

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS BY BAPTISM!



Hannah Bowles is 14 years old and a freshman at Riverbend High School in Spotsylvania. She loves sports, but her favorite is softball, which she has played for 9 years. Dance has also been a huge part of her life and she has taken many classes from hip hop to ballet. One of her favorite things to do is attend Washington National baseball games with her dad. Being with her family and spending time with them is what she treasures the most.

Grace Bowles is 13 years old and an eight grader at Freedom Middle School in Spotsylvania. She has played violin for three years in her school orchestra. She also enjoys playing her ukulele that she got on a trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida this past summer. She taught herself how to play. Grace loves dancing in all forms, but lyrical is her favorite. In the future she hopes to become a cosmetologist and own her own salon like her grandmother, Shirley Aylor. She also loves spending time with her friends and family as they bring her much joy.



Anabelle Bowles is a fourth grader at Harrison Road Elementary School in Spotsylvania. She enjoys dancing at Youth Dance Society and building with Legos. Anabelle loves spending time in the nursery on Sunday with the little ones at OBC and with her pals on Friday nights at "Girl Gab."

Mary Twyman Carpenter grew up in Madison, VA and still lives there today. She grew up in the Methodist church. Currently working in the medical field at UVA Hospital, she has been employed in health care since she was sixteen.

Mary received her Associates Degree in Science in 2011. She loves working in the medical field. Her passion is giving loving care to the elderly. She started attending OBC in the fall of 2011 when she met her then future husband, Charles Carpenter. They were married at OBC in 2013 by Alan Miller. After becoming pregnant and being so ill, her faith in God and belief in the power of prayer became very strong. Her miracle, Courtney Elizabeth Carpenter, was born on July 11, 2015 eight weeks early. During this time, they were blessed to have members of the church call, visit and send cards. In May 2016, Courtney Elizabeth was dedicated to the lord which helped lead to her decision to become a member and to continue to grow in her faith and be a servant of the Lord.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thur., Jan. 5: Ruth Kersey Circle will meet at Dogwood Village at noon. Bring a sandwich.
7 PM - Stewardship Committee.

Mon., Jan. 9: Kay Culpeper circle will meet at church at 11 AM. Bring a sandwich.

Tues., Jan. 10: 6:45 PM Finance Committee.
7:30 Missions Committee.

Sun., Jan. 15: Business meeting following morning worship.

Mon., Jan. 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. day. Church office closed.

Tues., Jan. 31: 7 PM Deacons meeting.

The 20th of each month is the deadline for items to be submitted for the newsletter.

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Tom Reynolds	Samantha Reynolds
Crit Bartley	Dorothy Cluff
Larry Lloyd	Cornelia Craun
Rea Cooper	Barry Jacobs
Patricia Salyers	

COUNTERS -- JANUARY

Karen Jarrell, Shirley Aylor, Pam Carpenter

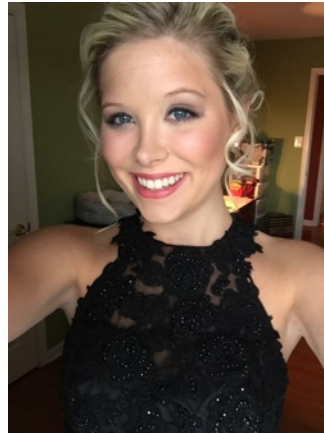
NURSERY HELPERS - JANUARY

1 Sarah/Raphael Sydnor, Karen Jarrell
8 Vicky Schafer, Greg Hines
15 Bryan/Erin Seale, Mary Mason
22 Mary Ann Penton, Kirstan Knipple
29 Tracey Newman, Sydney Hayes

CALM PARENTING CLASS

Calm Parenting will be offered at Orange Baptist Church in partnership with the Office on Youth on Sundays in January (8, 15, 22, 29) from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. *Calm Parenting* offers numerous strategies to get your kids to listen the first time; stop defiance; disrespect and yelling; and create stress-free routines. The class will be facilitated by Meg Camp. All materials and childcare are provided free of charge. For registration information, please email Ashley Jacobs at ajacobs@orangecountyva.gov.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS BY BAPTISM! continued



Sydney Madison Hayes: Sydney has been in Culpeper her entire life and travels to Orange every week to attend her "favorite church". Sydney has been worshipping at OBC for about fifteen years. "I can remember when I had Mrs. Amy Fitch as my Sunday School teacher when I was about four years old. I loved that class so much and looked forward to coming back every Sunday." Sydney

has been working with photography for over 4 years and now owns her own photography business called *Sydney Madison Photography*. She is a coach for the Upward Basketball program that we have through the church. Sydney is a volunteer in the nursery here at OBC.

