

The Sweet Spirit

Olive Branch United Methodist Church August 2017



From the pastor's pen



In the midst of an extended dry period, crops are craving rain; animals are wandering closer to water sources to quench their thirst; ponds and creeks are lower than they've been in a long time; gardens are parched. Why doesn't God send us rain? Doesn't he hear our prayers?

Could it be that we haven't prayed and asked Him to send us rain? Do we trust God enough to pray for what we need? Elijah did. Look in your Bible... James 5:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.* ¹⁸ *Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

Elijah prayed that it would not rain and it didn't for three and a half years! At the end of the drought that ensued, he prayed again for rain, and guess what.....it rained! Look at verse 17 again.... *"Elijah was a human being, even as we are."* James is telling us that we are on the same level as Elijah, as far as God is concerned. If He listened to Elijah's earnest prayers and answers them, He will listen to our earnest prayers and answer them!

There are those among us that are in their own drought, not from the lack of rain from the clouds, but lack of the *"spiritual rain"* God has stored up for us when our spirits become parched. He has what we need – we just need to ask for it! Matthew 7: 7 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Take it to the Lord in prayer, but be careful what you ask for! Elijah didn't really want a three and a half year drought. We need to make sure we ask just for what we need – and let God deliver it. It may not come in our time frame, nor in the form or quantity we asked for. It may not be God's will to fulfill your request, but He always gives us just what we need!

Prayer is a powerful tool. Use it wisely. Trust in the Lord and believe that God answers prayers.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Randy

Did You Know?

One day after services and lunch I took a walk around our cemetery. Now, I know some of you are saying what is he doing in the cemetery? WELL---- I was looking at the headstones. I wanted to see who was buried there. Being a Civil War buff for more years than I care to count I was intrigued to see if there were any veterans from that conflict. Well, our cemetery is the final resting place to several Confederate veterans. I thought it would be nice to identify them and tell you about as much of their lives before, during and after the Civil War (War of Northern Aggression for those born below the Mason – Dixon Line). I will tell the story of one veteran a month for the next few months. Sooo, this month we will hear about Joel Davis King.

Joel Davis King was born in Meherrin District, Brunswick County, VA on January 8th, 1823 to Charles C. and Polly King. On July 3, 1845 Joel married Mary Jane Wall. Mary Jane bore Joel 5 children during their marriage. One of their children, Charles Griffin King was born in 1847. He went on to enlist in the CSA at the age of 16 and became a member of Company D, 4th Battalion, Virginia Reserves, after they were organized in 11 Aug 1864 in Brunswick County under the command of Captain Isaac T. Britt. The Brunswick Reserves were organized for home defense and to guard against Yankee raiding parties on supplies and equipment, as well as to protect railroads and bridges. They were stationed at Hicksford. He was promoted to sergeant at age 17 and served to the end of the war. ***Reference Source, Civil War Soldiers from Brunswick County, VA written by Dr. William Pritchett, p. 306. Charles was buried in 1915 at a grave yard at the corner of Oak Grove Church Road and Elams Road which was the responsibility of Olive Branch UMC at one time. This is the King Family Cemetery.

Joel married Indiana Mosely of Gasburg, Va. on October 12th, 1878. They had two children. Both boys lived into the 20th century. Joel's war record was one of sitting and waiting. He enlisted in Capt. Coleman's Company, Heavy Artillery which was a part of Neblett's Artillery Brigade. Shortly after enlisting on March 1, 1862 he was shipped to Craney Island, Portsmouth, VA. The unit was transferred to Drewry's Bluff. This position was used to protect Richmond from Federal Gunboats. He came down with bronchitis and pneumonia in the winter of 1862 and was hospitalized. Shortly after his release from the hospital he was declared unfit for duty and discharged on April 9, 1862.

Joel came back to Brunswick County and proceeded to be a farmer. On August 5th, 1904 Joel left this world at the age of 81. He is buried in our cemetery with his wife Indiana at his side.

Hope you enjoyed this article and found it informative. I will be adding others who lived in Gasburg, VA. And served during this historic time.

Message from the Council Chair – Jane DiStefano

The Church Administrative Council meets every other month on the second Monday at 7:00 PM. The next meeting will be August 14th at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend. It is always an open meeting, although voting is limited to committee members.

LISA'S GREAT GIVEAWAY

As we approach the end of the summer, it is time once again to think about Lisa's Great Giveaway! This annual event is sponsored by the Outreach Committee and is an opportunity to truly give back to our community. The Outreach Committee collects clothing and small household items to be given to anyone in need. We are currently receiving these items. They may be left in the fellowship hall in small bags or boxes and will be sorted out and then offered freely to anyone who wants them. Please note that we will not accept furniture or large appliances.

The event will be held on Saturday, August 26th. The event requires lots of manpower in order to sort through all the items and then put them out on the day of the event. Anyone willing to help please see Nancy Maguire or Jane DiStefano.

United Methodist Women

The UMW will meet on August 9th at 1:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to meet women of the church or become better acquainted. It is also an opportunity to take part in missions and other activities. We always have a great time.

On Sunday, July 23rd The Annual Candle Burning Ceremony took place. The UMW ran the service that day and took the occasion to let us meet some of the "Bodacious Women of the Bible." We got to meet five women of the Bible who told us about their meeting with Jesus. They told of Jesus' love and how it changed their lives. The service was very enjoyable and the UMW did a wonderful job.

Outreach

Please don't forget our Church pantry! Our brothers and sisters in the greater community are suffering and need help. We are blessed that Food Lion is willing to provide us with meats, vegetables, fruits, and baked goods but, it is up to us to fill out the dietary needs of the families we serve. We currently service 12 families with food donations. Please help keep our pantry stocked with your donations. I know you will open your hearts. Also, one of our biggest needs is meat. So if you are able, pick up an extra package of meat to help out one of our families. With the departure of Jerri Burgess we are in need of help with the deliveries to our families. If you can take 2-4 hours out of your busy day, one day a month please contact Jane DiStefano. The help will be appreciated.

Upcoming Events:

Sun. – Aug. 6th – Bring a Friend to Church Luncheon after worship. Bring a dish if you can, if not just Come and Enjoy the Fellowship! Meet your neighbors!

Wed. – Aug. 9 – UMW Meeting 1:00 PM

Wed. – Aug. 9 - Choir Practice resumes at 7:00 PM

This is your newsletter. It is meant to be a way to communicate what your church is doing and what all the organizations are doing both in the congregation and the community. I am sending this electronically via email and copies will be made available for those who need a printed copy.

There are many organizations within our church and I hope they would like to have their achievements, plans, and meetings made known to the entire church. It is my hope that they will ask one of their members to drop a short note as to what they doing each month. The line of communication in the church needs to be open and full of what we are doing at Olive Branch to make disciples in our area. If you would like to send us something, please bring it to church or send me an email (revedumc@yahoo.com) and we will see that it gets published. We need all information by the 24th of each month for the following month. Please, let's keep our church informed on what we are doing. See you at church and all our activities!

God bless to all! Ed DiStefano