



OAK CITY NEWS

OAK CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

March 2026 | Volume 23 | Issue 1

In This Issue

- 2**
The Power of Prayer
- 3**
Oak City Baptist Church:
What We Believe
- 5**
An Ode to Senior Adults
in Scriptures
- 6**
Growing Up OCBC
- 8**
Sunday School
- 9**
Veterans Ministry
- 10**
A Life of Faith, Service,
and Purpose
- 12**
Spring-Early Summer
Faith and Wellness
- 13**
A Prayer for Hope and
Holy Living

Thank You, God

Alice McCoy/Copilot

Thank You, God, for morning light,
For gentle peace that ends the night.
For every breath, for every beat,
For guiding steps along my feet.
Thank You for the love You give,
For strength to rise, for days to live.
For hope that whispers when I'm low,
For grace that meets me as I grow.
Thank You for the storms that teach,
For dreams You place just out of reach.
For hands to hold, for hearts that care,
For every quiet answered prayer.
Thank You for the gift of You—
A love unending, strong, and true.
In all I am, in all I do,
My grateful heart returns to You.

The Power of Prayer

Prayer Ministry-Reverend Rhonda Greene



Matthew 28:5

But the angel answered and said to the women,
“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

As we examine the many things that are occurring in the world, let's continue to be encouraged through the power of our prayers to the Lord. Be encouraged through the following **P.R.A.Y.E.R** acronym based upon scriptures in the Holy Bible.

P Pray without ceasing, have an attitude of prayer (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

R God hears the prayers of the Righteous (*1 Peter 3:12*)

A Call upon God for Answers in prayer (*Jeremiah 33:3*)

Y Make Your request known before the Lord (*Philippians 4:6-7*)

E The Effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much (*James 5:16*)

R Repent and receive forgiveness from God (*1 John 1:9*)

Oak City Baptist Church: What We Believe

Christian Education/Baptist Training Union Ministry

Oak City Baptist Church is an active member of the General Baptist State Convention (GBSC) of NC. The GBSC has as its motto “Christian Education, Missions, Benevolence”. It is these three overarching principles that have inspired and mobilized the men and women of our convention since 1867.

The founders of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina were formed “to support the Gospel ministry and to promote missions”. This is Who We Are. “This mandate of purpose charges us with spreading the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It also tasks us with responding to the needs of the indigent, the homeless, the sick and infirmed, the orphans, and the less fortunate”.

What We Believe:

1. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; God is the author.
2. We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah.
3. We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness.
4. We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again.
5. We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces.
6. We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness.
7. We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good.



8. We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost.

(Source: General Baptist State Convention website – Objectives, Missions & Beliefs. <https://www.gbsconline.org/objectives-and-missions/>)

Core Baptist Beliefs

1. Lordship of Jesus Christ – Jesus is the head of the Church and supreme over every aspect of life.
2. Authority of Scripture - The Bible is considered the final, infallible guide for faith and practice.
3. Believer’s Baptism – Baptism is restricted to those old enough to profess faith in Christ, explicitly rejecting infant baptism.
4. Salvation by Grace Alone – Salvation is a gift received through faith in Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, not through works.
5. Priesthood of All Believers – Every believer has direct access to God through Christ and responsibility for their own faith.
6. Congregational Governance – Local churches are autonomous, self-governing bodies that choose their own leaders.
7. Religious Liberty – A strong commitment to the separation of church and state and freedom of conscience.

Oak City Baptist Church: What We Believe

Christian Education/Baptist Training Union Ministry



Why These Beliefs Matter

1. Personalized Faith – It demands a personal decision to follow Christ and have a relationship with God rather than relying on cultural or inherited religion.
2. Direct Access to God – It eliminates the need for intermediaries (priests/saints) in order to have a connection to God.
3. Religious Freedom – Baptists have historically championed the right of all people to worship according to their conscience without government interference.
4. Church Independence – Local congregations can determine their own direction, mission, and pastoral leadership.
5. Focus on Evangelism – The focus on personal conversion drive a strong commitment to sharing the gospel and following the requirement of the Great Commission.

(Source: Baptist Theology - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/baptist-theology/>)



Senior Adult Ministry

The OCBC Senior Adult Ministry is proactive in support of the church mission with focus on senior adults and interactions with other ministries. **We host a noonday Bible study every Wednesday at 12:00 pm on Zoom.** Stay tuned for upcoming activities throughout year 2026.

