

August 2026



The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church

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www.obbcbblackridge.com

From Your Pastor

Greetings In The Name Of The Lord:

"Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that are ruining the vineyards, while our vineyards are in blossom." Song of Solomon 2:15

This verse is rich with symbolism and teaches an important spiritual truth about relationships and our walk with God.

Song of Solomon celebrates the love between the bridegroom and the bride. On one level, it describes the beauty of marriage. On another level, it is a picture of the love between Christ and His people.

In chapter 2, spring has arrived, love is flourishing, and the relationship is growing. Then comes this surprising warning:

"Catch the little foxes." Why interrupt such a beautiful love story with foxes? Because love must be protected.

What Are the "Little Foxes"?

In ancient vineyards, foxes were notorious for slipping through the vines. They often did not destroy the vineyard all at once. Instead, they nibbled at tender shoots, dug around the roots, and damaged young vines before they could bear fruit.

The emphasis is on "little foxes."

The greatest danger was not always a charging lion but the small, unnoticed foxes.

Spiritually, the little foxes represent:

- Small sins that are tolerated.
- Little compromises.
- Uncontrolled attitudes.
- Hidden bitterness.
- Pride.
- Jealousy.
- Gossip.
- Neglect of prayer.
- Spiritual laziness.
- Unforgiveness.

These may seem insignificant, but over time they can damage our fellowship with God and with others.

The vineyard was beginning to bear fruit. This represents something precious that is still developing:

- A young marriage.
- A growing church.
- A new believer.
- A deepening relationship with Christ.
- Spiritual maturity.

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New growth is beautiful but vulnerable. The enemy often attacks while spiritual fruit is still developing. Consider marriage for a moment. Healthy marriages are rarely destroyed overnight. Often it is the accumulation of "little foxes":

- Taking one another for granted.
- Harsh words.
- Lack of communication.
- Unresolved conflict.
- Neglecting time together.
- Allowing outside distractions to replace intimacy.

When these are ignored, they gradually spoil what God intended to flourish.

Our relationship with Christ also requires vigilance. Many believers do not fall because of one dramatic sin. Instead, they slowly drift through small compromises:

- Missing time with God.
- Excusing sinful habits.
- Neglecting worship.
- Becoming spiritually complacent.
- Loving the world more than Christ.

These "little foxes" rob us of joy, peace, and spiritual fruitfulness. Notice the command is not to chase them after the vineyard is destroyed. It is: "Catch the foxes" early. Problems are much easier to address while they are still small.

This principle appears throughout Scripture:

- Ecclesiastes 10:1 – "Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor."
- Galatians 5:9 – "A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough."
- Hebrews 12:15 – We are warned against a "root of bitterness" springing up and defiling many.

Small things often produce great consequences. "Little foxes" are anything that hinders our communion with Jesus:

- Busyness replacing devotion.
- Sin replacing holiness.
- Self replacing surrender.
- Worldliness replacing worship.

Jesus desires a fruitful relationship with His people, and anything that damages that fellowship must be removed.

Ask yourself:

- What "little fox" have I been ignoring?
- Is there a small habit that is weakening my spiritual life?
- Is there an attitude harming my family or church relationships?
- What needs to be dealt with before it grows larger?

OBBC NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Genesis Ministry Lunch Buddy Program

The 2026-2027 school year is almost here and the plans for serving La Crosse Elementary School through the Lunch Buddy program are beginning! We plan to start the program on Wednesday, September 16th, but to start, we need more Lunch Buddies to represent each class. Your commitment to join the children for lunch on Wednesdays during the school year and, when possible, visit them in their classroom to read a book or oversee an activity is welcomed with many smiling faces! If you're ready to be a Lunch Buddy, we need you!

Please contact Dale Bradley @

434-636-3785 or email her at dalenmikebradley@gmail.com for more information!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make a difference in a child's life!

WE NEED HELP FOR:

-  **SMALL GROUP LEADERS**
-  **ASSISTANTS**
-  **BACK-UP GAME LEADER**

If you have a **PASSION** for helping kids, **WE NEED YOU!**

Reach out to:
MICHAEL SMITH
(434) 917-5890
— or —
PASTOR ROGER!

**AWANA STARTS BACK
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16!**



WOM

Women On Mission

Sunday, August 9
Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm

Monday, August 17 | 7 pm | Sanctuary
Proxy in Welcome Center – Due Sun. August 16

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING



OBBC NEWS

METS Senior Ministry!!

Welcome to the METS 6th season! METS is our Senior Ministry open to all OBBC and community seniors who would like to join the festivities. We meet the 2nd Thursday of each month from September to May. In addition to our monthly gatherings we have service projects and 3 off-site excursions through the year. We also send home meals to OBBC shut-ins each month.

As you know METS stands for **Meet, Eat, Travel, and Serve.**

Our kick-off gathering for season 6 will be **Thursday, September 10, 2026 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the OBBC Fellowship Hall.** After a devotion we will "Get to Know our Pastors" and how they were led to the ministry, followed by lunch. Our fall excursion will be combined with our October monthly gathering. We will have a private tour of the John H. Kerr Dam given by Steve Carroll followed by a catered picnic lunch. This will take the place of our October Thursday gathering and be held on Friday, October 9th. More details and sign-up for this will be given at our September gathering.

We have a packed schedule of guest speakers and excursion events throughout the year and hope you will consider joining us. It is important that you sign up each month so we can have an accurate as possible headcount for food. There will be signup sheets in the Welcome Center two Sundays before each gathering or you can call the church office, 434-636-2228, by the Sunday prior to the event.



Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir will be starting in September and welcomes anyone interested in playing.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

Contact Donna at:

757-274-4834

Email: 849clmnva@gmail.com

OBBC NEWS



Small Groups

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY

Small Groups are taking a vacation this summer but we plan to resume regular meetings in August after school starts. If you are not yet plugged into a group, please consider how this ministry can strengthen your walk with God and His people. Ask anyone who is currently in a group about how this weekly activity has changed everything. If you would like to join us when we return, contact Wanda Bailey and she can help you get started.



Wednesday PRAYER GATHERING

Meets at 6:00 pm in Room 11

<u>Worship Service Attendance</u>	
6/28	150
7/5	161
7/12	155 - Cantata
7/19	169 - VBS
7/26	147

<u>Sunday School Attendance</u>	
6/28	75
7/5	65
7/12	62
7/19	72
7/26	74



LIGHT THE NIGHT MINISTRIES PRESENTS

CAMP

ENCOURAGEMENT - PASS IT ON

October 5-7, 2026
6-8:30
Olive Branch Baptist Church-CLC

with Dr. **Dennis Swanberg**

The Tobacco Road BAND

\$25
Dinner provided each night
www.lightthenight.net/camp-encouragement



Children's & D3 - Youth News



Awana for K - 5th graders will start back up on September 16th!!

If you are willing to volunteer as a teacher or helper please see Michael Smith for more details!

D3 Youth Ministry
Each
**Wednesday from
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**
For youth in 6th through 12th Grade
For more info or to help please contact
Pastor Roger



We will have the "Move Up" Sunday for our Children that are moving up to a different age class on Sunday, September 13th!



Note from Joanne Paynter - Sunday School/Christian Education Director

I want to thank everyone for their support, time, energy, and the sharing of their talents with others during the Sunday School hour over the past year and I'd like to extend that to all Christian education opportunities and programs such as Children's Church, AWANA, God's Young Ladies, Youth, Men's Christian Fellowship, WOM, VBS, Another Level Basketball, LTN, etc. and I'm sure I'm missing a group. Teachers and Students are what we have a tendency to focus on and rightly so, but there are so many people behind the scenes who fill in the gaps. Who do the unnoticeable things. They put the quality, the organization into the program/event, and take some of the stress out of it and without them many of our programs may not be possible, so I include my heartfelt appreciation to all who are involved in any way including financial support. "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9"

OBBC Missions Outreach

Olive Branch Baptist Church presented Ray of Hope Food Pantry with donations from offerings received from the children during Vacation Bible School, and from OBBC Missions in July. The children raised \$514.45 and collected 140 food items for the Food Pantry as well. OBBC missions also contributed \$750 toward their ministry. Shown are the children from VBS along with Donna Plummer from Ray of Hope Food Pantry, and Steve Carroll, Missions Chairman at OBBC.



Olive Branch Baptist Church financially supports The ARK Ministries in Skipwith, Virginia.

ARK Ministries is a faith based private group home that offers a Christ centered alternative for addiction recovery. Shown is Steve Carroll, Missions Chairman, and Dana Debaetes, Director/President of The ARK Ministries.

Olive Branch Baptist Church supports Light the Night Ministries many ways. Light the Night Ministries provides communities of Southside Virginia and Northern North Carolina with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing resources and events for local churches.

Shown is Steve Carroll, Missions Chairman, and Denny Hardee, Founder & Director of LTN Ministries.





Happy Birthday



- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | September Nelms | | |
| 2 | Pete English | | |
| 4 | Charles Calhoun | | |
| 6 | Mark Powell | | |
| 6 | Julia Braddy | 15 | Alice Fenaux |
| 6 | Dora Smith | 16 | Lenwood Conner, Jr. |
| 7 | Sara Biancorosso | 20 | Linda Brooks |
| 7 | Tristan Brown | 25 | Oliver Uribe |
| 8 | Frankie Clary | 25 | Kelli Jo Brown |
| 8 | Charlie Guerrant | 27 | Heath Kidd |
| 8 | Joanne Paynter | 27 | Cheyenne Townsend |
| 9 | Frank West | 27 | Vance Wright |
| 9 | Eden Bassett | 28 | Jason Corwin |
| 12 | Chuck Woodson | 28 | Zane Conner |
| 12 | Hannah Merrick | 30 | Nicolas Powell |
| 15 | Robert Ezell | | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 7 | Becky & Monte Aleman |
| 8 | Cheyenne & Wanda Townsend |
| 15 | Steve & Connie Parrott |
| 16 | Elaine & Jim Jonas |
| 17 | Pete & Tracy English |
| 18 | Charles & Sarah Calhoun |
| 18 | Rodney & Deborah Gosney |
| 24 | Claudia & Richard Cropper |



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
August 2	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Elizabeth Powell	Jessie Paquette	Lynn Paquette
August 9	Elizabeth Powell	Lois Finch	Cheryl Parrish
	Sandra Ittner	Sandra Ittner	Donna Coleman
August 16	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Jessie Paquette	Julia Braddy	Wanda Watson
August 23	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Sarah Ittner	Vance Wright
August 30	-	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	-	Cindy Clevinger	Mackenzie Salmons

Staff & Officers

Senior Pastor

Rev. Ronnie West
pastorronnie@obbcbblackridge.com

Associate Pastor of Youth and Families

Rev. Roger Stanley
pastorroger@obbcbblackridge.com

Church Secretary & Treasurer

Mrs. Sandra Ittner
office@obbcbblackridge.com
finance@obbcbblackridge.com

Choir Director/Pianist

Mrs. Jan Vaughan

Worship Leader

Ms. Elizabeth Taylor

Custodian/Maintenance

Mr. George Kidd

Chairman of Deacons

Mr. Steve Carroll

Personnel Officer

Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer

Mr. Jay Eubanks