

Oak City News

Oak City Baptist Church
Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.
Pastor

December 2024 ~ Volume 21 ~ Issue 4

Sweet Symbol

Author Unknown

A significant symbol of Christmas
Is the simple candy cane.
It's shape is the crook of the shepherd
One of the first who came.
The lively peppermint flavor is
The regal gift of spice.
The white is Jesus' purity.
The red is sacrifice.
The narrow stripes are friendship.
And the nearness of his love.
Eternal, sweet compassion
A gift from God above.
The candy cane reminds us all
of how much God cared.
And like His Christmas gift to use
It's meant to be broken and shared.



Merry Christmas
Communications Ministry

In This Issue

From The Pastor's Desk	2
Impressions by the First Lady	3
Growing Up OCBC:	
Etiquette Workshop	4
Back to School Cookout	5
Black Violin	6
Stars and Stripes Summer Fun	7
A Grandmother's Love Letter of Encouragement	8
My Story: Being a Youth at Oak City, to Youth Minister, to Pastor	9
Sunday School	10
Sunday School Ministry Annual Bible Bowl	11
Team Cure Chasers	12
Introducing Denver A. Wright	13
Discipleship Ministry	14
A Child Will Be Born Puzzle	15



From The Pastor's Desk

Rev. Dr. William T. Newkirk, Sr.

Motoring Through 2025

As we are about to begin our journey in life on Highway 2025, it is a great time for us to have a **spiritual tune up**.

Adjust your lights so others may see your good works and glorify your Heavenly Father.

Set your timing so as to be on time.

Adjust the brakes on your tongue. It is a very slippery surface.

Tune up your heart and have the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Align your direction so you may be able to travel the straight and narrow road ahead without an incident or accident.

Calibrate your mind so you will think on pure, holy and noble things.

For a **quick start** and a sure victory, be ready always and willing to do what pleases God.

Five New Year's Resolutions

Resolve, to live with all my might while I do live!

Resolve, never to lose one moment of time over things I cannot change, and to devote my best energies on things where I can make a difference.

Resolve, to never do anything that will hurt, shame or embarrass another.

Resolve, to never do anything out of revenge.

Resolve, not to do anything for which I would be sorry or afraid to do if it were the last day of my life.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!



Pastor Newkirk



Impressions by the First Lady

Catherine White Newkirk

As we begin the New Year, I encourage you to start with the promises of God and a resolve to continue only under His divine direction. The following poem by M.S. Lowndes is inspiring.

A New Year With The Lord

*A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord*

*Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware*

*For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By HIS presence we have within*

*What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through*

*We mustn't let anything hold us back,
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With s fresh touch of His grace.*

Karen Arnold

In Isaiah 43:18-19, the prophet encourages God's people by assuring them that the Lord will do great things for them - new things, wonderful things for as long as they forget the "things of old" and trust only in the guidance and direction of the Lord.

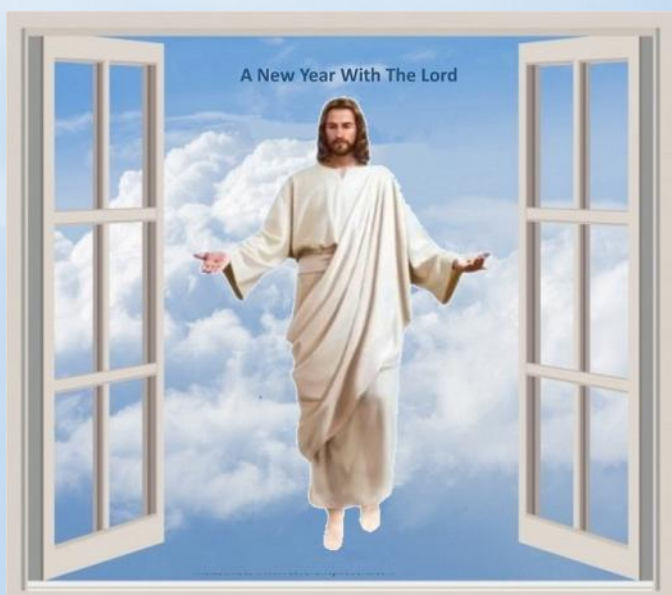
"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, [and] rivers in the desert."

These promises for Israel of old are promises for us too, especially as we turn the pages of the old and bring in the new.