Meeting Code **586855600**
Passcode **648302**

An Ode to Senior Adults in Scriptures

Hope - And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; because of your daughter-in-law who loves you. She is better for you than seven sons, because she has given birth to your grandson, **Ruth 4:15**

Profound promise of God's enduring faithfulness and personal care throughout a person's entire life, specifically promising to sustain and carry them even into old age and gray hairs. **Isaiah 46:4**

Those who hope in or wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, enabling them to soar like eagles, run without weariness, and walk without fainting. **Isaiah 40:31**

Honor, respect, and purity - DO not harshly rebuke older men but appeal to them as fathers, treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters
I Timothy 5:1-2

Wisdom is with the aged and understanding in length of days. **Job 12:12**

Our prayers are for the continued growth of Oak City Baptist Church as we transition into new leadership.

AMEN



Matthew 28:6

He is not here;
FOR HE IS RISEN,
as He said.
Come, see the place
where the Lord lay.

Trinity performing at Fuller Elementary's Dance Recital



*Congrats in joining God's Family
Kada, Benny, Aiden, and Jay'Shawn*



Growing Up OCBC
Glenda D. Sandlin



Sky Alston performing for Black History

Pastor and First Lady Newkirk retirement celebration with our Youth



Sunday School

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

Spring - 2026

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Neighbors

- March 8 Watching Our Consumption----- Daniel 1:8–17; 1 Timothy 4:7–8
March 15 Giving to the Community----- Deuteronomy 15:4–11; Matthew 25:42–45
March 22 Welcoming Others in Christ----- Acts 10:9–15, 30–35; Galatians 3:28–29
March 29 Waiting for God’s Peace----- Isaiah 2:2–4; Acts 17:26–28

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

- April 5 Resurrection: The Future Hope----- 1 Corinthians 15:13–20, 51–58
April 12 Authority: Belonging to God----- Mark 12:17; Romans 13:1, 6–8; 1 Peter 2:13–17
April 19 Children: Gift and Model----- Mark 9:36–37, 42; 10:13–16
April 26 Family: Distinct and Obedient----- Deuteronomy 6:3–9; Matthew 19:3–9

Fulfilling Our Obligations to God and Society

- May 3 Christian Expectation of Grace----- Jonah 3:1–5; 4:6–11
May 10 Work as Christian Duty----- Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9; John 5:17; 9:4; Acts 20:33–35;
2 Thessalonians 3:6–12
May 17 Christian Manner of Justice--- Deuteronomy 24:14–21; Ephesians 6:5–9; 1 Timothy 6:17–19
May 24 Christian Rhythms of Life----- Mark 2:18–28
May 31 Living in Christian Community----- Matthew 28:18–20; Hebrews 10:22–25

Matthew 28:7

And now, go quickly and **TELL HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE HAS RISEN FROM THE DEAD**, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. **REMEMBER WHAT I HAVE TOLD YOU.”**



Veterans Ministry

Greetings to Our OCBC Family,

The Veterans Ministry held its first meeting of 2026 in January under the leadership of our new chairperson, Brother Walter Barrett. We thank God for this new season and are excited about what lies ahead. We warmly invite and welcome all veterans, as well as spouses and widows of those who served, to join us as we plan meaningful activities and events for the year.

As we move forward, we plan to visit and partner with Veterans Ministries at other churches to gather ideas and inspiration that will strengthen and enrich the OCBC Veterans Ministry. Our desire is to be active and visible within our community, while also supporting and assisting other ministries within our church whenever needed.



In the coming months, we will begin designing OCBC Veterans Ministry polo shirts so that we may proudly represent our church when hosting and attending veterans' events. We are also preparing to participate in several activities, conferences, and seminars. The first upcoming event will be a picnic in Fayetteville, NC. Additional details will be shared as soon as they become available.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our next meeting immediately following morning worship on Sunday, April 12, 2026. We look forward to seeing you and working together in service and fellowship.

Blessings,
The OCBC Veterans Ministry

A Life of Faith, Service, and Purpose: The Story of Deacon Kevin Vernon and Deaconess Sherine Vernon

Deacon Richard H. Jones

Faith, dedication, and service have been the guiding pillars in the lives of **Deacon Kevin Vernon** and **Deaconess Sherine Vernon**, a couple whose journey reflects God’s faithfulness across borders, seasons, and callings.

