

## TIM TALK

**“Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors”**

Nearly two months have passed since our denomination gathered in St. Louis for its special-called General Conference to decide a future course for the United Methodist Church concerning the church's stance on homosexuality. Like many of you, my heart was saddened that our denomination could not come to an understanding of what it means to live in unity as it ministers to all people. The denomination that was once known as the church with open hearts, open minds and open doors seems to have now slammed, not only its doors, but its hearts and minds to the LGBTQ community.

Of course, as I have shared with you from the pulpit; the decision of the General Conference does not, nor will not, bar me from welcoming all people into membership at Oaklette Church. Here at Oaklette we welcome all people to experience what it means to be a beloved child of God. Even though the General Conference may limit the definition of marriage (between one man and one woman) and the ordination of LGBTQ candidates; it does not, nor cannot, limit whom I welcome at our doors and into our worshipping community. If I were gay, I would truly find myself struggling to worship with a denomination that refuses to fully accept me into its life, however. My hope is that as we continue to reach out to all persons; regardless of race, gender, sexual preference, economic status, or whatever; we will do so because we love Christ. God's love, in spite of the amount of legislation we throw at it, cannot, nor will not be diminished! In fact, I believe it grows all the more.

Doug Forester, a colleague friend of mine, serving Reveille UMC in Richmond gave me his blessing to use what he wrote to his congregation back in March concerning the General Conference's vote: *“So, what does this mean for our life together? Reveille will continue to minister to LGBTQ persons, their families, and their children as we always have. Baptism, Holy Communion, membership, and leadership in our church remains open to these persons. There have never been prohibitions against such things in United Methodism. As is our mandate and practice, Reveille United Methodist Church will reach out to all our neighbors in love and service, and we will receive whoever God sends to us into this household of faith and lovingkindness.*

*For some of you reading this, yesterday's decision is heartrending. For others, yesterday's decision was the correct one, and things are as they should be. Some of you have even wondered why this was a matter for conversation at all. As I said in last month's newsletter, I was, for several reasons, a supporter of the One Church Plan which would have offered our congregation more opportunities to be even more inclusive of LGBTQ persons. Yet regardless of where you stand on this issue, I want you to know that I love you, care for you, and will continue to give my life to*

*... serving alongside you in this important work as I promised to do when I took my vows of ordination twenty-three years ago.*

*In John 17, Jesus prays for his disciples to be one as he and the Father are one. This is my prayer for our church in these difficult and divisive days. Regardless of where one stands on the issues before the General Conference this week, I believe that we can be united in the truth that our world stands in need of God's grace...*

*... I could go on, but let me say this: we are simply able to do more of God's kingdom work in the world when we are together, and it is my earnest prayer that you will join me in working for God's good in the world, even in the midst of things with which you cannot agree. Reveille United Methodist Church does not exist in this time and location by mere coincidence. God has placed us here for such a time as this, for making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Come what may, to be the church Christ calls and the world needs, we need each other, side-by-side even in the midst of the areas in which we can respectfully disagree.*

*In other words, as I have said before, I love my people more than I love my positions, and on this day, I am asking you to do the same."*

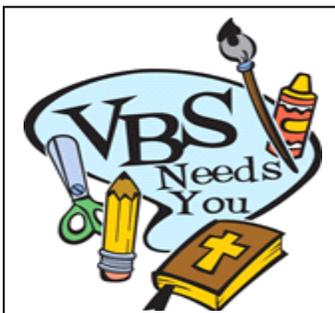
Like Doug did for his congregation at Reveille I am asking you here at Oaklette to do the same. Regardless of where you are with the decision of General Conference, I am simply asking you to love all people. It's no different from the advice given to us from our Elizabeth River District Superintendent Wayne Snead; *"we need to put a premium on love."* May we put aside our differences and let the love of Christ flow through us as we here at Oaklette keep our hearts, our doors and our minds open to all whom God sends into our midst.

In the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Love from the center of who you are. Don't Fake It!" (Romans 12:9)

*Tim*

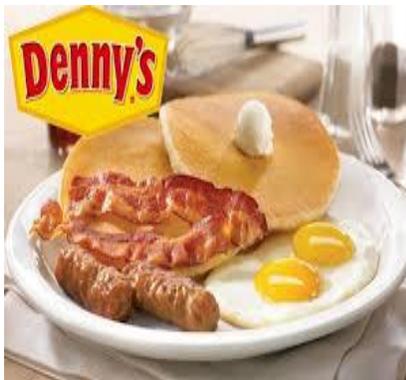
Dr. Tim



Vacation Bible School will be held Sunday, June 23 to Thursday, June 27, 5:30 – 8:00 pm starting with a light meal at 5:30. Theme is Abundance Orchard Where Faith Grows and Hungry People Are Fed, Part 2, New Testament. **Help is needed!** Please save latex paint can lids (cleaned) & flexible plastic food lids, 4-6" diameter. Please be sure all paint and food are removed from lids. **Organizational meeting** May 14 at 7:00 pm.



