



# SONLIGHT NEWSLETTER

*The mission of Okatee Baptist Church is to grow a family of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are dedicated to evangelism, worship, ministry, missions and fellowship through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.*

## I WANT PEACE

On Dec. 7th, 2004, *The O'Reilly Factor* first aired a segment called "Christmas Under Siege" and, in so doing, appears to have launched The War Over Christmas as we know it. However, Peter Brimelow—the founder of a conservative blog called VDARE - is credited for inventing the War on Christmas in the late 1990s, well before O'Reilly. "I noticed over the years there was this social shift taking place where people no longer said 'Merry Christmas.'"

There is an overt conflict between a Biblical Worldview and a Secular Worldview, and it is being played out in our culture and our lives. One conflict is the usage of Merry Christmas vs. Happy Holidays which symbolizes the tension between the two perspectives. None of us are immune to the chaos and conflict when it comes to how the world wants to celebrate Christmas and how we, Christ followers, want to celebrate it. Merry Christmas has been replaced with happy holidays in the marketplace, and the world has hijacked the biblical version of Christmas and morphed it in a big party. Kind of depressing if you linger long enough on that road.

In a world of conflict, chaos, and division, peace is something we long for and we desperately need. With the conflicts of world views, the divisions of politics, and the factions within families, and the distress of our hearts, we hunger and thirst for peace. And peace, although a very common word in English, means different things to different people. People talk about peace treaties and times of peace. Most of the time, it means the absence of war.

Peace is also a very important word in the Bible that refers not only to the absence of conflict but also to the presence of something else. In the OT, the Hebrew word is Shalom. In the NT, the Greek word is Eirene. The most basic meaning of Shalom is complete or whole. Shalom can also relate to a person's well-being. In the book of Proverbs, to reconcile or to heal a broken relationship is to bring shalom. It doesn't mean that people just stop fighting, but they start working together in harmony.

So where do we find this kind of peace today that makes us complete and whole? Christmas Peace anticipates God's plans, His promises, and His presence to restore wholeness to all that is broken in this world.

Join the Okatee Baptist Church family during the Advent Season as we experience peace with God, peace from God, and the peace of God because of a baby born in Bethlehem.

- December 01** Prince of Peace; Isaiah 9:6-7
- December 08** Peace on Earth; Luke 2:14
- December 15** Peace with God; Romans 5:1
- December 22** Peace with You; John 14:27
- December 24** Peace of Christ; Colossians 3:15

**Peace isn't the absence of conflict in our world,  
it's the presence of Christ in our hearts.**

*Pastor Woody*

## NEW MEMBERS

Brian Cormier  
121 Stoney Crossing  
Bluffton, SC 29910

Sam and Mary Hollis  
540 Knollwood Court  
Okatie, SC 29909

Katlyn and Harlow Ury  
25 Catawba Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906

William and Patti van Buren  
23 Coronado Court  
Bluffton, SC 29909

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

Sunday  
December 15<sup>th</sup>  
5:00

Refreshments  
served afterwards

"Twas The Night  
Before Christmas"

Presented by  
the Children's Ministry  
and led by  
Glenda Lyons  
and  
JoLane Collins

## STAFF

Woody Oliver, Pastor

Judy Altman, Treasurer

Dr. Tim Searcy, Assoc. Pastor

Pam Seibert, Admin. Assist.

Suzanne Tomlinson, Choir Dir.

Dena Oliver, Facilities



Okatee Baptist Church



Okatee Baptist Church



Okateebaptist.com

**THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING**

As Christmas approaches, we celebrate the greatest gift ever given: God sending His Son, Jesus, to bring salvation to the world. The beauty of this season lies in the heart of giving, modeled perfectly by the One who left heaven to dwell among us. We are called to share the love of Christ with others, both near and far, through generosity and prayer.

This Christmas, our church family has the opportunity to participate in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, an initiative named after a devoted missionary who dedicated her life to reaching the unreached in China. Every dollar given to this offering goes directly to support missionaries who carry the good news to people around the world who have never heard the name of Jesus. Through our contributions, we become partners in the Great Commission, spreading hope and light where darkness prevails.

As we gather to celebrate with loved ones and exchange gifts, may we remember that our giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is an eternal investment in God's kingdom. Let's pray and give generously, that many more will come to know the saving grace of Christ, whose birth we joyfully celebrate this season.



We will be commemorating the Advent season of the Birth of Christ and the anticipated Advent season of the Return of Jesus Christ at the beginning of each Sunday Morning Worship Service beginning December 1st. A reading will be shared by one of our church members and Pastor Woody will bring a message to emphasize the Advent theme. The Advent season will culminate with celebration services on Christmas Eve at 4pm and 5:30pm.