Rooted in Faith from the Beginning

Deacon Kevin Vernon was born on December 8th in St. Ann, Jamaica, West Indies, to Paulette Plummer-Vernon and the late Franklin Vernon. From an early age, Kevin was immersed in church life at Keith Baptist Church where he actively participated in Sunday School and youth ministries. It was during these formative years that he made the life-changing decision to give his life to the Lord—a commitment that has remained steadfast throughout every chapter of his journey.

Deaconess Sherine Vernon was also born and raised in Jamaica, spending her early years surrounded by warm breezes, sandy beaches, and a close-knit community. At the age of thirteen, she migrated to the United States during the heart of winter—a dramatic contrast to the climate she had always known. Though the cold was a shock, the joy of reuniting with her parents made the transition a blessing.

Education, Excellence, and Professional Leadership

Kevin’s passion for mathematics and science guided his educational path. After completing high school and community college in Jamaica, he migrated to Hartford, Connecticut, in 1990. There, he attended North United Methodist Church and served faithfully as a Sunday School teacher, usher, and youth group member.

Academically, Kevin excelled, earning an Associate of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology in 1993, a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1996, and a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 2000.



Professionally, Kevin built an impressive career spanning more than two decades. After relocating to Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1996, he joined IBM as a Hardware Development Engineer. Over 17 years, he designed servers and personal computers, collaborating with global teams and earning recognition as a Master Inventor with multiple patents. Currently, he serves as a Development System Lead at Lenovo, where he leads teams designing advanced servers for Artificial Intelligence workloads. His work ethic is anchored in Colossians 3:23—*doing all things “heartily, as to the Lord.”*

A Life of Faith, Service, and Purpose: The Story of Deacon Kevin Vernon and Deaconess Sherine Vernon

Deacon Richard H. Jones

A Marriage Grounded in Love and Purpose

What began as a reconnection between two individuals who grew up not far from one another blossomed into a lifelong partnership. Kevin and Sherine were married in July 1999 and are blessed with a remarkable daughter, McKenna Vernon, a college student at Virginia Tech studying Environmental Engineering in the Masters program. Together, they have built a home rooted in faith, love, and gratitude—always giving glory to God for every milestone.

Faithful Service at Oak City Baptist Church

The Vernon family's spiritual home is Oak City Baptist Church. Kevin became actively involved soon after relocating to North Carolina, and Sherine later joined after a season of prayerful discernment. Together, they have served faithfully in various capacities.

At Oak City, Deacon Vernon served as a Trustee, is currently Superintendent of the Sunday School Ministry, and Chair of the Tutorial Ministry. He also previously served in the Youth Ministry. Sister Sherine actively serves in the Usher

Ministry, Health and Wellness Ministry, and reunited with the Voices of Oak City Choir, finding joy and fulfillment in staying connected to the life of the church.

