

- To magnify and glorify God in worship, prayer and praise.
- To fellowship, nurture and disciple all members and visitors in the ways of life based on Biblical teachings.
- To take Jesus Christ, His Word, and His Love to all people in our community and the world.

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Oak Isl and Evangel ical Presbyterian Church

September

~ From Our Paster ~

September is a month of beginnings. Though school begins here in the last week of August, traditionally September was the beginning of the new school year. In our community, September is the month when things begin to quiet down a bit, given that the summer vacation season comes to an end. We begin to see a little less traffic (especially during the week), local restaurants are less crowded, and we begin to feel again that we live in a small, yet growing, community.

In Anglo-Saxon times in early medieval England, the old month of "Halilgmonath," or (literally) "Holy Month," began in September. No one knows for certain why it was called "Holy Month," but it may well have been because it coincided with the grain harvest. A good harvest meant food, and food meant life, and so perhaps this is why they saw this season as a "holy" time.

In our congregation, September is also a time of new beginnings. Our Sunday School year begins, other study opportunities begin, new activities have their "kick-off." Perhaps September could be a "Holy Month" for us, if we take advantage of the offerings of our congregation, offerings you will read about in this month's newsletter. A lot is happening in September.

Also, this month we will kick off our annual stewardship campaign, and our congregation's Nominating Committee will be at work looking for those willing to serve as Elders and Deacons. In September we will hold our annual yard sale for the Lamar McKee Scholarship Fund. This truly is a month of "beginnings" for us at Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church!

I hope to see you around during this "Holy Month"!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Walter L. Taylor



September Worship



I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; Let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (Psalm 34:1-4)

September 7

Matthew 23:1-39: "The Lamentation of Jesus"

Jesus pronounces judgment over the Pharisees and makes his lament over Jerusalem. How are we to read these judgments and this lament today? Are we able to see our own failures in the light of theirs?

Hymns: 2 O Worship the King

Bread of the World in Mercy BrokenThough I May Speak with Bravest Fire

September 14

Matthew 24:1-35: "The 'End Times"

The disciples ask Jesus about the destruction of the temple and the "end times."

Jesus begins by talking about what world history will look like for the Christian, and thus how we are to look on the claims of those who purport to know what the "end times" will look like.

Hymns: 53 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

87 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

712 O God of Love, O King of Peace

September 21

"No One Knows": Matthew 24:36-51

Jesus states that on one knows the day and hour of "coming of the Son of Man." Here Jesus makes the point that the consummation of the ages is in the hands of God alone.

Hymns: 38 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

369 Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns367 The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow

September 28:

Parable of the Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus uses the story of a marriage feast to call his follows to be ready for his coming. Of course, his coming can take different forms in our life and in our world, and such a "coming" in our life rarely ap pears on our agenda.

Hymns: 181 We Come, O Christ, to You

317 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

320 Rejoice, All Ye Believers

Oak Island EPC 2025 Fall Adult Sunday School Schedule



Sunday, September 7 9:15 a.m. Meet & Greet

We have some exiting plans for this Fall. We will kick off the Fall season with a Sunday School Meet & Greet. This meeting will be an informal time to reconnect after the summer break and to hear about the studies we have planned through the end of 2025. Everyone is invited; Sunday School regulars and anyone interested in learning about the Scriptures and deepening our faith in Christ.

Sunday, September 14 and September 21 9:15 a.m.

Allison Pickard

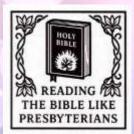


Prayer is a way for us as Christians to connect with God. It is a central practice in our faith tradition. Prayer can strengthen our relationship with God. It can offer comfort, peace and hope during challenging times. Prayer gives us a time to praise God's greatness and goodness, express our gratitude to him for blessings we have received, ask for God's guidance, help and protection, and express our needs and concerns to him. It can foster gratitude and a greater awareness of God's presence in our lives. Communal prayer can strengthen bonds between believers and create a sense of shared faith and purpose.

