets to floors,
Who gets to Church early,
To unlock the doors.**

**Ah so many jobs,
To keep our Father's House intact,
These unseen workers,
We never seem to lack.**

**They do it all to serve,
Their unseen Father above,
Whose mysterious hand reaches down,
To reveal His unconditional Love.**

~Louise Smith



Summer is for Families,
Kids are out of school at last,
Time to make new memories,
Like ones from childhoods past.

Are they engaged in sports,
Play on a baseball team,
Or do they play soccer,
It's so hard to keep clean.



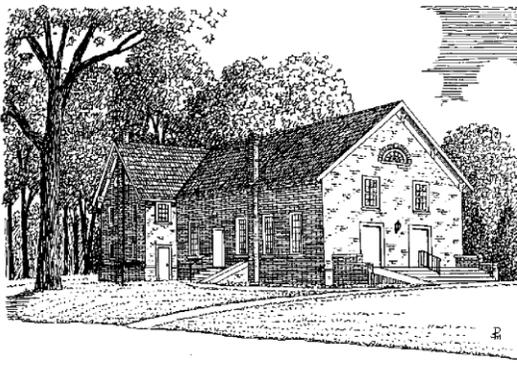
In our daily living,
We get tempest tossed by sin,
Getting dirty on the inside,
Needing cleansing deep within.

After playing sports,
You can jump in for a swim,
But the pool that Jesus offer,
Comes with following Him.



Do go to on vacation,
Relax and have some fun,
Just don't neglect to Worship,
Resting in The Holy One.

~ Louise Smith



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

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