**BECOMING A WARRIOR NOT A WORRIER  
BIBLE STUDY  
BARNES & NOBLES STARBUCK'S CAFÉ AT  
GREENBRIER  
WEDNESDAY'S AT 1:00 PM  
(LOCATED NEXT TO THE HARRIS TEETER)**



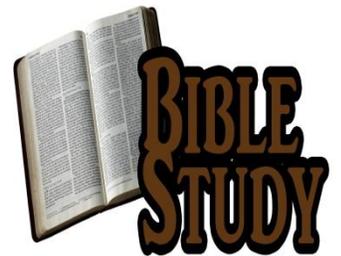
**BREAKFAST AT DENNY'S**

Over the past several years Oaklette has been encouraging you and your friends to gather for a 'social breakfast' at the Battlefield Blvd. Denny's located in front of the Home Depot on the second Friday of every month. In May that's Friday, the 10th! This is an opportunity for the good folk of Oaklette to "get outside of the castle" and into the neighborhood of which we are a part. No reservations are necessary! Just show up and eat breakfast (or a snack). Breakfast is on you. Debbie

Rippard will be there to greet you at 9:00AM!

**THURSDAY'S WITH TIM**

Thursdays with Tim is a Bible Study that meets in the John Teter Classroom at 10 AM on Thursdays. The class is currently studying the books of 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah. Afterwards we usually go out to lunch at a favorite restaurant. You are welcome to join us anytime!



**IT'S APPLE BUTTER TIME AGAIN!**



The United Methodist Men of Oaklette will be creating their world-renowned Apple Butter on Saturday, May 4! This year they need your help in taking turns stirring the butter as well as canning it. Further information will available through the Weekly Oakletter.

### FLOOD BUCKETS FOR CONFERENCE

Virginia's Annual Conference is fast approaching and that means we need your help in gather our Flood Buckets and Kits for Conference. The estimated cost for a flood bucket is \$65. Kits that are also needed include Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and Cleaning Kits. Content description sheets for both the buckets and the kits are available in the office. Buckets and the kits need to be at the church by Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. They can be placed in the Church Parlor across the hall from the Pastor's Office.



### EVERYBODY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY/STAFF APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Just like last year Oaklette and Spirit of Truth Ministry will be celebrating Everybody's Birthday Party together again this year! This year, however we will be combining it with Staff Appreciation Sunday. Following the 11:00 AM Worship Celebration on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> both congregations (who will be participating in worship together) will gather in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish (salad, casserole, etc.) to share! Desserts (birthday cakes) will be provided by volunteers. A sign-up sheet for the cakes will be posted on bulletin board across the hall from the offices. Each birthday cake volunteer is also responsible for decorating their table.



### WORSHIP FOR OUR CURRENT TIMES

**"Come to the river where you will thirst no more."  
Sundays at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall!**

SERMONS FOR MAY 2019

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019  
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER  
“Neuroplasticity on the Damascus Road”  
Acts 9:1–20

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019  
MOTHER’S DAY  
“Handcrafted Christians”  
Acts 9:36–43

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
“A Leaf from Heaven”  
Revelation 21:1–6a

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
“No Sun, No Moon, No Night”  
Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5



## MAYBERRY CHURCH

*Sunday at 6:30PM - Fellowship Hall*

Come and join this exciting gathering of believers growing in their journey with Christ. Using the Bible and classic episodes of “The Andy Griffith Show” Oaklette is offering this unique and award-winning opportunity for south Hampton Roads.

