



THE OLIVE BRANCH

DECEMBER 2024

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Sara C. Scungio, administrative assistant
757-566-8077 (Church Office)

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 **Instagram: [@obccwilliamsburg](https://www.instagram.com/obccwilliamsburg)**



ADVENT IS HERE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John & Tamara Rodenberg, Carolyn Rodenberg, and Martha Nichols joined November 10, 2024.

Martha Nichols:
4120 McCann Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188-1733
(817) 994-1398

Carolyn Rodenberg:
4304 Annamary Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188-2897

John & Tamara Rodenberg:
5325 Center Street
Williamsburg, VA 23188-2815

Jake Hood & Nicki Vallandingham joined November 17, 2024 and Nicki was baptized November 24, 2024.

Jake Hood:
9108 Mannerwood Way
Toano, VA 23168-8936
(757) 940-5054
jakehood90@gmail.com

Nicki Vallandingham:
3 Frond Court
Williamsburg, VA 23188-2589
(804) 815-6088
nickivallandingham202@gmail.com

Welcome!

I grew up in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and while we talked about Advent as a preparation for Christmas, we had no Advent Wreath in the sanctuary of Pfafftown Christian Church. No four candles to light, no circular wreath, no themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. In college I learned how other faith traditions worshipped and was introduced to the Advent Wreath. I was serving the Southwest Christian Church in Kinston, NC, as a student minister, and decided to present it to the church. I asked Bobby Hunter to build a wreath we could hang from the sanctuary ceiling. He did a fine job. That Advent, the candles were lit, and then on Christmas Eve, the Christ Candle's flame pointed us to the joy of Christmas Day.

I think of Bobby and that congregation often, because in my office sits the Advent Wreath holder that he made 47 years ago. It has been part of worship in First Christian Church of Anna, Texas, of Centennial Christian Church in McCoy, VA, and here in Olive Branch Christian Church. I think of those I have been blessed to worship with in those churches, and I smile with joy.

The last couple of Sundays have led us to see how important it is to be together, not just for worship, but for the encouragement we receive from being with our church family. We need each other, we need the support and love that comes from being in relationship with each other. Especially in times such as this, when we seek to know that peace is still a possibility, that

love abounds, that there is power in hope, and joy in being with each other.

This Advent and Christmas, make new memories. Come and worship with your church family. Sing the carols of Christmas, share in the Lord's Supper, and on Christmas Eve, witness the lighting of the Christ candle, the light that shines in the darkness. It all begins December 1st, as we decorate our Sanctuary, in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard

MEETINGS & BUILDING USE

T.O.P.S.: Tuesdays; 9:30AM; Taylor Hall

Seekers Prayer Group: Tuesdays; 11:30 AM
Adult SS Room

Our Day Out: 2nd Wednesdays; 10AM-2PM;
Branch Hall

Comfort Ministry: 2nd Saturdays; 10 AM
Sandy's Restaurant

Girl Scouts Troop 1385 Meetings:
Alternate Wednesdays; September 4, 2024 until June 11, 2025
6:30-8:00 PM; Adult Sunday School Room

OBCC Men's Meeting: 2nd Thursdays; 9 AM; Branch Hall with breakfast

4th Thursday Lunch Bunch: 4th Thursdays; 11 AM; Sandy's Restaurant

Lifeline: Thursday, December 5; 8AM-6PM

Branch Hall Use: Friday, December 20; 10AM-7PM

Branch Hall Use: Saturday, December 28; 10AM-5PM



SERVICES & HOURS

Sunday Services:

8:30 AM Branch Hall 11:00 AM Sanctuary

Sunday School:

NFH Sunday School following the 8:30 service

Andy's Sunday School at 9:30

Nursery:

Open on Sundays: 8:15AM-12:15PM

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 8:30AM-1:30PM



Deacon/Elder/Deaconess Meeting: December 2;
5:30PM; Branch Hall. This meeting is for all current and newly elected Deacons, Elders, and Deaconesses

Christmas Giving: December 15 & 22

Live Nativity: December 21; 3-6PM

Christmas Cantata Sunday: December 22; 11 AM

Christmas Eve Service: December 24; 5PM



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Michael Ayers, Mary Best, Linda Brown, Janet Dombrowski, Nancy Griffith, Petra Hall, Jim Holland, Linda Hutton, Cheryl Johnson, Family of Keith McMurdo, Dallas Mitchell, David Nunn, Fred Rothermel, Mary Bates Rupe, Family of Bob Schmidt, Mike Smith, Barbara Thiel, Brenda White

Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, Our Nation, Brian Bruno (Michelle Wright's friend), Alva Clary (Emily Dill's mother), Denny Dasher (Dennis & Anita Dasher's son), Evala (Norm Hall's daughter), Cody Ferguson (Amy Ferguson's nephew), Nancy Fletcher (Cheryl & Gene Johnson's friend), Kourtney Haake (Heidi & Keith McMurdo's daughter), McKayla King (Ethel King's granddaughter), Ken Kunde (Barbara Thiel's brother), Kimberlee Nunn Magrill (David Nunn's daughter), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Randy & Stephanie Phaup (Carol & David Pitts' friends), Eileen Saltzgiver (friend of the Pesantes), Howard Thackston (Cheryl Johnson's nephew), Rebekkah Warhol (Linda Hutchens' granddaughter), Mac Young (Joann Mitchell's brother), Christian (Missy Harbour's friend), Jason (Lorraine Beasley's son)



14 Hunter & Tracy Creech
20 Jack & Ethel King
23 Larry & Louise Smith



Birthday Blessings

04 Dana Rothermel
06 Kay Ainsworth
08 Skylar Jensen
08 Fred Rothermel
08 Taylor Bloom
09 Virginia Wright
10 Sharon Herndon
12 Robert Hutton
13 Tracy Creech
13 John Stall
14 Steve White
15 Teri Tench

- 16 Karen Marrow
- 16 Cleve Wright
- 20 Ellen Sullivan
- 20 Ronnie Yeatts
- 22 Bryant Walker
- 23 Jim Thacker
- 24 Keeta Hodson
- 27 Jack King
- 30 Amy Ferguson

12/22/2024	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
12/29/2024	Linda Williams	Bob Williams



DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER

Mark your calendars! The annual Christmas dinner will be held in Branch Hall on December 9 at 6 PM. No need to bring a dish. All food will be provided. Bring your appetite and plan for an enjoyable evening of good food and fun.



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Karen Barrow
12/01/2024	Andrew Pfister Joyce Allen	
	Jeremy Dill Chuck Walker Bob Herndon Sharon Herndon	
12/08/2024	Kim Riffle Don White	
	Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Tracy Creech Will Hatcher Lois Marshall	
12/15/2024	Richard Bradshaw Andy Bradshaw	
	Missy Harbour Dennis Cotner Ryan Matschke Joshua Fulgham	
12/22/2024	Will Hatcher Linda Williams	
	Judy Eley Lois Marshall Joann Mitchell David Love	
12/29/2024	Teri Tench Ann Bradshaw	
	Amy Ferguson Karen Barrow Anita Dasher Danny Pitts	



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The Christmas Cantata Sunday service will be 11AM on Sunday, December 22.

The Christmas Eve service will be celebrated at 5PM on Tuesday, December 24.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25, Tuesday, December 31 and Wednesday, January 1 for the Christmas and New Years' holidays.



OBCC sends condolences to Jennifer Bryant and family on the passing of Mel Bryant, Jr. Mel passed away on Sunday, November 3, 2024. There was a service for Mel on Friday, November 8, 2024, at LifePointe Christian Church.



OBCC sends condolences to Rhonda Davis and family on the passing of Dwayne Davis. Dwayne passed away on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. There was a service for Dwayne on Friday, November 22, 2024, at R. Hayden Smith Funeral Home.



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
12/01/2024	Landa Simmons	Cris Simmons
12/08/2024	Ann Bradshaw	Jeremy Dill
12/15/2024	Linda Williams	Bob Williams

OBCC MEN'S MINISTRY

The OBCC Men's group continues our goal of "being church" by working on our fall projects. The shed near the parking lot behind Branch Hall has had a white primer coat applied and the final coat will be added on a dry, warm day. Our thanks to Steve Perger for managing the project and for Charles, Barker, Will Hatcher and Jim Hunt for applying the primer.

On November 26, we will deliver Thanksgiving Baskets with a turkey and all the trimmings to 15 families in the local area. The families were identified by Williamsburg Faith in Action. We thank Bob Mongold for coordinating this project. This is our third year to provide the meals, and we have increased the number of families each year.

The group will also assist Steve White and Dennis Dasher in the setup of the Nativity scene. This year, the Men's Group will provide funding for the animals for the Nativity. The animals are very popular with the children. Our thanks to Bill and Susan Simpson for overseeing the 2024 Live Nativity.

At our November meeting, we were treated to "breakfast tacos" by Jan Smith. Our thanks to Jan for the delicious meal. At the meeting, we discussed our upcoming projects and welcomed Joe Fisher to the group. Mike Smith gave us the amazing events leading up to his recent surgery for the removal of a tumor on his brain and the treatments he is currently undergoing. He described the presence of angels God provided along the way, including those that facilitated Jan's emergency trip home from Italy. God is Good!

