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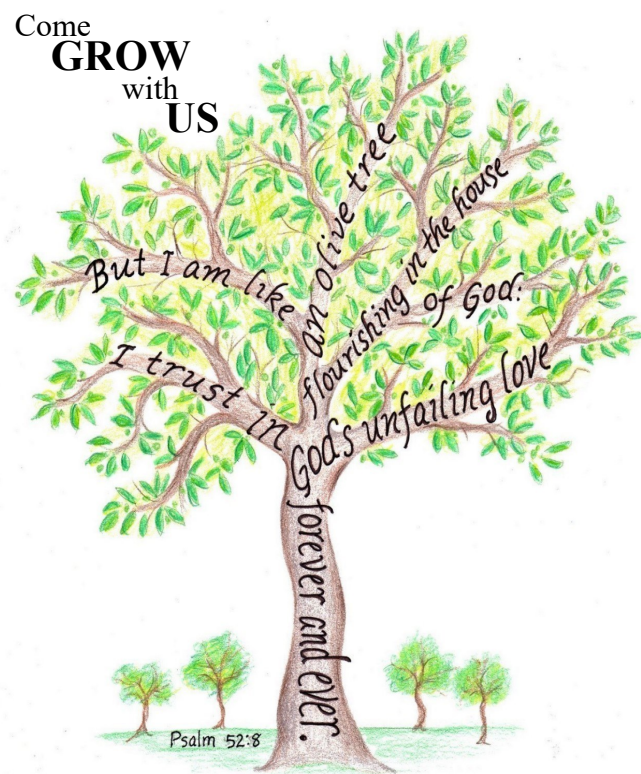
**January 2025: Verse of the Month**

**Those who trust in the Lord will  
 renew their strength; they will  
 soar on wings like eagles; they  
 will run and not become weary,  
 they will walk and not faint.**

**Isaiah 40:31**

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES  
 AT OAKLAND**

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Indoor Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday** 6:30 PM Wednesday Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Worship Online (Facebook)



**CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER**

*Pastor David's Corner*

January 2025

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God is answering so many prayers in our midst. It is amazing to see His hand at work! We are thankful for the deliverance He has given many of our faithful. Let us not grow complacent in continuing to pray for our people and our church. So many have strong needs yet to be answered in ways that are hoped for at this time! Keep praying!

We recently heard from a pastor, Ron Flowers, with a mission calling for our immediate area. He was NOT looking to merge with another church, but simply needed a little space to build, empower and release his fresh church plant (about 15-20 people) out into the darkness and hopelessness of our geographic area, most notably Monroe Middle and High Schools. His heart is especially for the fatherless! What a calling; what a heart-burden!

He and his wife, Sherrie, along with their 3 children, Ron Jr., Sheridan, and Carson, live in one of our newer subdivisions near the church, just a short drive away. He has already begun to substitute teach in both schools and has launched a mentorship program at the high school. This is through an organization called Next Level Living created by his wife.

Pastor Ron holds a Bachelor of Business Management from Robert Morris University (Orland Park, Illinois Campus), along with a Master of Theological Studies (2008) and Master of Divinity (2013) degrees from Liberty University. In 2010, he founded Living Streams Worship Center, a non-denominational church in Robbins, Illinois, where he served for 12 years. His vision for the church was to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and help individuals establish a personal relationship with God. Living Streams Worship Center's mission is to bring love, salvation, healing, and hope through God's Word, empowering individuals to lead spiritually fulfilled and whole lives.

Pastor Ron's diverse ministry experience includes roles as Director of Music, Organist, Assistant Pastor, and host of the radio show "The Flow" on WGBX, which reached thousands of listeners. He currently shares his ministry weekly on the Faith Discovery Channel via YouTube. In 2022, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Ron relocated to North Carolina. During this transition, he served as an Elder at New Living Word Church in Waxhaw for over two years. Now, he is looking to plant Living Streams Worship Center in Monroe, NC, continuing his divine mission to reach this region with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

At present, they are looking to hold services AFTER our Sunday morning worship hour and also hold a Tuesday evening service as well. Ron has already walked through our facilities with me and is very humbled by the deeply felt presence of the Holy Spirit, as well as the beauty of our facilities. On a few occasions, he had to physically hold back tears as the Spirit rose up within to encourage him of God the Father's great provision for all whom He calls to preach His Word! It was humbling to witness. I walked away blessed.

On Sunday, the 19th, Ron & Sherrie will join us for our morning worship hour to meet our folks and share a few minutes of the ministry and mission God has placed upon his heart in our little corner of Monroe and beyond. We welcome all comments and thoughts about this potential partnership. We will give our folks an opportunity to affirm the decision to allow this church plant to meet here a few hours a week in our facilities.

Love & Blessings!

Pastor David

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy

Anderson

Gary Clontz

Marlene Crider

Lela Crump

Peggy Dean

John Efirid

Cindy French

Sam & Wanda

Goodwin

Ray Greene

Nan Helms

Grady & Judy Hill

Rodney Johnson

(Renee Helms' Son)

Prayer requests  
continued on page 4.



### Happy New Year

We hope you have a happy new year!

### Welcome New Member

Teresa Hastings



### Christmas Cards

Don't forget to pick up your Christmas cards from the table in the hallway near the church offices!



### Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

2024 Goal: \$2,000

Received through December: \$2,600



### Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be  
Wednesday, January 15th at 7:45 PM.