Our worship themes and episodes for May are as follows:

- **MAY 5 – NO MAYBERRY CHURCH.**
- **MAY 12 – MOTHER’S DAY – NO MAYBERRY CHURCH**
- **MAY 19 – Episode: “Andy the Matchmaker”** – When Barney’s bumbling law enforcement techniques are questioned, Andy and Ellie decide to stage a fake robbery – a scheme that turns Barney into a real hero. Theme: Finding Value. Scripture: Proverbs 12:9 (MSG) – *“Better to be ordinary and work for a living than act important and starve in the process.”*

- **MAY 26 – Episode: “Opie’s Charity”** – Andy is dismayed when Opie refuses to contribute money to the school charity drive – but there’s a secret reason for Opie’s apparent selfishness. **Theme:** The Benefits of Being Charitable  
**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 11:1 (MSG) – *“Be generous. Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns.”*



**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2019**

**OAKLETTE CHURCH**

**SPONSORED BY THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**The Fellowship Hall will be ready to receive  
your treasures on Tuesday, May 14!**

#### **Time Management Tips**

**A general rule for the good use of time is to accustom oneself to live in a continual dependence on the Spirit of God, receiving from moment to moment whatever it pleases him to give us, referring to him at once in the doubts which we necessarily run into, turning to him in the weakness into which goodness slips from exhaustion, calling on him and lifting oneself to him, when the heart, swept away by material things, sees itself led imperceptibly off the path and finds itself forgetting and drifting away from God. Happy the soul which...never stops saying to itself a hundred times a day, “Lord, what wouldst thou that I should do? Teach me to perform thy holy will, for thou art my God.”**

**- Francois Fenelon**



The beautiful cross was decorated on Easter morning by worshippers who brought flowers from home. Joe Peele, Judy Carter and Joanne Rooks assisted with placement of the flowers. During the Prelude, Joe Peele wheeled the cross forward to the front of the church and this became the focal point for worship.

Many thanks to Joe Peele for creating the frame of the cross and pedestal.

### The Living Word

Many know of teacher Annie Sullivan helping young Helen Keller break through barriers of blindness and deafness to discover language: how Sullivan placed one of Helen's hands under running water, spelling *water* in sign language over and over into the other. In Keller's words: "Suddenly I felt a misty consciousness as of something forgotten – a thrill of returning thought; and somehow the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew that w-a-t-e-r meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free."

God's living Word, working through the waters of baptism, also awakens us – to a life of faith anchored in God's unconditional love. Baptism revives in us a "misty consciousness" that we are safe in God and reveals "the mystery of language" that is prayer. In baptism, as water washes over our bodies, the living Word gives us light, hope, joy and true freedom.



Sincere sympathy is extended to the family and friends of our former pastor, Rev. Calvin Eugene Meek, who went to be with the Lord on April 1, 2019.



Barbara Bennett's sister, Evelyn, wishes to thank everyone for the beautiful prayer shawl. She has been released from the hospital and is using it at home.



### JOYS OF MOTHERHOOD

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly Laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" – and a sticky kiss.

- Unknown

Pray for our Military (In order to protect the safety of our Troops and their families, we will no longer list their whereabouts or their branches of service.)

- Micah Beasley - (Nephew of Verna Carroll)
- Jordan Carter - (Grandson of Len & Carole Carter)
- Justin Castellow - (Son of Buzz and Shellene Castellow)
- Troy Hudgins - (Nephew of Jenny & Tommy Obenchain)
- Jared Meharg (Son-in-law of Dana & Don Moody)
- Brian Miller - (Grandson-in-law of Adel Denson)
- Major Matt Springer - (Son of Wayne & Sharon Springer)
- Scott W. Weifert
- Capt. Paul Leon Wolfe III - (Grandson of Barbara & Jack Buchanan)



**Remember our Shut-ins with Cards, Calls, Visits, & Prayers**

**Billy East**  
2701 Border Rd  
Chesapeake, VA 23324

**Nell Cucinotta**  
1249 Davis Avenue  
Chesapeake, VA 23325

**Adel Denson**  
Chesapeake Place  
1508 Volvo Parkway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Jackie Munden**  
3009 Mattox Dr.  
Chesapeake, VA 23325

**Marjorie Harrison**  
Chesapeake Place  
1508 Volvo Parkway  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Mamie Whitehurst**  
1033 Hobb Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Pat Grover**  
1726 Harvest Bend Ct.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Fleda Humphries**  
Kempsville Health/Rehab  
5520 Indian River Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Mable Lowrimore**  
1104 Nolan Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA 23435

**Howard Combs**  
Autumn Care  
Room 302  
715 Argyll Street  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

**Evelyn Yount**  
1635 Laurel Avenue  
Chesapeake, VA 23325



**Altar Flowers**

**May**

- 5- Mildred Walling
- 12- Pat Newbern
- 19- Danny & Kelly Castellow
- 26- John Teter Class



**May**

- 5-
- 12- Brenda Swoope
- 19- Chip Payette
- 26-

**Please sign up for altar flowers and Food Basket. There are many, many blank lines to fill!**



**May Food Pantry Workers**

- 6- Judy Carter & Joyce Gaston
- 13- Jane Basnight & Barbara Malloy
- 20- Duane Johnstone & Emma Beggs
- 27- MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE & FOOD PANTRY CLOSED

Volunteers are needed to work the Food Pantry on Mondays. It is only for two hours per shift and usually only one shift per several months. Please contact Barbara Bennett if you are interested.



