

GOD GIVES GROWTH

The ramp that serves the education building has been rebuilt. During the last couple of months rot developed in some of the planking, especially on the lower end. Our property chairperson, Steve Garrett, undertook the task of replacing all the planking. He did an excellent job, allowing our ramp to continue to serve the members of our church for years to come. Fortunately, the task was made easier because the joists and structural framing of the ramp was sound, thanks to the excellent work of another Steve, Steve White, who originally built the ramp over 30 years ago. Steve was building upon the work of Steve. Both had the same desire: to build a ramp that would allow our members access to our offices and classrooms. Both had the same outcome: work done to glorify Christ.

Ministers strive to have the same goal: to glorify Christ. We are called by a church, and we move into an office the previous pastor used. I sit in a chair that was previously sat in by Fred Rothermel and Ron Riffle, at a desk used by pastors of Olive Branch for decades. Prior to me 34 pastors have served this church, starting with Henry Lightfoot Taylor. Thirty-four pastors have shared their gifts of ministry, preached sermons, taught classes, baptized believers, conducted weddings, presided over funerals, and built buildings. Rev. Taylor stayed for 41 years, all the others for far less a time. Yet each left to me a foundation on which to build my ministry. As the Apostle Paul wrote in the third chapter of I Corinthians, all of us are only servants, co-workers in God's service. Each builds a foundation for another to build upon.

Next May I will retire as the minister of Olive Branch, just a few months shy of 17 years. Serving this church has been one of the highest blessings of my life. You have shared yourselves with me. We have laughed and cried together. We have stood beside each other, supporting one another, during difficult times.

You have been as a grandparent, a parent, a sibling, a friend to my family. I cannot begin to say thank you enough.

Ministers come and go. But each one builds upon a foundation laid by those before. The next minister to be called as pastor to Olive Branch will be fortunate, indeed. I know I have been.

Peace,
~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 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

Worship & Wonder:
Sundays 11:00 in the Education Building

Sunday School:
NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30
Kids Sunday School upstairs Education Building 9:30

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

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

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregation Meeting: Sunday, November 8th

Operation Christmas Shoebox Collection: Sunday, November 15th

DWM Yard Sale: Sat., November 21st, 8:00-1:00

Church Christmas decorating: Saturday, November 28th, 10:00 a.m.

DWM Dinner: Monday, December 7th

Angel Tree Gift Collection: Wed., December 9th

PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Joyce Allen, Pat and son Jimmy Allred, Michael Ayers, Mary Bates, Jeanne Bell, J.C. Biggs, Linda Brown, Trudy Chism, Amy Gilliam, Nancy Griffith, Ron Grosso, Irma Gustafson, Bob & Trina Eber, Petra Hall, Jim & Anne Holland, Nicki Hood, Linda Hutchens, Cheryl & Gene Johnson, Dallas Mitchell, Leroy Roberts, Fred Rothermel, Cecelia Ruskey, Herak Sherazi, Mike Smith, Roy Sullivan, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Karen Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's daughter), Kevin Barker (Naomia & Charles Barker's son), Jimmy Coady (brother-in-law of Joann Mitchell), Debbie Cook (Jim & Carolyn Hunt's friend), James Crawford (Gene & Cheryl Johnson's grandson's father-in-law), Deborah (friend of Bob Lawrence), Mason Ewing (grandson of Liz Ripley), Susan Holton (friend of Liz Ripley), The family of Billy Hudson (Tanya Weyland's son's father), Paul Ray Isbell (brother of Carolyn Pitts), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son), Anna Sophia Kissler (daughter of Jan Smith's friend), Steven Laplante (Bob & Carol Sharp's son), Mo Mangilla (neighbor of Gene & Cheryl Johnson), Millie Mizelle (cousin of Louise Smith), John Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Lisa Pipkin (Sheila Yeatts' sister), Mike Poland (Andy & Ann Bradshaw's son-in-law), Millie Ptachick (Abby Matschke's friend's granddaughter), Sheila Rinehart, Sean (Teri Tench's grandson), Shannon Starmer (daughter of Donald White), The family of "Buggs" Tabb, Tara (Bob & Dianne Mongold's cousin), Brenda Walker (Chuck Walker's mother), The family of Gladys Watson (Mel Watson's mother), The family of Tony Weyland, Jr. (Tanya Weyland's father-in-law), The Family of Norman Wooge (Elaine Henk's brother), Terrell Wynne (friend of David and Carol Pitts)

