



JUNE / JULY 2023

A Note from Pastor Debbie

Dear friends,

I hope you have June 4 on your calendar as it is an important day in the life of Oakland Presbyterian Church!

It is Youth Sunday, a day when our young people will lead us in worship. We will also recognize our graduates. What a blessing it is to be a part of their faith journeys.

After worship, you are invited to stay for lunch. Our Congregational Care Ministry Team always does a fabulous job feeding us. Our menu will be fried chicken, potato casserole, green beans, and banana pudding!

After lunch, the children and youth will participate in supervised activities in the youth fellowship rooms. The adults are invited to join us as we discuss Oakland's history and the results of the Holy Cow Survey. We anticipate that lunch and our discussion will take about 1 ½ hours. The survey results are an indication of what you, as members/visitors of Oakland Presbyterian Church, say about who we are and what your ministry priorities are as we move into the future. The Mission Study Team (Rudy Baker, Sharon Arends, Ben Swift, Melinda Garvin, Jennifer Wells, Steve Pingle, Leslie Myers and myself) have spent many hours reviewing Oakland's history and the Holy Cow results so that we can present this information to you in a way that is meaningful and helpful. Our goal is to present the data without interpretation. We will invite you to attend one of two follow-up "Conversations" when we will, together, process/discuss this data. Those dates and times are:

Sunday, June 11, immediately following worship in the parlor.

Thursday, June 15, at 7 pm in the parlor.

You are welcome to join us for one or both of these conversations.

It is an exciting time in the life of the Oakland family of faith, as you, together, envision the future! The Bible states over and over again that with God all things are possible. That has indeed been true at Oakland as we "Celebrate Oakland's Past and Envision the Future."

Blessings to you all!

Pastor Debbie

Presbyterian Women

On May 20, we met to finish up our study on the book, “Guarded by Christ”, by Heather Holleman. We concluded that this was a good book and we each found it beneficial. Another study will be chosen over the summer, and you will be read about this as soon as the decision is made.

At the conclusion of the current study, we had our Birthday Celebration. Following is the information on who received the grant money from the Birthday offerings. For 101 years, Presbyterian women have given to this offering and helped provide transformative grants to projects throughout the world. Below are the 2023 Birthday Offering Recipients.

Making Miracles Group Home, Phase II Group Home, www.makingmiraclesgrouphome.org, Tallahassee, Florida, \$150,000.

Making Miracles Group Home (MMGH) helps young mothers break the cycle of abusive relationships, addiction, incarceration, and early motherhood—a repeating pattern that is difficult to break and overcome. Since it’s inception in 2010, MMGH has served over 100 women and their children by providing a one-year, live-in program designed to support young mothers and help them develop skills to live independently and care for their children. More information is available at the web address above.

Berhane Yesus Elementary School, Kindergarten School Construction, www.berhane-yesus.infor, Dembi Dollo Ethiopia, \$99,400. Berhane Yesus Elementary School, located in the western highlands of Ethiopia, seeks to change lives by sharing the “Light of Jesus” and by providing the best possible educational experience for the children of Dembi Dollo, Berhane Yesus provides children with the possibility of a better future by preparing them for a rigorous high school education and a life of Christian Service. The school is the first entry point to education for children of subsistence farmers, migrant workers, and displaced groups of people. It is so good to see where the coins and dollars that we put into that Green Box at our meetings. Please remember if you are unable to attend a meeting, you can place a donation in the offering plate on any Sunday and mark it Presbyterian Women/birthday offering.

It is my prayer that your summer months are a good balance of rest and fun as you enjoy time with family, and that our Lord keep you safe and well.

