

# Weekly Oakletter

Oaklette United Methodist Church

April 14 2024



Oaklette UMC will meet in person and on Facebook  
Live at 11:00 am on Sunday,  
April 14, 2024.. Rev. Ned Alderman will bring the  
message entitled *Pure Hope*." The Scripture is  
*1 John 3:1-7 [NIV]*



Donna Baker – April 19



Dear Friends at OUMC,  
Thank you so very much for the bouquet of  
flowers you sent David. He is doing much  
better since he got home. We do appreciate  
your remembrance and your prayers.  
Love, Jeanne Barlow



## HOUSING NEEDED

Mary Lovell Swetnam, warden of St. Brides  
Episcopal Church, has asked if anyone at  
Oaklette has or knows of a garage apartment for  
rent this summer. Stuart King, a British priest,  
will pastor at St. Brides in June, July, and  
August and needs a place to stay. If you have or  
know of such a place, please contact  
the church office.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

<i>Tyrone Armstrong</i>	<i>Doris Wolfe Harlan</i> <i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-law)</i>
<i>Hannah Bailey</i>	<i>Hope Hodges &amp; Debbie</i>
<i>Barlow Family</i>	<i>MEF RELSUP</i>
<i>Don Branstetter (friend</i> <i>of Dr. Etheridge)</i>	<i>Amber Jenkins</i>
<i>Richard &amp; Dawn Bray</i> <i>(friends of Bob Carter)</i>	<i>Earl Jenkins (Ericka's dad)</i>
<i>Breakthrough Prayer</i> <i>Workshop</i>	<i>Pat Johnson</i>
<i>Kendall Brodie (8-yr old</i> <i>friend of Mrs. Hickman's</i> <i>grandson with cancer)</i>	<i>Brian Lincoln (friend of Ethel</i> <i>Hickman)</i>
<i>Cherry &amp; Sebastian</i>	<i>Wayne Magner</i>
<i>Curtis &amp; Renee</i> <i>Buchanan</i>	<i>Kristie Masters (friend of</i> <i>Ethel Hickman)</i>
<i>Chesapeake Police Dept.</i> <i>Coastal VA District &amp;</i> <i>DS Brooks</i>	<i>Walter Nebrotskie</i>
<i>Sandy Carraway</i>	<i>Pat Newbern</i>
<i>Kent Carter</i>	<i>A. J. Panis (Ethel's friend's</i> <i>son)</i>
<i>Len Carter</i>	<i>Hosea Smith (friend of Monica)</i>
<i>Madeline Day</i>	<i>Loretta Smith (Amy's son's</i> <i>girlfriend's mother)</i>
<i>Jay Eckert (Ethel's nephew)</i>	<i>Tulsa &amp; Sharon Sturges</i>
<i>ForKids</i>	<i>Darrel Taylor (Ericka's</i> <i>coworker)</i>
<i>Freekind Virginia</i>	<i>The League of Advocates</i>
<i>Lydia Friedel. (Bremda</i> <i>granddaughter)</i>	<i>UMC General Conference</i> <i>April 23-May 3, 2024</i>
<i>Girl Scout Troop 550</i>	<i>Virginia Conference &amp;</i> <i>Bishop Sue</i>
<i>Patricia Guthrie (Mildred</i> <i>Walling's sister-in-law)</i>	<i>WesleyODU</i>
<i>Karon Hardy (Monica's</i> <i>Neighbor)</i>	<i>Betty Whitehurst</i>
<i>Doris Wolfe Harlan</i> <i>(Phyllis B. Wolf, mother-in-law)</i>	<i>Monica Whitehurst</i>
	<i>Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe</i>
	<i>Tommy Womack</i>
	<i>Our Pastor</i>

## Nursing Home & Long-Term Care Residents

*Billy East*

## Our Homebound

*Virginia Hair, Mamie Whitehurst*



Food including meat, and sundry items are  
needed for the blessing box. Cans do not need to  
be flip top! Anything is helpful. Please place  
your donations in the box in the coffee area, in  
the Blessing Box, or if you want Monica to shop  
for you, please see her.

**Calendar**

**Sunday, April 14**

- 9:30 am Sunday School  
(Children’s Class Kindergarten & Older)
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook Live  
(Nursery: Brooks & Lisa Ryno)

**Monday, April 15**

- 12:00 pm Staff Support Meeting
- 10:00 am Food Pantry  
(Nancy Helsel & Stella Price)
- 7:00 pm HRM Band

**Tuesday, April 16**

**Wednesday, April 17**

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, April 18**

- 10:00 am Bible Study  
John 10:11-18; 1 John 3:16-24

**Friday, April 19**

**Saturday, April 20**

**Next Sunday, April 21**

- 9:30 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am SOTM
- 11:00 am Worship in Person & Facebook Live

**A WAKE-UP CALL**

God — let me be aware.  
 Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,  
 Just getting somehow safely through the days,  
 Not even groping for another hand,  
 Not even wondering why it all was planned,  
 Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,  
 Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,  
 Please, keep me eager just to do my share.  
 God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.  
 Stab my soul fiercely with others’ pain,  
 Let me walk seeing horror and stain.  
 Let my hands, groping, find other hands.  
 Give me the heart that divines, understands.  
 Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.  
 Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.  
 Please — keep me eager just to do my share.  
 God — let me be aware.