Another of the goals of the group is to get to know each other better than a handshake on Sunday morning. This goal is being met in some very interesting discussions. At this last meeting, one of the discussions was on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its tremendous potential in the medical field. Our meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 9AM beginning with a delicious breakfast. Bob Mongold is arranging for a speaker to tell us about the services provided by the Lackey Clinic at either the December or January meeting.

We encourage all the men of the church who are available to come out for our next meeting, December 12 at 9AM.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

November Our Day Out was a beautiful day and our theme Fall beauty and thanksgiving blessings seemed to touch us all.

One of our decorations, compliments from Anita, was a very impressive turkey which I asked everyone to name. There were lots of creative suggestions and we came up with Mr. Gobble-Gobble.

Pat Allred had won the Afghan drawing at our early fall celebration and we surprised her by awarding it to her. She was thrilled and said it was actually the second time through the years that she had won. Lots of discussion followed with stories of happy or funny thanksgiving celebrations.

Melaney King, the founder of Proclaiming Grace, gave us touching information on this program which benefits so many people in our area in so many ways. It was very obvious that here is a wonderful way to help others.

Our chefs for the day, Joann and Anita, delighted us with a turkey pot pie and clever mandarin orange salad.

Crafty Jane helped us make a pilgrim hanger to remind us of the season.

Talented bingo caller Tyler aided by his partner in "funny stuff" brought laughter and smiles, not to mention great prizes for everyone.

We are so blessed to have the loving and caring congregation at Olive Branch, and I am blessed that they come to ODO with a smile and open heart.

Next month, our theme will be Snowman Day and Christmas fun, so if you have a day that you just want to enjoy with others, please come!

May the holidays bring you peace, happiness, and joy!

May God Bless You Always,
Marny Brickhouse, Coordinator





CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Gift bags are due on or before December 9. Gifts can be taken directly to the Salvation Army at 216 Ironbound (M-F 8:30-4:00). Thank you for your help with this ministry!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



ADVENT DEVOTIONS AVAILABLE

Pick up your Advent Devotion book today! They are available in Branch Hall and the Sanctuary, or you can stop by the office for a freshly printed copy.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX UPDATE- THANK YOU!

With your help, we sent 54 shoeboxes to help children in need around the world! Thank you for your support for this important ministry!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



OBCC LIVE NATIVITY COMING DEC 21!

Our Live Nativity with live animals will be on December 21 outside from 3-6 PM. We will be serving a variety of soups, crackers, and desserts along with hot chocolate and hot apple cider in Taylor Hall and the Sanctuary. We will be having costume fittings on Sunday, December 8 from 12:30PM-1:30PM, Wednesday, December 11 from 6PM-7:30PM, and Tuesday, December 17 from 6PM-7:30PM. If you would like to help, please Contact Bill and Susan Simpson. Thank you for your willingness to help make this a great day for our community!



WORLD OUTREACH NEWS: CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS—DEC 15 & 22

This special giving opportunity occurs on December 15 & 22. Use a special giving envelope found in the pews. Write Christmas Offering in the memo line of your check. This offering is one of 6 special offerings throughout the year. Giving thanks for your generosity!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



CHRISTMAS DAY FUN

We all know that December 25 is Christmas Day. But did you know that there is an obscure, yet fun holiday

also celebrated on December 25? It's called "A'Phabet Day" or "No L Day".

The day uses a pun to reference Christmas Day. The name of the holiday is a play on the word "Noel", which is intrinsically linked to the idea of Christmas, it means "to be born," and is used by the French. The day is meant for pun enthusiasts across the world. Puns have been around for eons, used by people across the globe to entertain each other and lighten moods.

A pun, or "paronomasia", is a form of wordplay that exploits multiple meanings of a term, or of similar-sounding words, for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect. Puns have been around for eons, across the globe, languages, genders, and ages.

The earliest evidence of puns came from ancient Egypt, where they were used to interpret dreams and describe myths. Circa 300 B.C. in China, Shen Dao used puns to describe the power held by the king. He stated that the king has power ("shi") because of his position. In Mesopotamia, as far back as 2500 B.C., puns were used to represent words in cuneiform. The "Tanakh" also contains puns. The Mayans were known to use puns in their hieroglyphic writing, along with utilizing them in modern languages.

The ambiguities invoked by puns are a result of the intentional use of homophonic (similar sounds), homographic (same spellings), homonymic (words that are both homophones and homographs), or figurative language. Puns are used in comedy, literature, rhetoric, and design.