The reality is though that it is not necessarily an easy and natural thing for us to do, especially not when it comes to praying in a group setting. Allison will give us some easy-to-use tools for our prayer time, whether it is personal or communal. Please don't miss this opportunity to enrich your prayer life!

Sunday, September 28 - October 19 9:15 a.m.

Pastor Walter Taylor



When it comes to reading the Bible, different denominations and church traditions approach it differently. While one often hears the claim that someone "just teaches the Bible and the Bible alone," the fact is that it is more complicated than that. The Bible is not an "easy" book. It comes to us from different times, different places, and covers a long span of history. It was written in languages very different from our own. One of the blessings of being a Presbyterian (which is a part of the Reformed Tradition) is that we are a part of a living theological tradition, one that takes education seriously.

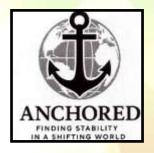
This class will be a 4-week Sunday School on how to read the Bible and make sense of it. Pastor Taylor will lay out some of the guidance the best of the Reformed Tradition gives us about reading Scripture, and where our Reformed Tradition differs from other ways of reading the Bible that are common in America today (for example, "Dispensationalism," made all too popular by the "Left Behind" series.) Come and join us and let us explore the Bible as we learn how to "rightly divide the Word of Truth."



2025 Fall Adult Sunday School Schedule ~ continued ~

Sunday, October 26, November 2, 16, 23 and 30, and December 7 & 14 9:15 a.m.

Charles Bogardus



Life often feels unsteady - but faith in Christ gives us something solid to hold on to. In this 7-week Sunday School class, we'll look at how faith in Christ brings real lasting benefits to the Christian believer. We'll cover seven themes - Freedom, Meaning, Identity, Satisfaction, Hope, Community and Peace. Please join us to explore how our faith gives us "hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

November 9 9:15 a.m.

Dirk Mroczek

Sunday Morning's 10:05 a.m.—10:20 a.m. Pre- Service Prayer

Beginning weekly on Sunday morning, September 28, in the Disciples Room, we will commence a regular group prayer meeting. Given the brevity of this meeting, our prayers will be laser-focused on God's glory, the purity of worship, and the edification of the saints. With the worship service in mind, we will pray for:

- 1. God-Honoring Worship
- 2. The Preaching of the Word
- 3. The Congregation's Hearts
- 4. Repentance and Humility
- 5. The Work of the Holy Spirit
- 6. Love & Unity Within the Body
- 7. Local Evangelistic Reach of the Church & for the Nations

Everyone is invited to join us: elders, deacons, church members & regular attenders. Whether you've previously participated in a church prayer meeting, or not; please join us, even if only to pray silently.

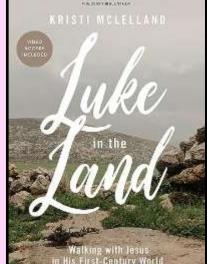
We will keep these two Scripture verses in mind:

Psalm 29:2 - "Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness."

Hebrews 12:28 - "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."







WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study group will start the Fall season on Monday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Disciples Room. During the summer months we have read "Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewish Words of Jesus Can Change Your Life", by Lois Tverberg. We will discuss what we have read during our first meeting.

On Monday, September 15, we will begin another study by Kristi McLelland, "Luke in the Land: Walking with Jesus in His First Century World". We enjoyed Kristi's book "Jesus and Women" so much, that the decision was made to study another one of her insightful books!

With this new study, we will travel through Israel in seven video sessions filmed in Bethlehem, the Sea of

Galilee, Jerusalem, and more to see the gospel story in a whole new way. We will gain a deeper understanding of stories of Jesus's life from a first-century point of view and explore cultural and historical concepts that will give new perspective on well-known biblical stories. Kristi McLelland will deepen the way we read the accounts of Jesus. It will take us two or three weeks to study each of the chapters.

Buy a book (Amazon, Christian Book Distributors) and join us this Fall! You will be surprised how many new insights you will gain! For more information, contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741.



