



MT. OLIVE
BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2018

Reach – Nurture – Serve – Pray

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From the Pastor:

Church Family,

As we draw closer to Easter, I want to ask you to be praying about an opportunity to reach our community for Christ this month. On Saturday, March 24th, Mt. Olive will be sponsoring an Easter Festival. We are going to publicize and promote this event in the community as much as possible and we will have a variety of activities for families. We are planning to have inflatables for children, an Easter Egg Hunt, a photo booth, and hotdogs. The Festival will begin at 10am and is open to everyone in our community. Please take the opportunity to share this information with others and invite someone!

On another note, I want to take a moment to reflect on the life and legacy of Billy Graham. As I think back over the course of church history, I don't know that the world has ever seen anyone like Billy Graham. He has led a remarkable life with complete integrity, humility, and devotion to advancing the cause of Jesus Christ. He has never missed an opportunity to lift up Jesus and unlike so many famous preachers, he has lived free of moral failure. He truly was "America's Pastor." As I write this newsletter, his body lies in state in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol and nearby, in Charlotte, preparations are being made for his funeral on Friday. While Billy Graham is respected by all, I was saddened to see to that NBC commented as his hearse made its way through Black Mountain—"While hundreds mourned the spiritual leader, some say his reputation was not without controversy . . . for many in the LGBTQ community, Graham was seen as a crusader against them." What struck me about that comment was how worldly media felt the need to try to criticize Graham at such a time, yet they only did so with great care. I couldn't help but think they were acting in the same way as the Pharisees who were afraid to say anything overly critical about John the Baptist, even after his death, because they feared the people who "were convinced that John was a prophet." (Lk 20:6). Billy Graham was a man of God. He was not a crusader for any political cause or a crusader against anyone. He was a crusader for Christ alone and let us thank God for him and follow his example.

Love,
David

Children's Ministry:

Children's Church: Children age 3-3rd grade / Every Sunday during the 11 am Worship Service

Children's Mission Group Meetings:

Mission Friends: age 3-Kindergarten ***Girls in Action (GA):*** 1st-5th grade girls ***Royal Ambassadors (RA):*** 1st-5th grade boys
Wednesday, March 7th; 7:30-8:30 pm AND Wednesday, March 21st; 7-8 pm

GA Journey

The next GA Journey meeting will be Sunday, March 4th from Noon-4pm. We'll talk about how we can serve our community and visit a local fire station. March 4th is also the deadline to register for the Zoo Snooze on April 20-21. Cost is \$25/person; Contact Tina Vaughn for more information.

Student Ministry:

Regular Meeting Times: Sunday Mornings at 10 am; Wednesday Evenings at 7 pm (1st Wednesdays at 7:30 pm)

Youth should plan to attend and help with activities at the Easter Festival on March 24th.

Woman's Missionary Union (WMU):

WMU #1: Monday, March 12th at 2:00 pm

Baptist Young Women (BYW): Monday, March 19th at 7:30 pm

- BYW is providing the meal for Family Night, March 7th. Please see Lisa White for the list of items needed.
 - Please bring toilet paper and paper towels to the March 7th and/or March 19th meetings. Items will be donated to S.A.F.E. Food Pantry.
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Spring Forward...Daylight Savings Time Begins...March 11

Church Missions and Projects:

ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING (AAEO): On Mission Here & Now

From the 2018 AAEO Prayer Guide: *Love God, love others, and share the good news-right here, right now. We have the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus, taking love throughout the continent and shining light into dark places. We can do this by praying for the lost, giving to gospel ministries, witnessing to those around us, and reaching out in compassion.*

Annie Armstrong dedicated her life to sharing Christ and organizing churches to unite in missions work. This special offering collected for North American Missions is named in her honor. Every gift to AAEO goes to train, resource and send more than 5,000 missionaries across the US, territories and Canada.



March 4th-11th Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 7th North American Mission Study in Fellowship Building at 7:30 pm

March 4th-April 1st Collection of Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

SNACK PACK MINISTRY

We continue to provide 19 snack packs EACH WEEK for children at B. Everett Jordan Elementary School who otherwise wouldn't have enough food to eat over the weekend. Each snack pack includes items such as Spaghetti-O's, mac & cheese, pudding cups, granola bars, and juice boxes, etc. Please continue to donate individual serving sized food items for this ministry. Collection boxes are located at both side entrances.

