

The Home Visitor

THE MISMATCH ILLUSION
2 Kings 6:14

They just had the battle of the Little BigHorn again. Custer lost this time too. Actually it was part of a movie on the life of the great Oglala Lakota, Chief Crazy Horse. Of course, the big scene was the portrayal of Custer's last stand.

Now, one challenge for the warrior Indian riders (the actors) was riding bareback; they had to do that full speed in the battle scenes. It looks as if there are hundreds of warrior Indian riders because the warriors were going by so fast in a cloud of dust. One might ask, How many warriors did they need to reenact a battle that involved so many Indians? The answer, About eighty. Hollywood of course, is all about illusion, so they just had these eighty guys charge up to the soldiers, turn their horses sharply and circle around again and again and again. There were not nearly as many warriors on the other side as it looked like in the movie. Custer might have wished that the real odds might had been that even.

Well, I want to have A WORD WITH YOU this month about
THE MISMATCH ILLUSION.

Our word for this month from the Word of God comes from 2 Kings 6:14. The King of Syria really wants Elisha captured: "The King sent an entire army to get the prophet, he sent horses and chariots and a strong force and at night they surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning he saw the army and horses and chariots that surrounded the city. 'Oh my Lord Elisha, what shall we do?', the servant asked. 'Don't be afraid,' the prophet Elisha answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'" At that moment the eyes of Elisha's servant were opened and he could see the unseen army of the Lord as well, which encircled the army of the Syrian King.

The opposing forces looked overwhelming - they weren't. Rather than being overwhelming to Elisha and his servant, the Syrian army was actually overwhelmed! As the story continues to unfold, the armies of the Living God protect the Servant of God. Which God always does.



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SPECIAL NOTES

- Presidents Day 2/19 Office Closed
- Home Visitor article cut off date Thursday Feb.15.

Based on the armed forces Elisha's servant could see, he reacted with anxiety and fear. It looked like a total mismatch, but the mismatch was an illusion! Kind of like the movie portrayal of Custer's last stand. The attackers looked much stronger than they really were. When you get all the information about who is out there, it doesn't seem nearly as intimidating.

Right now maybe you are in a battle where it looks like a lop-sided mismatch with you being overwhelmed by the opposition, by the darkness that's attacking, by the responsibilities pressing in. The tendency is to retreat, to give up, go hide, compromise. Maybe you are worried about the bad influences on your son or daughter and what they might become, or about some strong opposition to a work you are trying to do for the Lord, or the financial odds threatening to consume you. Maybe it's the pressure that has intimidated you into silence where you should be sharing and speaking out. Whatever it is, what stands in the way looks huge! But, you need to look again at this battle, this time to the forces of Jesus - committed to the battle on your behalf.

Listen to Adonai's (the LORD's) promises, "The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4:4.

"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but he (the destroyer, see John 10:10) will not come near you." Psalm 91:7.

"The chariots of God are tens of thousands, and thousands of thousands, the Lord has come." Psalm 68:17.

"If God be for us, who could be against us?" Romans 8:31.

Hey, you have been intimidated long enough, you have played defense long enough, you have sunk back in fear long enough, "God has not given us a spirit of fear," the Bible says, "but of power and love and a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7.

The enemy isn't nearly as big or as strong as they might want you to believe. The enemy's plan is to use illusion to hold you back, to put you down, or to keep you in your place. The Good-News: you have in you the risen Christ who said "all authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth." Matthew 28:18.

You have all the power of Jesus' blood and Jesus' name. True the devil keeps circling, like those Indian riders in the movie reenactment, to make you think you are outnumbered, and you are, but this battle shall be decided by the awesome forces of your Living God. And, just as Elisha stated, "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

For a heart after Adonai,
Pastor Nathan



ASH WEDNESDAY ~ FEBRUARY 14, 2024

WORSHIP AT 5:30 PM

The Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday, when Christians around the world gather to have the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with ashes. The ash cross we wear on Ash Wednesday is a way of saying "I am sorry for my sins, and I know I need to be forgiven." When we look in the mirror, it is a reminder to ourselves that we need to be forgiven and to forgive others. Although Ash Wednesday seems like a serious day, it is also hopeful, because the cross reminds us that God loves and forgives us. Each day is a chance to start over.

