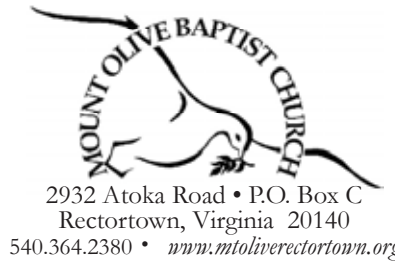


...publish with the voice of thanksgiving,  
and tell of all Thy wondrous works.  
Psalm 26:7



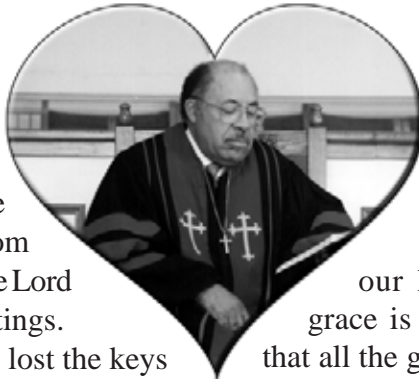
The Olive Leaf is a monthly publication of the Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Rectortown, Virginia. Deadline for article submission is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Give your article to the editor, or place your article in The Olive Leaf mailbox.

## From the Heart of the Pastor

To the people of God who receive this missive, “Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Greetings.

A few days ago, I lost the keys to one of our vehicles. We searched high and low, but to no avail. A few days later, we found another set to replace the missing ones.

While looking for the missing set a real truth came to mind. You can have every thing in order to drive, but without keys you’re unable to take your trip. You have a strong battery, a good starter, insurance, four new tires can be on your vehicle, but if you are missing the keys, all your vehicle will do is set in the driveway. So we see the necessity of keys.



Our ancestors knew this truth and they would say, “Prayer is the Key to the Kingdom and faith unlocks the door.”

Without prayer in our lives, an important grace is missing. We know that all the graces of Christianity are important, but it is prayer that gives us opportunity to talk with God. I use the term “talk with God” because the blessing of prayer is more than our time to talk to God, but it is God’s time to talk to us. If we exercise our faith, we can hear God talking to our hearts and our minds.

So, if we can use prayer to talk to God, we know that God will talk with us. Let us PRAY, PRAY and pray some more.

With Love,  
*Pastor Smith*

One night as I walked along the beach I took special notice of the incredible number of footprints left in the sand by all of the people who had visited the beach on that particular day. There were literally thousands upon thousands of footprints left on that beach that day. I didn’t think much more about it that evening but early the next morning I took my coffee and headed out for a walk along the same stretch of beach.

Something seemed different that morning though and I struggled to try to figure out exactly what it was. Then it hit me. The footprints were all gone! The tide had come in during the night and washed away all of those footprints that I had seen the night before. All of those little imperfections in the sand had been cleansed away and the beach was restored as if new again.

Then I thought about how this reminded me of our Lord and HIS forgiveness. I thought about how HE washes us of our sins and how HE restores us. (And I guess I realized over that early morning coffee that that little lesson was another one of the reasons the Lord had for creating that beautiful stretch of beach in “Almost Heaven” South Carolina). Just a thought!

*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.—Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)*



## Coffee on the Beach

*Durango*  
Used with Permission

I recently had the pleasure of taking some time off from my busy schedule. So I packed up the whole Durango clan and we headed down to the beach in South Carolina. Lovely area down there, a true testimony of the Lord’s glorious creativity.

Anyway, as anyone who really knows me can tell you, I have a

tendency to spend hours on end walking along the beach, whether it be at home in Jersey or on some beach in South Carolina or wherever. There just seems to be something about the beach. The Lord has taught me so much during those quiet walks on the beach.

So while on vacation down there in “Almost Heaven” South Carolina, I found myself taking my coffee and strolling along the sandy beach early each morning and late each night.

Greetings My Sisters!

July is vacation month for Sisters in Christ. This gives you an opportunity to attend homecomings and prepare for "The Big Day" at Mount Olive on third Sunday.



Our shopping trip is vastly approaching. On Saturday, August 8, we will travel to Prime Outlet Mall in Hagerstown, Maryland. The sign up sheet is on the Sisters in Christ board.

Our sisters are working on our Annual Day and Birthday Gathering. Join us at our September 5th meeting as we finalize some of these events.

Continue to pray for our Mount Olive Sisters. Are you concerned about some of our sisters? If so, come help with the Sisters Outreach Ministry and see how you can make a difference!

The July scripture reading is Psalm 27.

Mount Olive sisters and brothers let us pray for a wonderful homecoming. Invite a relative or friend to come and fellowship with us.

As you go to and fro enjoying homecomings, remember to "Radiate His Light."