ELDERS, DEACONS & DEACONESSES

NOVEMBER DEACONESS: Dennis Cotner

NOVEMBER 1 ELDERS	Bob Herndon, Chuck Walker
DEACONS	Liz Ripley, Jason Teagle, Anita Dasher, Amy Ferguson
NOVEMBER 8 ELDERS	Linda Williams, Abby Matschke
DEACONS	Liz Ripley, Jan Smith, Danny Kelley, Betty Bennink,
NOVEMBER 15 ELDERS	Kim Riffle, Dianne Mongold
DEACONS	Mike Hebbard, Jody Hebbard, John Henderson, Jerry Henderson
NOVEMBER 22 ELDERS	Hunter Creech, Sheila Yeatts
DEACONS	Jane Hatcher, Edie Larkin, Judy Eley, Bill Simpson
NOVEMBER 29 ELDERS	Teri Tench, Harold Barker
	Linda Garrett, Steve Garrett, Patty Barker, Jeremy Dill

WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
NOV 1	Ethel King	Danielle Kelley
NOV 8	Bob Eber	Trina Eber
NOV 15	Ann Bradshaw	Dennis Cotner
NOV 22	Liz Ripley	Patty Barker
NOV 29	Linda Williams	Bob Williams

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

01	01 Curt Griffin	15	Linda Brown
02	Andy Bradshaw	15	Abby Matschke
06	Hunter Creech, III	16	Mary Bates
06	Cheryl Johnson	16	Anita Dasher
08	Jeremy Dill	25	Pat Allred
09	Danny Pitts	25	Doug Dill
10	Elaine Henk		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

10 Dennis & Anita Dasher

OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

It was a beautiful morning and the perfect setting for lots of treats, and a few tricks for our Halloween theme for Our Day Out. Anita, Naomia, Betty, and I had so much fun decorating the hall with witches, bats, ghosts, and a laughing skeleton.

After our opening prayer and pledge of allegiance I introduced Tanya as she told us she had brought a special friend to join us. Her friend was a six-foot skeleton, named Skully, who not only moved his hands and waved at us but talked and told us a couple of bony jokes. Christy then told us about the origin of Halloween both from different countries and liturgical backgrounds. She also shared information about October being both breast cancer month and Alzheimer's month.

We then played Halloween charades which brought smiles and laughter to all. Those who wore costumes and gave us a show, Joann's feminine scarecrow was the winner with Anita's beautiful witch's hat and dress coming in a close second place. So much fun!!

Chef Joann and her helpers delighted us with a German feast, including bratwurst, sauerkraut, warm potato salad and a German Chocolate Cake for dessert. Yummmmmmm!

Crafty Jane helped us make a skeleton themed picture. The bones were Q tips, which was challenging but so much fun! Tyler won the jar of candy corn and promised to share it with his family. The bingo table of prizes was packed with lots of candy and clever items, both beautiful and useful. Norm was his usual lucky self, but everyone always gets a prize or two and from the hoots and hollers the game is the perfect way to end the day.

Next month the theme is Thanksgiving blessings, and my prayer is that all will be blessed with God's love.

~Marney Brickhouse, ODO coordinator































DWM CIRCLE OF GRACE

A delicious lunch with plenty of hugs and uplifting conversation was a wonderful way to embrace our day together. We were small in number but mighty in spirit. Louise did a beautiful presentation recapping the terrific DWM Fall Retreat and sharing the thoughtful poems she wrote while attending and then following up. She gave each one of us a lovely small book detailing the journey. All were touched by the spirit and conversations were endless.

OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

The Olive Branch Men's group met on October 8th for our monthly breakfast meeting. Ten men were in attendance. Pastor Richard led us in prayer, and we enjoyed a delicious breakfast prepared by Sheila Yeatts, assisted by Naomi Barker, Carolyn Hunt and Betty Boley. Danny Kelley led us in a devotion on 'Blessings'. A very good discussion was had on how God has blessed each of us and our church.

We then discussed Pastor Richard's planned retirement and the future of Olive Branch. Several of the men described their experiences in the transition of new pastors. A summary of the discussion included:

- Pastor Richard's retirement will be difficult for our congregation to process due to the love and respect everyone has for him.
- While his planned departure will be May 1, 2027, that process will begin in earnest after his retirement date.
- To allow us to process his departure, an interim pastor is needed before we call a permanent replacement.
- The church should encourage dialogue sessions for groups (DWF, OBCC Men, Elders, Deacons, Bible studies) to discuss the processing and what we want in the next pastor. The results of these sessions should be passed to the Search Committee.
- Harold Barker, a member of the Search Committee, was present and encouraged these discussions.

Thanksgiving Dinners, Bob Mongold - Bob was travelling but sent a listing of the fifteen (15) names of those who will receive a thanksgiving meal. We purchase the food, assemble the meals in boxes and deliver to the recipients. The assembly and delivery date will be on Tuesday, November 24th. This is our fourth year of providing these meals. We started with 10 families, increased to 12 and last year and this year the number is 15 families. Those making the deliveries receive blessings from experiencing the gratitude of those recipients. The total cost of the meals is estimated to be $400-450. Thanks, Bob!

Josh closed the meeting in prayer and we ask the following to be lifted in prayer:

- Dallas Mitchell
- Steve Perger
- Ron Grosso
- Rudy Ruskey
- Jim Holland
- Rev Mike Smith
- OBCC Search Committee

Our next meeting will be on November 12th at 9am.



NOTES OF THANKS

"Dear Olive Branch Christian Church,
On behalf of the Board of Directors of Proclaiming Grace Outreach, we thank you for your recent donation of $60 on 9/14/2026 and 1,165 pounds of food. What an amazing accomplishment!
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

My sweet OBCC family, thank you all for the many, many prayers, cards, gifts and phone calls regarding the passing of my father-in-law and my son's father. Tony, Jansen and I appreciate the support and care for our family. Many things were revealed through these deaths, for the glory of God and for that we are thankful. Please continue to pray for our families as we heal from our earthly loss. Thank you again!
In His love, Tanya & Tony Weyland and Jansen Hudson

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT…

We marveled that "Jesus the Nazarene" revealed that Jesus knew so many languages well. Thank you for reminding me Jesus spent His early years in Egypt. If Jesus was there three years or more, he would also know how to speak Egyptian, maybe read it too.

~Brer Roy

WITH LOVE AND THANKFULNESS

Heavenly Father,
We gather our hearts in deep gratitude for the legacy, the community, and the enduring faith of Olive Branch Christian Church. For over 175 years, You have held this church proudly on Route 60, through hurricanes and storms, making it a faithful beacon of Your love.

We thank You for our rich heritage**.** We remember the resilience of those who came before us—how this sanctuary survived the trials of history, stood the test of time, and remained a continuous place of refuge and worship. Thank You for protecting this sacred ground and keeping Your word alive in our community across the generations.

We thank You for our current fellowship. Lord, thank You for the unity and profound love that defines this church family. Thank You for the voices that rise from Branch Hall to the Sanctuary, for the music that blends our traditions, and for the lessons that equip us to live out Your purpose every day.

We thank You for Pastor Richard, our elders, our deacons & deaconesses, our teachers, and every volunteer who serves behind the scenes to touch lives with Your grace. We thank You for our shared mission. Thank You for calling us to bring people into a relationship with Christ, to nurture one another toward spiritual maturity, and to serve our neighbors. As we enter this season of Thanksgiving and look forward to gathering in community worship, pour out Your Spirit upon us. Nurture the prayer requests lifted up from our pews, emails, and phone calls, and keep our hearts anchored in Your perfect peace.

