

# THE OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

August, 2024

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Rev. John Alexander – Pastor  
Norma Carroll – Worship Leader  
Anna Taylor – Pianist  
Christie Rhom – Secretary  
828-274-3221

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92<sup>nd</sup>



# THE PASTOR'S PEN

It is my prayer for you that you will walk with the Lord and be guided by His Holy Spirit. The first step in walking with Him and being guided by His Spirit is to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and then we must be seeking to know Him more intimately as each day passes. How do we do that? We must be spending time with Him in the reading of His Word, praying, and coming to church. When we are doing that, we are growing closer to Him.

However, the Apostle Paul gave us a warning in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 which says, "Quench not the Spirit." We quench the Spirit when we are living in sin. Once we are saved, we are always saved, but we still sin. When we continually sin (live in sin), even though we know it is wrong and goes against God, we are quenching the Holy Spirit and therefore we won't be seeking guidance of the Spirit. We are just seeking to feed that sinful desire.

How do we get away from living in our sin? The first step is to confess our sins to the Lord. In Psalm 32:5 David said this to God, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah." The key statement in this verse is, "mine iniquity have I not hid." God knows everything including our sins, but a lot of times that doesn't stop us from trying to hide them. We cannot hide from God, so we need not waste any time in confessing our sins to Him. God knows everything we have done, but He wants us to confess our sins to Him because it is our first step in growing closer to Him.

The second step in restoring fellowship with God is to repent (turn) from our sins. 2 Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This message from God to the people of Israel was a conditional promise. If we humble ourselves, pray to Him, seek Him, and turn from our sinful lifestyles, then God will hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal us from our sins. That word "heal" means to mend by stitching. Our Lord is able to forgive and heal us of our sins because Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead. (By the way, if the United States of America does the same thing, God will heal our land. We must be in constant prayer for our nation.)

Are you living in sin? Are you seeking to feed those sinful desires? It's time to turn away from that lifestyle and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ. It's not too late! If you are having trouble with this, please reach out to me. There will be no judgment from me. I want you to know and be reminded that you are loved by a Holy and Perfect God!

Pastor John

## LISTENING HEARTS

Our WMU met on Tuesday, July 9, with 7 ladies present. We will meet next on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m. A big thank you to all who supported and worked in VBS. Our kids seemed to really enjoy hearing and learning facts from the bible and how to apply it to their lives.

Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, we celebrated Pastor John and his family's two-year anniversary here at OBC. We had a covered dish lunch right after worship service. It was a sweet time of food and fellowship.

Team 2 delivered snacks to families at Hospice Care Partners for the month of July. Team 1, my team, will deliver for the month of August.

We will be preparing Red Boxes for the ladies prison ministry, this year. If you are interested in filling a box, you must see Paula to sign up. Boxes will be available mid-August.

September is the month to support North Carolina Missions. More information to follow.

We are supporting our local first responders, fire and police, in October. We are taking lunch to them to say thank you for helping to keep us safe.

October is also Pastor Appreciation Month.

This is a busy time of year in supporting missions. Thank you for your willingness to help and your giving heart.

Love to all,  
Sherry



The upcoming session of Grief Share is scheduled to begin Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. everyone is welcome. Please Join our 13-week session.

Jo Ann Young and Anne Gudger

## MUSIC CORNER

August is here and so are so many exciting opportunities at OBC. Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00, we will have our monthly Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us, even if you haven't in the past, each month is a different topic. This month: "God is the Source of Your Strength"! 2 Peter 1:3-4 and "Peace" John 14:27. This is a great Bible study in "Encouraging Words for Discouraging Times" by Dr. David Jeremiah.

Also, starting Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30, we will be starting a new group for everyone 45+ in the Welcome Center. Please come; couples, singles and single again for snacks, desserts, etc. The purpose of the group is help us become more like Christ as a community of believers through Bible study, discussion, reaching out to help others and each other.

I look forward to seeing you every Sunday morning in Worship and every time we can come together.

In Christ Jesus,  
Norma

## WOODLAWN CEMETERY

*Woodlawn is a perpetual care cemetery. The funds are derived from the sale of grave sites. The general maintenance of the cemetery is ongoing.*

*Families and friends of those buried in the cemetery grounds can contribute toward these funds to ensure the cemetery is clean, well-maintained, and secure.*

*Please make checks payable to:  
Oakley Baptist Church  
for the benefit of  
Woodlawn Cemetery  
70 Fairview Avenue  
Asheville NC 28803  
or drop-off at the church*

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**OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
70 Fairview Avenue  
Asheville, NC 28803

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Asheville, NC

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Lunch Box Pizzas**

### **Ingredients**

**1 tube (7 ½ oz.) refrigerated buttermilk biscuits (10 biscuits)**  
**¼ cup tomato sauce**  
**1 teaspoon Italian seasoning**  
**10 slices pepperoni**  
**¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese**

### **Directions**

- 1. Flatten each biscuit into 3 inch circle and press into a greased muffin cup. Combine the tomato sauce and Italian seasoning; spoon 1 teaspoonful into each cup. Top each with a slice of pepperoni and about 1 tablespoon of cheese.**
- 2. Bake at 425° until golden brown. 10-15 minutes. Serve immediately or store in the refrigerator.**

