



THE OLIVE BRANCH



A PUBLICATION OF OLIVE BRANCH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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December 2008

"...write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run that reads it." Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV



The Pastor's Corner!

You're all set for Christmas. The stockings are being hung, the Christmas tree is decorated, and everyone has a present under the tree. But are you missing something? What does Christmas really mean? Is it all about getting presents and waiting up for Santa Claus?

The word "Christmas" gives us some hints about what Christmas is all about. It began with the birth of Jesus Christ, over two thousand years ago in the country of Israel.

Jesus' birth is very important to Christians around the world. If there were no Christ - there would be no Christmas.

UNTO YOU: The message is meant for every soul to whom it comes and binds us all in fellowship together. We all have a God-given part. All sinners may share His Grace, for He is come to save us from our sins. Christmas marks a very important event.



KEEPING CHRISTMAS

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world; to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are and try to look behind their facts to their hearts. Look around for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness. Are you willing to do these even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then you can keep Christmas

And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you cannot keep it alone.

"Merry Christmas to everyone and Have a Blessed Happy New Year"

"Thank God for a Blessed Productive Year"

Pastor McDonald



Message from Sis. Mac

"Here's Wishing Each and Everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year."



*Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary to
all those at Olive Branch celebrating a
birthday or anniversary in December
GOD BLESS & MANY MORE!!*



u18161352 www.fotosearch.com

Be blessed in the Lord!!!!



Be blessed in the Lord for the things He has done.
He has given to us another year of life and another
year of unity. Give unto Him and He will continue
to pour out blessings beyond our many dreams and
imagination.

The best is yet to come!!!!

"A Note From the Editor"

*Here's wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New
Year.*



The Editor

THE OLIVE BRANCH

A publication of the
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church's
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**All articles for the newsletter must be
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*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken
from the King James Version*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Inspirational Living

"Do Something That Scares You"

What gives you the heebie-jeebies when you even think about doing it? Public speaking? Peeking over the edge of the Grand Canyon? Going to the dentist? Or perhaps your fears are more hidden, buried under self-doubt, old wounds, or lack of faith resulting in a fear of failure, commitment or rejection. Whatever your deepest fears may be, they're holding you back from doing and becoming all that God has planned for you before you get to heaven. "Do Something That Scares You" is this month's inspirational reading selection from 101 Things You Should Do Before Going to Heaven by David Bordon and Tom Winters.

Before you can face your fears, you need to know what they are. Ask God to help you get to the root of what you're afraid of. If specific fears don't pop into your mind, consider what stresses you out or makes you angry. These can be secondary signs of fear that can lead back to their sources, if you're willing to give them an honest look. Once you know what your fears are, it's time to have a face-off. This doesn't mean you have to jump out of a plane if you're afraid of heights or purchase a pet tarantula if you're arachnophobic. Lean on God and take baby steps. Call the dentist's office to schedule a cleaning. Hold on to a friend's hand and take a quick peek off a balcony. Try something at which you'll probably fail, that no one other than you and God will ever know about.

When you face your fear, you gain greater freedom to be able to do whatever God asks of you in this life. God often ask people to do things they fear. If you have doubts, just read the Old Testament. However, God knows people rely on Him most when they can't accomplish alone what lies ahead. That's what God wants to remind you of every day until you come face-to-face with Him in heaven. He is near and ready to help. He is greater than anything you fear.

Submitted by Julia Pullie



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"NEWS AROUND AND ABOUT OB"

By His Stripes We are Healed!!! Continue to pray for and visit our sick and shut-in members during this holiday season. We were happy to see Deacon Nelson Burgess and Deaconess Kay Griffin in service with us recently. We are praying to see Sisters Hoffler and Ingram in service soon. Christian sympathy is extended to Sis. Julia Pullie and family in the home going of Bro. Pullie's mother recently.

The OB family honored the legacy of the late Rev. Wallace Drake on December 6th. Rev. Johnathan Franklin and the New Birth Fellowship Church were our guest. A scholarship in Rev. Drake's memory has been established.

Bro. Kedrick Whidbee will be leaving OB to join the U. S. Army. Kedrick will be stationed at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Congratulations on your new adventure in life.