### December Attendance

**Sunday, December 1 (46 Indoor + 126 Online)**

Wednesday, December 4 (111 Online)

**Sunday, December 8 (52 Indoor + 144 Online)**

Wednesday, December 11 (114 Online)

**Sunday, December 15 (48 Indoor + 126 Online)**

Wednesday, December 18 (95 Online)

**Sunday, December 22 (45 Indoor + 136 Online)**

Wednesday, December 25 (No Online)

**Sunday, December 29 (30 Indoor + 170 Online)**



### Saving Grace

We have formed a new ministry team, Saving Grace. Our desire is to help our congregation by meeting immediate needs. Food, meals, household goods, a listening ear and prayer. We are here. Please call or email the church office.

All help will be confidential.



### Haley's Ministry Prayer Requests & Praises



- Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and abundant provision in all areas of life.
- Please pray that the Lord would bring more staff to the WASH team!
- Pray for the many students and staff across the country at Cru Winter Conferences this month. This is a great time for them to recruit for their spring break and summer mission trips. Pray that God would call students to serve with Cru.

### Bible Event in the Bible App

A QR code for each Sunday's Bible event in the Bible app will now be in the church bulletin. To access the Bible event in the Bible app, just open the camera on your smartphone and aim it at the QR code as if you were focusing in to take a picture. A link should pop up on your phone that you can click on and go straight to the Bible event in the Bible app.

Each Bible event contains the Scripture for that Sunday, as well as links to the bulletin, newsletter, and webpage.



### Backpacks of Hope



The backpacks ministry will not continue in the Spring semester.

Thank you to those who have donated food and/or donated monetarily to this ministry!

### Bulletin/Newsletter Blurbs

Do you have a small business that offers services that our church members may be interested in? Send your business/contact info and service details to the church office to be 'advertised' in the bulletin.








**December 2024 Offerings**  
\$16,171.68


**Budget Needs for January**  
\$17,571.84

**Wellspring Preparatory School**  
Wellspring Preparatory School is starting their Spring semester on Monday, January 6th. Pray for Stephanie & the kids this semester!




**Men's Prayer Night**  
January 14th @ 6:30 PM  
Union Baptist Association (1744 Williams Rd, Monroe)

All men are invited to a monthly prayer meeting to pray for our families, churches, community and nation. Locations will rotate among the churches involved and will be announced in advanced through the UBA.

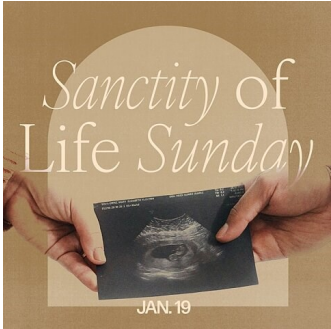


**Youth Lock-In**  
Friday, January 17th  
5-10 PM  
All active members of the youth group are invited to a lock in.




**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**  
January 19th

Our Bible Studies for Life curriculum has a special focus session titled *Treasuring Who God Treasures* that highlights life as a gift from God which we are to protect and preserve.



**Easter Sunday**  
Save the Date: April 20th  
Who are you inviting to Easter Sunday Worship this year?



# JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Happy New Year! Office Closed No Youth No Online Worship	<b>2</b> Jail Ministry	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
<b>5</b> Session 6: Looking Forward With Expectation 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>9</b> Jail Ministry	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Session 1: The Focus of Our Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> Jail Ministry	<b>17</b> 5-10 PM Youth Lock-In	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Session 2: Treasuring Who God Treasures 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>23</b> Jail Ministry	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Session 3: The Inspiration for Worship 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>30</b> Jail Ministry	<b>31</b>	



# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Lillian Lewis
- Zack Little (MMS Counselor)
- Richard & Tammy Lovingood
- Richard Lovingood's Sister
- Mike Lunsford
- Pam Majewski
- Lorraine McClellan
- Debbie McKnight
- Louise Parker
- Richie Raines
- Carolyn Street
- David Welch (Irene's Son)
- Irene Welch

### Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

#### LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

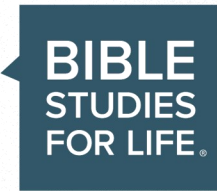
January 5: Looking Forward with Expectation

#### THE HEART OF WORSHIP

January 12: The Focus of Our Worship

January 19: *Special Focus*: Treasuring Who God Treasures

January 26: The Inspiration for Worship



### Bible Studies For Life Summary

#### *Special Focus: Treasuring Who God Treasures*



We're surrounded by a self-absorbed culture and a throw-away world. A self-absorbed life is breeding ground for death and destruction. Self-absorption is evidenced in the face that we live in a throw-away world, also called cancel culture. When a person speaks something different than the approved talking points of society, he and his work are canceled.

The throw away aspect of cancel culture is even more insidious. In many places, the world in which we live considers humans as throw away. When an older person is seen as having no value, they are placed out of sight and out of mind. When a pre-born human is inconvenient, may not look like we want, or will face health and development issues, his or her life is terminated.

God treasures all of life, from the womb to the tomb. He plans a person's days before a breath is ever breathed. He does terrific things with the lives of those that others would prefer to "throw away." As an ambassador for Christ, we should treasure all of life just as He does. In Exodus 2, we'll see a self-absorbed king of Egypt wreaking havoc upon Israel because he considered them of no value. But we will also discover what God can do through those who fear Him and treasure those He treasures.



### Christmas Musical

Thank you for coming out on December 15th to our Christmas musical titled *The Living Gift!*



### Christmas Eve Service

Thank you for coming out and being a part of our Christmas Eve Service! You can rewatch the service on Oakland's Facebook page.