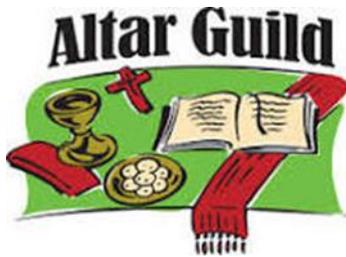
**May**

- 5- Jessica Weifert
- 12- Jerome Dickinson
- 19- Barbara Bennett
- 26- Arte Jones



**Please use the following email address when communicating with the church:  
oaklette@oakletteumc.org**

**Wi-fi is available throughout the building. The password is blessing4u.**



May

Joanne Rooks  
&  
Hannah Bailey



-1-  
*Barbara Buchanan*  
*Patricia Wynne*  
-4-  
*Linda Tandy*  
-7-  
*Walter Wilson*  
*Kade Carroll*  
-8-  
*Amber Wilson*  
*Betty Reynolds*  
-9-  
*Sherri Foley*  
*Darby Basnight*  
-10-  
*Lynn Warren*  
-11-  
*Kenneth Long*  
-12-  
*Matt Springer*  
-14  
*Rachel Swoope*  
-16-  
*Lorraine Baker*  
-18-  
*Joshua Miles*  
*Wayne Springer*  
-20-  
*Ethel Hickman*

-22-  
*Sonya Pacilio*  
-24-  
*Steven Canady*  
*Scott Moore*  
*Sharon Springer*  
-25-  
*Amy Grubb*  
-26-  
*Billy East*  
-27-  
*Leah Kasmark*  
*Margaret White*  
-28-  
*Bob Carter*  
*Jeff Pair*  
-31-  
*Morgan Birkenstock*  
*Valerie Hunsberger*  
*Neil Morin*



-8-  
*Rose Marie & Charles*  
*Enlow*  
-21-  
*Kelly & Daniel Castellow*  
-24-  
*Elizabeth & Kevin Reichling*  
-27-  
*Dorothy & Marvin*  
*Murden Sr.*

**A LIFE OF PRAISE**



Despite becoming an invalid while in her teens, an 18<sup>th</sup> century English poet who used the pen name Anna Steel wrote prolifically – often about praising God. The closing stanza of “Now I Resolve With All My Heart,” one of Steele’s 144 hymns, is a timeless prayer that’s fitting for the start of each new day.

O may I never faint nor tire,  
Nor wandering leave his sacred ways;  
Great God, accept my soul’s desire,  
And give me strength to live thy praise.

**A Key Ingredient**

In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together and the music that brings harmony.

- Eva Burrows

*Kids  
page*



# **COL** **ORING PAGE**

Print this 8.5" x 11" image to color.  
A full-size PDF file is provided on the CD and online.





General Board of Global Ministries  
Street Children Ministry in Cambodia  
**HAPPY EASTER! 2019**



Dear Friends,

We are again celebrating Easter 2019. It reminds us that Jesus rose again from the dead. We too will live again like him if we believe in Him and obey His command. We thank God for the opportunity to share this privilege to believe and obey Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. This is the reason why we are in Cambodia. We are here to share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus! Our ministry to the Street Children and their Families is the way how to do this. Praise God you are there to support us both in prayers and financial help.

As we commemorate this very important event in the life of our Lord Jesus, we cannot help but thank God to thank for your lives, my dear friends who continue to support us in this ministry. Like people in darkness, our street children here in Cambodia need light and support in their difficult situation.

“Each of us a star. Sometimes situations take our shine away. Sometimes we shine with the rest, sometime we twinkle alone. But we have to realize that sometimes, we are the only light for someone in times of darkness. Let your light shine no matter what.” I am inspired by this statement, it is because I know I am not alone in this ministry of GBGM. You are there with me and I cannot do anything without you.

Thank you very much. We can minister to these, the “Least of my brethren” as Jesus has said. We can accomplish many things through your help. God bless you always.

May we continue to share our love through our support to transform not only individual children, but their families as well. We are instruments to proclaim the love of the Risen Christ. As He rose from the dead, we will be risen too. How nice it is that we can share this to others. Through our ministry, we are spreading God’s love.