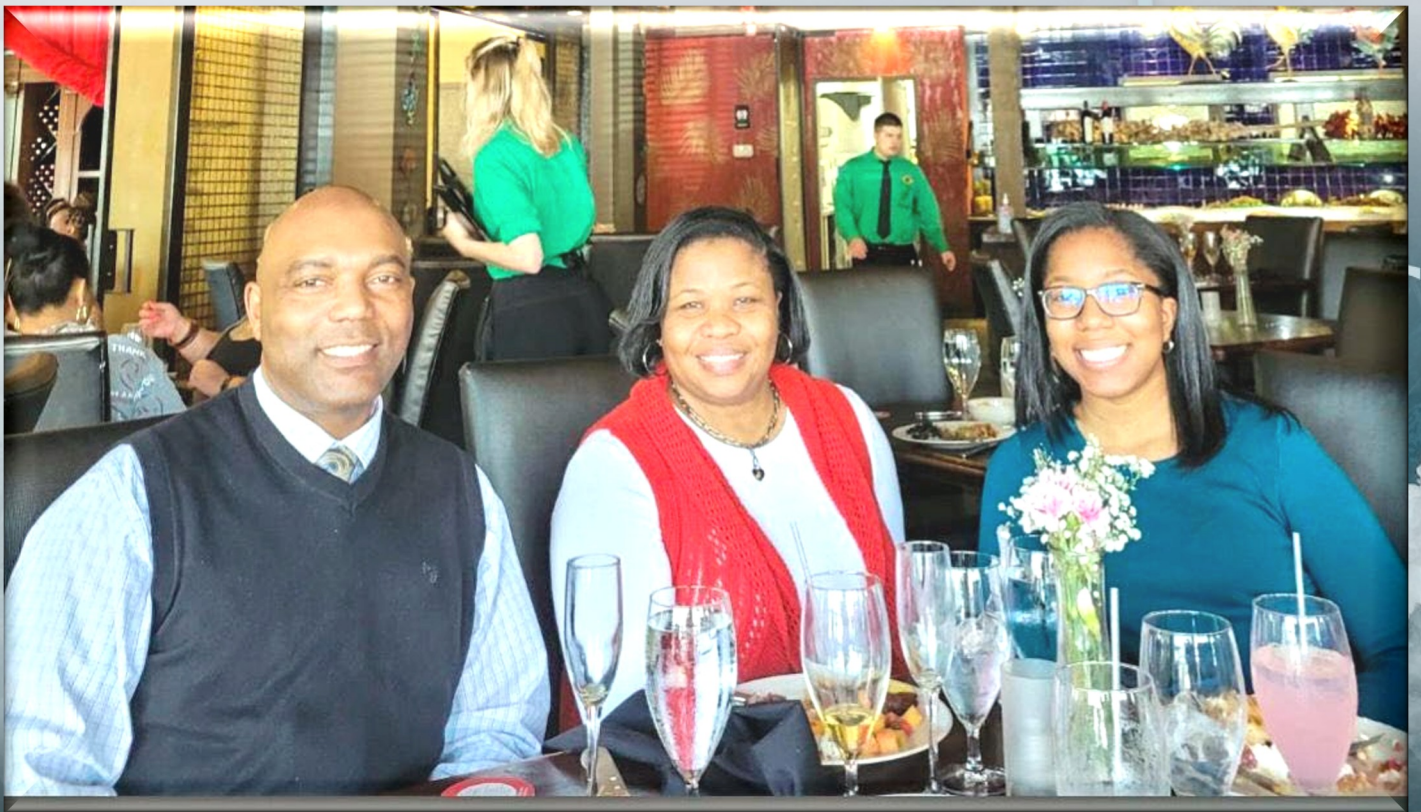
Guided by God's Word

Scripture plays a central role in both of their lives. Kevin's faith is anchored in Matthew 6:33, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*". Sherine draws continual strength from Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths.*"

A Living Testimony

The lives of Deacon Kevin Vernon and Deaconess Sherine Vernon stand as a testimony to what God can do through obedience, perseverance, and humble service. Their story—spanning nations, careers, ministry, and family—reflects unwavering trust in God's plan and a deep commitment to serving Him and His people.

To God be the glory!



Spring–Early Summer Faith & Wellness

OCBC Health and Wellness Ministry

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health...” — 3 John 1:2

APRIL — A MONTH OF COMPASSION & AWARENESS



Autism Acceptance Month

Celebrate neurodiversity and support families with love.

IBS Awareness Month

Encourage gentle habits and compassion for chronic illness.

Medicaid Awareness Month

Pray for access, dignity, and equitable care.

Cancer Prevention & Early Detection

Promote screenings and support those in treatment.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Stand for protection, healing, and strong families.

Donate Life Month

Honor donors and pray for those awaiting transplants.

Minority Health Month

Seek justice, equity, and community support.

Parkinson’s Awareness Month

Support individuals and caregivers with prayer.

Stress Awareness Month

“Cast all your anxiety on Him...” — 1 Peter 5:7

MAY — MENTAL HEALTH, MOVEMENT & HOPE

Mental Health Awareness Month

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted.” — Psalm 34:18

Physical Fitness & Sports Month

Encourage movement as worship.

Stroke Awareness Month

Share FAST signs and pray for prevention.

Asthma & Allergy Awareness

Support those managing seasonal challenges.

Arthritis Awareness Month

Encourage gentle movement and prayer.

High Blood Pressure Education Month

Promote heart-healthy habits.

Women’s Health Month

Encourage screenings and rest for caregivers.

FAITH & WELLNESS CORNER

- Take a prayer walk.
- Schedule overdue checkups.
- Practice Sabbath-style rest.
- Drink more water as temperatures rise.
- Encourage someone quietly struggling.
- Pray for healing in our homes and community.

BLESSING

“May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless...” — 1 Thessalonians 5:23



Matthew 28:8

The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also **FILLED WITH GREAT JOY**, and **THEY RUSHED TO GIVE THE DISCIPLES THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE.**



A Prayer for Hope and Holy Living Discipleship Ministry-Mae Jones

God of Hope,

Help us face today's challenges with the confidence that You are with us—guiding, strengthening, and shaping a world grounded in peace, justice, and well-being. As we walk through each day, our lives reflect the future You have promised. Let our words and actions reveal hearts committed to love, mercy, and justice. Help us choose the compassion and wisdom You embodied, so that in all we do, we honor You.