Linda Pingel



Joshua Dulmaine	6/6	Denise Sears	6/26	Matthew Heater	7/24
Melissa Barefoot	6/8	Troy Barber	6/30	Robert Massengill	7/24
Liam Leonard	6/10	Amy LaRue	7/6	Melanie Watkins	7/25
Craig Barbour	6/12	Mason Price	7/6	Brenda Abbott	7/27
Sarah Duncan	6/12	Lori Swick	7/6	Libby Therriault	7/29
Melinda Garvin	6/12	Randy Massengill	7/7	Sandra Bjorling	7/30
Brendan Taylor	6/13	Anna Gardiner	7/8		
Judy Barbour	6/14	Becky Stancil	7/8		
Colin Crowe	6/14	Wyatt Moore	7/10		
Jack Taylor	6/16	Callie Grace Lee	7/13		
Stenson Lee	6/19	Frank Taylor	7/15		
Earl Corbett	6/21	Micah Baker	7/17		
Kristen Stancil	6/22	Michael Barefoot	7/20		
Mary Williford	6/23	Julie Jones	7/21		
Nathan Willis	6/25	Shelly Watkins	7/23		

PRAYER REQUESTS

Stuart Anderson	Kelly Dunn Johnson
The family of Bonnie Baker	Ann Lee
Pat and Larry Barbour	Mary Lee
Karl Barbee	Jane Lee
Eric Brown	Denton Lee III
Jennifer Bausman	Linda Mahar
Karen Caruso	Ken McGee
Phyllis Collins	Clara Santanta
Pauline Cipolla	Shirley Watkins
Debbie Dockery	Rudolph and Elgie
John B Dalton	Wells
Joyce English	Paulette Woodard
Audrey Ennis	Mindy Wood
Stephanie English	Danny Wood
Bob Foor	Kris Wilson
Benjamin Geary	Lindsey Wilson
Candice Green	Bill Yelvington
Dawson Hammer	

Prayer requests may be submitted using the yellow cards in the church pews marked "Prayer Request" or by contacting the church office. Completed forms may be placed in the collection plate or brought to the church office. Requests will remain on the Prayer List for 6 weeks and will then need to be resubmitted.

Financial Update

March: Revenue: \$16,604
Expense: \$25,744
Difference: (-\$9,140)

April: Revenue: \$25,275
Expense: \$22,166
Difference: (-3,112)

YTD Expenses vs Revenues (-\$18,839)

Do you know of someone in the church in need of some help with yard work? Need help with a project around the house? Do you know of someone that might need help with some cleaning? Oakland has a ministry for that! The helping hands ministry can help with yard work, small projects or clean up around the house. Please email Kate (secretary@oaklandpresbyterianchurch.org) if you know of a need and she will get you in touch with the right person.



June & July Anniversaries

Larry & Pat Barbour 6/3 <i>Celebrating 62 years</i>	Craig & Mary Jo New 6/26 <i>Celebrating 47 years</i>
Janet and Bob Foor 6/3 <i>Celebrating 28 yrs</i>	Dennis & Melinda Garvin 7/8 <i>Celebrating 45 years</i>
Don & Jennifer Wells 6/4 <i>Celebrating 28 years</i>	Denton & Jane Lee 7/8 <i>Celebrating 51 years</i>
David & Sandra Bjorling 6/13 <i>Celebrating 19 years</i>	
Frank & Jennifer Taylor 6/14 <i>Celebrating 20 years</i>	
Sheridan & Allison Lee 6/16 <i>Celebrating 22 years</i>	
Dennis & Norma Blackmon 6/23 <i>Celebrating 55 years</i>	





Sunday School

What are your childhood recollections of Sunday School? Do you think of felt-board figures that brought Bible stories to life? Or maybe you think of a special teacher who always had a welcoming smile and truly made you feel the love of Christ when you entered the classroom. All of us have different memories and Sunday School experiences. Sadly, many children today are growing up without these important Sunday School experiences. It's no secret that Sunday School is suffering – not just at Oakland but also across the country. Attendance is down. While some of our adult Sunday School classes are bustling, our youth attendance has dwindled to nearly nothing. The Discipleship Committee (formerly known as Christian Educa-

tion Committee) has spent hours brainstorming and trying to find ways to engage ALL ages in spiritual growth outside and in addition to the worship hour. We are prayerfully working to bring exciting ideas to life but we need your help. Please think of things you would like to see offered at Oakland and be on the lookout for a brief survey within the next few months. We welcome all ideas. Also, please re evaluate your commitment to Christian education. Together, we can find ways to educate, engage and foster the spiritual growth of our young people. Let us all work together and see what God can do!