May God grant you Peace and Serenity this Christmas. Good Will, Good Health and Good Tidings for 2025!

Pressing on by the Grace of God.
Lady K



Growing Up OCBC — Etiquette Workshop

G. D. S

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It takes a village to raise a child and on October 5, 2024 our village came together to do a wonderful workshop for our youth. The workshop I am referring to was our Etiquette Workshop for Youth.

Prayer was offered up by Deacon Robert Batts, followed with scripture read by Master Malachi Lucas, Proverbs 22:6, which was fitting for the occasion.

Our Presenters were Deaconess Priscilla Batts who spoke to the youth about having good manners around your peers, parents and our elders. They were also given information on how to conduct themselves while in the House of God.

Trustee Michael Sams and Deacon Richard Jones took the young men separately to teach them how to tie ties and be respectful when in the presence of ladies, opening door, pulling back chairs, etc. Atty Karen Bethea-Shields spoke with all the youth on proper table manners.

In conclusion of the day, the youth were given gifts to commemorate the day; the young ladies were given white gloves and pearl necklaces and the young men were given black bowties and handkerchiefs.

To God be the Glory for the Great things He has provided our youth access.

More thank you goes out to our village, Sister Sheila Bradley, Deacon Art and Deaconess Lyn Threatt, Sister Monica Bonds, Sister Kaylee Evans, Dr Terrye Fish, Deaconess Willie Mae Jones, Trustee Kevin Vernon who dropped by to provide information for Sunday School and to our beloved Youth Ministry Team. This is our village.



The menu consisted of appetizers, one of which was the famous Sister Peggy Lucas chicken salad sliders. The main course was spaghetti and meatballs, all youth's favorite meal.



G. D. S

September 7, 2024

The shelter at both entrances had huge balloons that looked like fire was shooting out of them; entering inside of the shelter each area had huge primary color balloons shaped like crayons and pencils. The tables were draped in matching primary colors along with all the plates and cups. The venue looked amazing to all passer Byers.

Oak City Baptist Youth returning to school Cookout Blast

Baked beans, hot dogs, both pork and beef, sausages grilled and barbecue chicken and plain grilled chicken, hamburgers, pasta salad, macaroni and cheese, Ms. Lucy Jones homemade chill (the crowd loved it) regular salad and all the trimmings that comes with the above menu and more.

Picture all our youth running around eating, laughing, playing games, running to the trains and other rides offered by Pullen Park. They had the privilege to go swimming, ride the caravan, paddle boats, whatever they saw and wanted to try.

If you could not find the shelter, we were at based on the beautiful decorations. We were told by several people that they listened out and heard a lot of laughter coming from our area. AKA Deacon Rober Batts which easily led them to the right place.

We do it all in the love we have for all our youth. This occasion was put together by the Youth Choir Directors along with the Youth Ministry Team. Thank you for the love and care and all that they did to make this day a success. Thank you to Pastor Newkirk who had a chance to come out and join us. Thank you to all the cooks and decorators.

Youth Ministry Team



Growing Up OCBC — Black Violin

G. D. S

In lieu of Halloween, the Youth Ministry took a trip with our Youth to Greensboro, NC on Saturday, November 9, 2024 for a fine evening of dinner and the theater.

Our dinner arrangements consisted of a stop at the famous restaurant Stephanies. This is our Former President Obama's favorite place to dine when in town. His picture is proudly displayed on their wall one for each visit he attended.

After a wonderful dinner we went to the Steven Tanger Center for the Performing Arts to see the 20th Anniversary performance of the Black Violin.

Black Violin is a group of two African American men who met while in high school band, both playing the violin. They parted ways after receiving full scholarships in music, as they put it by simply doing what they loved, playing the violin. They reunited later to form their group. They're known worldwide for playing all types of music from classical, jazz, to hip hop. They do this while educating young minds not to be stereotyped in today's society, but to stand out and dream big. After all, who would imagine two young black men loving and playing a violin.

It was an evening of elegance and we are proud to say that our Youth had a chance to see and be a part of our history as they celebrated 20 years of sending a powerful message to our youth.



