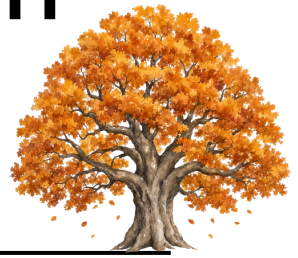


October 2026



The Olive Branch

Olive Branch Baptist Church
5223 Blackridge Road, Blackridge, VA 23950
434-636-2228 - office@obbcbblackridge.com
www.obbcbblackridge.com



From Your Pastor

Greetings To Everyone:

God is doing a mighty work here at Olive Branch. All of our ministries are thriving and growing. There is excitement in the air. Attendance is up in all of our ministries as well as Sunday School and the worship services. With all of that said one might ask the question, what is my responsibility to the body of Christ? Well, that is what I want to share with you in the letter. We will be looking at 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 as we discover what my responsibility is to the local body of Christ. Or to put it another way, what is my responsibility to Olive Branch Baptist Church? Paul will teach us that every Christian has a God-given place, purpose, and responsibility in the local body of Christ. Notice that phrase, "local body of Christ." Paul will share that when we are saved that we are all members of Christ body, or the universal church. However, he wants to be members of a local body where we can serve. One of the greatest lies Satan can convince a Christian to believe is:

"You don't really matter in the church."

He may tell you:

- "Someone else can do it."
- "You don't have anything to offer."
- "You're too old."
- "You're too young."
- "You don't know enough Bible."
- "Nobody needs you."
- "Just come to church, sit down, and go home."

But that isn't what the Bible teaches. Paul tells the Corinthians that the church is not a building, an organization, or a social club.

The church is a body—and every believer is a member of that body.

Paul says in verse 27: **"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it."**

Notice those last words: **"members of it."**

That means you have a place. You have a purpose. You have something to contribute. God did not save you merely to occupy a pew. He saved you to become part of the body of Christ and to serve Him alongside other believers.

YOU HAVE A PLACE IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:18 – "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

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This verse is incredibly important. Paul doesn't say that we randomly found our place. He says: **"God placed the members..."** God has a place for you here at Olive Branch.

God intentionally placed you here. The human body has many different parts. The eye doesn't do what the ear does. The hand doesn't do what the foot does. The heart doesn't do what the lungs do. Yet every part has a purpose. Paul says in verse 14 "For the body is not one member, but many."

The church is the same way. Some preach. Some teach. Some sing. Some play instruments. Some visit the sick. Some work with children. Some work with youth. Some pray faithfully. Some give generously. Some encourage people. Some serve behind the scenes. Some share the gospel. Some simply have the God-given ability to notice people who are hurting. Different gifts. Different personalities. Different responsibilities. **But one body.**

Don't compare your place with someone else's. Look at verses 15–16. "If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body..." Paul describes a foot becoming discouraged because it isn't a hand.

Imagine your foot saying: "I'm tired of being a foot. Everybody notices the hands. Nobody notices me." That's ridiculous when you think about the human body. But Christians sometimes do exactly that. We compare ourselves with other people.

"I can't preach like him."

"I can't sing like her."

"I can't teach like them."

"I don't have their abilities."

And because we don't have somebody else's gift, we conclude that we have no value. But **God didn't ask you to be somebody else.**

He asks you to be faithful with what He gave you. **The church needs everybody doing what God has called them to do.**

YOU HAVE A PURPOSE IN THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:7 "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." God doesn't give gifts simply for our personal enjoyment. He gives gifts **for the benefit of the body.**

God gave you something to contribute. Every believer has something that can be used for God's glory. Maybe you don't stand behind a pulpit. But perhaps, you can pray. Maybe you can't teach a class. But you can encourage somebody. Maybe you aren't a deacon. But you can serve. Maybe you can't lead a ministry. But you can faithfully participate in one. Maybe you don't have a lot of money. But you can give what God has entrusted to you. Maybe you don't know how to explain every doctrine. But you can tell somebody what Jesus has done in your life.

Don't underestimate small acts of service. We often think that ministry has to be something big. But God uses small acts of faithfulness. A phone call. A visit. A meal. A prayer. A kind word. A ride to church. A note of encouragement. A willingness to help.