Installation Service for Rev. Alan Miller



On Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 PM, we will have an installation service for our new pastor, Rev. Alan Miller.

This important event in the life of our congregation will mark a new beginning for the church as we move forward in service to God. A reception will follow in the Pine Room. Please make plans to worship and celebrate with us.

STEWARDSHIP - NOVEMBER

Unified Budget:

Receipts	\$ 24,081.82
Paid Expenses	\$ 25,806.98
Unpaid Expenses	\$ 932.83
Unpaid Mission Partners for 2015 & 2016	\$ 20,633.01

ENTERTAINING ANGELS

Jan. 17 - Dec. 29

RECEIVED TO DATE \$87,826.50
ON HAND 52.21

PROJECTS NOT INCLUDED IN ORIGINAL \$100,000 EA
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

WINDOWS -	\$ 2,800
A/C -	20,060
SHEETROCK & PAINT	1,702
PUMP/GRINDER	1,200
CEILING GRID (including lights)	2,326
Misc. SUPPLIES (wiring, receptacles, etc.)	450

22 pledges completed
4 who made pledges have not given anything yet
27 have given but did not pledge

Total Loan Balance as of 12/29/16 8,606.89
Principal Payment 12/29/16 2,465.94
Remaining balance due 6,140.95

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the Unified budget, Entertaining Angels campaign and all the many special projects of OBC.

PRAYER LIST

Bereavement:

Family of G. I. Johnson
Barbara Ezell and family
The family of Jeff Hensley
Roger Jacobs, Alice Jacobs and family

Illness within church family:

Barbara Bartley	Phyllis Saintclair
Arlene Byram	Erlene Arthur
Glynn & Betty Coleman	Betty Duffer
Patricia Coleman	Alice Jacobs
Charlene Schweikert	Bobby Seal
Mary Strickland	Bart Daniel
Connie Sardina	Tammi Waters
Spurgle Herndon	

Illness of friends & family:

Sandy Jones Garrison	Beth Cluff
Don & Marcelline Waugh	Palmer Waugh
Doris Haney	Skeeter Lutz
Susan Birdsong	Geneva Compton
Joe Austin	Nancy Williams
Linda Frankenberry	Austra Skroedelis
Em Komiskey	Andrea Shell
Willie Morris	Linda Jenkins
Susan Pippin	Shirley Painter
Edie Barden Growden	Gary Kendrick

CBF Field Personnel:

Cindy & Eddy Ruble
Greg & Sue Smith

Other:

Samantha Clarke

HAPPY AGERS

All are welcome to join the Happy Agers. Call Cornelia Craun, 672-4705, or Doris Shumake, 672-4139, if you wish to attend any of the events or have questions.

Food Lion/Wells Fargo is the meeting place for all outings.

Tues., Jan. 17: 11:30 AM meet at church for SOUP DAY. We also bring BLANKETS for the clothes closet. To begin our time together Nancy McDaniel, Betsy Smith, and Joan Woolfolk accompanied by Althea Pace will sing "The Solid Rock". Following lunch we will enjoy singing hymns led by Althea, Joan and Tom Woolfolk.

Contact Cornelia if you would like to provide soup, sandwiches or dessert.

Fri., Feb. 17: 10:15 AM we will travel to Riverside Dinner Theater in Fredericksburg, to see "Million Dollar Quartet". Cost is \$56, due by January 8.

Shortly before Christmas 1956 in an impromptu session at Sun Studios in Memphis, TN Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley recorded together for the only time. Owner Sam Phillips discovered the talented singers and produced the record. Actors on tour are depicting the lives and music of the four legends celebrating the 60th anniversary of the recording.

MUSIC & MISSIONS



Carolyn Rogers read a Christmas story to the children after they had decorated sugar cookies to be shared with staff at Prospect Heights Middle School and Orange Elementary.



The youth help to stuff stocking bags to share with foster children.

The 4th and 5th grade class collected \$41.55 to send to CBF field personnel, Angel and Jason Pittman and Wanda Valencia Ashworth who provide summer day camps and an after school program for children living in poverty in Miami, FL. They show God's love by playing games, teaching bible stories and serving a hot lunch each day.

The same class made Christmas cards for Keith Holmes and Mary van Rheenen, CBF Field Personnel in the Netherlands. Keith and Mary's email response was: "That is so thoughtful! My husband Keith and I really appreciate this, especially in the dark days of winter. We are on the same latitude as parts of Alaska."

MISSION TEAM REPORTS

The youth assisted the mission team with filling of the Thanksgiving boxes. A total of 15 families were helped with dinner.



