



*September 2025*



“Did you hear the one about the Baptist church and their problem with the squirrels? The squirrels had infiltrated the church building, up in the attic, even down into the kitchen. Finally, someone came up with a solution. They baptized the squirrels, and now they only see them on Christmas and Easter!”

That is how a 1962 book on Baptist church discipline begins. I think it offers an interesting, even funny, reflection on the view some people take of membership in Baptist life. They believe they are members because they have been baptized or because their name is on a roll, yet they rarely, if ever, show up.

I am reminded of Hebrews 10:24–25: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Membership in a church is meant to be meaningful. How churches began to see it as a form of social club commitment, or a minimal one, I do not know. But we need to recover a biblical view of meaningful membership.

I understand that there are various situations that might prevent someone from attending church and being actively involved. If you are unable to attend, please know that we love you and miss you. However, if you are not providentially hindered from participating in worship services, I have a couple of questions for you to consider:

Do you view the command in Hebrews as an optional extra?

Do you see church membership as something other than a commitment to a people—or as a commitment only when it is convenient?

My goal is not to heap guilt on anyone. But as an elder of Mt. Olive Baptist Church—one of your pastors—I must give account to God for the stewardship He has entrusted to me. I would love to see all who are members of this church regularly attending and engaging in the life of the body. To get to know you, pray with you, and walk alongside you. To live life together!

Membership is meant to be meaningful. Let’s not treat church like just another social club we happen to belong to. Church membership is significant—and deeply meaningful.

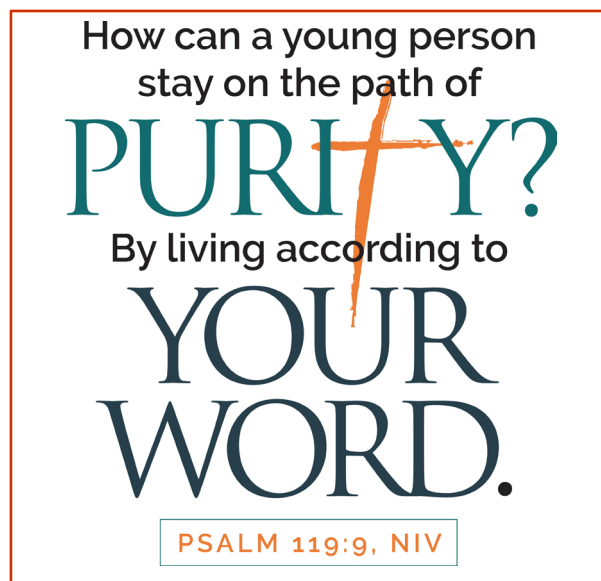
*Pastor Travis*

# *Youth and Family Discipleship*

We enjoyed our second annual back-to-school pool party at the Marshalls' this past weekend. Thanks, John and Cindy, for hosting! We just finished Luke 11 during Sunday mornings. We recently discussed the 6 woes Jesus pronounced on the Pharisees. It was a good reminder not to automatically think of other people who remind us of Pharisees, but to take a look inside ourselves first, to root out any pharisaical tendencies we see in ourselves. On Wednesday nights, we continue to study the doctrine of God, specifically his providence. We will be examining some deep, tough doctrines, looking at God's sovereignty over good and evil, our responsibility in light of God's sovereignty, and the role of pain and suffering in our lives.

The weekend retreat in October at Ambassador Camp at Lake Waccamaw had to be changed to the weekend of October 10-12. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested so we can get you registered.

Grace and Peace,  
Jason



# *Faith--- Living in Fellowship Within Our Community*

I love people. I really do. Ok, if you were to pin me down and ask if I really “love” everyone, I might hesitate while thinking of someone who has wronged me or someone who is difficult to deal with. To be honest, all of us probably have someone who we are not fond of. However, when it comes to people groups, I love people. Last year, while I was campaigning to represent our county in the state government, I got to meet many people. Most were very pleasant and supportive, but there were some not so pleasant. Even when I talked with those who would not support me, I still tried to understand and love them for who they were and what they stood for. I discussed the community and how best to serve all people groups.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of being part of the community and our fellowship with one another, especially fellow believers. Human beings are not meant to be solitary beings but part of faith communities. As Christians, we should strive to connect with other believers. We should be accountable to our Christian brothers and sisters, and we should combine the strength of unified Christians to make our community and church a better place for everyone. Reflecting on our own experiences within church groups or small gatherings allows us to share the joys and struggles of being part of a faith community. Christians should support, encourage, and challenge one another in our faith journey, sometimes even bearing one another’s burdens. Hebrews 10:24-25 states, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Colossians 3:13-14 states, “Bear with one another and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

Mount Olive Baptist Church will soon be celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The church was started in 1834, which is a testament to the community. I can’t help but think about the founding members and others who struggled with the fellowship at times: yet they persevered. Previous generations at Mount Olive supported each other, shared responsibilities, and held fast during difficult times. Because of their faithfulness, we now stand in a strong, united fellowship of believers. If you are like me, you see and hear this every time you walk through the door of the church. I love the fellowship and the love that everyone shows on a weekly basis. Despite every challenge, Mount Olive has consistently offered fellowship and support to our community.

