



THE OLIVE BRANCH

SEPTEMBER 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**



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Melvin Braxton joined August 24, 2025
8607 Croaker Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1227
Phone: (757) 250-3878
Cell: (757) 879-5535

Welcome!

THANK YOU, CHURCH!

All I can say is, "Wow!" What a wonderful honor I received on August 3! Thank you for the perfect lunch and celebration of my 15 years of ministry here at Olive Branch! It was just right, not just for the words said and the gifts received, but for the main course of barbeque! And imagine my surprise when Willie showed up to sing a song specially written for the occasion! There are so many people to thank, but I would like to mention Missy, Abby, Sheila, Charles and Naomia, and of course, Andy "Willie" Bradshaw. I am truly blessed by your love and generosity.

Willie opened his song with these words:

*Come gather round people, I want you to hear
Of our Pastor, a man who to us is so dear
Raised down in Pfafftown before he came here
He's a tar heel, there's no doubt about it
He still has that accent after all of these years
But he wouldn't be Richard without it*

So true, Willie! Thank you, church, for learning tar heel-ese, for putting up with my foibles, mistakes, and

idiosyncrasies. From my first sermon in July 2010, to my last sermon in the pulpit, know this: you have been much more of a blessing to me than I have been to you. This church restored my faith that a congregation can be found that does not fixate on the things that can divide us, but on the one Lord and one Faith that will always unite us.

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
3, 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 Dinner: September 8; 6PM; Branch Hall

Appreciation Breakfast: September 14; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

Community Fun Day: September 20; 11AM-4PM

Lifeline Screening: September 22; Branch Hall; 8AM-6PM

Cemetery Clean Up: September 20-30, 2025

Reconciliation Giving: September 28 & October 5



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), Lynette Mills (Joann Mitchell's sister), 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), Phil Reynolds (Larry & Louise Smith'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), Samantha (Liz Ripley's niece)



- 08 Cleve & Michelle Wright
- 09 Steve & Linda Garrett
- 09 Lyn & Gerry Medina
- 13 Roy & Ellen Sullivan
- 19 Jim & Carolyn Hunt
- 27 Bob & Sharon Herndon



- 01 Bob Eber
- 04 Sarah Savage
- 06 Michelle Wright
- 08 Sheila Yeatts
- 10 Christopher Hutton
- 10 Reagan Jones
- 13 Kaye Watson
- 17 Linda Hutchens
- 21 Anne Holland
- 22 Dale Cason
- 22 Richard Onesty
- 23 Ann Simmons
- 25 Betty Speegle
- 26 June Phillips
- 29 Val Mason



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Kaye Watson
09/07/2025	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Marney Brickhouse Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
09/14/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
09/21/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
09/28/2025	Hunter Creech	

	Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Lois Marshall	



Worship & Wonder

WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
09/07/2025	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
09/14/2025	Linda Williams	Patty Barker
09/21/2025	Teri Tench	Jeremy Dill
09/28/2025	Danielle Kelley	Ethel King



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Monday, September 1, for the Labor Day holiday.



SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thank you to Trina & Bob Eber for organizing our library and making it easier to use than ever! The Ebers spent a lot of time and hard work cataloging all the books and organizing them with markers, even including a bin to return books once borrowed! Thank you for all your hard work!



program! It takes place during the 11:00 service, following Pastor Richard's Children's Message. A greeter waits for the children at the back of the church and escorts them to the Education building, where they will have their own age-appropriate worship experience led by another adult we call a leader/storyteller. Disciples Home Mission describes this program as:

What is Worship and Wonder?

An exciting way of approaching faith formation with children is the best way to describe Children Worship & Wonder. In Children Worship & Wonder children can hear Bible stories and form responses out of their own life experiences. They learn the meaning of church traditions and participate in worship practices (Young Children and Worship, Introduction).

Children Worship & Wonder is a Montessori influenced program and is often effective with children who have attention deficit problems. It can be used with children as young as three years old. It can be either a children's church or children's church school program.

Respect of Children: This program recognizes that even very young children are spiritual beings who already have a relationship with God. In Worship & Wonder children are not seen as empty vessels for us (adults) to fill with our understanding of God. Adults are guides who offer space, tools, and language which help children deepen their already existing relationship with God. In Children Worship & Wonder we trust, that given the opportunity, children will bring their own life experiences to the stories of God and will receive what they need.

Encouragement of Imagination: There is not enough time and space in today's world for children to use their wonderful imaginations. Television, videos, computer games rarely encourage children to call upon their own creative possibilities. There are too few places for children to learn about the gifts of quiet and solitude. Churches are uniquely equipped to offer these gifts.