As we pray this, we stand on the truth of Your Word:

- **Isaiah 41:10** – God is with us, strengthening and upholding us.
- **Psalms 46:1** – He is our refuge and present help in every trouble.
- **Micah 6:8** – God calls us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.
- **Matthew 5:9** – Peacemakers reflect the heart and character of God.

Amen!

Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk



Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk

Pastor William T. Newkirk



Celebrating 38 Years of Service



Pastor William T. Newkirk

Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk



Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk



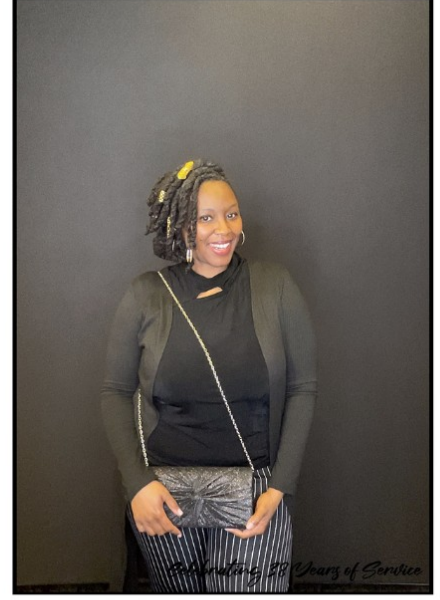
Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk



Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Pastor William T. Newkirk



Celebrating 38 Years of Service- Retirement Banquet for Pastor William T. Newkirk Sr.



Honoring Women's History Month

Sister, Sista

Xenia Pigford



Sister, Sista.

Are you the woman I see in me,
the woman I strive to be?

Will you actually be there,
or are you pretending to care?

Are you someone to rely on,
a shoulder to cry on?

A silent ear to listen;
have your tears sincerity's glisten?

If my choice is not what you would choose for
me,
can you accept it and be happy as long as I'm
happy?

Have you realized that everyone must live their
own life,
that you can't save everyone, to each their own
strife?

Sister, Sista.

Have you Martha's faith,
or the patience to wait?

Accepting GOD's will at HIS pace,
bearing adversity with dignity and grace?

Suppose your adversary carries the face of love,
will yours remain unconditional like that from
above?

Is honor your name,
even if it means losing the game?

At the risk of forfeiting your due,
will your words still ring true?

When amongst friends and called to mediate,
do you rule for your favorite or judge fair and
straight?

For truth, can you deny your heart's desire,

or do you forsake goodness and become a liar?
Do you allow someone to be untrue,
knowing the misdeed benefits you?

Sister, Sista.

Do you know you must first love yourself,
otherwise, you're no good for anyone else?

Can you admit that you're not always right,
sometimes you're wrong,

and sometimes you need help because you're not
always strong?

Do you know who you are, and where you want
to be,

do you know what you want, what makes you
happy?

Are you always giving time to someone else,
but never finding time for yourself?

Can you really let go when the battle's through,
realizing that you've done all you can do?

And, if all you've done was your best,
then maybe you'll realize life's only a test.

People will either love you or hate you,
it matters not what you do.

So to yourself always remain true,
and keep doing what you're doing, keep being
you.