If you are not involved in a small group or a Sunday School class, I would encourage you to join one. Each time I attend small groups, Wednesday night Bible Study, or Sunday School, I walk away feeling spiritually renewed. When I miss these fellowships because of other functions, I still have joy knowing that my brothers and sisters are praying for lost people, remembering those who have physical issues, and studying God’s word. Join in the Mount Olive fellowship and come away feeling renewed just like I do. Help your faith community thrive, love people, and share the good news of Jesus Christ!

Serving together in Christ,

Joe Godfrey





# *NC Missions Offering*

August 31<sup>st</sup> – September 14<sup>th</sup>

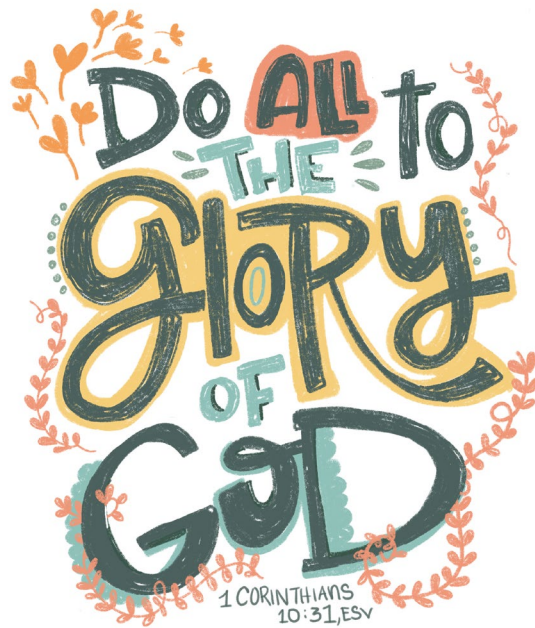


## Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Classes for all ages!



## Serving This Month

### Deacon of the Week

9-07	Joe Godfrey
9-14	Mike Jackson
9-21	Steve Jones
9-28	Mike Marley

### Nursery

9-07	Ellen Crayton & Pam Jackson
9-14	Joan Snyder
9-21	Oscar & Jane Majors
9-28	Suzanne & Elizabeth Jones

### Children's Church

Cindy Marshall
Kristina Zachary
Tammie Marley
Jane Majors

Pastor: Travis Bodine, [pastor@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:pastor@mtolivebaptist.com)

Associate Pastor: Jason Lewis, [family@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:family@mtolivebaptist.com)

Secretary: Christina Wilkins, [christina@mtolivebaptist.com](mailto:christina@mtolivebaptist.com)

<https://www.mtolivebaptist.com/>

Church Office: 336-376-3788

# Mt. Olive Baptist Church

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. – Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Birthdays: Viola Miller Rhonda Nunn	2	3 Family Night Meal 6:30 p.m.  RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:30 p.m.  Praise Team Practice 8:00 p.m.	4 Sandy Creek Senior Adult Luncheon 11:00 a.m.  Birthday: Mike Marley	5	6
7 Sunday School Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	8 WMU Group 1 Meeting 2:00 p.m.  Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	9 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	10 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	11 Birthdays: Linda Jones Hallie Morris	12	13
14 Church Conference 6:30 p.m.  Birthday: Steve Wilkins	15 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	16 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	17 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  Birthday: Rick Morris	18 Birthdays: Teresa Garner Diz Lloyd	19 Birthday: Beverly Braxton  Anniversary: Steve & CeCe McCarty	20 Game Night 6:30 p.m.
21 Praise Team Practice 5:00 p.m.	22 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	23 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	24 RAs/GAs, Youth, & Adult Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	25	26 Birthday: Jason Lewis	27
28 Deacons' Meeting 4:30 p.m.  Birthday: Ricky Garner	29 Marshall Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.	30 Yarnoff Home Fellowship 6:30 p.m.  Birthday: Renee Godfrey	1	2	3	4