



THE OLIVE BRANCH

JANUARY 2025

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

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

 **Facebook: facebook.com/obccwilliamsburg**

Web Address: www.ob-cc.org
Office Email Address: obcc1833@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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



AULD LANG SYNE

I have heard the song, "Auld Lang Syne," all my life. They play it on New Year's Eve. They sing it at the end of the classic Christmas movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," with people making toasts to their loved ones and friends. But really, what does it mean to sing, "should old acquaintance be forgot?" Where did this song come from, and how did it become associated with the passing of a year? Inquiring minds want to know! I decided to learn more.

It originated in Scotland in 1788 as a poem by Robert Burns. He sent it to the Scots Musical Museum, where it became a traditional song for Scots to sing just before midnight, any midnight, not necessarily New Year's Eve. But what does the title mean? Auld Lang Syne can mean several things, such as "times gone by" or "for old time's sake". It does make sense when you substitute "times gone by" instead of auld lang syne in the lyrics: "For 'times gone by,' my dear; for 'times gone by.' We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for the sake of 'times gone by.'"

But how did it get from Scotland to here? Blame Guy Lombardo. In 1929, Lombardo and his band played Auld Lang Syne as a transitional piece while performing at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City during a New Year's Eve broadcast. It was played just after midnight, and the rest is history.

So, this year as you celebrate the passing of 2024 and the beginning of 2025, take a moment to think of what has passed by in your life over the last 12 months. Give thanks to God for the times you were strengthened

and lifted. Give thanks for the relationships with loved ones, family, and friends. And take a cup of kindness yet, for the sake of auld lang syne.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor this last year. You have truly been a blessing to me.

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



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



Cemetery Cleanup: February 1-10, 2025

Directory Update Deadline: February 10



PRAYER LIST

Church Family: Michael Ayers, 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, 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), Jane Crowder (Sharon Herndon's friend), 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), Ken Kunde (Barbara Thiel's brother), Kimberlee Nunn Magrill (David Nunn's daughter), Terry McCloud (Sheila Yeatts' friend), Douglas Morris (Naomia Barker's brother), Julie Painter (Anita Dasher's aunt), Randy & Stephanie Phaup (Carol & David Pitts' friends), Eileen Saltzgiver (friend of the Pesantes), Augie Schumacher (Patty Barker's father), 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)



18 Charles & Naomia Barker



Birthday Blessings

- 06 Kayla Walker
- 08 Phyllis Gardner
- 08 Rudy Ruskey
- 09 Sheila White
- 11 Harold Barker
- 11 Katy Henderson
- 14 Colleen Wright
- 15 Erich Hodson
- 17 Shirley Harrison
- 18 Amy Gilliam
- 19 Jimmie, Jr. (JC) Biggs
- 23 Bob Herndon
- 30 Linda Hutton
- 31 Dennis Cotner
- 31 Skip Jensen



ELDERS & DEACONS & DEACONESSES

		THIS MONTH'S DEACONESS
		Edie Larkin
01/05/2025	Kim Riffle Donald White	
	Danny Pitts Karen Barrow Mike Hebbard Jody Hebbard	
01/12/2025	Richard Bradshaw Abby Matschke	
	Amy Ferguson Dennis Cotner Ethel King David Love	
01/19/2025	Hunter Creech Sheila Yeatts	
	Tracy Creech Haley Creech (Maralyn Carr) Judy Eley Lois Marshall	
01/26/2025	Teri Tench Harold Barker	
	Linda Garrett Steve Garrett Patty Barker Jeremy Dill	



WORSHIP & WONDER SCHEDULE

	Leader:	Greeter:
01/05/2025	TBD	TBD

01/12/2025	TBD	TBD
01/19/2025	TBD	TBD
01/26/2025	TBD	TBD



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING

The office will be closed Wednesday, January 1 through Friday, January 3 for the New Year's holiday, and Monday, January 20 for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday.



OUR DAY OUT-2ND WEDNESDAYS

We had a beautiful day to enjoy being together for ODO. It always pleases me to see everyone talking and catching up with each other. We sang some lively Christmas Carols and enjoyed a special Christmas memory written by Clay Harrison a few years ago. Anita and others shared their special Christmas memories which delighted us all. Then we got busy and put together thirty gift bags of candy to give to the children who are coming to the Live Nativity. Thanks to all who provided candy especially Sara from Commonwealth Senior Living! The meaning behind the candy cane was printed by our Sara and put in the bag as a special reminder.