Our Ash Wednesday worship will include Scripture, Anthems by the Chancel and Youth Choirs; Meditation, Prayer, The Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline, a Litany of Penitence and the Imposition of Ashes. Our Lenten journey begins with repentance, forgiveness and hope.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

Once again, OBPC's tradition of making a generous year-end donation to our Alternative Christmas Giving program was a great success. **Thirteen individuals/families donated \$9965 to support nine missions. partners of OBPC.**

Bethlehem Ministries	\$ 2045	Duvall Homes	\$ 745
Thornwell Home for Children	\$ 585	Rose Marie Bryon Children's Center	\$ 1455
Halifax Urban Ministries	\$ 585	Habitat for Humanity	\$ 585
Presbyterian Counseling Center	\$ 760	Family Renew	\$ 1495
Pace Center for Girls	\$ 1300	TOTAL	\$ 9965



With much appreciation,

Janice Danielson for the Outreach Committee

...you will glorify God by your obedience in acknowledging the gospel of Christ, and by the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others.

2 Corinthians 9:13



The Session

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

In its Stated Meeting on Wednesday

January 10, 2024

- Approved moving the March session meetings to Monday, March 11, because of the Lenten Study Series.
- Reminder that Officer Orientation and Training will be Saturday, February 10, 8 am to noon.
- Ronnie Rick's job title has been changed from Sextant to Steward.
- Elected church officers

President	Bill Thompson
Vice President	Randy Pechin
Secretary	Rosie Perry
Assistant Clerk	Ann Myer
Treasurer	Jim Adkins
Assistant Treasurer	Don Rumph
- Reestablished the first Sunday of the month's loose change offering to the Good Sam Fund.
- Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, February 14 at 5:30 p.m.
- Passover Seder will be on Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m.
- Good Friday service will be Friday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m.
- Teen night will be Saturday, February 10 at 5 p.m.
- Bingo Night will be Friday, February 23 from 6-8 p.m.
- Teen night will be Saturday, March 9 at 5 p.m.
- Bake sale (date to be determined) will be held by the youth to benefit the students in Haiti.
- Lynda Bonnick and Hunter Sharpe will be the Ruling Elder Commissioners to the Saturday, March 2 meeting of the Central Florida Presbytery. Meeting to be held in Maitland and on Zoom.

CPR Class Offered

Attendees at the recent CPR training class pause for a photo with Manikins used during the event held January 6.



Instructor Mary Yochum, volunteer with Volusia County Fire Rescue and a certified CPR instructor, led

the class in basic CPR, use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and basic first aid.



Along with knowledge and skills used to help during an emergency, Mary provided many of her own real-life situations as examples. She currently volunteers at Ormond by the Sea's fire station 14, just one of the many organizations she supports. The student workbook HEARTSAVER, developed by the American Heart Association, was provided to each attendee. The class was an educational opportunity provided by the OBPC Health and Wellness Team, a ministry of our Deacons.



We express our love and Sympathy

to the church family upon the death of Edith Gaines who was called into the church triumphant on December 27, 2023. She was the mother of Lynn Gaines. A memorial service was held in North Carolina.



Dearest Church Family-Thank you to all for your prayers and encouraging words during my recovery. The calls, cards and texts seem to always come when they were needed most! Fondly, *Kassie Manza*.

Dear members of OBPC Words can not express my gratitude to each of your kind and loving thoughts, prayers, and words in wishing me a happy birthday. The uniqueness of your expression towards me was revealed in the cards you blessed me with.

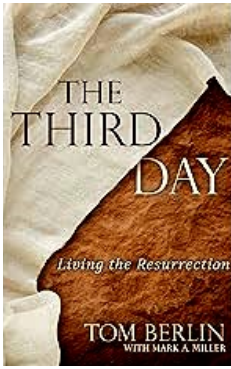


Out of 47 or 50 cards not one was a duplicate! Meaning, I am uniquely blessed for each of you have left footprint in my heart.

Blessings, Pastor Nathan



FAITH/JOY Circle meets the first Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 6, room 12, at 10:30 am. For more information, contact Elizabeth Strong 386 441-4419 or Marilyn Smarkusky 386 673-5518



Come Break Bread with Us ~ Fellowship and Lent Study

Please plan to join our Lenten soup and Bible study
Wednesday evenings, beginning

**February 21 through March 27, from 5 to 7:00 P.M.
in the Haddad Fellowship Center.**

Following a meal of soup and bread, Pastor Nathan Wheeler will lead a Lenten lesson based on the book *The Third Day*, by Rev, Tom Berlin. In *The Third Day*, the Rev. Tom Berlin explores the way that the resurrection of Jesus Christ profoundly changed the lives of those who followed Him and how it can transform our lives as well. Because Jesus was resurrected on the third day, we know that God offers new beginnings regardless of what the facts of our present reality may seem to be telling us. Jesus' resurrection offers us hope and the assurance that God is present not only in our brightest moments, but also in our darkest hours.

