

Mount Olivet United Methodist Church  
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# GOOD NEWS

from MOUNT OLIVET  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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## FROM THE PASTOR



One powerful gift that God has given to Mt Olivet UMC is the people of God called Mt Olivet. Marcia Bryant wrote an article saying this so powerfully, I asked her

if we could share it as we begin the year 2018. As we begin a new calendar year, as we “step out of the boat” in faith this year, may we express with our lives the power of God’s gift through Marcia Bryant.

As we reflect on 2017, we see several indications that we have had some struggles this year in our church. We have had staff turnover with some positions still unfilled; we have a very small children’s Sunday School, and our giving is significantly less than our budget.

As 2018 approaches, let us each look back on what this church and it’s people have meant to our community. WE ARE A BLESSED people without a doubt, so it’s time to get back to being active in our Church worship and Sunday School, Fellowship opportunities, our giving and Community outreaches and not neglect our private time with the Lord in prayer. We need to make Jesus our focus for 2018 and ask him where we can be used best within our church.

This is meant to be a joke, but it is something to consider.

*Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.*

*Someone’s passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person’s share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach,*



*or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone’s list, “Let Someone Else do it.” Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; “Someone Else can work with that group.”*

*It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.*

*Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.*

*Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?*

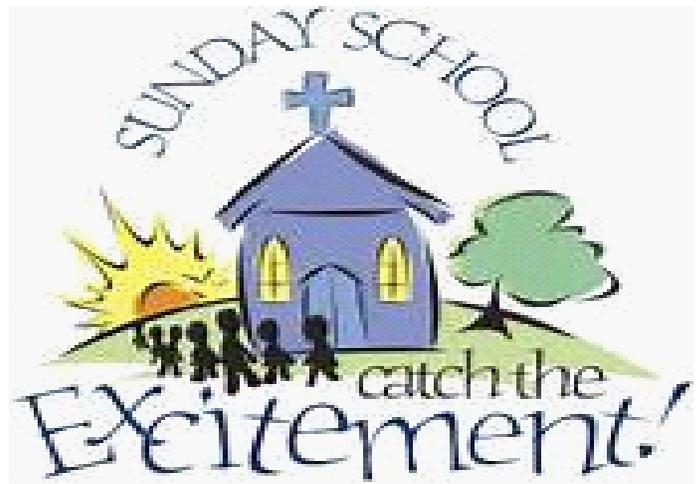
*When you are asked to help this year, remember -- we can’t depend on Someone Else anymore.*

*John Dutton  
(with Marcia Bryant’s contributions!)*

It's crazy  
to think that  
someone who  
had such  
a huge part  
of your life  
can be gone  
in a second

# Children's Ministry

SAVE THE DATE:  
Parents Night Out  
February 9th  
from 6-9PM.  
Handbell  
Performance  
February 4th,  
both services.



Sunday School

Don't forget to explore the Deep Blue in our Sunday School class right after handbells.



Thank you very much for all of your support in Children's Ministry this past year. Our "A Night in Bethlehem" event was a hit and very well received. We had 32 attend the event and over 20 volunteers. I am very grateful for your support and I look forward to sharing this event again next year.



FAITH Friends

Join us for **Faith Friends on Sundays from 5-7PM, starting back-up on 7 January**, as we continue our adventures together exploring our sanctuary, accomplishing a monthly mission, a field trip, and participating in our music program. We welcome grades Kindergarten – 5th.

## Children's Church

Join us for Children's Church at 8:30/11:00 as we continue working on our Prayer Wall. We are also learning about being an usher and offerings.



## Handbells

Interested in your child playing Handbells? All they need to know is their colors and they can join the Handbell class. Practices are held each Sunday morning at 9:40 upstairs in the Children's Church classroom. Our next performance will be 4 February.





## Missions

Happy New Year! As you read this January newsletter several members of the youth group and leaders will be returning from a fun filled weekend of praise and worship at Liberty University's Winterfest. During this event the students were given time to not only enjoy fun activities on Liberty's campus but also worship with fellow believers during two nights of concerts. What a wonderful way to welcome in the New Year, praising God together.

As we look toward 2018, we are excited to see what the Lord has in store for the Cove Youth Ministry as we come together each week and during special events. Please continue to pray for the youth and leaders as we meet in times of fun, worship, and study. Check out the January schedule; we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Sunday, January 14th we will meet normal time 5:00 – 7:00 pm; with Bible Study 5:00 -5:45 and then dinner at the Evangelism New Year Social in the church fellowship hall.

Sunday School each Sunday at The Cove (9:30- 10:30).

Sunday night Youth Group 5:00 - 7:00 pm. This is a time for students to grow in their love for God and their love for one another as they fellowship through the sharing of heavy snacks, playing games, and studying Scripture together.

Wednesday High School Bible Study, 7:30-9:00 pm at The Cove. This Bible study is open to all 9th-12th grade students. We will discuss topics that are of interest to our students, study the Scriptures and pray together. This Bible Study is ongoing, please join us each Wednesday night. Want to receive a text reminder when they are sent. Text your number to Jan Culpepper at 757-373-4155 with a request for Wed. Night Bible Study!