An Easter card is attached which was sketched by our children. This is a “thank you” gesture of love for you. Thank you so much. Happy Easter 2019!!!

Very truly yours,

Clara Mridula Biswas  
P. O. Box 2493  
Phnom Penh3, Cambodia

(The children’s card is displayed on the bulletin board next to the office.)



City of Chesapeake Office of the Mayor 306 Cedar Road Chesapeake, Virginia 23322 (757) 382-6151 FAX (757) 382-6678

April 1, 2019

Dear Faith Based Organization Leader:

Today, April 1, 2019, is Census Awareness Day. The 2020 Census is quickly approaching. Soon, every household across the nation will receive a census form to complete and mail back to the Census Bureau. The U. S. Constitution requires that a census of the entire population be taken once every ten years. This mission is not to be taken lightly. The information collected from the census is very important for determining representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the distribution of over \$600 billion in federal funding. In Chesapeake, millions of dollars in federal and state funding are at stake, which includes funding that benefit schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

I am appealing to you as a leader within the faith community to help us get the word out about how important it is for every Chesapeake resident to participate in the 2020 Census. Below you will find a link to help you in this regard. I ask that you make announcements during your services in the months and weeks leading up to the 2020 Census and perhaps drop the information into your newsletters, bulletins and emails. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/why.html>

Thank you for taking on this vital commitment and most of all thank you for the role that you play in meeting the needs of your neighbors and working in partnership with the City to improve the overall quality of life in our community. Ensuring that Chesapeake's residents are counted accurately and completely is one of the most important ways that we can collectively meet these objectives. A representative from the Chesapeake Planning Department will reach out to you as it gets closer to the 2020 Census to be a reminder and to assist you in any way.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard W. West  
Mayor

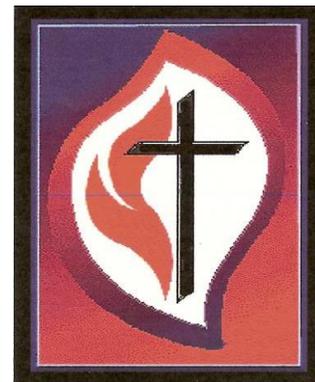
"The City of Chesapeake adheres to the principles of equal employment opportunity. This policy extends to all programs and services supported by the City."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9 AM TOPS 7 PM Choir Practice	2 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	3	4 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
5 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 11 AM Joint Worship w/SOTM 12 PM Everybody's Birthday & Staff Appreciation Lunch 7 PM AA	6 10 AM Food Pantry 10:30 AM Golden Girls Circle of Love 6:PM SOTM Youth Heritage 6:30 PM Admin Team 7 PM HRM Band	7 Bulletin Articles Due 7 PM NA 7 PM SOTM Men's Ministry 7 PM SOTM Women's Ministry	8 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	9 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study 7 PM Model "A" Club	10 9 AM Breakfast @ Denny's	11 8:00 AM UMM Apple Butter 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
12 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 7 PM AA	13 10 AM Food Pantry 6 PM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	14 Bulletin Articles Due 7 PM Vacation Bible School Meeting 7 PM NA	15 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	16 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM Friends of Indian River 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	17	18 8 AM UMW Yard Sale 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
19 8:30 AM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 12 PM Staff Support Team 1 PM Parsonage Review 3-8 PM Gospel Concert (outside group) 7 PM AA	20 10 AM Food Pantry 6 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	21 Bulletin Articles Due 8:30 AM Newsletter Articles Due 7 PM NA 7 PM SOTM Men's Ministry 7 PM SOTM Women's Ministry	22 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 6 PM UMM 7 PM Choir Practice	23 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	24	25 6:30 PM SOTM Children's Worship & Dance Group
26 8:30 PM The River 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM-2 PM SOTM 11 AM Worship & Royal Kids 6:30 PM Mayberry Church 7 PM AA	27 10 AM Food Pantry 6 PM SOTM Youth Heritage 7 PM HRM Band	28 Bulletin Articles Due 8:30 AM Newsletter Assembly 7 PM NA	29 9 AM TOPS 1 PM Bible Study @ Barnes & Noble 7 PM Choir Practice	30 10 AM Thursday w/Tim 7 PM SOTM Bible Study	31	

Oaklette United Methodist Church  
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Chesapeake, VA 23325

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**Oaklette's Mission Statement:**  
"God's Body in this Community"

"Oaklette United Methodist Church through worship, education, and outreach, seeks to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real, as we minister to all people.

**Oaklette Staff**

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