May we always give faithfully, invite warmly, and remain a sanctuary where everyone is truly made to feel welcome.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



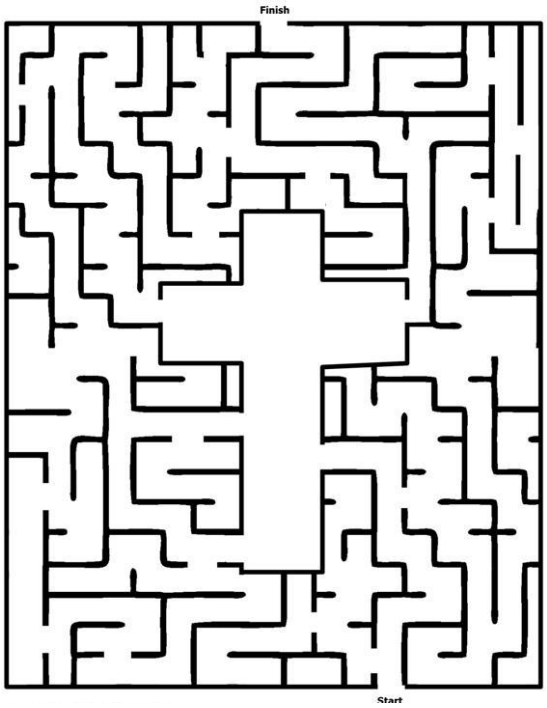
CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL MUNGELI

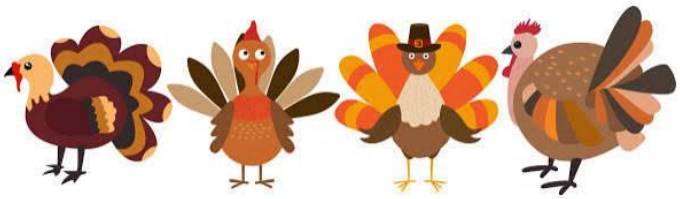
Here's a quick peek at the almost completed College of Nursing Building —inside and out. Won't it be exciting when the furniture arrives and then the students ? Thanks be to God!



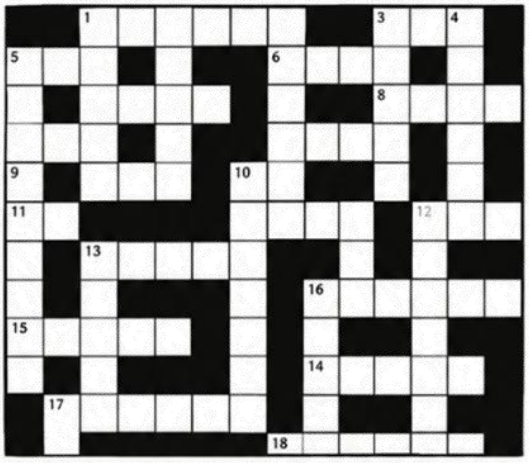


Cross Maze Activity Page





Take time, think about the clues, and see how much you know about God's Word!





BIBLE WORDSEARCH

H	M	V	K	V	O	X	L	W	Z	N	E	D	E	Z
B	X	G	H	Q	V	Z	F	T	C	L	P	U	J	Z
I	T	E	H	P	O	R	P	L	K	E	J	E	A	S
P	L	N	R	L	Y	R	M	A	I	G	Y	L	O	H
I	O	E	Y	F	L	J	L	S	O	N	L	S	S	A
H	R	V	I	H	C	F	E	L	C	A	R	I	M	R
S	D	A	A	A	Z	A	I	A	T	K	R	A	Q	V
R	S	E	H	O	C	I	T	Q	E	W	D	M	M	M
O	M	H	S	N	J	T	X	Z	J	X	F	A	G	E
W	R	L	U	N	S	H	H	E	U	K	E	D	G	V
T	U	O	Z	Z	G	A	B	H	D	D	C	A	W	E
M	O	S	E	S	A	B	P	R	E	Y	A	R	P	J
X	E	V	L	G	K	S	U	S	E	J	R	X	O	O
N	K	I	C	Q	E	Y	K	M	O	D	G	N	I	K
M	S	I	T	P	A	B	L	M	F	I	D	O	G	A