Honoring Women's History Month

Crossword Puzzle - Women of the Bible

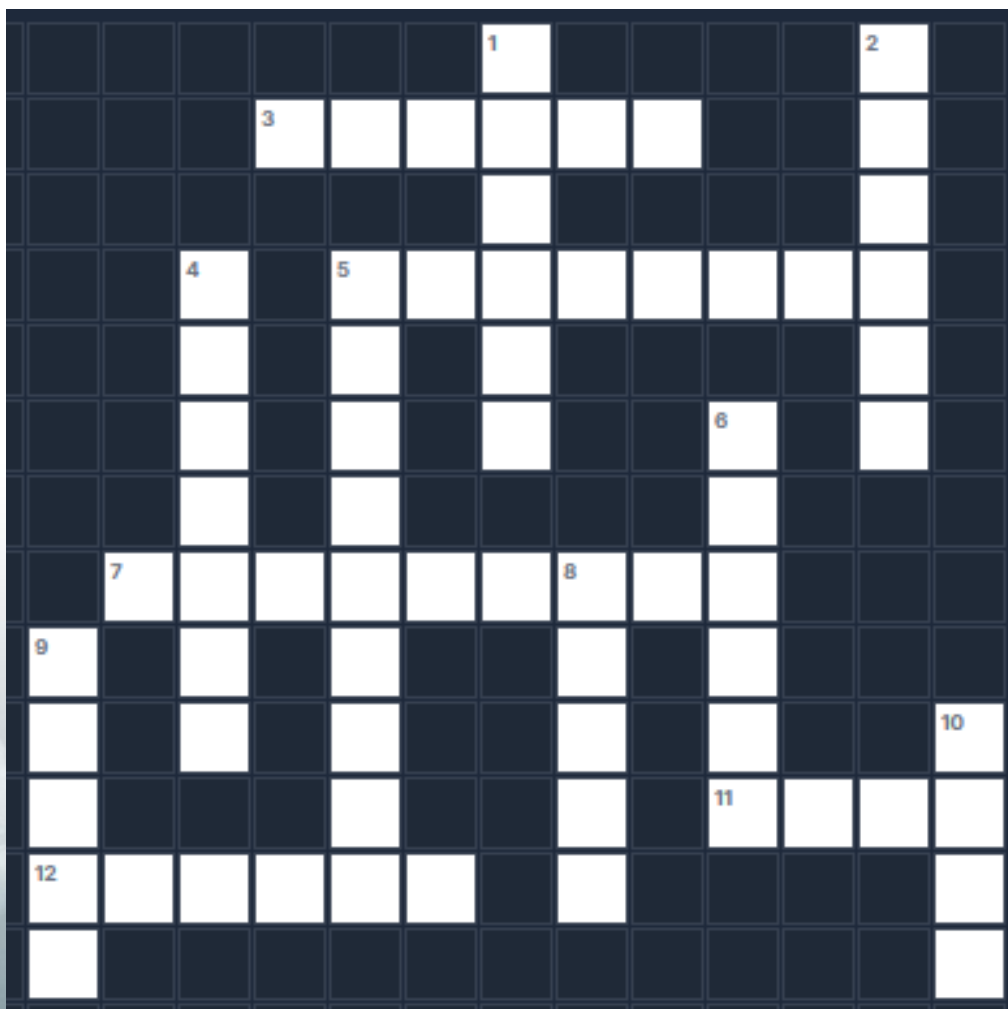
Kim Alexander & Xenia Pigford

Across

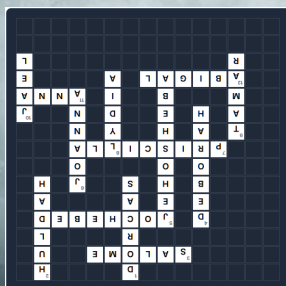
- 7. One of the first missionaries of the early Christian church
- 5. Gave her child away to save its life
- 3. Devoted follower of Jesus and mother of the "Sons of Thunder"
- 12. Gave provisions to David and his men
- 11. Widow who spent her time fasting and praying in the temple

Down

- 5. Hid her infant nephew in the temple
- 4. Led the Israelites in battle
- 1. Disciple of Jesus in Joppa
- 6. Devoted follower of John the Baptist and Jesus
- 2. Prophetess with a message for the king
- 8. Sold purple cloth in Philippi
- 9. Overcame betrayal and abuse from her family
- 10. Carried out Deborah's prophecy



Crossword Puzzle Solution





Upcoming Events

Please check your emails and listen for announcements for confirmation or changes to traditional programs held during the year 2025.

Oak City Baptist Church
726 Method Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27607
(919) 839-5869

Web Site
www.oakcitybaptist.org/

Watch Live Sermons
<https://www.youtube.com/@OCBC1865>

Like us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/OakCityBaptistChurchRaleigh/>

October 2025
Lincoln Oliver Brown
Mason Alexander Pearsall- Brown

January 2026
Dakisha Deora Holmes
Adriana Nimo
Kenneth Barry Williams



February 2026
Dr. Malissa Ann Bailey
Maliah Corryn Bailey- Carr
Chris Currea
Anthony Darrell Hill
Jay'Shawn Terrell Johnson

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Words of Wisdom

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

James 3:17 (NKJV)

For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart, and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, Discretion will preserve you;

Proverbs 2:6-11 (NKJV)

Communications Committee:

Xenia Pigford
Alice McCoy
Cheryl Lucas Stewart
Lauretta Barrett
Mildred Hopkins
Glenda D. Sandlin

Editors:
Angela Bailey
Deacon Richard H. Jones

Photographer
Timothy Figgins