Growing Up OCBC — Stars and Stripes Summer Fun

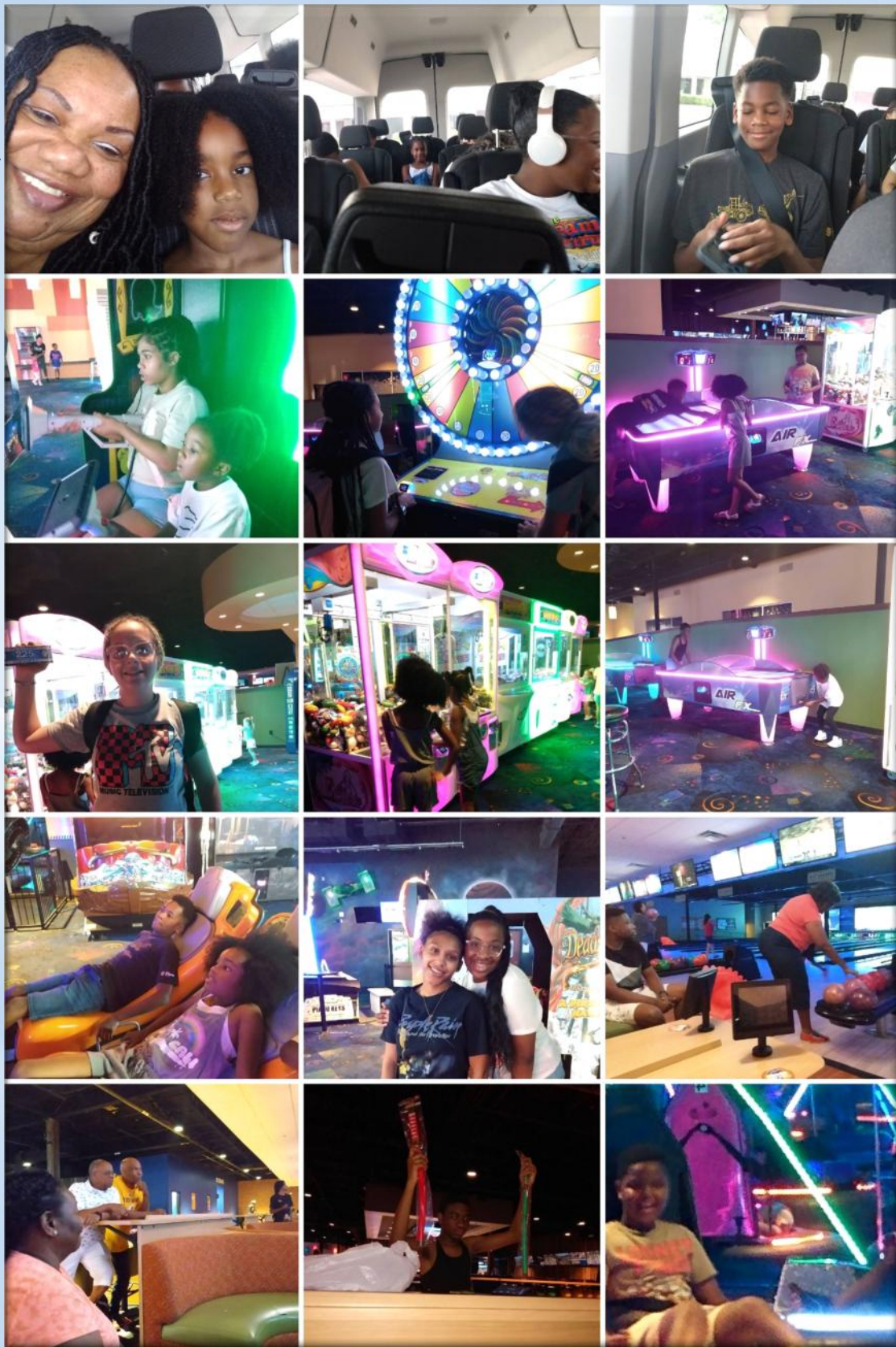
G. D. S

Early Saturday morning, the youth gathered in the Fellowship Hall waiting for a trip to Wet 'n Wild Emerald Pointe in Greensboro, NC. The excitement and the show of all the movements they would perform while swimming in the different water sections was on their minds. We checked the weather off and on all week, to see if the skies were clear for us to proceed. AND JUST LIKE THAT OUR DREAMS were put to rest. RAIN RAIN and more RAIN.