Developmentally Appropriate: Children Worship & Wonder allows children to use all of their senses and motor skills. It includes lots of repetition and lots of rituals which children love.

Children Learn about God while Being in God's Presence: Children Worship & Wonder is worship. It is a chance for adults and children to worship together in a way that is meaningful for both.

Numbers do not Matter: This program can be done with one child or fifteen children.

The bottom line is that Children Worship & Wonder is a worship experience for children.

We have added more leaders and greeters who are excited to worship with children. Although in terms of doing this program, it can be done with one child or



Worship & Wonder

WORSHIP & WONDER BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 7

Worship and Wonder is back beginning September 7, 2025! If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or know of children preschool through elementary age, please consider bringing them to this

many, we pray that more children will be brought to our church and begin their spiritual formation here with us. We ask that you pray for this too!



DWM DINNER & MISSION

Our next covered dish dinner will be held in Branch Hall on Monday, September 8 beginning at 6PM. We will provide fried chicken, so please bring a side dish to share.

We are partnering with Proclaiming Grace Outreach, so up 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.



CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

We are honoring Steve Hall and Emilio Pesante's many years of service at OBCC with a thank you breakfast on Sunday, September 14 at 9:30AM in Taylor Hall. Please stop in to share your appreciation with them before Sunday School. If you have any questions, please contact Missy Harbour.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

Anita and I had so much fun turning Branch Hall into areas of Japanese memories and decorations for our August Our Day Out. Christy Jensen delighted us all with a beautiful presentation of her family's recent trip to Japan. Her enthusiasm and caring and wonderful pictures brought the trip for all of us to enjoy.

Chef Sheila and her helpers, Joann and Jane, brought an oriental flair to our delicious lunch including Chow Mein, egg rolls, rice, and oriental cookies and candy.

Crafty Jane taught us all how to make fortune cookies (non-wrinkle) which my great-granddaughter, Harper, really liked and took a few home to share with her mom and dad.

Ellen Waite was serenaded for her ninetieth birthday and we sang to Cecelia and Bob too.

Bingo was fun for all of us, but we missed Tyler who was vacationing with his family.

Friends, fun, food, and Faith really make for a blessed day, and I am ever so grateful to all who come to ODO! September reminds us of school back in session and the beauty of fall, so please join us if you are able.

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





FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

Our Fall Community Fun Day will be on Saturday, September 20 from 11 AM—4 PM. There will be live music, food, baked goods, and a silent auction.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you are able to volunteer and/or supply baked goods, please contact Sheila Yeatts. We need baked goods of all kinds for our Bake Sale- cookies, breads, smaller items, and even a few cakes and pies would be great!

We also need volunteers to help with the Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and Games including a scavenger hunt!

If you or someone you know is great with face paint, there's an opportunity to volunteer for that station as well. Please contact Sheila Yeatts if you are able to help out.

We are also requesting food donations. If you are able to support this fun day by donating all-beef hot dogs, hot dog buns, variety boxes of chips, and/or drinks

including bottled water, that would be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Yeatts. Thank you for your willingness to help make this a great day for our community!



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between September 20 & 30, 2025. If you would like to save anything, please remove it before then. Non-perishable items left in place will be moved near the shed area next to the parking lot. Thanks for helping the committee to keep our cemetery one of the most beautiful in the county.

~Cemetery Committee



SAMARITAN'S PURSE MISSION

Samaritan's Purse provides relief to those who have experienced significant losses due to natural disasters. Samaritan's Purse is in need of your help, and there are plenty of ways to help enhance and uplift their ministry. You can pray, asking the Lord to raise up an army of volunteers to serve with Samaritan's Purse. You can provide a gift for hurricane relief, enabling Samaritan's Purse to provide temporary shelter, medical care, solar lights that also recharge phones, and water filters to help survivors across the Caribbean. Samaritan's Purse works in more than 100 countries to help victims of disaster, disease, famine, poverty, and war. Your gift to "Where Most Needed" equips them with the resources—including personnel, materials, supporting services, and equipment—to fulfill their mission of relief and evangelism. I encourage you to think of how you can support this ministry and their great efforts to support God's children everywhere!

Our next effort will be the Shoebox Project. Distribution day is October 19. Due date for all boxes is November 16. Boxes will be available in the lobby & narthex with a sheet of instructions with boy/girl label.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

It was a breezy, cloudy Thursday for our Circle of Grace luncheon and meeting. As usual, the delicious array of salads, deviled eggs, and watermelon were enjoyed by all. Kim tried a new recipe, and her orzo salad was great, and Jan's homemade pizza dish was mouthwatering.