A child taught about Jesus. A lonely person who discovers that somebody cares. You may never know this side of heaven how God used something you considered insignificant. Small service can have eternal significance.

I NEED THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BODY

1 Corinthians 12:21 "And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" This is one of the great truths of Christian community: **I cannot live the Christian life effectively by myself.** We need one another.

Next page...

Christianity was never designed to be lived alone. Our culture constantly tells us: "You don't need anybody." But the Bible says something different. God created us for relationships. We need people who will:

- encourage us,
- pray for us,
- correct us,
- teach us,
- challenge us,
- comfort us,
- stand beside us.

There are times when your faith will be strong. There will also be times when your faith is weak. That's why God gives us the church. **Don't isolate yourself.** One of Satan's strategies is isolation. He whispers: "You don't need them." "They don't understand you." "Just stay home." "You can worship God by yourself." Yes, we can pray privately. Yes, we can study Scripture privately. Yes, we can worship God privately. But God never intended private Christianity to replace the fellowship of the body.

Hebrews 10:24–25 reminds us not to forsake assembling together.

Why? Because we need one another.

OTHERS NEED ME IN THE BODY. Now we come to the other side of the truth. Not only do **I need them—they need me.**

Look again at verse 21: **"And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'"**

And verse 26 says: **"And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it."**

Your life affects other believers.

Your absence affects the body. When one member is missing, the body feels it. Think about losing the use of one hand. The rest of your body compensates, but something is missing. The same thing happens in the church. When faithful believers stop participating, something is missing. A teacher stops teaching. A singer stops singing. A prayer warrior stops praying. A servant stops serving. An encourager stops encouraging. And the body is weakened.

Your faithfulness encourages others. When people see you faithfully serving Christ, it encourages them. When an older Christian continues to serve faithfully, younger believers see an example. When young people serve the Lord, older believers are encouraged. When families worship together, other families are strengthened. When someone goes through suffering and continues to trust God, everyone watching learns something about faith.

Your faithfulness is never just about you. Someone is watching. Someone is being encouraged. Someone may need what God has placed inside you.

Paul goes on to say much more about our need to serve in the local body of Jesus Christ, His church. Thank you to each of you who serve here at Olive Branch. And we welcome all who know Jesus as Lord and Savior to join with us as members of Olive Branch as we seek to serve Jesus and one another as we exhibit the gifts He has given each of us.

OBBC NEWS



WOM
Women On Mission

Sunday, October 11th

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 2:00 pm



Senior Luncheon

Honoring the Senior Adults of OBBC

Sunday, October 18th

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm in the CLC

Please RSVP by Sunday October 11th



*Our way of saying thank you
to those who give us guidance
and wisdom through their
faith and life experiences.*

Donate Pumpkins

PUMPKINS

for the Fall Festival

Join OBBC in gathering pumpkins of all sizes
for the Fall Festival — Wednesday, October 28th.





OBBC NEWS

METS Senior Ministry!!

Welcome to the METS 6th season! METS is our Senior Ministry open to all 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 our OBBC shut-ins each month. As you know METS stands for Meet, Eat, Travel, and Serve.

October's gathering will be off site at John H. Kerr Dam. This excursion is for everyone that signed up by September 27th. If you missed the October gathering please watch for details for the November Gathering!

Sunday, October 18th

CHILD DEDICATION

See Pastor Ronnie, Pastor Roger, or church office if you are interested by Sunday, October 11



Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month - a time to extend your heartfelt appreciation to Pastor Ronnie and Pastor Roger for their hard work, sacrifice, love, and faithfulness they give to Olive Branch throughout the year! We truly appreciate everything you both do for us!

We thank you!

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

LIGHT THE NIGHT MINISTRIES PRESENTS



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



Next TEAM MEETING

Sunday, October 4th @ 2:30 pm

To join the team, support with fundraising, or just find out more info please contact Laurie Wright @ 434-774-7947

Contact any team member to purchase raffle tickets or Brunswick Stew! A pre-order signup for stew is in the Welcome Center.

