

# The Sweet Spirit

## Olive Branch United Methodist Church October 2017

From the pastor's pen



Blessings and Peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I can't help but think about the tragedies that have occurred in the last month; the hurricanes, earthquake, floods, mass murders, among other events that have affected so many people. Please be in prayer for everyone suffering from these catastrophes.

Why does God permit evil? With the events unfolding as recent as this past weekend in Las Vegas, I am certain many are asking, "God why?" I would like to share a few observations that I have made. First, God never originated sin, Adam and Eve chose their path of disobedience and sin (Romans 5:12).

Today, people like Stephen Paddock still choose to live out their lives apart from a meaningful relationship with God. Secondly, what if God so chose to intervene 100% of the time, in every evil action and deed, He could you know, He is capable, but with every intervention from drunk drivers to terrorists, I'm afraid the surface would only be touched, not the core issue of a depraved heart (Jeremiah 17:9).

By the way, are they the only evil issues? Is cheating on a tax return or a spouse also evil? The real problem there would lie with freedom and that is a real slippery slope. Frankly, none of us would exist if God removed all evil, not if you take Romans 3:23 seriously. If I might suggest, in the real world every choice has a consequence, ultimately God will deal with evil, but for now why not explore a close relationship with God, it is the only source for now of "Peace On Earth."

As we continue every Sunday during worship to pray for peace in the world, our daily prayers are needed, also. God will bring peace when evil has been destroyed on earth.

Be an instrument of peace in all that you do and to all you encounter.

Praying for you I am,  
Pastor Randy

### Did You Know?

This month we will introduce you to Pvt. James John Moseley, Jr. born on April 11, 1833 in the Meherrin District of Brunswick County to John James Moseley and Lucy Ann Carroll of Warren County, NC. James was an illiterate farmer all his life. He married Lucy Ann Kirkland also of Brunswick County on December 19, 1883. In June of 1861 James enlisted in the 21<sup>st</sup> Virginia Infantry. The unit became part of the CSA army in August 1861.

James led a very dangerous career in the four years of military service. Shortly after his induction to the CSA he, along with the rest of the 21st were sent to be part of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Army of the Shenandoah. This army fought from one end of the Shenandoah Valley to the other. James saw all facets of war in the Valley. When the Army of the Potomac challenged the Army of Northern Virginia on the peninsula, Jackson's troops were called to assist in the defense of Richmond. From then on they would fight with the Army of Northern Virginia. When they were asked to fight at the Battle of Gettysburg they were in the line to take Cemetery Ridge on Lee's left.

*Following is the Report of Capt. W. P. Moseley, Twenty-first Virginia Infantry. July 21, 1863.*

*Sir: The regiment, commanded by myself, formed line of battle on the left of Gettysburg on the evening of July 1, and remained in that position until about 6 p. m. of the 2d, when it advanced against the enemy, entrenched on the mountain in its front. The advance did not prove successful, and the regiment fell back about 8 o'clock to the branch at the foot of the mountain, where it reformed, and advanced a short distance, and there remained until 8 p. m. of the 3d, when it relinquished its position, being ordered to withdraw.*

*Casualties: Killed, 6; wounded, 34; missing, 10.\**

*Respectfully submitted. WM. P. MOSELEY*

The only time the regiment left the Army of Northern Virginia was when it was transferred to Jubal Early Corps. They marched up the Valley, to outside of Washington. He and the boys threw a scare into Lincoln when the President came out of Washington to see the defensive works. He stood on a wall and a member of the CSA saw him and took a shot that put a hole in Lincoln's stove pipe hat. Shortly after that the 21<sup>st</sup> was returned to Lee to face the Army of the Potomac and U.S. Grant. With Grant taking control of the Army of the Potomac the war became a war of attrition. The 21<sup>st</sup> served in all the major battles of the Army of Northern Virginia. After the Siege of Petersburg and the retreat of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia the war came to an end for James Moseley at Appomattox. He was surrendered with 50 other veterans and 6 officers. This was from a beginning force of 600 men! Today, in our cemetery lies the remains of James John Moseley, Jr. He served in a war that he believed in and with distinction! Though he never rose above the rank of private he rose for what he believed in. James John Moseley rests with the other veterans, be they CSA or WWI or WWII, Korea or Viet Nam they served their countries in what they believed!

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#### **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 October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in the business of the church is invited to attend. If you have any suggestions for our church or problems, please join us. It is always an open meeting, although voting is limited to committee members.

Jane would also like to thank those who have helped take down and set up again, the Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary and Narthex as we prepared for Homecoming. Your help was greatly appreciated.

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#### **Homecoming 2017**

Homecoming will take place on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:15. This year we will hear a stirring message from our pastor Rev. Randy Williams. Our special music will be presented by Rev. Williams and the Joyful Noise Choir. Immediately following the services we will join all those who are current, past, and future members in a meal. Come and join us for this wonderful time to visit with old friends and make new ones!

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#### **United Methodist Women**

The UMW had the pleasure to attend a District meeting on September 27. Bishop Sharma Lewis was the spiritual leader for the event. Our ladies presented her with a history of our church, a copy of our prayer gram and a prayer square. The Bishop brought us a great message of unity and everyone enjoyed the day.