MOWI BEADS

Check out www.mowibeads.com for info about Mowi Beads:

Mowi Beads are paper beads made from recycled magazine paper by men and women in Montrouis, Haiti. The beads are collected and graded weekly, and beaders are paid monthly. The beads are sent to the United States where the jewelry is made and sold. We sell jewelry through private home gatherings, church groups, craft shows, and online. The program is all administrated by volunteers in North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, who care deeply about making life better for the Haitians in Montrious. We are committed to keeping costs down and running the program efficiently so that the beaders get as much money as possible. All proceeds go back to the artisans to help them pay their rent and afford the necessities of daily living.

A Mowi Beads workshop is scheduled for **Thursday, March 8th at 7 pm** in the fellowship building. Join the fun as we sort beads and create jewelry. No experience is necessary. All materials and instructions are provided. Plan to stay about an hour and explore your creative side.

If you can't attend the workshop, you can still help by providing some needed supplies. The collection box is located in the east side entrance. Items requested are:

Gallon size Ziplock bags

Glue sticks (brand name)

Toothpicks

Cardstock or Scrapbook paper sheets

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Back in November, our church congregation packed and delivered 100 shoeboxes to the local drop off location. From there, those boxes traveled to distribution centers where volunteers sorted and prayed over thousands of boxes before sending them out across the globe.

Through special tracking labels, we have learned that some of the boxes we packed here at Mt. Olive have been sent to "hard to reach areas" which includes 23 countries that remain unnamed for the safety of the ministry partners living and working in these restricted areas. Many children who live in nations that are difficult to reach with the Gospel are able to hear about Jesus Christ through specially packed shoebox gifts designated for hard-to-reach areas. In restricted areas, these shoeboxes provide a platform for local believers to share Christ in a safe and culturally sensitive way, and allow ease of entry through customs. Some of our shoeboxes, along with many others packed throughout the US will be delivered to 1.2 million children living in these hard-to-reach areas.

Read the following excerpt from www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child-countries/hard-to-reach-areas:

New Churches Where There Were None

An Operation Christmas Child volunteer in a hard-to-reach country has a huge heart for 81 villages nearby. Shoebox gift distributions have allowed him to start seven new house churches where no church existed before. They are now implementing The Greatest Journey to grow the churches. In this country there are 1,604 villages, and 1,546 of them do not have any Christian fellowships or churches. His heart is to see that change.

Without Operation Christmas Child, there would be no excuse to show up in the village, but with the gifts it changes everything. The Samaritan's Purse project also sustains new churches. As soon as they experience persecution from other villagers, they put on a small distribution and it changes the tide of negativity to "Oh, these people aren't so bad." Operation Christmas Child is really an opener and sustainer of fellowships!

Prayer Requests from Ministry Partners in Hard-to-Reach Areas

- *For the safety of local believers living in areas where Christian activities are illegal*
- *For the ministry partners who serve in these sensitive areas*
- *That shoebox gifts would pass easily through customs and get into the hands of the children*

We will continue to collect various items each month and then come together in late October to pack shoeboxes before the Collection Week rolls around in November. The collection box is located in the east side entrance.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collections for March:

Toothbrushes, Toothbrush Covers, Dental Floss (Toothpaste and Mouthwash is NOT permitted)
Plastic cups/bowls/ Water Bottles
Small Dolls/Stuffed Animals
Matchbox Cars/Toy Trucks

UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

Family Night – Wednesday, March 7th

6:45-7:30 pm Family Meal (provided by BYW)
Menu– Spaghetti, salad and desserts

7:30-8:30 pm Children’s Mission Meetings; Student Ministry Meeting
North American Mission Study

Church Clean-Up Day – Saturday, March 10th

Beginning at 8:30 am; Come help clean and spruce up our church facilities. Work needed includes trimming hedges, pressure washing building, road-side cleanup, etc.

Easter Festival – Saturday, March 24th

We are going to publicize and promote this event in the community as much as possible and we will have a variety of activities for families. We are planning to have inflatables for children, an Easter Egg Hunt, a photo booth, and hotdogs. The Festival will begin at 10am and is open to everyone in our community. Please take the opportunity to share this information with others and invite someone!