Our Books and Coffee group will resume meeting on Tuesday, September 30th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Disciples Room. We will continue our in-depth study of Nancy Guthrie's book "Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation".

Blessed covers the full text of the book of Revelation, exploring its call to patient endurance as God's sovereign plans for judgment and salvation are worked out in the world. This book shows that Revelation is less about when Jesus will re-

turn and more about who we are to be, what we are to do, and what we can expect to endure as we wait for Jesus to return to establish his kingdom in the new creation.

With a friendly and engaging tone, *Blessed* takes the fear, intimidation, and confusion away from studying Revelation, providing a solid and accessible resource that we can use to study this important yet often avoided book.

The group does not meet every Tuesday, but whenever our busy schedules allow us to gather. We invite you to join us on a journey to discover the blessings of the book of Revelation! We are currently studying chapter 9 (there are 12 chapters).

For more information, contact Rev. Agnes Taylor @ 910-278-9741.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!





Men's Fellowship Pancake Breakfast Saturday, September 13 8 - 9 a.m. Disciple's Room

See you there!

The Men's Fellowship will be having a pancake breakfast on Saturday, September 13 in the Disciple's Room from 8 to 9 AM. All men of the church are invited!

Yes, it this is the same day as the OIEPC yard sale. The men can have breakfast while their wives shop. Any other men are invited that are visiting the yard sale to escape from shopping. Enjoy our free breakfast and fellowship. You never know who you'll meet or the topic's of discussion.

OUR NURSERY NEEDS YOU!!

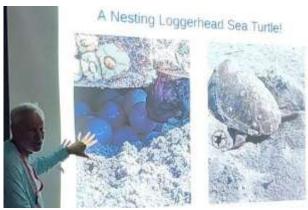
We may not have little ones in our Nursery on a weekly basis, but when they and their parents join us for worship, we would like to be able to welcome them with open arms in a safe, welcoming environment!

We are blessed to have a beautiful, well-equipped Nursery, plus a wonderful, experienced Nursery Worker, Keena Knox, but what we do NOT have are enough volunteers to assist Keena.

For reasons of legal liability, we NEED to have two adults over 18 in the Nursery if we have a child or children, so the future of our Nursery depends on our congregation members.

Will you be a blessing to families with young children? There is a sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board right next to the Nursery.

Let's fill the open slots together!



Turtle Talk - July 12th

Our *Men's Fellowship* sponsored a community event in July - a Turtle Talk- where a free pancake breakfast was provided for all. Dr. Rich Lane informed friends and guests about our turtles, and the good work of the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program. The presentation was well received. Slides, models, and biologic specimens were used to facilitate discussion. A great question and answer session followed. Attendees left with



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a better understanding of turtle conservation. Several people inquired about volunteering for the sea turtle program.

Many thanks to the men of the church who set up the event, prepared the breakfast and welcomed our guests. We also invited our guests to consider visiting OIEPC and shared information about our church.





From the Heart

We hope you are all having a wonderful summer. As the days are counting down until "Fall" we wanted to tell you about our upcoming events. As you know, we have been collecting for the Brunswick Animal Shelter over the summer.



Annual Trip to BCSO Animal Shelter Held on Saturday, August 23rd

We loaded the vehicles with the largest load of goodies we have ever collected and drove to unload and tour the facility.









Next "From the Heart" Meeting:

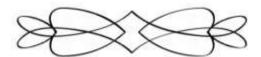
September 14th right after church in the Disciples classroom

We will be discussing activities for the new year. We have been asked to do another Sunday Luncheon Fund Raiser around the October timeframe. Come with any ideas you have for new projects, and we will lay out our plan for the year 2025-2026. Blessings, Sue and Agnes









October Newsletter

DEADLINE: September 15

Upcoming Communion: Sunday, September 7



<u>LOOKING AHEAD!</u> FALL FELLOWSHIP DINNER

On Sunday, October 19th, we will have a Fall Fellowship Dinner after our worship service.