WORD LIST

ADAM	EVE	HOLY	MOSES
ANGEL	FAITH	JESUS	NOAH
ARK	GOD	KINGDOM	PRAYER
BAPTISM	GRACE	LORD	PROPHET
EDEN	HEAVEN	MIRACLE	WORSHIP

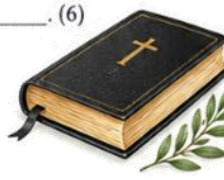
ACROSS

1. The first book of the New Testament. (5)
5. God's chosen people. (6)
7. Jesus healed many people and _____ them. (6)
8. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11) (6)
9. The disciple who denied Jesus three times. (4)
10. Jesus said, "I am the _____ and the life." (John 14:6) (4)
11. The place where Jesus was crucified. (5)
12. The day Jesus rose from the dead. (8)
13. A gift from God. (4)
14. The number of books in the New Testament. (27)
15. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) (4)
16. The father of King David. (4)
17. Jesus told His disciples to make _____ of all nations. (Matthew 28:19) (7)
18. A place of worship. (7)

DOWN

1. The author of the Gospel of John. (4)
2. "The Lord is my _____." (Psalm 23:1) (4)
3. The part of the Bible that tells about the life of Jesus. (5)
4. A whole, unbroken set. (6)
5. Jesus turned water into _____ at the wedding in Cana. (John 2:1–11) (5)
6. The person who baptizes with water. (7)
7. The opposite of death. (4)
8. "Love your _____ as yourself." (Matthew 22:39) (6)
10. The mountain where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. (5)
12. Paul's ship was caught in a _____. (6)
13. The sound a lamb makes. (4)
14. A short, simple prayer. (6)
15. The book of the Old Testament that begins with "Genesis." (7)
17. Jesus was born in _____. (6)

May God's Word encourage you today!



We have living saints,
Working among the dead,
A well kept cemetery,
For the days ahead.

They go to work quite early,
Few see them come and go,
It's only through results,
That we even know.