The next UMW Meeting will be October 11, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Please plan on joining them.

The District UMW is sponsoring the following event. All ladies of the Church are invited to attend.

**POWER OF PRAYER as the doorway to daily miracles Interactive workshop will be held at the JAMIESON MEMORIAL UMC, 10 am to noon, October 21.** The Jamieson Memorial United Methodist Women are delighted to present our own **Elaine Senz**, a woman of faith and member of this church, who will offer insights into various facets of prayer and its impact on our daily lives while using a variety of resources including thoughts from the books, **Help, Thanks, Wow – Three Essential Prayers** by Anne Lamont and **The Prayer Box** by Lisa Wingate.



Elaine has been instrumental in assisting in the development of an expanding prayer program within the church and the community. The attendees will have the opportunity to create their own God boxes during the session.

Bev Chestnutt, also a member of Jamieson, will provide several musical selections for the day. She views music as an offering of prayer and praise to God.

Please join other women of our community as we hear an inspiring message in word and music on the role prayer can play in our daily lives to provide hope, strength, and comfort. Refreshments will be provided during a time of fellowship at the beginning of the event, which is free. Jamieson Memorial UMC, **219 Fifth Street, Clarksville.** The program will be held in the fellowship hall. Please call 434-374-8050 if you have any questions.

The Olive Branch UMW will meet on Wednesday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM. All the Ladies and Friends of the Church are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship.

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### United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. The Fall Stew will take place on Oct 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. We will provide breakfast for those working on the stew on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The stew should be ready around 12pm and the cost will be \$7.00 per quart. The Ankum Road clean up scheduled for Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> is now cancelled as the State of Virginia decided to clean the entire length of Ankum Road with help from the department of correction in mid-September.

The State has given credit to us for the work and will ask the department of correction to read the signs on the road before sending crews out to clean the road.

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### Outreach

The Committee will meet at 6:00pm just before the Council meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Ed DiStefano and Nancy Maguire, co-chairs of the Outreach Committee would like the church to please give them some insight as to the needs of our community that we as a church do not currently meet. It is our responsibility, as a church, to help those in need. Please join us with your ideas!

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 some 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 11 families with food donations. Please help keep our pantry stocked with your donations as we have a shortage of canned vegetables. 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. We are in need of help with the deliveries to our families. Cathy and Robert Moore are doing a great job, but if you can take 2-4 hours out of your busy day, one day a month please contact Ed DiStefano, or Cathy Moore. The help will be appreciated.

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### Walk to Emmaus

Recently members of our church have attended a Christian revival known as the Walk to Emmaus. This program is an intense three day journey in Christian beliefs. Those who have “walked” have found a new understanding of God and Jesus Christ. The 3 days are spent with other Christians wanting to know God better. It takes place over a weekend starting on Thursday night and concluding on Sunday afternoon. There are speeches given on the topics of being a Christian in all facets of your life.

If you have an interest in getting to know how to live a deeper life in Christ feel free to ask Ed DiStefano, Jane DiStefano, Alice Johnson, Vicki Evans, Rev. Randy Williams, Nancy Williams. They'll be glad to talk to you about the Walk to Emmaus

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### Prayer Gram

Each Sunday, in the Narthex, there is a sheet that looks like a sign up sheet. The sheet is what we call a Prayer Gram. Each person in attendance is asked to sign it. You are also invited to give us the name and address of persons who would benefit from receiving the Prayer Gram.(on the yellow legal pad) The purpose is to bring a prayer to those who are homebound and unable to attend church due to illness. During the service Rev. Randy will ask for the name of those in need of prayer. Each person on the list in the Narthex will receive a copy of the signatures of those who prayed for them during worship services.

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### Teddy Bear Prayer Program

In the sanctuary we have a collection of teddy bears. These are special teddy bears. Each bear has been prayed over and hugged by the congregation during worship. If someone is in need of a teddy bear kind of love, be they members, family, or friends, a member can sign out a teddy bear and take it to that person. Many bears have left our church to bring God's love to those who are in the hospital or ill. It's just another way to bring God's love and our love to those we care about.

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### Paraments Donated to Arvoniam UMC.



These Paraments were donated to Arvoniam UMC. They have never had paraments before and greatly appreciate the ones we donated. They send their thanks

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### **Special Reminder: Olive Branch Homecoming – Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:15**

**Please join us for this fun event and for the luncheon we will have afterwards. It will be a time of getting together with past friends and family! It will be a covered dish luncheon with the church providing meat.**

### **Pastors Appreciation Month.**

October is Pastors Appreciation Month. Our Pastor is a hard working man of God. Randy spends a great deal of time of taking care of our spiritual needs. He works seven days a week preparing, teaching, visiting, and

reaching out to be part of all our activities and groups. On top of this he is a friend to all. If you get a chance just tell him thanks for the job he does.

**Upcoming Events:**

Wed. – Oct 11 – United Methodist Women- Meeting 1:00 PM

Wed. – Oct 4,11,18,25 - Choir Practice at 7:00 PM Each Wednesday

Sat.- Oct 27-28- United Methodist Men – Brunswick Stew prep (27), Cooking (28)

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](mailto:revedumc@yahoo.com)) and we will see that it gets published. We need all information by the 24<sup>th</sup> 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