The Third Day explores this Good News of Jesus' resurrection through the stories of several of His followers—Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, the disciples at Emmaus, and the apostle Paul. A final chapter offers a summary of the purpose of the Resurrection utilizing Jesus' own predictions and observations about the miracle of the third day.

- * These weekly events are open to the congregation and to our neighbors, increasing our presence in the community.
- * Child care will be available upon request, please contact the church office.
- * The book will be used each week in our study and discussion time.
- * You can purchase the book several ways: Order online yourself, in the Narthex after church, or the church office. Reduced cost for the paperback book is \$12.00 (check payable to OBPC or cash).

We continue to lift in prayer OBPC

<i>Betty Buss</i>	<i>Bruce Geelhood</i>	<i>Nan Lake</i>	<i>Ray Piller</i>
<i>Ella Mae Chadbourne</i>	<i>Phyllis Heller</i>	<i>Nancy Long</i>	<i>Nancy Robbins</i>
<i>Betty Canard</i>	<i>Carol Helmendach</i>	<i>Joana Maciel</i>	<i>Anna Roney</i>
<i>Doris Cuthbert</i>	<i>Shirley Hinkle</i>	<i>Jill Moscoso</i>	<i>John Smarkusky</i>
<i>Aleta Dick</i>	<i>Elizabeth King</i>	<i>Alma More</i>	<i>Barbara Van Laningham</i>

Prayer **LIST**

We lift in prayer OBPC Families and Friends

Felix Lemnoui-Friend by Bill & Bonnie Thompson
Kevin Flick and Dan Palmer-Friends by Kirsten & Curtis Finley
Suzie Smith-Sister and Jim Thiede-Nephew by Rosie & David Perry
Joseph Giuffre-Husband by Marjorie Giuffre



Dorothy Delaney-Friend by Jewel Johnston
Sylvia Engelbrecht-Friend by Kassie Manza
Mary Smart-Friend and Gary-Daughter Ashley's Father-in-Law by the Johnson Family
Meredith Smith and her parents-Grandniece and Kathy Miller-Sister by Debbie Strickland
Matthew Eaton-Son, Lynn Baker-Sister, and Ali Owens and Carson-Friends by Heather Eaton
Richard Davis-Father by Wayne & Lisa Davis
Patti Rose-Cousin by Bruce Miller
Diana Robbins and Kathy Arbogast-Friends by Becky Navidomskis
Kevin Pierson-Son-in-Law, Elizabeth Gainsborough-Sister, Skip Banach-Brother, Sharon Kitts-Friend by Arlene Clark
Mike and Doreen Luciano-Sherri's Brother and Sister-in-Law, Susan Combs-Sherri's Sister, Michelle Pugh-Pastor Nathan's Sister, and Seanna Milam-Pastor Nathan's Sister by Pastor Nathan and Sherri Wheeler
Zane-Friend by Linda & Lyle Neely
Charles and Jane Nimmer-Friends by Jackie Joiner
Matt Sweet and Brian Canard-Grandsons by Betty Canard
Brady Barry-Son, Trevin Barry, Henry Threatt-Grandsons by Susan Barry
Carolyn Kuehn and Alva Debiak by Candy Christman
Bob Olin by Marcia Grodi
AJ-friend by DeDee Blanchard

Prayers for Our Community and World

We pray for peace among nations.

We have a Church Prayer Chain.

Please call Joyce Fisher (570-772-6988)

if you have a prayer request to lift up by our Prayer Chain.

Music Notes



*We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith,
heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.*

The guiding stance of The Center for Congregational Song

+ + + + +

Tuned for Praise

Sunday, February 4 3:30 pm

Bethune-Cookman University Concert Choral



Bring a friend! Don't miss a note!