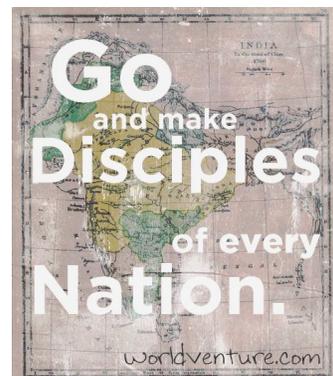
Thursday morning youth breakfast, 7:00 -7:40 am each Thursday morning school is in session; come out for a great hot breakfast and a guest speaker each week. Transportation is provided to Manteo Middle School and Manteo High School after breakfast. This event meets in "Room B" inside the main church building.

*Happy New  
Year!*

2017 was an great year for Missions. We are just SO VERY GRATEFUL to our church family for your contributions and support. Do you realize we helped share Christ in Croatia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, the Congo, Guatemala, India, Haiti, and Israel, We also partnered with CRU with salary support to those on the front lines of 'College Campus' in New York and across the Southeast. We also helped in sharing Christ in Prison Ministries, through medical programs locally as well as Appalachia. We have been there to help our local neighbors in crisis need through our Local Emergency Relief and have provided countless short term bridges in the gaps when people are strapped and just need a boost. The Roanoke Island Food Pantry continues to be a beacon of light for the Island and Mainland Dare under the very capable and loving leadership of Bob and Angela Noffsinger. WE ARE BLESSED....it is through our giving that we received the richest blessings. Our belief is that LIVING IS CONNECTED TO GIVING... so we at Mount Olivet live LARGE!

This year we welcome Amy and Noah Gross to our Missions Committee. Your 2018 Missions committee; in addition to these two folks are Kathy Seawell, Sandy Atkinson, Margaret Daniels, Janice O'Neal, Jennifer Gamiel, Dawn Buckalew, Rhonda Bethea, Lynn Tugwell, Pastor John, Carol Meekins, Rita Shaffer, Bob and Angela Noffsinger and Marcia Bryant. If you ever have any questions or suggestions; we'd like to know, so just catch one of us and we will do what we can.

We look forward to continuing to be the hands and feet of Jesus in 2018, thanks to your support.



THANKS AND WARM WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

On behalf of Nags Head Ocean Rescue lifeguards I want to pass along many thanks for your continued support. Providing home cooked meals throughout the summer season provides a time for fellowship after long days on the beach, helping to create a sense of home away from home for many!

# Music Ministry



Our chancel choir leads worship each Sunday morning for the 11:00 AM service. We would love to have you join us! If you are interested in singing with the choir, we meet on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in the choir room. Contact me for more information or stop by a rehearsal to join.



The Resounding Praise team leads worship for the 8:30 AM service each Sunday. If you are interested in joining, then stop in at a rehearsal on Thursday evenings at 6:00 PM or contact me for more information. We would love to see you there.



If you are in 6 – 12th grade and are looking for a great time to worship with your peers and prepare to lead, then come and join us. Youth Praise meets on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM. We would love to have you commit to share your talents with the Youth Praise team and the church. In January we are leading worship on Sunday, January 21.



Happy New Year! I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to a bright new year. I would like to share with you a prayer for the New Year that I found at [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com). I would encourage you to read through it and use it as a part of your New Year devotional or prayer time.

Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run, and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

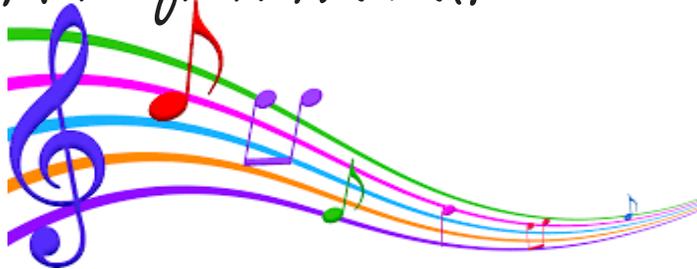
We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways.

We ask that you would keep our footsteps firm, on solid ground, helping us to be consistent and faithful. Give us supernatural endurance to stay the course, not swerving to the right or to the left, or being too easily distracted by other things that would seek to call us away from a close walk with you.

Forgive us for the times we have worked so hard to be self-sufficient, forgetting our need for you, living independent of your spirit. Forgive us for letting fear and worry control our minds, and for allowing pride and selfishness wreak havoc over our lives. Forgive us for not following your ways and for living distant from your presence.

We confess our need for you...fresh...new...again. We ask that you make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us.

## More from Nathan!



Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing his lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, as you remind us we are safe with you and your purposes and plans will not fail. We ask that you will be our defense and rear guard, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. Lord, lead us on your level ground.

We ask that you would provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us, we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but to say, "These are the ones that the Lord has blessed."

Help us to be known as great givers, help us to be generous and kind, help us to look to the needs of others and not be consumed by only our own.