Beth Braswell

2023 Percy and Flossie Barber Memorial Scholarship Recipient – Jack Taylor

Percy and Flossie Barber were life-long church and community leaders who valued education as a tool to future success. They would be so pleased to know that their scholarship will be used this year to further the success of Oakland member and faithful PYC attendee and leader, **Jack Taylor**. Jack is the son of Jennifer and Frank Taylor.

Jack has served as a group leader for Oakland's Vacation Bible School, the ARISE youth retreat and regularly attends First Priority and participated in the Peer Tutoring Program at Cleveland High School. These many experiences have led Jack to pursue a degree in philosophy and religion from UNC - Wilmington with plans to continue towards attending Seminary and becoming an ordained minister. His goals are to fulfill God's plan for his ministry and lead others in their path to Jesus.

Congratulations Jack!





Congratulations to our 2023 Graduates

High School

Gabe Laframboise

Caroline Lee

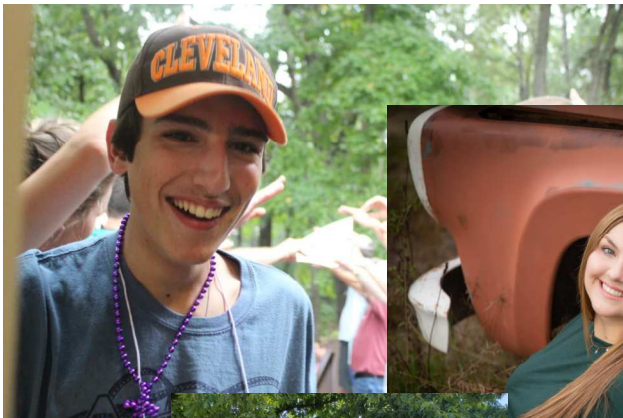
Jack Taylor

College

Christian LaRue

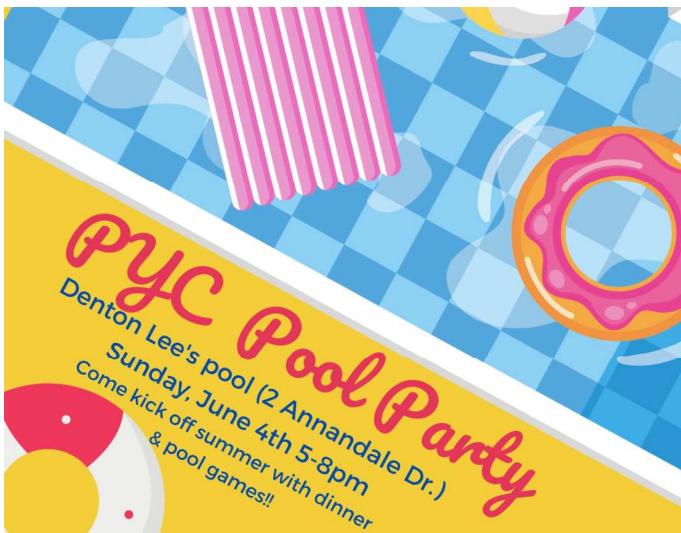
Philip Velie

Josh Williford



Jackson Taylor





Calling all Rising 7th graders

The end of the school year is always a little bittersweet as we are reminded that our little kids are growing up faster than we would like sometimes. But, there is a lot of good that comes along with that growth as well! As rising 7th graders, your kiddos are the perfect age to join Oakland's PYC youth group.