+ + + + +

The Church Year—February 2024

February 4, 2024	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Color: Green
February 11, 2024	Transfiguration of the Lord	Color: White
February 14, 2024	Ash Wednesday	Color: Purple
February 18, 2024	First Sunday in Lent	Color: Purple
February 25, 2024	Second Sunday in Lent	Color: Purple



PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS
2024 WORSHIP & MUSIC CONFERENCE

We are looking forward to attending the Worship & Music Week at Montreat again this year. We will be traveling to the mountains on June 15 and returning home on June 22. This year's theme is "Lead Us Homeward"

Our Youth Choir will present another Mini-Concert in April to help raise funds to attend Montreat. Your gifts and prayers are always appreciated!

Outreach Ministry



Mission Update- Bethlehem Ministries

In the 1980's, Father Bruno was a young priest in charge of a church in Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second largest city. Led by his conviction that education is **KEY** to helping his country change its social and economic situation, he had built a primary school, an elementary, vocational and an agricultural school for young men and women. His lifelong dream was to return to his father's beloved rural home of Terrier Rouge in northern Haiti and build an elementary and secondary school there. He held that prayer in his heart having faith that God would provide a way.

In 1985, a recent college graduate, Clai Rice, was introduced to Father Bruno and asked if he could come to Haiti and teach in one of his schools there. He encouraged his family to join him in Haiti to meet Father Bruno and hear of his mission to improve the lives of Haitians through education. This mission became the inspiration for Bethlehem Ministry, Inc., the U.S.-based nonprofit started by the Rices and created to support Father Bruno's vision. The name Bethlehem Ministry was chosen by Father Bruno because, "Bethlehem means House of Bread and we are going to be about feeding the poor and hungry. We want to offer the Spiritual Bread to everyone who crosses our path."



For over 30 years, Bethlehem Ministry has worked hard to do just that, raising funds to support Father Bruno's mission of feeding, educating, and sharing the Gospel of Christ in service to the poor of northern Haiti. In 2002, Father Bruno's prayer to build a school in Terrier Rouge was answered. St. Barthélémy School welcomed its first class of preschoolers that year, and it grew alongside those children, expanding over the years, eventually reaching completion with the building of the high school in 2012. Today over 1,200 students are educated, fed, and nurtured at St. Bart's each school year. The education they receive includes music, sports, language, and philosophy. In 2008, the Jatrofa Projenou (JP), was developed to reduce rural poverty in Haiti through sustainable economic development, forestry, and farming. Bethlehem Ministry supports

the work of Jatrofa Projenou because it is in keeping with their mission that the empowerment of the Haitian people is the key to Haitian sustainability.



In 2009 another vision was accomplished by building a a clinic and to bring services such as eye, dental care, prenatal care, and emergency services to northeast Haiti. Today that clinic, Clinique Espérance et Vie, sees 12,000 patients a year. Babies have been born there, surgeries performed, cavities filled, vaccinations administered, and visiting U.S. doctors welcomed. It is truly a clinic of hope and life. In addition to supporting education and health care initiatives, Bethlehem Ministry raises funds to support the efforts of Father Bruno and the NGO as they work tirelessly to provide food and humanitarian aid to the communities of northeast Haiti. .



Father Bruno retired from active Parish work in 2010 after a career that blessed him with serving in Haiti as well as the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. Today, he lives in Miami FL with his wife and close to family. He still continues to be involved and support Bethlehem Ministries.



OBPC currently sponsors 15 youth for the 2023-2024 school year, and we are beginning to raise funds for the 2024-2025 school year. \$325 will support a child for that year, free medical care at the clinic for them and their family, and a daily hot meal.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please reach out to Janice Danielson or Colleen Sidwell.

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Y Z Y A H Y Q Z X Q U D K L F
T M R F T H O T E H O E U V N
F G M N I K A L N C T U X P T
R K A U A T B D T E V T Z Y I
E E S J F A C G R D P E Z G L
D C H U R C H N Y Q C R O U A
E S N A I T A L A G F O E F U
E A P L X L Q V D S D N X S B
M E H E L H T E B F M O S E S
G O L I A T H Z R Y C M W K I
R D F I E J U I T P L Y P T C
A E R Q L L D Z T A Q Y A E T
C M W G L A S T S U P P E R C
E G N X Y K G P O L A D S Y J
B K T O Q L R D L Y W Q R X Y

FAITH
GOLIATH
GRACE
MOSES
SERPENT
DEUTERONOMY
GALILEE
GOOD FRIDAY
PSALMS

CHURCH
BETHLEHEM
PAUL
LAST SUPPER
GALATIANS
ETERNAL LIFE
REDEEM
SANCTIFY
PARABLE



February Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

Following worship service on Sunday, February 4, please join us in the Haddad Fellowship Center to recognize all who celebrate a birthday or an anniversary during the month of February. Desserts will be served.