Have a wonderful summer!  
President Carter

**JOY IN THE JOURNEY**

Tim Wesemann— www.CTAinc.com  
Used with permission

Complete this statement: My favorite part of a vacation is . . .

- sleeping in
- family time
- maid service
- the change of pace
- visiting relatives
- meeting new friends
- something else

Whatever activity you choose, please *enjoy* it! Leave your guilt behind. The office can manage. You don't have to go to school. Your dog is okay. The laundry will wait. You didn't leave the iron on. Relax! Enjoy! Rejoice in this opportunity to get away . . . and let your rejoicing be in the Lord!

Think about it. Would you have a vacation without God? He's the driving force behind this trip. He

blessed you with money so you could get away from your daily routine. He created your body with the abilities to walk, swim, camp, ski, golf—whatever! But because he didn't create you with a bionic body, he knows you need time away. He knows you need to rest and be recharged. He even built one day of rest into every week. Thank him for it! He loves when his people rejoice in their blessings. So rejoice in God's gift of vacations!

Sometimes we need to be reminded to rejoice. We need to remember our Savior, our God who leads us from worry to rejoicing, from crying to laughter, from guilt to peace through forgiveness. Paul reminded the Philippians and he reminds us today, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).



**Fishing Versus Church**

Two friends crossed paths early one Sunday morning and Fred said, "come on, John. Let's go fishing." John said, "No, I can't. I'm going to church."

Again, Fred said, "Come on. Grab your fishing pole. We'll have a great time." Again, John said, "No, I told you, I'm going to church."

Numerous times, Fred prevailed upon his friend to go fishing, and each time John answered back that he was going to church.

Finally, Fred said, "John, seven times I have asked you to go fishing with me. NOT ONCE have you asked me to go to church with you!"

~Author unknown~



Matthew 4:19 (The Message)

Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass."



**OPEN EVERY  
2ND  
&  
4TH SUNDAY  
FROM 2-3 P.M.**



## Living As Christian Disciples

*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him (Col.2:6)*

We meet many people who joined the church who no longer practice Christian precept—relaxed, pragmatic procrastinators, thinking “I have time; A relaxed church member who gives his or her worship and praise to things other than Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Worship should be a continuous objective in your life. Are you satisfied with your life as a Christian? Are you developing spiritual insight? What influence do you have on those that you meet who are not in Christ? Joining church and being baptized in the body of Christ is not salvation. You must work out your soul’s salvation.

It is not too late to become totally immersed in Christian maturity, worship, and fellowship with other

Christian believers. Bible study and meditation will grow us as Christians. However, if your lifestyle is one that no one would want to emulate or pattern themselves after—Change. For it is not promised that one will live forever.

Think? There are many who die thinking, “I’ve got time,” “Maybe tomorrow.” For some, tomorrow never comes.

When we walk in the spirit of Christ, we do not yield to flesh. Read Romans 6:12: “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof.” And Romans 6:13-14: “Neither yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God; for sin shall not have dominion over you.” What do you want to accomplish in this life? Is your life pleasing unto God?

Thank you for being a part of Mt. Olive’s Homecoming celebration. God bless you today and always.

*Grace Smith*

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the fool who cut us off in traffic last night, is a single mother who worked nine hours that day & is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry & spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man, who can’t make change correctly, is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles & blocking our shopping progress, are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love. (Author Unknown)



### Happy Anniversary!

Janet & William Grant, Jr.—July 17

### Happy Birthday!

Kethan Grant—July 1

Timothy Smith—July 1

Oscar Grant—July 6

Angela Hughes—July 8

Norman Stewart—July 8

Eric Joyner—July 14

George Stewart—July 16

Brittany Hawkes—July 19

Courtney Hill—July 20

Todd Russell—July 21

Mary Louise Gibbs—July 23

Yvonne Ross—July 31

Rev. Leroy Stewart—July 31

### We’re Marching to Zion

“Should we sing psalms or hymns in our church services?” This was the controversy stirring many congregations during the 17th and 18th Centuries. Isaac Watts was the life-long champion of the ‘humanly composed’ hymn while the majority of the English-speaking churches insisted on the traditional psalm settings. Tempers frequently flared, and some churches actually split in the heat of this decidedly unharmonious musical conflict. In some churches a compromise was reached. The psalm setting would be sung in the early part of the service with a hymn used at the close; during which time the parishioners could leave or simply refuse to sing. Isaac Watts wrote the hymn, “We’re Marching to Zion,” to refute this practice of people walking out during the hymn singing. Listen carefully to the second verse.

Let those refuse to sing  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King,  
May speak their joys abroad.