



# MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## September 2023



Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Nights: RAs/GAs, Youth, and Adult Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Wednesday, September 6: Family Night Meal, Provided by Group 3, 6:30 p.m.  
Youth and Adult Bible Study, 7:30 p.m.  
(No RAs/GAs this week)
- Thursday, September 7: Sandy Creek Senior Adult Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, September 10: Group Picture, after the morning worship service  
Choir Practice, 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Youth Trip to Carowinds  
Game Night, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 17: Praise Team Practice, 5:00 p.m.  
Missions Class, 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, September 22: Brown Bag Lunch and Bible Study, 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 24: Deacons' Meeting, 4:30 p.m.  
Choir Practice, 5:00 p.m.

- Appalachian Backpack Focus for September: winter gloves, scarves, and socks  
-We will also be collecting shampoo (10-15 oz plastic bottles, no conditioner)  
for The Red Box Ministry through Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

# September

## BIRTHDAYS

## ANNIVERSARIES

Viola Miller	1
Rhonda Nunn	
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10
Linda Jones	11
Hallie Morris	
	12
	13
Steve Wilkins	14
	15
	16
Rick Morris	17
Teresa Garner	18
Diz Lloyd	
Beverly Braxton	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
Frances Maness	24
	25
	26
	27
Ricky Garner	28
	29
Renee Godfrey	30



## September Happenings with Mt. Olive Youth

September happenings, September is happening! September means School, Fall, Cooling off, and Church events. What is God doing at school? You may not think much but you are quite mistaken! The Lord is on the move in our schools. Are we in touch with what God is doing? We actually might find we are at the center of it when we are walking in his spirit! We can make ourselves a vessel of God's love to our peers. Let us ask God to cleanse us out from our iniquity, transgressions, and sins to become clean vessels ready for the good works God has predestined us for. If you think about it, we can't do that great work on our own, simply try to be pure on your own! We need God's help and his word built in our hearts to accomplish more than we ever believed we could, and even to become people we never even thought we could become. I think this idea is summed up partially in this quote:

"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." - C. S. Lewis



Aqueduct beach in Cesarea. Photo by Lior Avitan

### Upcoming Events:

September Early: United Worship Night with Sanford Youth Network (SYN)!

September Early: KICKBALL GAME vs. SYN!

September 16th Trip to Carowinds!

## How to Consume God's word

### September Bible Reading Plan: 4 options/levels

i. Basic (2 chapters): Read a Psalm which corresponds to the day of the month, and a chapter of the book of Luke which corresponds to the day of the month.

ii. Intermediate (4 chapters): Read a Psalm at each meal (e.g. morning, midday, and afternoon) corresponding to the day of the month (morning: 1-30; midday: 30-60; afternoon 60-90) and read one chapter of the book of Luke which corresponds to the day of the month.

iii. Advanced (8 chapters): Read a Psalm at each meal and night (i.e. morning, midday, afternoon, evening, and night) corresponding to the day of the month (morning: 1-30; midday: 30-60; afternoon 60-90; evening 90-120; night 120-150) and read one chapter of the book of Luke which corresponds to the day of the month. Additionally read one more chapter in the New Testament in an epistle/letter. More developed readers may want to add an additional chapter of the Old Testament from a book of their choice too.

iv. High Load/High Yield (12 Chapters): Read the five Psalms corresponding to the day of the month as previously described, and if desired Job A (1-31) and Ecc/Songs/Job B by day of the month and one more place in the OT. Additionally, read for this month a place in the prophets by day of the month, Corinthians (1 & 2) by day of the month, Rev/Thess by day of the month, Gal/Eph/Phil/Col by day of the month and work to break the remaining letters into 30 pieces for totality. The readings where books are grouped into units are sequential not simultaneous. To go EVEN quicker up the amounts where it says "a place."

i. How to calculate The LM "Proverb of the Day"

Take the month from the calendar date, and add ten such that 1=11, 2=12, 3=13 etc. to get the chapter number for the book of Proverbs. Then, take the day of the month to get the verse. e.g.

June 4th = Proverbs 16:4

June 5th = Proverbs 16:5

June 18th = Proverbs 16:18

\*For serious users, fill in missing slots from chapter 10 (in order; December 17 counts up from 10:17)

ii: "Listening to the Bible vs. Reading"

Some individuals will find it is easier to listen to the Bible than to read it. I find the best way to take in God's word is to listen to it, but also to read it on a physical piece of paper. Electronic sources can be helpful, however I find it difficult to focus on the cell phone, though any source is better than none. Some parts of the Bible are much easier to listen to than others. For example I recommend reading the Epistles but listening to History. A great way to listen to the History (Joshua-Esther) is a rate of maximum 8 chapters a day, with some wiggle to start the different book divisions on a single day.

# STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION

## Faith --- Living a Full Life Dedicated to God

A testimony is described as “a public recounting of a religious conversion or experience.” Our testimonies represent our conversion to the Christian faith, but they can also bring others to know Christ when we share them. This month, I want to share the testimony and brief life story of our oldest member at Mt. Olive...Ms. Sarah Lindley. Sarah’s life should be an inspiration to all who worship at Mt. Olive Baptist Church because of her love for God.

Sarah Ferguson Lindley was born in 1925 to Clyde and Jesse Cheek Ferguson. Her father was a WW1 veteran who taught English in Germany after the war. Her mother played the piano at church and was very involved in the life of the church. Sarah and her family lived in a home on Russell Road built in 1923 and were at church Sunday mornings and Sunday nights attending BYPU. At the age of 10, Sarah walked down the aisle of the white wooden church and took Mr. Gupton, who became a chaplain in WW2, by the hand and told him she wanted to be a Christian. She immediately felt comfort in knowing that her eternity was secure. Sarah was baptized in the summer at Terrell’s Creek on the church farm. She remembers a white sheet being put up around some trees so that the baptized people could change out of their wet clothes before going home.

Sarah spent her last two years of school at Eli Whitney, graduating as Valedictorian. Once she graduated, Sarah went to Woman’s College in Greensboro for a year before going to work at Associated Transport doing dictation for the manager on damage claims. She shares that her family moved to Graham during the beginning of WW2 so that her father didn’t have to use much gas and tires because of rationing. This was the case for many families at that time.

Sarah met Wayne Lindley when at Eli Whitney, and they decided to get married in 1944. They were married at First Baptist Church Graham by Sarah’s uncle, R.P. Ellington, who was the pastor there for 36 years. He also was a Pastor at Mt. Olive. Wayne was in the US Navy and stationed at Bainbridge, Maryland. After one month, Sarah went to live in Bainbridge with Wayne. Eventually, Wayne was transferred to Oakland, California. Due to the scarceness and cost of gas, Sarah put out an ad to share a ride to California and was rewarded when a gentleman from Hillsborough responded. She was chaperoned by Harold Ellington, and the trip took 5 days. Once in California, she and Wayne attended a chapel on base and a Baptist church off base as Wayne continued to serve in the US Navy. As Wayne prepared to ship out to the Pacific theatre of war, word came that the Japanese had surrendered. They were both very relieved.

After Wayne was discharged, they came back home to the house on Russell Road and moved in with Sarah’s parents. They shared the home with Harpo and Vestal, her sister. The families ate every meal together when all of them were home. Eventually, Harpo and Vestal moved into a home that Harpo built located beside Hwy. 87 across from where Chris and Gwen Norwood live. Wayne and Sarah moved into their own home, built by Van Thomas, in 1953. Sarah still lives in that same house. Wayne and Sarah had a son, Johnny, born after 5 years of marriage. Wayne and Sarah were also proud foster parents and had two foster children, John Willardson and Paul Smith (Hank). Sarah has 19 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sarah shared that she has lived a very fulfilling life. Sarah worked at Associated Transport, Cherokee Flooring, and then worked at BCBSNC for 25 years. Wayne and Sarah ran a community van service to Chapel Hill and BCBSNC. She and Wayne were always involved at Mt. Olive, with her teaching Ms. Jewel McBane's SS class and singing in the choir. Sarah was also active in the WMU and continued to participate in BYPU on Sunday nights until it was discontinued by the Southern Baptist Convention. Wayne became music/choir director and served in that capacity for 33 years, and he was a Deacon for many years. Sarah remembers watching baptisms in two ponds and the church farm creek. As a regular church member, she remembers working alongside multiple pastors in service to the kingdom of God. Sarah shared several of her many stories about pastors and their families.

Ms. Sarah explained to me how she has lived a satisfying life, content with her faith and her family. Sarah reiterated multiple times how she feels about Mt. Olive Baptist...it is and always has been her church home. Sarah made sure to tell me that everyone should look at their life and examine it because our sins are known to God. Jesus sees everything. She understands the struggles of the church and says that the devil really works hard to break up churches today. She wishes people would put their personal feelings aside and serve God together. Sarah also wishes that she could be present when the Lord calls home all of those who have gone before us. To watch people rising and meeting Jesus in the air would be amazing. What a fantastic vision from a God-fearing woman!

After speaking with Ms. Sarah, I realize that it is as important as ever to share our testimony with others. I recently read the story of the demon possessed man whom Jesus cured by casting out the demons. The man wanted to go with Jesus and become a disciple. However, Jesus told the man in Luke 8:39, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you. So, the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him". How much better for our church and community if we share what God has done in our lives, the same as Ms. Sarah Lindley has.

God Bless You,

Joe Godfrey

## Mt. Olive Senior Adults Summer Flights August 12, 2023

Genesis 1, highlighting the days of creation, provided the scripture for our Summer Flights Fellowship. Reminiscing over the specific days of creation provided the opportunity to draw our interpretation of God's handiwork. A special focus on birds (day 5 of creation) included opportunities to send note cards to others, learn some bird trivia, and turn a sheet of paper into an origami bird.