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS**

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence. She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel. 100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

On Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our Lottie Moon Offering Ingathering. You will receive a special offering envelope in your bulletin for this offering. Please make checks payable to "Okatee Baptist Church" with a footnote "*Lottie Moon.*"



**ADVENT SEASON**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DECORATE THE SANCTUARY**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>, 9AM**

Come to the sanctuary for fellowship and fun as you decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

**CALLED BUSINESS MEETING  
VOTE ON 2025 BUDGET AND  
2 NEW DEACONS**

**Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 6pm  
Education Building**

**LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE**

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> through  
Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL**

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> / 6pm**

Bring a friend and come for fellowship and fun at our Potluck Fellowship Meal. Please bring a dish to share with others if you are able. The church will provide drinks.

**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

**SUNDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup> / 5pm**

Contact church office at [okateesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:okateesecretary@gmail.com) or 843-987-0885 if you would like to honor, celebrate, and cherish the memories of those you hold dear. Registration forms also available in the church foyer.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4pm & 5:30pm**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BIBLE READING**

**Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> / 3-7pm**

Sign up form is in the Gathering area of the Education Building



# WOMEN ON MISSION

Director: Janet Phillips

Our next meeting is December 9<sup>TH</sup> at 1:00pm in Fellowship Hall (behind the sanctuary). We invite all ladies to join us for Bible study, prayer for our missionaries, and discussions about our mission projects.

## MUSIC MINISTRY

Choir Director: Suzanne Tomlinson

The Okatee Baptist Church Choir with 25 members will present Christmas Musical message on December 22 in the morning service. **“What Christmas Really Means”** created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith is a series of songs that to convey what Christmas is really about. The world was in desperate need of a Savior, and Christmas gave us the gift of Jesus. HE is the true meaning of Christmas.



### *Christmas Eve Services*

We will celebrate 2 Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year with the Lord’s Supper. The first service will begin at 4:00 and the second will begin at 5:30.

### *Sunday Evenings in December:*

December 01	Christmas Games	6:00 pm
December 08	Christmas with Dr. T	6:00pm
December 15	Children’s Christmas play	5:00pm
December 22	Remembrance Service	5:00pm

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

December 22<sup>ND</sup> / 5:00 pm

Pastor Woody will lead us in a special Remembrance Service to remember our members and loved ones who have passed away. If you are planning to attend the Memorial Service and would like to recognize a deceased loved one please contact Pam Seibert by December 19<sup>th</sup> at (843) 987-0885 or okateesecretary@gmail.com.

### NEW YEAR’S CONTINUOUS BIBLE READING

Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> / 3-7pm

Beginning at 3:00pm, we will start reading the Bible and not stop until 7:00pm. Would you be willing to read for 15 minutes in the sanctuary as we honor God’s Word and His promises as we journey into the New Year? Sign up sheets will be in the back of the church sanctuary or call the church office at 843-987-0885.



#### DECEMBER

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tamie Ward
- 12<sup>th</sup> Brenda Sutton
- 13<sup>th</sup> Will Womble
- 15<sup>th</sup> Joe Kinsman
- 16<sup>th</sup> Jim Campbell
- 18<sup>th</sup> Lori Crabtree
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Claudia Williams
- 26<sup>th</sup> Marshall Bishop
- 26<sup>th</sup> Jack Williams
- 28<sup>th</sup> Ed Bingham
- 30<sup>th</sup> Gail Temple
- 30<sup>th</sup> Wanda Stoops



#### DECEMBER

- 17<sup>th</sup> Jim & Sherry Campbell
- 18<sup>th</sup> Woody & Dena Oliver
- 21<sup>st</sup> Don & Debbie Koerner
- 24<sup>th</sup> Don & Connie Cormier
- 31<sup>st</sup> Dino & Tiffany Pascarella
- 31<sup>st</sup> Parker & Mildred Sutler

#### DECEMBER NURSERY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gail Temple
- 8<sup>th</sup> Connie Cormier
- 15<sup>th</sup> Marsha Morgan
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Esther Robbins
- 29<sup>th</sup> Gail Temple

#### CHILDREN’S CHURCH

- Glenda Lyon
- Debbie Walls

#### DEACON OF THE WEEK

- December 1 - 7  
Jim Phillips 864-219-0411
- December 8 - 14  
Chris Campbell 843-441-4276
- December 15 - 21  
Robert Pressley 864-614-3898
- December 22 - 28  
Phil Imhoff 419-295-7031
- December 29 - January 7  
Stan Wastowicz 703-447-9646