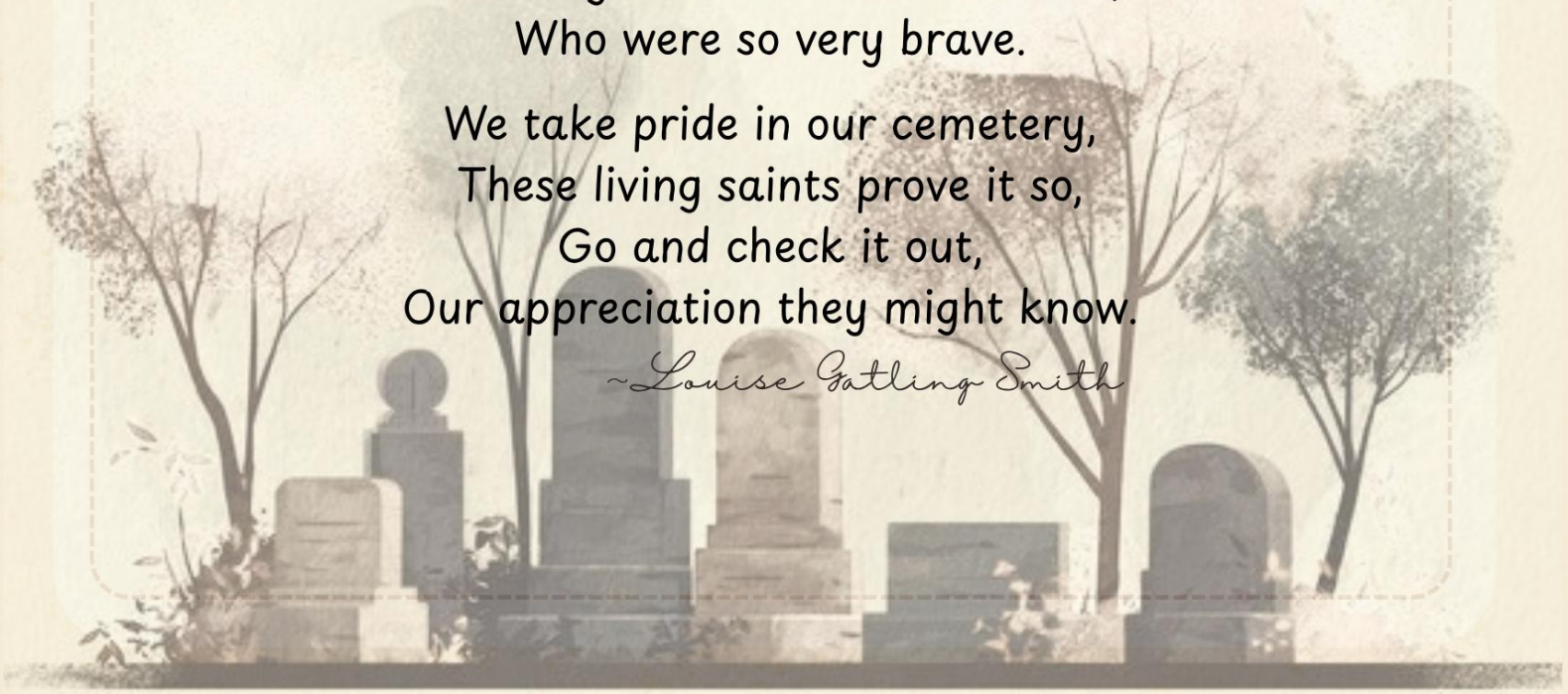
That's how God's saints work,
They don't want recognition,
It's just for their Master,
That they seek out this position.

I won't divulge their names,
Their Heavenly Father knows,
This living group of saints,
For whom our admiration grows.

Another comes to join them,
You'll see a flag upon a grave,
Honoring our dear dead warriors,
Who were so very brave.

We take pride in our cemetery,
These living saints prove it so,
Go and check it out,
Our appreciation they might know.

~Louise Gatling Smith



Do you live in Gratitude,
Count your blessings everyday,
For all that God has given,
A debt you couldn't repay.

You have many creature comforts,
Even enough that you can share,
As you give to others,
It shows God that you care.