Summer Missions
Trip Opportunity
Teens and Adults



Sunday School Attendance

8/30	88
9/8	95
9/13	67
9/20	72
9/27	88

Worship Service Attendance

8/30	170
9/8	166
9/13	148
9/20	172
9/27	185

Children's & D3 - Youth News

**Meets each
Wednesdays from
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**



For children in Kindergarten through 5th Grade
Help is needed!



For more info or to help
please contact
Michael Smith



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



**Friday,
October 9th & 23rd**

**Every other Friday
6:30 – 8:30 pm
Girls in 5th – 12th grades**

**Focus on issues that girls face, and what the Bible says about
dealing with them.**

Also - Fellowship, Snacks, Crafts, Special Events



JOIN US FOR A

Fall FESTIVAL

**WEDNESDAY
OCT 28** 6:30 PM TO 8:00 PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Celebrate the season!

OLIVE BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH
5225 BLACKRIDGE RD., BLACKRIDGE, VA

- PUMPKIN PAINTING
- SNACKS
- FUN ACTIVITIES
- FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 17, 2026

Camp Concord

50/50 Reverse RAFFLE

200 TICKETS SOLD!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO RENOVATIONS AT CAMP CONCORD

DOORS OPEN & DINNER: 4:00
SILENT AUCTION: 4:00-6:00
LIVE AUCTION: 6:15



EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH
1642 SMITH CROSS ROAD
SOUTH HILL, VA 23970

TICKET PRICE: \$50 PER TICKET
Only 200 tickets will be sold!

JOIN US
for a great evening!

 DELICIOUS DINNER

 LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

 A CHANCE TO WIN BIG!

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED:

- ON OUR WEBSITE
- IN PERSON THROUGH OUR BOARD MEMBERS
- AT THE CONCORD BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- \$50 per ticket (ages 13+)
- One entry per person
- Ticket includes entry, dinner, and a chance for the prize
- Do not have to be present to win
- Children 12 & Under = \$5 donation at the door
- Must have ticket in hand at the door
- Winner agrees to the use of their name for promotional purposes
- Can participate in the silent auction and live auction without ticket

Thank you for supporting Camp Concord!

COME SUPPORT CAMP CONCORD AND HELP IMPACT LIVES FOR CHRIST!

LIGHT THE NIGHT PRIME
PRESENTS

ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND

LIVE IN SOUTH HILL




APRIL 18, 2027

Happy Birthday



1 Ryan Hitson	
2 Maude Brooks	
2 Mathew Clark	
3 Jasmine Ganes	14 Sandy O'Conner
4 Rodney Gosney	16 Tyson Crowe
4 Lillian Salmons	18 Frances Baron
5 Evan Jones	19 Susie Carroll
6 Preston Fortin	20 Ray Franck
6 Kenny Wallace	22 TJ Nichols
7 Hunter Wells	22 Frank Seamster
7 Mary Lou Arrington	22 Lindsey Taylor
7 Jo Clary	29 Sara Grace Corwin
8 Tim Ittner	29 Kay Drake
11 Betty Woodlief	29 Ken Moody
11 Kathryn Parrott	30 Caleb Robinson
13 Rick Fortner	31 Allen Robinson

Happy Anniversary

3	Danny & Marjorie Newton
4	Glenn & Teresa Robinson
6	Larry & Debbie Wilson
10	Rick & Barbara Fortner
14	Jamie & Rickelle Murray
16	Nick & Victoria James
17	Wayne & Joanne Paynter
17	Todd & Missy Watson
19	Kenneth & Linda Parham
20	Mark & Joanna Powell
21	Josh & McKayla Tiller
21	Rex & Wanda Watson



OBBC Nursery Volunteer Schedule

Date	9 AM	SUNDAY SCHOOL	11 AM
October 4	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Megan Ittner	Sandra Ittner	Lynn Paquette
October 11	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner	Megan Ittner
	Brittney Sneed	Jessie Paquette	Wanda Watson
October 18	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Cheryl Parrish	Vance Wright
October 25	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed	Brittney Sneed
	Elizabeth Powell	Sarah Ittner	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. Tim Ittner

Personnel Officer

Mr. Michael Smith

Financial Officer

Mr. Jay Eubanks