Final Designation....Stars and Stripes, Raleigh, NC

Stars and Stripes is a 62,000-square-foot facility located at 4020 Capital Blvd that houses 24 bowling lanes, 8 of which are VIP lanes. In addition to bowling, Stars and Stripes features a 9,000 square-foot arcade and prize store, a multi-story laser tag arena and bumper cars. We came for the fun and that's what we had.

After a full day, we went to Golden Corral and settled down for a great buffet dinner. Thanks to all who helped and supported us, parents, grandparents, guardians, and Oak City Baptist Church.



Growing Up OCBC

A Grandmother's Love Letter of Encouragement

Theresa Sellars

Khloe,
You have shown me what a unique person you are. I have watched you grow up and I appreciate your uniqueness. You have always been that grandchild that stand firm for who you are; where you have come from and what you believe in. I encourage you not only to have hopes and dreams, but to also enjoy each day as it comes and put God first.

My best wishes to you for a bright and happy future.

A grateful grandmother



Khloe is the daughter of Kristen Sellars and Arthur Miller, Jr. She has one sibling, Benny; cousin, Nyheim Miller Hines who plays for the Cleveland Browns. Khloe is a graduate of Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy and she is attending East Carolina University.

Prep: Team captain... Three-time All-Conference honoree... Cap-6 Player of the Year in 2022-23... Led the team in scoring, rebounding, blocks and field goal percentage as a senior... 2024 CAA4SC State Champion



Growing Up OCBC

My Story: Being a Youth at Oak City, to Youth Minister, to Pastor Rev. Mosengo J. Ndombe, Jr.

It is an unmistakable fact that the Youth Ministry of Oak City Baptist Church has shaped and prepared me for the pastorate at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Please allow me to explain why.

Let me start with the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest. Starting from the fifth grade until the eleventh grade, I was always involved with the contest. The announcement of the contest would always be heard around the month of January, and I always remembered hating to hear that

announcement! I hated the contest because I feared public speaking. However, as the years passed by, I had begun to really appreciate the James F. Wertz Oratorical Contest because it gave me the opportunity to become more

confident behind the podium and it gave me the necessary practice to learn how to proclaim the word of God, boldly!

While being in the Youth Ministry, there were many opportunities where I presided over church services. I enjoyed presiding because it gave me much joy to welcome in the Holy Spirit into the house of God!

Because of the football games I had attended, musical performances I enjoyed listening, the many cultural field trips I was blessed to visit, and the countless times of food and fellowship that I participated in, the Youth Ministry gave me the chance to enjoy my childhood years. The Youth Ministry taught me that it was more than okay to have fun as long as the Lord can get His glory from it!

I also was blessed with the opportunity to become the Youth Minister. Through this

experience, I was blessed to serve the youth at Oak City. Their presence and their spirit gave me so much joy and encouragement! I am thankful that on every third Sunday, I was able to speak life into them through the word of God!



By being involved in the Youth Ministry as a child and then becoming the Youth Minister, these experiences effectively prepared me for the pastorate at Friendship. Friendship is a wonderful church, but has much room for growth when it comes to being relatable for youth. What I had learned from Oak City is that youths look for a church that is approachable and kind. Youths look for a church that is welcoming and hospitable to them. Youths look for a church that values what they say instead of shunning them away. These are the lessons I have learned from Oak City that I take to Friendship.

I thank God for the Youth Ministry and I am



thankful for all of the great leaders I worked with who demonstrated to me their unwavering support and faithfulness for the youth at Oak City. I know that the youth are in great hands because of the excellent Youth Ministry leaders at Oak City!

Sunday School Lessons



“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
Sunday School Ministry

Winter 2024 - 2025 Jesus, the Heir of David

December 1 Jesus’ Ancestry	Ruth 4:9–17; Luke 3:23, 31b–32
December 8 God’s Promise	2 Samuel 7:4–17
December 15 A Father’s Prophecy	Luke 1:67–80
December 22 Savior’s Birth.....	Luke 2:1–16
December 29 David’s Son	Luke 18:35–43

Our God Reigns

January 5 The Lord Is King	Psalm 10:12–18
January 12 The Lord Is Majestic-	Psalm 93
January 19 The Lord Is Active.....	Psalm 103:1–14
January 26 The Lord Is Righteous	Psalm 145:1, 10–21