After announcements and reminders of events coming up, Kim introduced Rahab as her Woman of the Bible

subject. Everyone enjoyed her story and applauded Kim's telling of it. A wonderful discussion followed which really is a blessing and gives all of us a chance to know each other better. God's love and compassion surrounds us and His spirit helps us to meet the challenges we face.

It is my prayer that more will join us each month to spend this special time together!



4TH THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Due to Summer vacations, our crowd was a little small at 18 but great fun was had by all who attended.

We received greetings from Andrew, Joyce and Mark as they were midway through their trip to the Connecticut Shores.

We welcomed newly retired Patty Barker, and Danny Kelley, along with Mary Louise's grandson Elijah Smith who participated in our discussion of Summers of childhood. We discussed how we were affected by hot weather back then as opposed to now as well as how we occupied our days of Summer vacation from school. From hopscotch to dress up, walking on stilts (aka Tom Walkers in eastern NC anyway), softball, fishing, riding bicycles to visit friends, and roller skates that fit over shoes. Laughter filled the room for which we were grateful, and we were cooled by the modern invention of central air-conditioning.

Everyone is welcome to join us in September!

~Louise Smith



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS:

RECONCILIATION SUNDAYS—SEPT 28 & OCT 5

Your Reconciliation Ministry gifts help support pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs through camp, education, conference, and relationship-building in each expression of our Church. Thank you in advance for your support.

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI NEWS

Recently Dr. Vinod Ekka sent an update from the Christian Hospital in Mungeli, India. Here are the highlights:

1. The hospital added a new physician in June, Dr. Aparajita Nath, a recent graduate from CMC Ludhiana, who will complete her required service, following her sponsored education, at CHM.

2. The Dialysis Unit has been restarted as a new dialysis technician has arrived on campus. We give thanks for the ability to once again provide this critical service to the community.
3. The Indian Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has awarded CHM a two-year license to provide primary healthcare services to ESIC beneficiaries and their families.
4. Our new ophthalmology surgical unit continues to conduct surgeries, including, but not limited to, cataract removal, thanks to Dr. Ekka's specialization in ophthalmology.
5. Visitors from Sandy Springs Christian Church painted the outside of the hospital entrance on their first visit in December of 2012; CHM has refreshed the paint which lasted a long time thanks to gracious and hardworking volunteers.
6. The Nursing School continues the admission process for our newest batch of students. Thanks be to God for the support of so many who through their current gifts aid our School, and also from those who, through their endowments, will continue to raise up new generations of skilled nurses in the future.
7. The hospital has resumed hosting community health clinics for neighboring villages. We give thanks for the collaboration with a local bank to make these camps possible!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

~Landa Simmons





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

Richard's 15th Anniversary Song

To the tune of The Times, They are a-changin'

Come gather round people, I want you to hear
Of our Pastor, a man who to us is so dear
Raised down in Pfafftown before he came here
He's a tar heel, there's no doubt about it
He still has that accent after all of these years
But he wouldn't be Richard without it

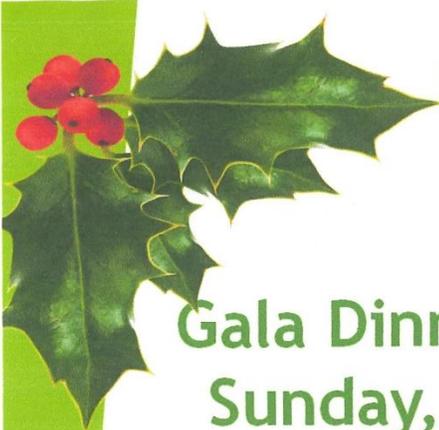
He brought us through Covid when things were a wreck
Challenges seemed to pile up to our neck
He figured a way to gather high tech
Seems primitive now, but amazin'
Ann held up his phone while he preached from his deck
Oh, the times they are a changin'

Elections tore other churches in two
It threatened us here with our divergent views
Richard declared politics were taboo
Our parties are not what define us
We still don't know if he's red or he's blue
Oh, our faith is what really unites us.