Chef Sheila and her chef helpers, Joann and Anita, presented us with delicious roast beef mashed potatoes and gravy with green beans, salad, and delicious fluff and Christmas cookies for dessert. Dallas Mitchell won the door prize.

Our crafty Jane was unable to be there, but she sent her crafty friend Judy who helped us all make some clever glass ornaments. Maggie helped me make Anita and Joann their very own since they were busy cleaning up the kitchen.

Our bingo caller, Tyler, aided by his friend Barb, helped everyone win lots of lovely gifts from the bingo table. My thanks to all who so generously give me beautiful and clever things for prizes each month!

The spirit of love and caring surrounded us as we welcome the birth of Jesus which reminds us all of God's love and blessings. Merry Christmas!

May God Bless You Always,
Marney Brickhouse, Coordinator





WORLD OUTREACH NEWS:

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Your generosity is so much appreciated. Thank you for sending blessings to many who need it.

ANGEL TREE

Tags disappeared and bags full of gifts returned. Kids and adults will have a merrier Christmas because of all of you. Thank you!

~Sheila Yeatts, World Outreach Coordinator



OBCC LEADERS FOR 2024

ELDERS:

- Kim Riffle (HEAD)
- Joyce Allen
- Harold Barker
- Richard Bradshaw
- Hunter Creech
- Missy Harbour
- Abby Matschke
- Andrew Pfister
- Teri Tench
- Mel Watson
- Donald White
- Sheila Yeatts

DEACONS:

- Elizabeth Ripley (HEAD)
- Patty Barker
- Karen Barrow
- Marney Brickhouse
- Maralyn Carr
- Dennis Cotner
- Tracy Creech
- Haley Creech
- Jeremy Dill
- Judy Eley
- Amy Ferguson
- Linda Garrett
- Steve Garrett
- Jody Hebbard
- Mike Hebbard
- Bob Herndon
- Sharon Herndon
- Ethel King
- David Love
- Lois Marshall
- Danny Pitts
- Jan Smith
- Mike Smith
- Jason Teagle
- Chuck Walker

DEACONESSES:

- Edie Larkin
- Kaye Watson
- Naomia Barker
- Susan Simpson
- Carol Sharp
- Dennis Cotner



**OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL TRUST FUND REPORT
DECEMBER, 2024**

The Olive Branch Memorial Trust Fund, as of September 1, 2024, has a market value of \$75,388.98 in the Christian Church Foundation Joint Investment Trust and \$2629.02 in checking at Chesapeake Bank. The total value as of September 1, 2024 is \$78,018.00.

The investment payout this year will be \$2884.23. The specified purpose of the fund (set up in 1983 by Mrs. Ethelyn McSherry) is to perpetually support the work of Olive Branch Christian Church and support programs which alleviate hunger throughout the world.

The Trustees will distribute \$2600.00 as follows:

Olive Branch Christian Church	\$1000.00
Salvation Army	\$300.00
St. Olaf Food Pantry	\$500.00
St. Andrews Society	\$200.00
Meals on Wheels	\$200.00
Week of Compassion	\$600.00

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Ainsworth, Trustee
Lorraine Beasley, Trustee



FAMILY NIGHTS WILL RETURN IN 2025

Watch for announcements and messages so you can join in the fun & fellowship.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

The OBCC Directory is now online! You can access your account at members.instantchurchdirectory.com.

We will be supplying hard copies of the 2025 OBCC Directory beginning in mid-February. The hard copies will be available at the office. If you are unable to stop by the office and would like a hard copy mailed to you, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to send you a copy. If you have any updates to add to

the directory, please send them to Sara by Monday morning, February 10.

We are still looking for pictures for our online directory. If you would like to have your picture taken, Sara will be happy to take your picture in the office and upload it to the directory for you. Alternatively, you can bring in a picture or request to use the picture from the old pictorial directory. If you have any questions regarding how to access your account or add a picture, please contact the office and Sara will be happy to help. Thank you!



