



MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

April 2023



Upcoming Events

- 4/5: Family Night Meal, 6:15 p.m.
North American Missions Program, 7:00 p.m.
- 4/7: Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
- 4/8: Easter Egg Hunt, 2:00 p.m.
- 4/15: Game Night, 6:30 p.m.
- 4/16: Praise Team Practice, 5:00 p.m.
- 4/22: Workday at the Church Farm, 10:00 a.m.
- 4/23: Deacons' Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 4/24: Sandy Creek Spring Gathering, 7:00 p.m.
(Jonesboro Baptist Church in Sanford)
- 4/28: Youth Campout, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/30: Choir Practice, 5:00 p.m.



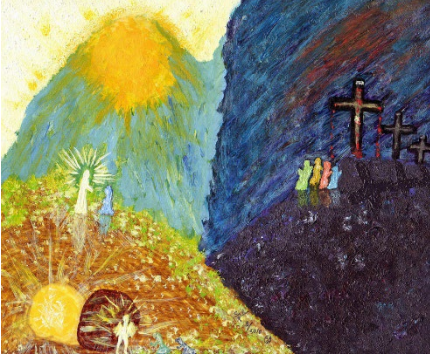
One of my favorite verses for seasons like the one we are currently entering is Galatians 6:9: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” I love it and think that it’s great advice for several reasons. First, it tells us not to grow weary. Other translations use the words, don’t get tired or become weary, but the overall message is the same. When you are working for the church, playing the piano, leading the music, working in the sound booth it is easy, so easy to get weary. It’s easy to be tired, beaten down, or just plain worn out by life itself much less ministry. But at the end of Galatians, Paul reminds us that we will grow weary, that we will experience seasons of testing, and hardship. It is not a matter of if you feel overburdened or overwhelmed, but when you do. Paul knew what he was talking about because he experienced hardship in ministry. He moved into and out of areas often, making friends, and then having to leave again. It wasn’t always easy for him to be on the move, but for the people he left behind it was even more difficult. They had the task of continuing the ministry he established. You too have the same opportunity to continue in ministry. As I leave this church, you will have the chance to carry on doing the same way, the same work you have been doing. And the temptation will be to grow weary as you search for a new pastor. But like Paul I encourage you not give up on the work you have done.

Second, he tells us to do good. But what is doing good? This can be a hard question to answer, but I believe that Paul’s referring to the ministry of the community. If you know there are widows to visit, make sure someone is visiting them. If you know someone has hospice at their house call to check on the family. The good you can do while you search for a pastor doesn’t just stop at visiting the sick or hurting. In fact, one of the most powerful and effective tools you have to “do good” is prayer. Make sure that you pray daily for your search committee. Also pray daily for God to send you the exact pastor he has for your congregation. Making prayer for your next pastor and the search committee a part of your daily routine is a great way to support the good work that God is doing in your church. It’s also important to note that Paul assumes the Christians he’s writing to are doing good. That means you need to make sure that you are doing something positive to support the work of God in your church and community at large.

Third, Paul tells us that in due season we will reap a reward. Remember he just finished telling us two verses earlier that God is not mocked and whatever one sows they will also reap. If you sow spiritual truth you will reap it and if you sow to the flesh you will reap that as well. Paul’s not teaching reincarnation or some form of eastern mysticism. But what he is saying is quite profound: Christians are rewarded for the good they do, especially doing a difficult season. It’s just like planting sweet potatoes, squash, or anything else in your garden, they is a planting season and a harvesting one. And in-between those two times is the hard work. The next several months will be a season of tilling the ground, planting it, watering it, and making sure your crop has everything it needs to make it. Pray for the spiritual warfare that will most likely take place. Pray for the members of your search committee by name, daily. Pray especially for the man that God is calling to be your pastor and pray for all the work that God wants to do in the heart of his people to prepare them. Pray for Christian unity, healing, and wholeness to flow into your heart and the hearts of those around you. If you do all this good work, then you can trust that when the time comes, you will reap a harvest.

Paul ends this section saying do good to everyone and especially to those of the household of faith. Let’s follow his advice by directing our thought lives, our prayer lives, and our daily activities towards doing good for the household of faith. God is directing us to love on, support, and encourage our fellow Christians during this difficult time of transition. Let’s commit to Paul’s advice and humbly submit to the work Christ has appointed for us to do. Let us not grow weary in doing good, but trust that in the proper time, we will reap a reward.

This April we are celebrating Easter and Good Friday. Good Friday calls to remember the Lord's death on the cross before his subsequent resurrection. The Lord's resurrection means that we can be alive too, and that our sins are forgiven.