What are some of your favorite dishes to make when the weather is getting cooler and the trees are starting to lose their leaves? Why not choose one and bring it to our Fellowship Dinner to share? Let's celebrate this time of year together with a time of good food and fellowship!!

As always, the Fellowship Dinner will be organized by the Nurture and Christian Education Committee. Drinks will be provided.

Make sure to mark your calendar!



Hope you enjoy these new books in the OIEPC library.

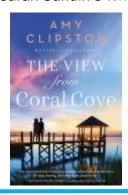
Brenda



OIEPC LIBRARY

In Munich, American foreign correspondent Evelyn Brand is determined to prove herself in her male-dominated profession---and spotlight the growing tyranny in Nazi Germany. Working on his Ph.D. in German, fellow American Peter Lang is impressed by Germany's prosperity and order. But when the Reich's brutality shows itself, will he work for its downfall instead? Follow these two in Sarah Sundin's When Twilight Breaks.





In the wake of a broken engagement and the death of her last surviving family member, romance novelist Maya Reynolds moves to the haven of Coral Cove, North Carolina, to take over her great-aunt's toy store. Some of her grief is immediately eased when she is talked into adopting a kitten by eight-year-old Ashlyn. Ashlyn's dad, local veterinarian Brody Tanner, is quickly smitten by the newest resident of his hometown—but as a single father, his focus is entirely on his little girl, and a romantic entanglement with Maya is not a distraction he is looking for. *The View from Coral Cove* is by Amy Clipston.



MARTHA'S CIRCLE

HI everyone! Did you have a sizzling summer? Praise the Lord for fans and air-conditioning!

Martha's Circle would like to thank each of you who participated in the School Supply Drive this year. There were so many supplies for the children of Southern Brunswick County! We only pray they have a successful school year at Southport Elementary. The

school staff are so grateful to everyone who participated.

A special thank you to Marshall Scott who helped deliver the boxes of supplies. The boxes and bags were filled to brim and heavy. Thank you again.





Monday, September 8 at 11 a.m.

Martha's Circle's 2025 - 2026 year will begin. We are excited about the upcoming year and invite all women of OIEPC (members and friends) to join us for laughter, tears, delicious food, and wonderful fellowship.

We will miss our good friend and Circle Sister, Mary Snead. May she rest in Peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Another Special thank you to Colleen Gerlach and the Sanctuary Committee for their work in giving OIEPC a beautiful and restful Sanctuary. It took a great deal of work! We gratefully remember Libba Motsinger for her bequest to OIEPC, a wonderful legacy for our comfort.

Please mark 9-8 on your calendars and join us. Blessings and love, Ann Hunt Smith, Moderator

MONTHLY REPORTS OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS JUL 2025

July

Contributions Received Year To Date For General Funds

\$ 208,755

Budgeted Monthly

28,854

General Fund Contribution For Jul2025

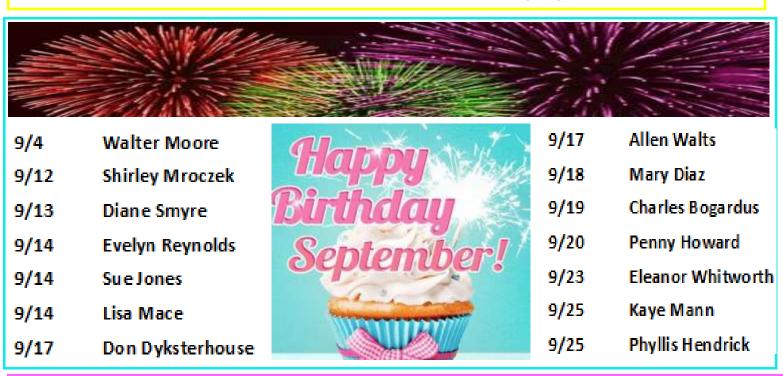
\$ 27,786

Special Funds Contributions

Doris Brozell Memorial Fund \$ 100
Anchor of Hope Romania \$ 50
Mission-General \$ 220
Human Needs \$ 336
Paths of Hope \$ 300