ST. OLAF FOOD SHARING PROGRAM

"Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for our ourselves and spend without the fear of going broke."

Your sense of gratitude is generously expressed by the 287 food donations and \$1193 in contributions you provided our neighbors in need of food assistance in the preparation of their Thanksgiving meals.

Your gratitude and consistently generous spirit focus more on what you have rather than what you lack. Your display of gratitude provides necessary support and wellbeing for our neighbors.

Shalom!

*~Steve Perger, Jane & Will Hatcher,
Andrew Pfister, Joyce Allen*



CEMETERY CLEAN UP

The semi-annual clean-up will occur between February 1 & 10, 2025. If you would like to save anything, please remove it before then. Non-perishable items left in place will be moved near the shed area next to the parking lot. Thanks for helping the committee to keep our cemetery one of the most beautiful in the county.

~Cemetery Committee



SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Olive Branch Christian Church Disciples Women for their generous contribution in honor of Pastor Richard Cline. This gift will support the work of Samaritan's Purse in aiding the victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. Thanks be to God for your generous support!



DWM CHRISTMAS DINNER

A great evening was had by all at the DWM Annual Christmas Party. Congratulations to all our winners and a special thank you to the ladies for a job well done in cooking, preparing, and decorating!



Happy Epiphany

**IF THESSALONIANS 2:11 MAY GOD FULFILL EVERY
RESOLVE WITH GOOD.**

**THE NEW YEAR IS A TIME,
TO START OVER ONCE AGAIN,
FOR GIVING UP BAD HABITS,
THAT MIGHT LED ME INTO SIN.**

**I MAKE A NEW COMMITMENT,
TO BE MORE LOVING AND MORE KIND,
ACCEPTING ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, NEW
RELATIONSHIPS TO FIND.**

**JESUS SAID TO BE HIS CHILD,
I MUST COME TO HIM, REPENT,
HE'D MAKE ME A NEW CREATION,
HIS INDWELLING SPIRIT, HE'D PRESENT.**

**WHILE I RECOGNIZE THE NEED,
TO RID MYSELF OF THE OLD,
TO SUCCEED IN THIS CONVICTION,
REQUIRES ME TO BE BOLD.**

**SO I MAKE THE RESOLUTION,
THAT I WILL TODAY BEGIN,
TO PUT AWAY THE OLD,
INVITE THE NEW TO DWELL WITHIN.**

**RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND
LOVE.**

~ Louise Smith

II Chronicles 31:20-21 MSG

**Please read the Scripture to add meaning and understanding to
this poem.**

**Martin Luther challenged Religion,
Stood on God's Word alone,
Forgiveness of sin he felt,
Was Jesus' to atone.**

**Man had no authority,
Over confession of anyone,
As no blood was shed but Jesus',
God's one and only Son.**

**Another Martin Luther came,
Injustice he could not abide,
And his fight for freedom,
Was a cause for which he died.**

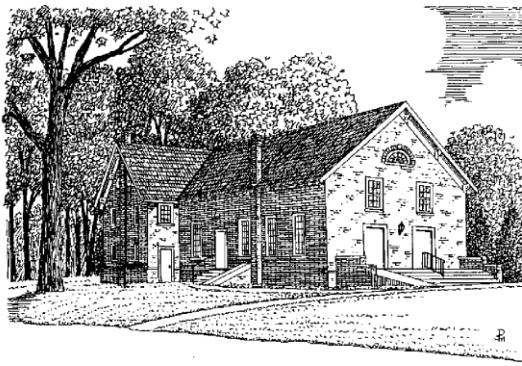
**His people suffered oppression,
He desired to make a change,
He used the Word to God,
Others' thinking to rearrange.**

**This is an old, old story,
Jesus dealt with when He was here,
Now it's the Church's mission,
To keep the teachings He held dear.**

**We must be Reformers,
Other souls to gather in,
That God would be Transformer,
New life to experience with Him.**

Let it begin with me...

~Louise Smith



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The Olive Branch

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**Olive Branch Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

**7643 Richmond Road
Williamsburg, VA 23188-7024
(757) 566-8077**

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*Note: No longer wish to receive our
newsletter? Address changed?
Please contact the church office.*