Life in God’s Kingdom

February 2 Praying Properly	Matthew 6:5–15
February 9 Heeding Wholly.....	Matthew 11:7–15, 20–24
February 16 Living Lastly	Matthew 19:16–30
February 23 Ministering Mightily	Matthew 25:31–46



Sunday School Ministry Annual Bible Bowl

Sherine Vernon

The Sunday School Ministry hosted its annual Bible Bowl on October 4, 2024, at 7:00pm. The evening began with a Scripture reading from Matthew 6:25-34, followed by a prayer by Deacon Linwood Fitts. A brief announcement was made seeking volunteers for the upcoming Christmas program, and then Superintendent Kevin Vernon provided instructions for the game. With the rules in place, it was time for the competition to begin! The game tested the speed and accuracy of participants as they answered 94 questions over the course of 52 minutes. The Bible Bowl featured approximately 20 scholars on the Zoom call, with 15 brave participants stepping up to the challenge.

The key to success in the game was quick thinking and fast responses. After a fast-paced round of questions and answers, we crowned the winners:

- ◆ First place went to “WTN” (also known as our Amazing Pastor, Dr. William T. Newkirk Sr.). Pastor Newkirk played for fun, so he graciously yielded his victory, allowing the remaining players to claim their spots.
- ◆ Second place was awarded to “Cat” (the Humble, Sis. Helen Falcon).
- ◆ Third place went to “Poppy” (Deacon William Brown, our Deacon Ministry Chair).



The crowd erupted in applause, but the excitement didn't stop there! After Pastor graciously stepped aside, we celebrated the final rankings:

- ◆ First place: “Cat” (Sis. Helen Falcon)
- ◆ Second place: “Poppy” (Deacon William Brown)
- ◆ Third place: “JDB” (Dr. Jean D. Brown, our wonderful Associate Minister)

We are incredibly proud of all who participated and brought their “A” game to the Bible Bowl.



A closing prayer was offered by Assistant Superintendent Pettis, bringing the event to a close on a high note.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who joined in the fun. We look forward to seeing you all next year for another exciting round of friendly competition!



Team Cure Chasers

Phyllis Jones Clark

On October 26, 2024, we had another fun, enjoyable and successful event! Our walk consisted of a choice of a 1 mile and a 3 mile walk near the Durham Bulls Athletic Park. We had members of our Oak City Church family and other friends who supported our team.

Your donations helped us raise \$6,992.00 towards this very worthy cause!

We appreciate your kindness and generosity, and we look forward to your participation in our campaign in October of 2025, as we aspire to exceed our 2024 fund raising with your support.



Participants not pictured:

Dale Threat-Taylor, Barrington D Taylor, Jr., Rhonda, Sky, Destiny Alston and Carrie Everett, (Miss NC 2024)



Introducing Denver A. Wright

Xenia Pigford

September 2024, Denver A. Wright became Oak City Baptist Church's new Media Ministry Coordinator bringing with him talents and skills honed over 50 years. Denver was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where he and his brother lived with their grandparents because their father was a traveling entertainer. While the family was not wealthy, Denver and his brother lacked for nothing; moreover, he remembers a wonderful childhood. His grandparents were diligent in their goal to raise him and his brother to be upstanding young men. Also, his grandparents were strict but fair and helped him to become a professional musician as a teenager. More so, Denver credits his upbringing with the development of his skills as well as his character.

In school, Denver's brother participated in sports while his focus was music, taking every opportunity to attend music classes, even skipping other classes to do so. Furthermore, he competed in a contest winning ten free music lessons, then his grandparents paid for seven years of additional classes. These lessons enabled Denver to get a job playing the piano for his church with a weekly salary of \$50.00. In fact, Denver went on to attend Alfred Miller School of the Arts earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sacred Music. In addition to his degree Denver received a Broadcasting Certificate of Completion and a Radio Operator's License with Element 9 Endorsement.

Spanning more than 5 decades and covering the east coast between Maryland and Florida, Denver's career consisted of using radio, print, and television technologies to create and deliver content. His work encompassed mainstream media as well as social media for commercial and Christian markets as well as local churches Shady Grove Baptist Church, Union Baptist Church, Wake Chapel Church, and Bread for Life Christian Church. Denver feels blessed to have mentorship from his godfather and first music teacher Reverend Alfred Miller plus Reverend Timothy Wright for whom he was a pianist and Assistant Minister of Music. Throughout his career Denver received numerous awards and accolades such as gold and platinum records. However, he is most proud of the F. C. Barnes Heritage Award from the Light 103.9-Radio One that he earned with one of his three beautiful daughters and several granddaughters.