We love when his sermons have a verse from a song
Classic rock tunes that we hum all day long
There's only one thing he does that is wrong
One change that would bring satisfaction
Tell Steve in advance so that he'll play along
Oh, I promise you'll love the reaction

When he celebrates life, we all will agree
It's a tribute as lovely as any could be
Through a verse from the Bible, the person we see
It leaves us with such a good feelin'
You can't go until you've done one for me
So don't even think about leavin'





SAVE THE DATE

Olive Branch
Gala Dinner Event by Candlelight
Sunday, December 14th , 2025
6 o'clock in the Evening
In Branch Hall

Menu

*Asparagus Stuffed Chicken Breast
Lemon & Herbs Infused Angle Hair Pasta
Field Green Salad with Beets, Shredded Carrots,
Candied Pecans, Red Onion & Blue Cheese Crumbles
Finished with a Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
Dinner Rolls
A Medley of Fruit Pies*

Reservations Required by Monday, December 8th
Open to Church Family Members

Join us for a Festive Evening of Fellowship, Musical
Entertainment, and Complimentary Door Prizes

Please RSVP to Linda Brown:
LindaBrownintheGardens@gmail.com
Or (Land Line) 757-707-3907 (no texting)

Attire: Coat & Tie



**PASTOR RICHARD IS THE SHEPHERD,
OF THIS BUSY FLOCK,
TRYING TO KEEP US STANDING,
ON CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK.**

**SARA OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT,
IS COMPETENT AT EVERY TASK,
LOVINGLY PRODUCING,
EVERYTHING SHE'S ASKED.**

**STEVE ON THE CLAVINOVA,
IS TALENTED THROUGH AND THROUGH,
WHEN IT COMES TO MUSIC,
THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN'T DO.**

**EMILIO IS MUSIC DIRECTOR,
WHO JOYFULLY LEADS OUR CHOIR,
TO RENDER HEAVENLY VOICES,
IS HIS SOUL'S DESIRE.**

**THE CHOIR MEMBERS ARE DEVOTED,
FAITHFULLY PRACTICING EACH WEEK,
SHARING THEIR GIFTS OF SINGING,
GOD'S APPROVAL THEY SEEK.**

**ANDREW AS TECHNICAL ADVISOR,
SENDS OUR WORSHIP FAR AND WIDE,
WHILE PLAYING THE ORGAN,
RIGHT BY STEVE'S SIDE.**

**ANDY, KIM, TERI AND MISSY ARE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS,
WHO CAREFULLY STUDY TO TEACH GOD'S WORD,
MAKING SURE THEIR STUDENTS KNOW,
IT WAS FROM GOD THAT THEY HEARD.**

**OUR CHURCH PROVIDES A NURSERY,
FOR OUR PRECIOUS LITTLE ONES,
DIRECTOR SUSAN MAKES VERY SURE,
THEY ARE SAFE AND HAVING FUN.**

~Louise Smith

DON'T FORGET OUR FAITHFUL WORKERS,
AS WE CELEBRATE LABOR DAY,
THANKING GOD FOR THEIR SERVICE,
WHEN WE PAUSE TO PRAY.

A CHURCH REQUIRES ORGANIZATION,
IF IT IS TO SUCCEED,
MISSY AS OUR BOARD CHAIRMAN,
KEEPS US ABREAST OF EVERY NEED.

JIM *Let's* DRAWS UP THE BUDGET,
WHICH GETS APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD,
ANDREW, RICHARD AND ANNE, COUNT THE
MONEY,
OUR OFFERING TO THE LORD

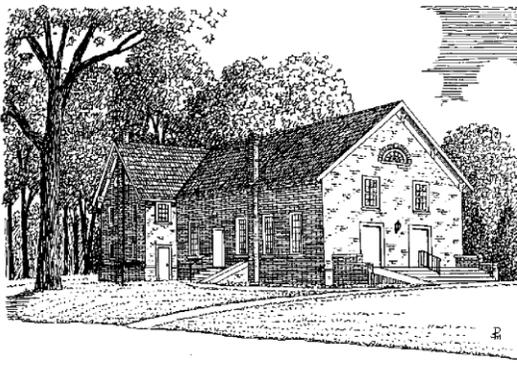
our
WE'RE CALLED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS,
DAVE TIMELY PAYS THE BILLS,
OUR CHURCH'S OBLIGATIONS,
WE MAKE SURE TO FULFILL.

OUR ELDERS ASSIST THE PASTOR,
SERVE AT THE LORD'S TABLE ALSO,
DEACONS CAREFULLY PASS THE TRAYS,
SO CUPS FILLED BY DEACONESSES DON'T
OVERFLOW.

STEVE REGULARLY INSPECTS,
THE BUILDINGS AND THE GROUNDS,
THINGS ARE REPAIRED AND REPLACED,
WHENEVER A NEED IS FOUND.

UPON THIS LABOR DAY,
OUR WORKERS NEED A WELL-EARNED REST,
HERE AT OLIVE BRANCH,
OUR WORKFORCE IS THE BEST.

Louise Smith



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The Olive Branch

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**Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

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Electronic Service Requested

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