May we be lovers of truth, may the fruits of your spirit be evident in our lives - your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed so we may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing.

To you be glory and honor, in this New Year, and forever.

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen.*

Keep your eyes on Jesus and he will lead you through any difficult situation and be with you throughout this New Year. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace. God bless!

Our Christmas musical, *The Colors of Christmas*, was a great success as was our Christmas cantata, *God with Us*. Thank you to all who participated in these special times of celebration! We will begin rehearsals for our Easter cantata in late January. More information coming soon!

*Nathan Schierer. Music Director*



## January Volunteers

Date	8:30 Service	Sunday School	11:00 Service
January 7 Angie	Jessica Twiford 252-312-9082		Martha Howell 475-1117
January 14 Angie	Lee Swain Petty 216-6310		Melva Garrison 473-3399
January 21 Dana	Paula Oliver 473-2944		Lisa Fry 475-1717
January 28 Dana	Rita Shaffer 489-1847		Allison Martin 473-8596

Thank you all for your dedication and service in the nursery this year. This is such an important ministry to our young families.

*Elizabeth*

## Worship



January Altar Guild: will be announced in the Bulletin.

Ushers will be announced in Bulletin. We need volunteers to usher at both services. Please see the sign-up sheet in the education building for details.

We also need volunteers in the sanctuary immediately following 8:30 service and 11:00 service to pick up bulletins, papers, etc. Please see Lynda to volunteer.

Thank you for your service!

### TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE JOY CLASS

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Thanksgiving Basket Project. Thanks to caring people like you, we were able to collect and distribute 56 Baskets.

Christine Dorsey  
Roanoke Island Woman's Club



2018 JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 C.K. Evans
- 4 Robbie Campbell , Sr., Alyse Stewart
- 5 Bill Pitts
- 6 Gordon Blanchard, Hannah Joy DeHart
- 7 David M. Davis, Mallory Hopkins
- 8 Pearce Gregory, John Grissom, Owen Head, Holt Rose, Rita Shearin
- 9 Genesis Gregory
- 10 Susan Fearing
- 11 Lea Taylor Bonner, Kathy Davis
- 12 Katie Brill, Squirrley Green, Trent York
- 13 Bryan Erpelding, John Stone
- 14 Chris Adams, Karen King, Alice Turney
- 15 Andy Ennis, Billy Gray, Breanna Lane, Shon B. Lee, Benson Nissley
- 16 Erica Burkhart, Elizabeth DeHart, Drew Peyton, Mark Vrablic, Sr.
- 17 Dawn Buckalew, Roy Gray, Jr.
- 18 Paul Creef, Amanda Hernley, Rebekah Paramore, Morgan Sawyer
- 19 Orrin Beasley, Margaret Daniels, Jenna Gwaltney, Margaret Henderson, Pat Lester, Debbie McClearn, Mary Jane Stone, Ryder William Tedrick
- 20 Sandy Moore, Janet Zottoli
- 21 Richard Murphy
- 22 Everett Fifield, Melinda Long
- 23 Anna Leigh Basnight, Savannah Brill, Renee Glover, Ralph Orr, Zach Reed
- 24 Rufus Hopkins
- 25 Carol Adams, Chandler Fearing, Paige Keel, Nikki Seaward
- 26 Jacqueline McLemore, Dailey Midgett
- 27 Wesley Carmichael, Jamie Wescott

- 28 Blake Dowdy, Carol Setzer, Myra Speake, Gloria Spence
- 29 Darlene Craddock, Paula Mayfield
- 30 Smith Belton, Mark Gamiel, Nita Hepler
- 31 Mack Hopkins, Roxie Pritchard, Ashley White



2018 JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bill & Martha Pitts – 46 yrs.
- 5 Gregg & Carmela Kemp – 40 yrs.
- 6 Ben & Elizabeth Gallop – 17 yrs.
- 7 John & Melva Garrison – 50 yrs.
- 17 Daryl & Tracy Watts – 31 yrs.
- 26 Neil & Amanda Songer – 16 yrs.
- 27 Steve & Denise Goodale – 44 yrs.

OUR COLLEGE MISSIONARIES THANK YOU

Dear Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church Members, We cannot thank you enough for your faithful partnership with us in the gospel as we tell college students about Jesus! You are such a blessing and your recent gifts are so helpful. Almost 1000 college students on 3 campuses (NC State, Peace University, and Meredith College) have heard the good news in a one on one “gospel conversation” since August. Many have come to faith in Christ and are being added to our community of believers and are being disciplined! We couldn’t do this work without you and we are humbled to play a part in God’s story of redemption along with you. With gratitude,

Alan & Melissa Mitchell  
5825 Bayberry Lane  
Raleigh, NC 27612

*Thanks!*

MOUNT OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Ladies,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer blanket for baby Josh. We are very blessed to have such a healthy beautiful baby boy! Your prayer blanket will get lots of use! Thanks again and Merry Christmas!  
Lynne & Chuck