This Christmas they provided dinner and gifts for 4 families from the Christmas tag tree. Families with Lucha Ministries, the Orange Food Pantry, the Orange Senior Nutrition Center, and a school family will have been blessed. So many blessings !!

The Language of Fear Greg and Sue Smith, CBF Field Personnel



Counting ... pointing ... identifying.

“You” and “you” and “you” – “You’re all going to be deported! You’re all going back home where you belong!”, cried the older boy, grinning and laughing at the brown and black faces exiting the school bus for their first class. Mocking and scaring the “guilty” to tears, he seemed to feel no shame.

Do we?

The day after being singled out by the schoolyard bully, one of those tanned, dark faces missed school. His friends were all in shock – “Did he really get deported?” As it turned out, the missing child stayed home to nurse a cold, and there was no immediate deportation. But for immigrant students and their American friends,

deportation suddenly had a new meaning when applied to one of their friends and fellow classmates.

When we turn on the news and hear insults that demean and degrade our immigrant, refugee and international neighbors, we may personally feel sad or even sorry for these neighbors of ours. But – and remember some of these are our Christian sisters and brothers – what they feel is oftentimes gripping terror and utter confusion that quickly can lead to panic, depression and isolation. That children’s rhyme we’ve all said a hundred times – “Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me” – is absolute rubbish. Names, words and phrases spoken in anger – even in careless jest – break worse than bones. They have the real power to break the spirit, crush the soul and ignite terror in the heart.

So where does that leave you and me? How do we practice both the Golden Rule (“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”) and the Great Commandments (“Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as you love yourself”)?

For one thing, we should tone down the rhetoric if we find ourselves guilty of hurtful words. We could go out of our way to tell our immigrant, refugee and international friends that we value and love them. We might thank God for the diversity with which he blesses us all. We could even pray God’s mercy and grace for us all when the wrong seems right and the right is hard to find.

Or better yet, we can do our best to be Jesus to those whom Jesus loved and for whom Jesus died.

A BIG thank you to everyone who donated cookies to the Children's Mission Groups for decorating.

Approximately 20 children spread frosting and sprinkles on dozens of cookies (and elsewhere!).

Large trays of cookies were donated to faculty and staff at Orange Elementary, Prospects Heights and Orange Co. High schools with notes of thanks for their hard work in educating our children.

SHOPPING FROM AMAZON!!

Place your order through smile.amazon.com and select Orange Baptist Church as your charitable organization and the church will receive .5% of each order to our general fund from the Smile Foundation.

Farewell OBC!



Thank you, church family, for a heart warming send off on Sunday, Dec. 18. Karen and I are still emotionally processing all of your kind words, soul-touching hugs, and generosity. We love the framed photos of Karen and me working with the children. The American Chestnut coffee table hand crafted by Craig Jacobs and his "associates" from the same wood as the cross displayed in our sanctuary shall be a cherished story piece in our house. In the card that you presented us was a very generous check as another parting gift. So divine was the choral anthem, "An Expression of Gratitude," at the conclusion of the worship service. Thank you is not enough. We love you and feel loved by you.

My father was in the United States Air Force, then answered God's call to serve as a Baptist pastor. Both of these ways of serving and earning income required a lot of moving and leaving for our family when I was a child. Prior to Orange Baptist Church I have left 4 other good congregations and one denominational position. I have moved and left a lot of times, have lived in six states, have attended schools in five of those states, and have resided at 24 different addresses.

I shared with Alan, our pastor, that I have never allowed myself to grieve too much when leaving. It is a way of avoiding much of the pain of separating from cherished friends and familiar places. There is some grief in leaving as pastor of you good folks at Orange Baptist Church.

Nonetheless, Karen and I are certain that God has led us to this decision which assures us that leaving now as pastor and wife is the right thing for us, and for you. We leave you with overwhelming gratefulness to God for the privilege of serving alongside you for ten years. I have served the longest among you than any one of the previous ministries.

What a joy it has been to work in God's service alongside Alan, Melinda, and Danielle. You have a very dedicated staff who bring their best to the Lord's work here at OBC and to our community.

You are a healthy congregation. Among my colleagues in ministry I have often commented on the depth and quality of leadership here. You are exceptionally gifted in music. I know you shall always give that primary consideration as you move forward. Alan is the right pastor to help you live into the special way God has formed you.

God is still calling Karen and me to serve Him. We are listening for God's voice to lead us to our next places of service. We are glad that we will be serving God each day living in the Town of Orange. We look forward to seeing you, dear friends, at the gas stations, the grocery store, in restaurants, and while walking and serving in this little town.

May a holy vision for God's good creation call us forward, one that gives us purpose each day. Every day God gives us is another day granted to bring heaven to earth. As Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

God's grace to you,
Rick