Total Special Funds \$ 1,006

Total All Funds Received in Jul2025 \$ 28,792



<u>CHURCH STAFF</u>

Rev. Dr. Walter L. Taylor, Pastor Rev. Agnes Taylor, Assistant Pastor Sherry Hardison, Office Administrator Michael Byers, Bookkeeper Donna Winrich, Director of Music Ann Myers, Organist Rodney Ashley, Custodian Keena Knox, Nursery Coordinator

Rev.W.L.Taylor@gmail.com oakislandpcdce@gmail.com oakislandpc@gmail.com oiepcbookkeeper@gmail.com donna.winrich@gmail.com Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church 1503 East Oak Island Dr. Oak Island, NC 28465

910)278-9741 www.oipres.org



Men's Morning Bible Study/Discussion

What: This fall we'll be discussing some of the parables of Christ and then considering the practical ap-

plications for our own lives. Our goal will be to seek a deeper walk with Him.

Where: We'll be meeting at the Mroczek's home at 305 Lord Thomas Avenue in Southport.

We'll meet every two weeks on Wednesday mornings from 8:30-9:30 or so, on the following

dates: 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22 and 11/5.

Oak Island EPC

ACTIONS OF THE SESSION

July 16, 2025 August 20, 2025

<u>Nurture/Education Committee:</u> With Sunday School resuming, a "Meet and Greet" will be held September 7, 2025 and Women's Bible Study will resume on September 8, 2025. Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting will begin on September 28, 2025, and Books and Coffee will resume on September 30, 2025.

<u>Missions Committee:</u> Seven have committed to a November mission trip to Peru. Outreach Committee: The men's group pancake breakfast would resume on September 13,2025. A Home Bible Study for men will be held at Dirk's home.

<u>Worship Committee:</u> Congregants will come forward for next communion to be held on September 7, 2025. Stewardship and Finance Committee: The Committee requested authorization from Session to determine when OIEPC will purchase HVAC unit on the west side of Sanctuary. Session approved this action without exception. Session approved a motion to employ Todd Mothershead to install a sputtered metal UV window film on the outside of the seven large and seven small stained-glass windows in the Sanctuary for a cost of \$2,525.50. to be paid from Sanctuary Fund. The Committee recommended that the \$527.41 deficit in the Front Porch Column Fund be funded with \$414.96 from the Sanctuary Fund and \$112.45 from the Contingency Fund. The recommendation was approved by Session with none opposed.

<u>Scholarship Committee:</u> Sandi Scott reported that the September 13, 2025 Yard Sale is approaching and that volunteers and items for sale are being acquired.

<u>Clerk's Report:</u> David Paxton's resignation from Session was received. Deaths of Jo Ann Staat and Mary Snead were reported.

<u>Presbytery:</u> Sandi Scott and Patricia Bressler will be commissioners to Presbytery on September 26-27, 2025.

Pastor's Report: There are 12 people attending the new members class.

Respectfully Submitted, Brenda Hall, Clerk



Prayer Requests



If you have a need or prayer request, please call the church office or email us.

All urgent prayer requests will then be shared through email to all church members. This will allow your prayer requests to be shared universally with your church family. Due to privacy laws, hospital admission information is not available to your pastor. Thank you.

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	6:30 Missions Committee	3 3:00 Choir Practice	4	5 8:00 Emmaus	6
9:15 Sunday School Meet + Greet 10:30 Worship & Communion	8 11:00 Martha's Circle 7:00 Womens Bible Study	9	10 10 - 2 Yard Sale Donations 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 Deacons Mtng 7:00 Outreach	11 10 - 2 Yard Sale Donations	12	13 8:00 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00 Yard Sale
9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship NOON From the Heart	7:00 Womens Bible Study	9:00 Finance Committee	1:00 Crafts 3:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Session	18	19 8:00 Emmaus	20
21 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	7:00 Womens Bible Study	23	3:00 Choir Practice	25	26	27
9:15 Sunday School 10:05 Prayer Meeting 10:30 Worship	7:00 Womens Bible Study	10:00 Books & Coffee				