February Birthdays

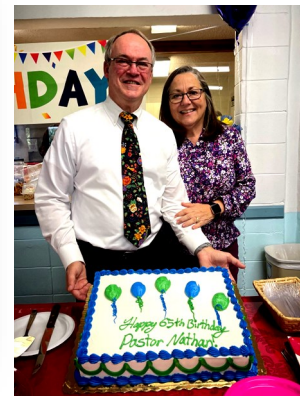
1	Carole Almond	11	Margaret Brockman	21	Al Perkins
1	Bill Thompson	11	David Deahl	22	Sherri Wheeler
3	Tim Watson	13	Samantha Lecas	23	Jim Whittet
4	Damian Parisi	14	Dan Barton	24	Betty Piller
5	RJ Deahl	15	Trevor Madero	25	Nancy Robbins
5	Ellen Sherman	16	John Anderson	25	Amanda Wilson-Stovall
6	Terri Hackett	20	Karen Hirumi	28	Marvin Barrows



February Wedding Anniversary

2/14 Jeff and Beth King 36 years





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATIONS





February 2024

Every Sunday—9:00 Youth Choir; 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Library; 9:10 Adult Bible Study, room 12; 9:30 Youth Sunday School, rooms 8,9 & 14; 10:00 Choir Practice; 10:30 WORSHIP 1st Sunday with Communion; 11:30 PB & J Sandwich Making, HFC; 11:30 Fellowship Coffee Time, HFC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:00 PLANNING & STAFF Meeting, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 5:00 GRIEF SHARE, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS, 7:15 CHANCEL CHOIR, 10	2 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	3 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMENS MINISTRY GATHERING, 12
4  11:30 FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebrations, HFC 3:30 TUNED FOR PRAISE CONCERT	5 8:00 TELLERS, 2nd office 9:00 ACCOUNTING, 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	6 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:30 FAITH/JOY CIRCLE	7 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMENS BIBLE STUDY, 12	8 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 5:00 GRIEF SHARE, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANCEL CHOIR, 10	9 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	10  5 PM TEEN NIGHT, HFC
11	12 8:00 TELLERS, 2nd office 9:00 FINANCE, LIBRARY 9:00 ACCOUNTING 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 6:30 SESSION, HFC	13 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 1:00 STAFF MEETING, LIB 6:00 EVANGELISM, LIB	14 ASH WED. 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 10:00 WOMENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 5:30 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE	15 HOME VISITOR CUT OFF 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 9:00 DEACONS MTG, HFC 10:30 TAI CHI, 9 5:00 GRIEF SHARE, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS 7:15 CHANCEL CHOIR, 10	16 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	17 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7
18 11:45 NEW MEMBER CLASS ROOM 12	19  OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 H.U.M Volunteers 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	20 8:00 TELLERS, 2nd office 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 9:00 ACCOUNTING, LIB	21 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMENS BIBLE, 12 10:00 HOME VISITOR ASSEMBLY, LIBRARY 5:30 LENTEN SOUP & STUDY,	22 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 7:10:30 TAI CHI, 9 5:00 GRIEF SHARE, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS, HAND BELL ROOM 7:15 CHANCEL CHOIR, 10	23 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7  6-8:00 Bingo Night, HFC	24 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7
25	26 8:00 TELLERS, 2nd office 9:00 ACCOUNTING, LIB 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	28 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 1:00 STAFF MEETING, LIB 6:30 OUTREACH, LIBRARY	29 8:00 MENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 10:00 WOMENS BIBLE STUDY, 12 10:00 PROPERTY MEETING, LIB 5:30 LENTEN SOUP & STUDY, HFC	3/1 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7 7:10:30 TAI CHI, 9 5:00 GRIEF SHARE, 9 6:00 GLORY BELLS, HAND BELL ROOM 7:15 CHANCEL CHOIR, 10	3/2 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7	3/3 9:00 COUNSELING CTR, 7

Please note: Since printing of this calendar changes may have been made. We would like you to visit OBPC web site at ormondbeachpc.org for the most current calendar and for other current announcements.