To introduce them to the youth group, they are all invited to join us for the PYC year end party on Sunday, June 4th at 5:00pm. We are having a pool and pizza party at Denton Lee's pool. We will serve dinner, have dessert, and play some fun pool games! From there, they will be included in all of the PYC activities that might occur over the summer

and you will begin to receive our weekly PYC emails that typically go out on Thursday or Friday.

Communication is one thing I try really hard to keep up with the youth and youth parents, and we have a couple of ways besides the email that you can stay connected.

We have a Facebook group that you can request to join by searching [Oakland PYC Facebook Group](#). After the email, this is probably the most used communication platform I use to keep the parents informed.

This summer, we are going to go back to using the [Remind app](#) more. I like Remind because it gives me a safe way to communicate with the students and for them to communicate with me. If you don't already have the Remind app, you can download it to your phone from your app store, and then request to join our group using the class code [@oaklandpy](#). If your youth has a cell phone, please make sure to have them also download the app and join our group so they get updates and communications from me as well.

Lastly, this year we created a PYC Instagram account that you can follow. We are still working on how

best to use this platform (ie- this older person is trying to catch up with the youth 🤪). If you are on Instagram, you can follow the PYC by searching the handle [oaklandpyc](#). We try to post about upcoming events and such on Instagram, but it is still a work in progress so it is not always as up to date as the other forms of communication.

I am so excited to welcome your youth into PYC!! We have a lot of fun playing games, staying up late at lock-ins, and taking fun outings, but there is also a ton of growth that goes on as we study God's Word together and build on our relationship with God and others. Be on the lookout for opportunities to hang out and serve this summer, and before you know it we will be talking about our PYC kick-off party to start the new school year!

If you have any questions about PYC or if there is anything I can do to help ease the transition into PYC, please let me know. I make sure to keep up with my emails even outside of office hours, and if you need a quicker response I don't mind texts or calls.

Sarah Leonard

PYC Beach Retreat





Music Suggestions

We would love to hear from you!

If you have specific songs you would like to hear sung during worship, please email worship@oaklandpresbyterianchurch.org or you can fill out one of the slips in the fellowship hall. These can be any styles from traditional to contemporary.

First of all, I would like to say how excited I am to be the Coordinator of Music Ministry at Oakland. I think growing up in the church gives me great insight into past conflict over music. I hope to find a way to work with our pastor to blend the music to meet the needs of everyone in the church. So please make sure to participate in Reverend Debbie's offer to share your favorite hymns.

Summer is coming! The choir is still planning to lead hymns and will be singing some anthems. But, like everyone else, the choir members will be vacationing during summer. So I am looking for anyone who might be willing to sing or play an instrument in place of the anthem. This would be during the months of June and July. It is best for you to send me an email at worship@oaklandpresbyterianchurch.com. Unfortunately, my memory is not as good as it used to be so if you tell me after worship, I may not remember.

Last, but not least, if you have any interest in singing with the choir, please join us on Tuesday nights at 7pm for practice. For God's Glory,

Jennifer Wells



CAIRN OF REMEMBRANCE

A cairn is a manmade pile or stack of stones raised for a purpose. In prehistoric times cairns were made for markers, as memorials, and as land markers, especially to mark the summit of mountains. They were also made as travel markers. The cairns were used to guide travelers on land or sea.

Cairns vary in size from small stone markers to entire artificial hills. They can range in complexity from loose conical rock piles to elaborate megalithic structures.

The use of a heap of stones as a witness or covenant involving events of great historical significance was common in the Old Testament days. Read Joshua 24:27, Genesis 31: 44-45, and Exodus 24:4.

In 1972 a cairn was built here at Oakland by Roger Barbour under the direction of Lunette Barber, who requested it. Our members collected the stones in honor of our loved ones. A bronze plaque placed on the front of the cairn reads, "In memory of all who worshipped at this hallowed place since its beginning in 1858."