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## OKATIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

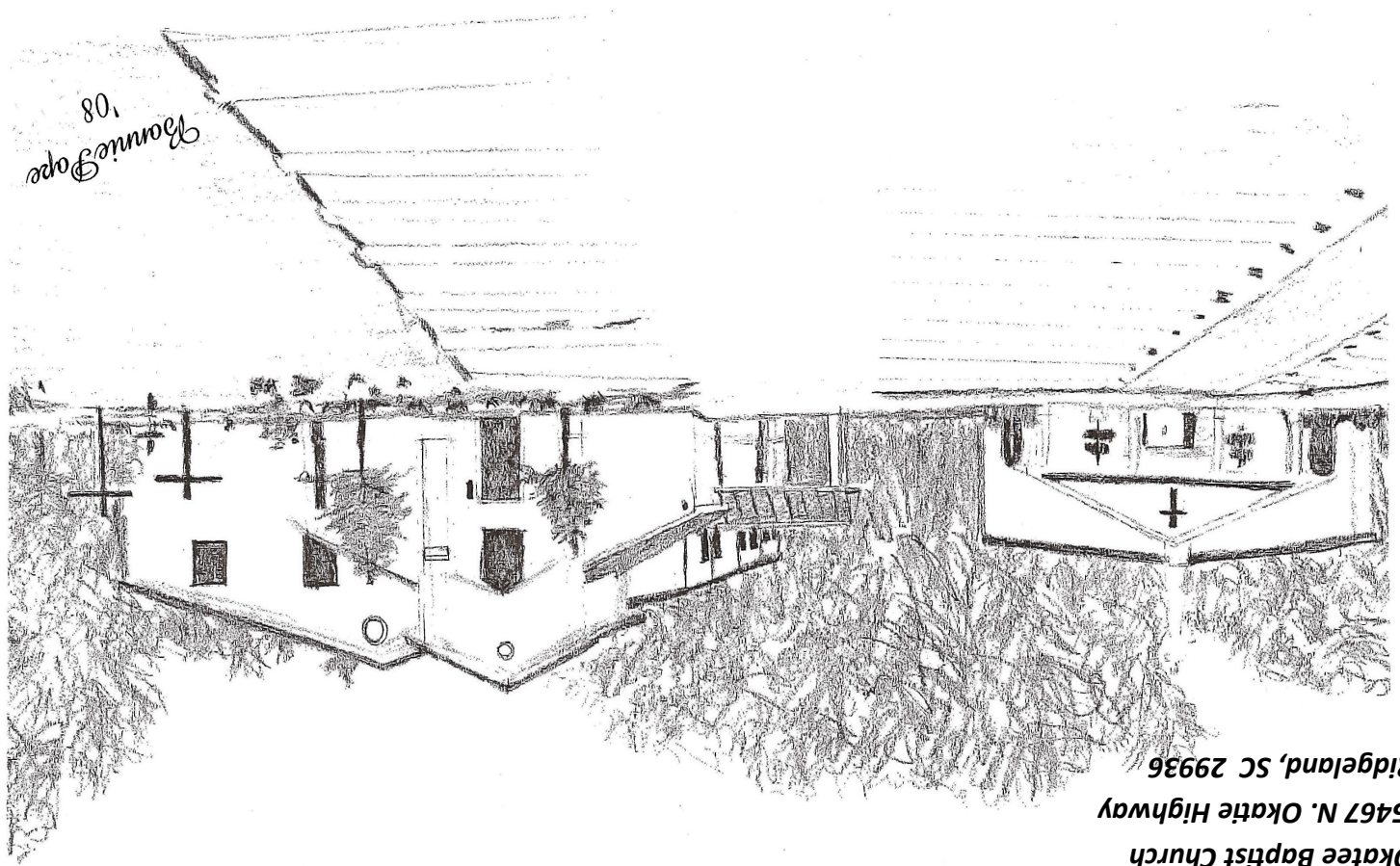
Pastor Woody, representing Jesus Christ and Okatee Baptist Church, is providing a devotion to the staff of Okatie Elementary School on the first Friday of each month.

**CHRISTMAS PACKETS FOR PRISONERS** project began in 1976. It is a joint project of SCBC and SC WMU. With your donations towards this project, OBC's WOM were able to prepare 270 packets. Every packet will be delivered to prisoners and every packet contains a message of hope - the story of Christ's love and forgiveness. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with those who need to know Jesus in a personal way.



**270**

## Blessing Box Ministry



Okatee Baptist Church  
5467 N. Okatee Highway  
Ridgeland, SC 29936