Vacation Bible School

Mt. Olive Baptist Church invites kids to grab their megaphones, lace up their cleats, and tune up their instruments. Game On! VBS takes off in full swing as kids look to God and His ultimate playbook for the best game they will ever play. Throw on your whistle today and start recruiting kids to join God’s unbeatable team.

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Mark Your Calendars:

March 4th Planning Meeting; In Fellowship Building immediately following morning worship service
Anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity during VBS should attend.
July 15th-18th Vacation Bible School at Mt. Olive

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Eli Whitney Fire Dept. Breakfast – Saturday, March 3rd

Breakfast is 6:30-10 am Cost: \$7.00 Adults; \$3.00 Kids 10 & Under
Bake Sale will be held to help a family in need in the community

Ladies Day Out – Saturday, March 17th

Brunch begins at 9 am; Program 9:45 am-12 pm / Cost \$5 and 1 Item for Samaritan’s Purse Shoebox;
Deadline to register is Friday, March 9th

Sandy Creek Baptist Association “Spring Gathering” – Sunday, April 22nd

3-5 pm at Sanford First Baptist Church

March 2018

Volunteer Schedule

March 7

Family Night

Meal provided by BYW
Program- North American Mission Study

March 4

Deacon of the Week: Dan Jones
Greeters: Keith Andrews, Phillip Thomas, Larry Norwood
Nursery: Diane & Lizzie Foushee
Nursery Mother: Suzanne Jones
Children's Church: Will & Leslie Hatten
Reach Ministry: Joan Snyder, Marie Zachary
Snack Pack Ministry: Mt. Olive Youth (delivery 3/8)

March 11

Deacon of the Week: Robbie Morris
Greeters: Keith Andrews, Phillip Thomas, Oscar Majors
Nursery: Bryan & Amy Foushee
Nursery Mother: Suzanne Jones
Children's Church: Amber Vaughn, Abby Jones, Lizzie Foushee, Brenda Zachary
Snack Pack Ministry: Bill & Brenda Zachary, Ronnie & Glenette Vaughn (delivery 3/15)

March 18

Deacon of the Week: Bryan Foushee
Greeters: Keith Andrews, Phillip Thomas, Donna Green
Nursery: Dan & Laurie Jones
Nursery Mother: Suzanne Jones
Children's Church: Children's Choir – Emily Morris, Gwen Norwood
Reach Ministry: Dawn Lloyd, Jane Majors, Christy Morris
Snack Pack Ministry: Tina, Amber, Victoria Vaughn (delivery 3/22)

March 25

Deacon of the Week: Larry Norwood
Greeters: Keith Andrews, Phillip Thomas, Jimmy White
Nursery: Glenette & Amber Vaughn
Nursery Mother: Suzanne Jones
Children's Church: Robbie & Christy Morris
Reach Ministry: No Visitation Scheduled
Snack Pack Ministry: Lisa, Taylor, Alexander Scott **PB&J Week*(WED delivery 3/28)*

MARCH 2018

Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Opening Assembly 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 12:00 pm VBS Planning Mtg 12-4 pm GA Journey Mtg 6:30 pm Church Conference	5	6 7:00 pm Properties Committee Meeting	7 6:45 pm Family Night Meal (provided by BYW) 7:30 pm Mission Friends, GA's, RA's, Student Ministry; Adult Program North American Mission Study	8 7:00 pm Mowi Beads Workshop	9	10 8:30 am Church Clean-Up
11 Daylight Savings Begins 9:45 am Opening Assembly 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	12 2:00 pm WMU #1 Meeting	13	14 7:00 pm Student Ministry 7:00 pm Bible Study	15	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18 9:45 am Opening Assembly 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service	19 7:30 pm BYW Meeting	20	21 7:00 pm Mission Friends, GA's, RA's 7:00 pm Student Ministry 7:00 pm Bible Study	22	23	24 10:00 am Easter Festival @ Mt. Olive
25 Palm Sunday 9:45 am Opening Assembly 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Service 4:30 pm Deacons' Meeting	26	27	28 7:00 pm Student Ministry 7:00 pm Bible Study	29	30	31