"Thank God" by Carl Deaville

As the weather warms up we are hoping to get outside! This Saturday we have the Easter egg hunt, youth please show up an hour early if you can help with eggs! Later we have the work day at the farm property on 87. The work day is Saturday April 22nd and we need all the help we can get! Adults and youth are invited to that. We are having the campout on Friday the 28th and I am really excited about it!! Please let me know if you can or cannot make it and I think it will be a great time.

Schedule:

SATURDAY APRIL 8TH: Easter Egg Hunt 2pm, Youth needed at 1pm to pack eggs.

SATURDAY APRIL 22ND: Work day at the farm property. Show up at the church at 9:30am and we will get going! The property is right south of the church on 87 before you get to chicken bridge road. We will go until 1pm.

FRIDAY APRIL 28TH-29TH: Youth Campout!! We will meet at the church at 5:30pm and go to the property. We are planning to get some bathroom type accommodations, stay near the pavilion, and set up a campfire. Bring your gear but let us know if you need to borrow some. We will campout and play some fun games. We will leave the next day, around 11am. Parents are welcome to join, just let us know!

April

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES
Ned Gaudette	1	
Camden Wilkins		
Winder Zachary	2	
John Green	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	Joseph & Gail Thomas
	9	
	10	
Peter Jones	11	Doug and Shirley Christopher
Shelli Morris	12	
Eric Snyder	13	
	14	Johnnie & Jessica Moore
Josh Peeler	15	
	16	
Barbara Copeland	17	
Victoria Vaughn		
	18	
	19	Winder & Marie Zachary Mike & Pam Jackson
Toni Brazington	20	
Darith Andrews	21	
Sharon Thomas	22	
Emeline Jones		
	23	
Shirley Christopher	24	
	25	
Charles Nunn	26	
Judah Peeler	27	
Evelyn Prete	28	
	29	
	30	

If you have any corrections/additions to this listing, please email christina@mtolivebaptist.com

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

Faith—The Study of 1 Corinthians

Recently, Mt. Olive finished a Wednesday night study on 1 Corinthians. The study was very informative and allowed many people to state their understanding of the letter. 1 Corinthians is very relevant to what we are seeing in our churches and society today. One of the favorite aspects of Bible Study on Wednesday night is hearing other people’s perspectives on what we are studying. Even though Paul wrote this letter around AD 53-54, the themes and admonition are still providing structure to churches today.

Paul was in Ephesus when he received word from the Corinthian church, which he helped found around AD 50, that there were several divisions regarding jealousy, rivalry, and immoral behavior. Paul had been given the opportunity to be a “skilled master builder” and wanted to lay a foundation on Jesus Christ for others to build on. Unfortunately, it only took a couple years for the church to fall into sinful disarray. As we can attest, churches are supposed to be places of worship and fellowship. Why was Paul having to correct the conduct of the Corinthian church after only 2-3 years?

Pagan roots had continued to grow in the Corinthian church and some converted Christians were duped into going along with the chaos. Paul wanted the Corinthians to put Jesus first, urging uniformity of belief above all division. Paul used Jesus’s teachings and God’s providence to try and resolve the conflict which had enveloped the church. We can still use Paul’s instruction today. Paul identified the division, meeting it head on. He then offered counsel on the immorality which perverted the Corinthian church. Paul tackled specific issues such as marriage, Christian liberty, and worship. Paul didn’t just talk about the issues concerning the church; he offered clarity and Godly direction.

To some, Paul’s writings can confuse. However, one thing is always certain with Paul’s teaching. He puts God first and wanted other Christians to act as Jesus did...with compassion and love. As modern-day Christians, we have the teachings of Jesus, Paul, and other Christian leaders to guide us as we study God’s word. The Holy Spirit anoints his word so that we are led to show others what true Christianity is. If we act as Christ acted, those around us will see the difference in our lives. That is what Paul taught the church 2000 years ago.

As we move into a different time as our Pastor leaves, let’s treat others with the love and compassion that Paul talked about. Let’s show the community around us how Mt Olive can be a shining light on the hill. Let’s be the salt of the earth. Let’s be praying for our church leaders, our Pastor Search Committee, and our new Pastor. God has someone already preparing to become our Pastor. Paul went to the Corinthians after he wrote 1 Corinthians. He taught that Jesus Christ should be the center of everything they did. Let’s make Jesus Christ the center of everything we do as well.

In Jesus’s Name,

Joe Godfrey