The cairn is positioned between the church and the cemetery. It was dedicated and unveiled by Roger Barbour's children, Victor and Renee, on 11-26-1972. Dr. Ben R. Lacy, Jr., former pastor and president of Union Seminary in Richmond, Va. was the principal speaker. Assisting with the dedication were Dr. Albert Edwards, Rev. Gary Walter, Dr. J. Harold Dudley, Rev. David Boozer, and Ms. Lunette Barber.

The word Cairn holds a depth of sacredness for all Christians. It is a living memorial involving past, present, and future generations.



Shirley Watkins

Hello Oakland Family:

As summer approaches many of us have already finalized our summer vacation plans. I hope you will take advantage of the warmer weather and take opportunities to travel to your favorite destinations. It's important to get away and unplug from our busy lives.

Oakland will still have programs running through the summer and your contributions through your tithes and offerings are still needed to fund our programs and to keep the building functioning through the summer. Please remember to still contribute throughout the summer as you faithfully do through the year.

There are many ways to turn in your offering to the church, rather than putting it in the offering plate on Sundays. You can mail it or drop it off by the church office (always contact the church office prior to dropping it off).

I hope you have a great summer and I look forward to talking with you throughout the summer months.

God Bless,

Mark Hamer

Finance Team, Chairman



The Mission team has been busy spreading God's love in our community with your help and generosity! We helped the residents at Meadowview celebrate the resurrection of our Savior with Easter bags filled with goodies and delivered by Oakland members and youth! The bags contained mini flowerpots with seeds to grow, Easter eggs filled with sugar-free candy, bunny-shaped soap, and Spring-themed lotion, ChapStick, and tissues, all stuffed into Easter bags topped with a small wooden keepsake cross. We are very thankful for those who helped assemble and deliver the bags!



We recently were able to help bless 8 Cleveland High graduates by donating their tassels, stoles, and cords. Not only were these all students who wouldn't have been able to afford these items otherwise, three of the students were able to complete their course and graduation requirements while being homeless- quite an achievement and proof of their hard work and dedication, indeed! Thanks to the generosity of the Oakland Congregation, these students will be able to walk proudly with their classmates in their graduation procession and have a 2023 tassel as a lasting reminder of both their achievements and the kindness and support of their Cleveland community!

In addition to blessing these students, we were able to help a local family who lost their home to a fire in February. Sadly, this family of 4 children and 2 adults lost everything except the clothes on their backs and, as renters, didn't have insurance coverage. We quickly jumped into action to work with the school guidance counselor to take care of their most immediate needs: a complete outfit including shoes for each family member, 6 packs of socks and undergarments, and all new hygiene items- toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc. Though it might not compare to all they lost, they were so grateful for Oakland's generosity!



Thank you so much for all you do to help our neighbors in the Cleveland Community!

Blessings, The Mission Team



Oakland Happenings

Family Fun night Picnic

We hope you will join us for our Family Fun Night picnic. Bring a blanket or chairs and plan to join us for an evening of outdoor fun and games, smores and a bon fire!



Mudcats Baseball Game

Save the Date for the Carolina Mudcats baseball game on Sunday, August 13th at 1pm. There will be a sign up in the fellowship hall starting in July so be on the look-out for that! We hope you and your family can join us for an afternoon at the ball park.

Save The Date for our
Back to School Bash!
More Details to come!



Oakland Happenings

Mission trip Share night and Fellowship Supper

Save the Date for Wednesday July 12th. There will be a fellowship supper that evening. The menu will be hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, fruit salad and ice cream.

After supper, the mission trip team that will be traveling to Dinwiddie, Va in June will be sharing about the trip. We hope to hear how they saw God work for that week.



Save the Dates: VBS is July 16th-20th. We look forward to a fun filled week. Look for registration coming soon!

The Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be held on **Tuesday July 4th** this year. The Cleveland parade and fireworks will also take place on this day. Please help spread the word and come out and support Oakland's Youth in this fundraiser.



The Oakland Acorn
Oakland Presbyterian Church
8927 Cleveland Road
Clayton, North Carolina 27520

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