Although he has success doing what he loves, Denver values his relationship with God more than anything else, worshiping and pleasing Him. When going through challenging times, he regains motivation by remembering on the cross and asking himself, "What have I done so great that makes me ok with giving up?" His response is "NOTHING". More so, the difficult experiences he endured taught him patience, drive, and determination. To the question "What is the hardest lesson you've had to learn in life?", Denver responded "The hardest lesson I have had to learn is that everyone is not me... all my life I have believed that everyone has some good on the inside, but unfortunately, that is not the case".

Conversely, to relax Denver watches movies and surfs the Web. He finds creative inspiration by listening and observing the things around him, hearing God's voice in art, images, sounds, and His other creations. Even though he has a lengthy career with a number of awards and recognitions, Denver aspires to win a Grammy and or an Oscar. His long-standing hope is for the world to be less divisive; for people to come together and support one another, demonstrate true encouragement. Accordingly, Denver desires to leave a legacy of positive change in the world.

Discipleship Ministry

Willie Mae Jones

TIS THE SEASON FOR...

- . Christmas Shopping
- . Standing in long lines at the mall
- . Family and friend gathering
- . Gift Giving
- . Sharing
- . Showing Love by helping others

In the midst of the tinsel, lights and shopping and the gathering with friends and family to celebrate, let us not forget the real reason for the season, is Jesus. God's perfect, priceless gift to humankind. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to earth as a human body to free us from the bondage of sin and death. In Jesus name amen!



Matthew 1:21 New Testament

New King James Version

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.



Isaiah 7:14 Old Testament

New King James Version

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.^[a]

A Child Will Be Born

Instructions

1. Use the clues to determine the words in the **Hints** section.
2. Enter the letters in the spaces with the corresponding numbers to decrypt the phrase.

Phrase

$\frac{?}{1} \frac{?}{2} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{4} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{14}$, $\frac{?}{1} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{13}$
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Hints

Clues	Words
Heavenly messenger	$\frac{?}{18} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{1} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{8}$
Direct relationship from one ancestor	$\frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{18} \frac{?}{6}$
Favored among women	$\frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{4}$
God with us	$\frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{2} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{8}$
Heir or offspring	$\frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{19} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{3}$
Carpenter in Nazareth	$\frac{?}{15} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{21} \frac{?}{7}$
Empowers Christians	$\frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{4} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{21} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{3}$
Sought Jesus in Jerusalem	$\frac{?}{20} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{9} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{11}$
Divine foretelling	$\frac{?}{21} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{21} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{19} \frac{?}{4}$
Eldest child in a family	$\frac{?}{14} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{1} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{11}$
Distance or course travelled from one place or stage to another	$\frac{?}{15} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{2} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{4}$
Engaged to be married	$\frac{?}{1} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{13}$
Unearned goodwill or kindness	$\frac{?}{14} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{22} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{16}$
One who rescues or delivers	$\frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{22} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{16}$
An official detailed enumeration of a populace	$\frac{?}{19} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{2} \frac{?}{17}$
News of great joy	$\frac{?}{18} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{10} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{18} \frac{?}{17}$
Celestial beings who serve and praise God	$\frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{12} \frac{?}{22} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{11} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{4} \frac{?}{7} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{17} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{17}$
Offered as sacrifice for newborn males	$\frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{2} \frac{?}{16} \frac{?}{3} \frac{?}{8} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{13} \frac{?}{5} \frac{?}{22} \frac{?}{6} \frac{?}{17}$



Oak City Baptist Church

UpComing Events

Please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2024.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may His love bring you comfort and peace.” “Wishing you joy as we remember the miracle of Christ's birth this season.” “May the glory of our Savior's birth fill your heart with peace and love this Christmas.” “Let the peace of Christ's love be with you this Christmas and always.”



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Web Site
www.oakcitybaptist.org/

Watch Live Sermons
oakcitybaptist.org/watch-live-now/

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Inspirational Words of Wisdom

For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding

Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV)

Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:5 (NKJV)

Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 (NKJV)

**A silent night, a star
above, a blessed gift
of hope and love.
Bless You!**