*From the*  
**Pastor's Desk**

My friend Bonnie, a member of Cheriton UMC, showed me a card with Cheriton’s breakthrough prayer when we had lunch last Monday. Cheriton had worked “seaside to bayside” into their prayer, which is appropriate if you know Seaside and Bayside roads on the Eastern Shore.

That’s the kind of thing we may be encouraged to incorporate into the breakthrough prayer that we’ll write at our workshop Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Local references are encouraged for such prayers, so please be thinking about local things we may want to reference in our prayer.

As I said in a post on Facebook last week, Kristin Fogle, one of our workshop facilitators from Haygood UMC, has asked if power point will be available that day, so if someone can help with this, please let the office or me know. Kristin’s request made me realize that we may want to try to stream the workshop for any who can’t attend. If you’d like to participate online, please let me know so I can be intentional about ensuring that that’s available.

This workshop is about deepening our life together in God, so I hope everyone will participate. The prayer that we’ll write will be used in worship the next morning and we’ll be praying it together on a regular basis after that. This prayer will be our way of unleashing the Holy Spirit at Oaklette and asking God to do what only God can do.

Ned

Last Monday, I helped Duane Johnstone, who was volunteering at our food pantry, carry a couple of bags to a car. The car's driver was named Ashley, and when she got out of her car to open her back door, I noticed that she was wearing two pins, one with the picture of a young woman and the other with a picture of two young children. I asked about the pins and Ashley said, "They were some of my friends. Their house caught fire in Portsmouth last month and they didn't make it out." Duane and I told Ashley we were sorry to hear that, and I asked Ashley how she was doing. She said she was okay. I was sorry to hear Ashley's news, but I'm happy that we have the chance to talk to folks who come to the food pantry. It reminds me of members of Cheriton United Methodist Church who used to volunteer with the Food Bank in Cape Charles 20 years ago. Our job then was registration, and because we helped monthly, we got to know clients. One client was named Richard Nixon and another was named Edward G. Robinson. There was also a woman named Annie who was the spitting image of an art critic I used to work with at *Port Folio* magazine. I was glad then that we got to build relationships then in the name of Jesus Christ and I'm glad that the food pantry at Oaklette gives us an opportunity to do so.

Ashley told Duane and me that she has a church – Solid Rock Fellowship in Hickory. Another client last Monday, Jeannette, told me that she plans to join us in worship or Bible study sometime when her work at an assisted-living facility in Great Bridge allows. Oaklette also has an opportunity to build relationships to Jesus' name with our Girl Scout Troop. The troop sponsors pop-up markets the first Saturday of the month, noon-4, at the church. Lots of vendors come out. When I went by last Saturday, one vendor, Greene, saw a ship's logo on my mock turtleneck and asked me how long I had served in the military. He served on the *George H.W. Bush* for seven years and we talked about the fact that the flight deck of an aircraft carrier is the most dangerous place in the world to work, which was something I'd noted in Bible study two days before. Greene told me to have a blessed day as we said goodbye. Sitting across from Greene was Emily, an author who has a greeting spelled out in Scrabble tiles. I love both books and Scrabble, which gave Emily and me some common ground. Emily is more into sci-fi and fantasy than I am, but it was good to make her acquaintance and Greene's last Saturday and Ashley's and Jeannette's last Monday.

Last Sunday we heard that Jesus said in John 20:21, "As the Father sends me, I am sending you." He then breathed on the disciples and told them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Like the disciples, we've received the Holy Spirit and are sent by Jesus as the Father sent him. This compels us into our communities to make and sustain relationships for Jesus Christ. This is a frightening prospect for many of us, but we can go in numbers and we can also greet people like Ashley, Jeannette, Greene, Emily, and our Girl Scouts when they come to Oaklette. Perhaps we can discuss at and before next month's church council meeting how we can get to know such guests. The Girls Scout's next pop-up market is May 4. I'd be there if I didn't have reserves in Norfolk that weekend, but I invite everyone else to go. Truth be told, I'm the world's worst consumer. Greene and his family were selling t-shirts and Emily was selling books and other vendors were selling goods from jewelry to candles to donuts. I wasn't in the market for any of the above, so I went because I'm sent and because these were our guests at Oaklette. Please join me in this sending.

Thanks,

Ned