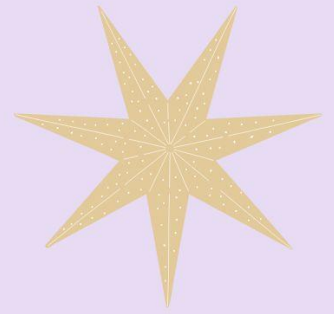
For some added Christmas fun this year, be sure to check out the fun Christmas song trivia on the last page of this newsletter, given to us by our own Janet Dombrowski!

May we all have some light-hearted fun celebrating No "L" Day, and a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ this Christmas! Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!



"Season of Preparation "

**Advent requires I wait,
Lovingly anticipate,
This long expected King,
Whose HOPE will seal my fate.**



**Free from all the awful sin,
I'm so guilty of,
With His sure forgiveness,
And unconditional LOVE.**

**I've been told He's my Savior,
The Holy Prince of PEACE,
Who offers my spirit Joy,
As I experience sin's release.**

**So as I prepare my heart,
To eagerly welcome Him,
Let me deeply meditate,
Not entertain a thoughtless whim.**

**Let me now indulge,
Every chamber of my heart,
That some new loving encounter,
With Him I'll joyously start.**

**Be it deeper Bible study,
Set a longer time for prayer,
As I seek to welcome my Jesus,
I'll find Him everywhere.**

"Come, Lord Jesus, come..."

~Louise Smith

"The Long Expected King"

**The Star of Bethlehem,
Light up the Holy Night,
Shepherds approached the stable,
By its guiding light.**

**It came to take its rest,
Upon a lowly manger bed,
Where the King of Glory,
Laid His sweet, newborn head.**

**Jesus was dressed in swaddling clothes,
By His gentle mother Mary,
Joseph's loving care was obvious,
As everyone could see.**

**The animals were bedded down,
For the long, cold night,
The Heavenly Angels were singing,
What a strange yet Holy site.**

**Wisemen and Kings would visit,
After a little while,
Bringing myrrh, frankincense, and gold,
For the long expected child.**

**Truly poverty and riches,
Would miraculously entwine,
To make this special event,
A Christmas story truly Divine.**

"Welcome into our hearts, Lord Jesus..."

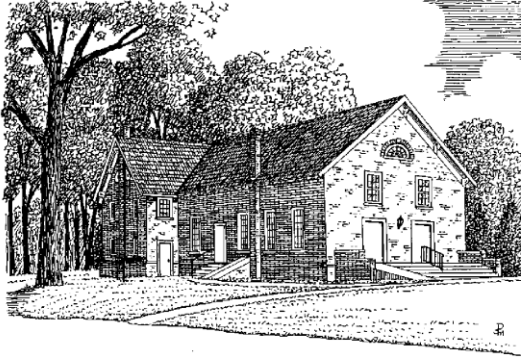
~ Louise Smith



CAN YOU NAME THAT CHRISTMAS SONG?

What is the real title for these exaggerated titles of very familiar Christmas tunes?

1. From Dark 'til Dawn, Soundless and Sanctimonious
2. My Sole Desire for the Yuletide Season is Receipt of a Pair of Central Incisors
3. Celestial messengers from Splendid Empires
4. The Event Occurred at One Minute after 11:59 p.m. with Visibility Unlimited
5. Ornament the Enclosure with Large Sprigs of Berry-Bearing Evergreen
6. The Antlered Quadruped with the Cerise Proboscis
7. Personal Hallucinations of an Alabaster December 25th
8. Anticipation of this Noel's Momentos: XII
9. Testimony of Witness to Maternal Parent's Affection for Kriss Kringle
10. Clappered Inverted Cups, Amalgamated
11. In a Distant Bovine Diner
12. Universal Elation
13. Ominiature Nazarene Village
14. The Approach of the Holiday Commemorating the Birth of Christ is Become Evident
15. May Jehovah Grant Unto You Hilarious Males Retirement
16. Those of You Who Are True, Come Here!
17. Are You-Detecting the Same Aural Sensations As I Am?
18. The Diminutive Male of Less Than Adult Age Who Plays a Percussion Instrument
19. Primary Yuletide
20. Heavenly Cherubs Announcing in Song -- Listen!
21. Reigning Monarchs of the Far East
22. Who's the Mystery Kid?
23. Proclaim It To the Hills
24. Pastoral Woolies Nocturnally Observed in Vigilance by Herdsmen
25. Village Expectations of a Yuletide Emissary



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