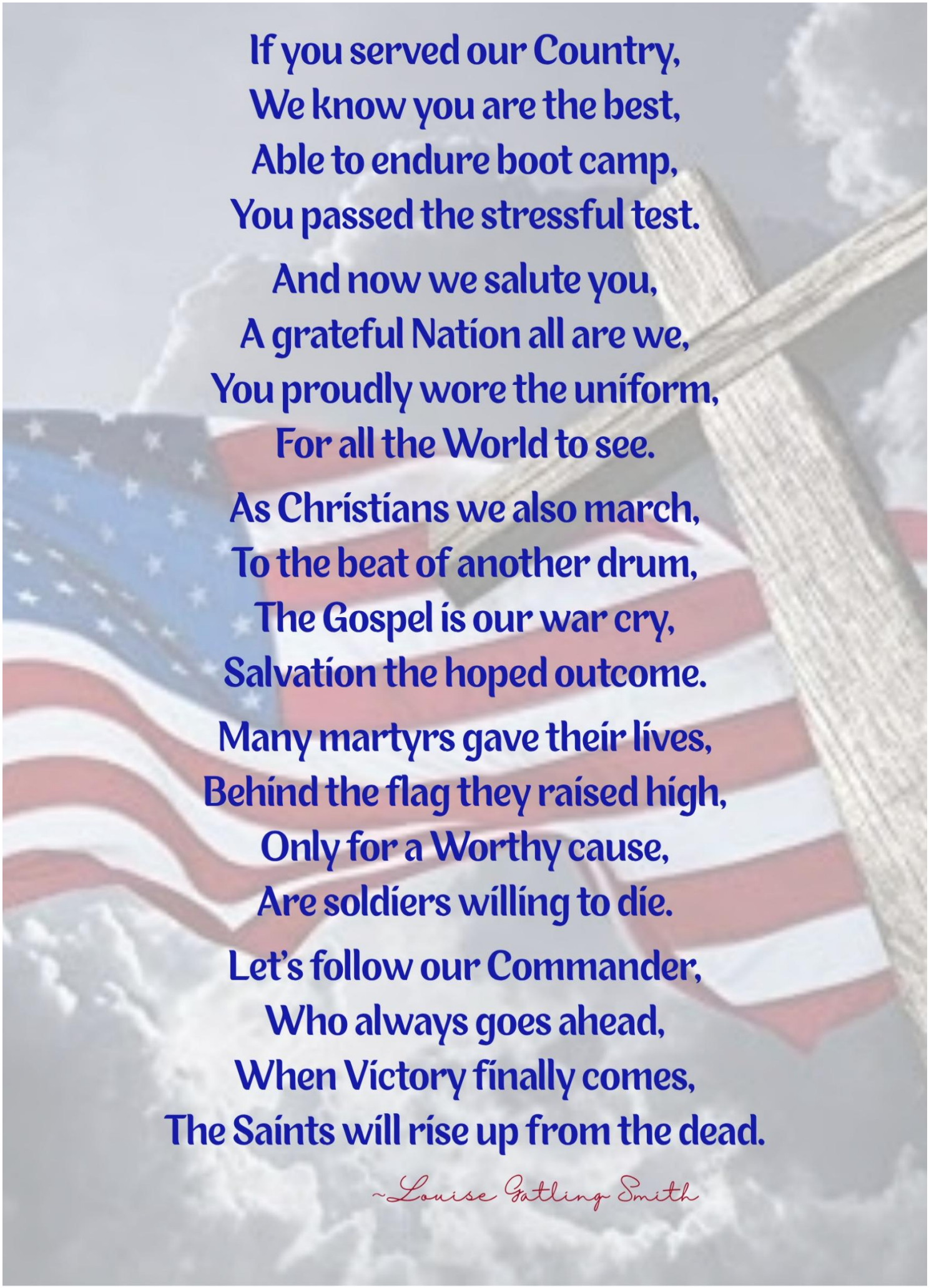
We cannot outgive Him,
It's just a blessing to give,
It brings us satisfaction,
A way we choose to live.

We don't just give from abundance,
That's easy to do,
We must dig a little deeper,
To truly help others through.

God will supply our needs,
He's proved it 'ore and 'ore,
As we gather now will Family,
He'll bless us even more.

So let's hold hands together,
Around our abundant tables,
In Thankfulness we Pray,
It was God who enabled.

~Louise Gatling Smith



If you served our Country,
We know you are the best,
Able to endure boot camp,
You passed the stressful test.

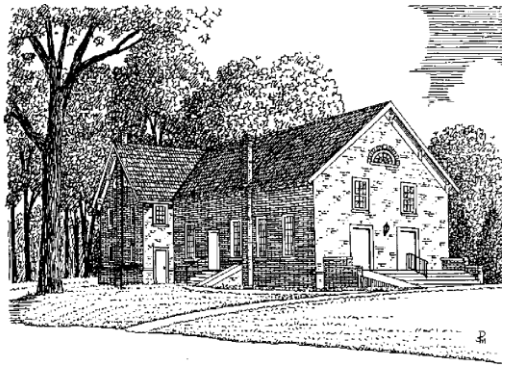
And now we salute you,
A grateful Nation all are we,
You proudly wore the uniform,
For all the World to see.

As Christians we also march,
To the beat of another drum,
The Gospel is our war cry,
Salvation the hoped outcome.

Many martyrs gave their lives,
Behind the flag they raised high,
Only for a Worthy cause,
Are soldiers willing to die.

Let's follow our Commander,
Who always goes ahead,
When Victory finally comes,
The Saints will rise up from the dead.

~Louise Gatling Smith



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