Nursing/Rehab Homes:

~ September Prayer List ~

Gene Stark
Suzan Fogle
Margaret Pettrey
Shelvy Pasour

Southport Health & Rehab Center, #202A, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461 Southport Health & Rehab Center, #605, 630 Fodale Ave, Southport, NC 28461 Lexington Country Place, #213B, 700 Mason Headley Rd, Lexington, KY 40504 Peak Resources Gastonia, #302, 2780 X-Ray Drive, Gastonia, NC 28054

Our homebound, hospitalizations, those suffering with long-term illnesses, and other prayer requests:

Jennifer Davis (daughter of Phyllis Hendrick); Chris DeArros; Pat Kelly; Allen Walts; Reva Riddle; Louis Perry (friend of Bob and Jane Wydra), treatment for prostate cancer; Mary Ann Whitley (friend of Eagle family), undergoing cancer treatment; Jenny Muse; Bonnie Diana (friend of David and Paula Paxton) treatment for brain tumor; Lynne Barmore, chemo treatments; Jose Pena, ongoing health concerns; Shelvy Pasour; Gary Taylor (son-in-law of Bonnie Pendergast), ongoing cancer treatment; Charlene Harding (mother of Kent Winrich), in memory care with Lewy body dementia; Nate Winrich (son of Kent Winrich), non-believer; Jim Gerlach, under treatment for multiple myeloma, Sid Hart, Tony Dellinger (cousin of Jane Wydra), recovering from a heart transplant; Walter and Jane Moore, hospice; Evelyn Reynolds, hospice; Vickie Potter (friend of Glenda Dennis), cancer treatment; Cassie Hoover (daughter of Michael Byers), upcoming colon surgery; Shawn Gray (friend of Ken Eagle), recovering from kidney transplant surgery.









Cornerstone Bible College in the Netherlands trains future missionaries from all over the world and is supported, in part, by the prayers and financial gifts of OIEPC. This past May, our church sent a team consisting of Robert Hunt, Buzz and Susan Smith and Dirk Mroczek to serve at the college.

The main project was to install a new piping system to carry heat to the radiators around campus. This project had been on the drawing board for some time, as it presented many challenges. Our team served under the direction of friends from the Netherlands and Germany, and by the grace of God much was accomplished in a relatively short time.

Ceiling panels needed to be removed, century old brick and concrete walls needed to be drilled through, pipes had to be measured, cut, prepped and fitted together around corners, through rooms and down hallways. Much of the work had to be done while standing on ladders or scaffolding and we were frequently covered with dust. In addition to assisting with the main project, Susan also helped with gardening, childcare and kitchen duties.

The students, staff and leadership encouraged our team daily and expressed their gratitude for all that was being done. We got to know the students better as we heard personal testimonies, attended chapels and shared meals. We had time too, to bike and hike through the beautiful countryside. Scott and Lydie Fogle, showed us tremendous hospitality throughout our stay. Please keep them in your prayers. We were very impressed with the hearts of students to spread the gospel and by their sincere devotion to Christ and their thoughtfulness of one another. It was a joy for each of us on the OIEPC team to serve our Lord and to see the great work of God that is ongoing!

(<u>https://www.cornerstonecollege.eu/</u>)











IS THAT A CHURCH YARD SALE I SEE?



September 13 8am -2pm



September 13 8am -2pm



Held to support the Oak Island Evangelical Presbyterian Church *Lamar McKee Scholarship* fund.

Bring Donations

and

Baked Goods:

Wednesday, September 10 Thursday, September 11 10 a.m.— 2 p.m.



All household items and furniture are welcome.

We cannot accept clothing.





Wednesday, September 10 Thursday, September 11 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

Saturday, September 13 8 a.m. — 2 p. m.





