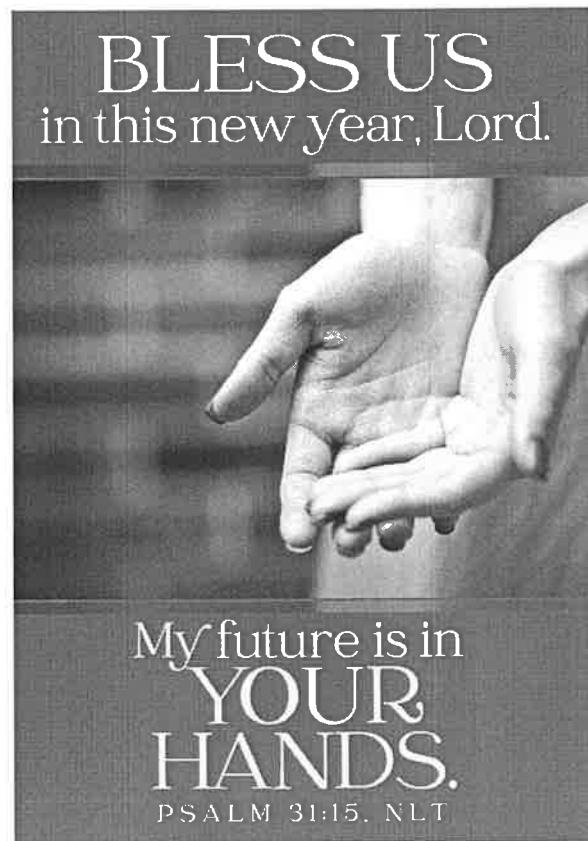


THE OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH MESSENGER

January, 2026

Rev. John Alexander – Pastor
Norma Carroll – Worship Leader
Anna Taylor – Pianist
Christie Rhom – Secretary
828-274-3221



THE PASTOR'S PEN

As we are ushered into 2026, I am thankful for the way we ended 2025 worshiping the Lord Jesus Christ with the children's Christmas program and the candlelight Christmas Eve service. We ended the year on a high note, and I am excited for what the Lord will do in the new year at Oakley Baptist Church. He has a plan and a purpose for each of us individually and as His church.

With each new year many of us set resolutions and goals. Many people begin a new year setting a goal of getting healthier, so every January gyms across America have an influx of new membership. Even though exercising more and getting healthier physically is a great goal to have, it is more important for us to be healthier spiritually. The Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 4:8 had this to say about physical and spiritual health: "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

Paul was telling his protégé Timothy that physical exercise profits us a little, but spiritual exercise profits us in every aspect of life. In other words, yes, it's important to eat right and exercise and we should do that as much as possible, but our spiritual health, which is often overlooked, has more of a lasting impact. As a matter of fact, it has an eternal impact. Not only does it hold value in our daily living, but it will also help us to be more aware of God's promises for the eternal life that is yet to come for those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

How can we get stronger spiritually? To be physically healthier we must exercise our muscles and keep moving, and the same applies to our spiritual health. We must exercise our spiritual muscles by spending time with the Lord in the reading of His Word and through prayer every day, and we should come to church as much as we can. Participating together in worship is something that is overlooked in the church today. We can go online and watch a worship service (which is for people that aren't able to come), but it doesn't come close to being among God's people worshiping together. It is my prayer for each of you that 2026 is the best year yet full of the joy, peace, strength, and endurance that only God can bring! I also pray you will experience the biggest growth spiritually that you have ever had!

Pastor John

LISTENING HEARTS

WMU did not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 10th at 2:00 p.m. All ladies please try to attend.

We sponsored the Lottie Moon Brunch. Thank you to everyone who participated and to our speaker, Norma Melton.

You can still contribute to Lottie Moon. Our goal is \$3,000.00. Prayerfully consider your gift.

We are looking forward to completing missions in the new year. All ladies are invited to join.

Love to all,
Sherry

PLEASE NOTE

As of January 1, 2026, the church will no longer mail newsletters. Newsletters will be available in the vestibule or on the website at oakelybaptistchurch.org.

Newsletter articles are still due at the church by the 20th of each month.

MUSIC CORNER

Worship Leader:

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Happy New Year!
Love in Christ,
Norma



2026