Congratulations to Sis. Deloris Cooper who graduated from Elizabeth City State University during its winter commencement exercises. She received a BS degree in Industrial Arts. Sis. Cooper is presently the organist for the Mass Choir.

Congratulations to Bro. Keith Rivers on his retirement from the U. S. Navy with 20 years of service. Also congratulations to the Rivers who are expecting their second child soon.

Congratulations is also extended to Deacon Bruce Boyd on his recent retirement from Elizabeth City State University.

Pastor and First Lady McDonald are going to be grandparents for the second time. Keyon and Bre' are expecting the birth of their first child in March. Congratulations from the OB family.

Continue to pray for the safety and success of our newly elected President Barack Obama and family as he takes over as President of the United States of America.

There are several members who have not been in service in weeks. As our brother's keepers, let's reach out to those we haven't seen in service. Give them a call of encouragement, show that you care and let them know you hope to see them in the near future.

Come bring the New Year in Rejoicing at Olive Branch on New Year's Eve. The fellowship with area churches will be held here this year. Start the New Year worshipping and fellowshiping. Time to be announced.



THE OLIVE BRANCH provides its readers with relevant and current information pertinent to the Christian walk and lifestyle. **THE OLIVE BRANCH** staff will make every effort to provide material which is educational, entertaining, encouraging and inspiring. All of this is done in an effort to assist **OLIVE BRANCH** readers in developing a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates its 142nd Anniversary

“Now there are diversities of gifts but one Spirit”

1 Corinthians 12:4

Reverend Benjamin Barrett, Associate Pastor of Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, Elizabeth City, North Carolina will be our guest minister at the 11:00 am service.

At 2:30 p.m., Reverend Keith Smith and the church family of Grace and Truth Community Church, Elizabeth City, North Carolina will be our guests.

The Church Anniversary Committee would like to thank the Olive Branch Church Family and friends of the community for their support

“A Note from the Church Anniversary Committee”

One hundred forty two years

It started 142 years ago when our founders, who had sought refuge on Roanoke Island during the Civil War, had a dream to start a church.

In 1866, this dream became a reality when a simple wooden structure was erected. In 1904, under the dedicated leadership of Reverend C. M. Cartwright, the brick sanctuary was erected. In 2004, under the dynamic leadership of Pastor Kelvin E. McDonald, our fellowship hall was completed.

We are proud to celebrate our 142nd anniversary on December 14, 2008 with our theme, “**Many Ways to Serve**”.



“KIDS OF THE KINGDOM”



Nicholas Mann made the AB honor roll.

Jessica Jacobs plays in the band at Elizabeth City Middle School

Nandi Hobson sings in the chorus at Elizabeth City Middle School

Amber Baxter made the AB honor roll at River Road Middle School

Alaesza Harris sings in the chorus at J. C. Sawyer Elementary School her first performance will be December 17th at 6:00 p.m. Ready Reader Award, reaching for excellence certificate

Jaquan White plays recreational basketball

Xavier Hughes received a satisfactory report



“CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AGES 3-9”

Congratulations to Olive Branch Missionary Baptist Church, Children’s Sunday School Class ages 3-9 years old.

Ryan Saunders, Lever Dorsey, Alaska Harris, Byrne Derry, Elijah Hinton, Nicholas Mann and Natasha Gumbos

Tajo Newsome and Trevino James, we love and miss you.

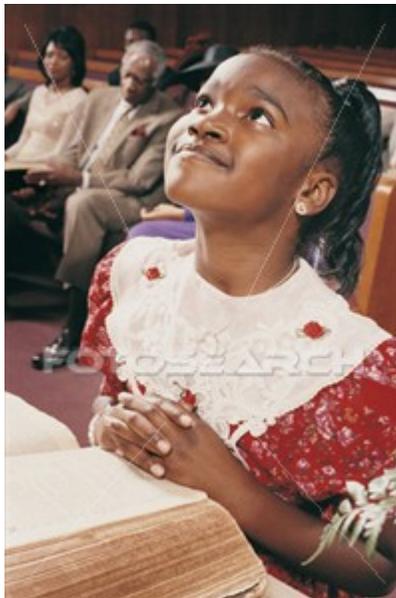
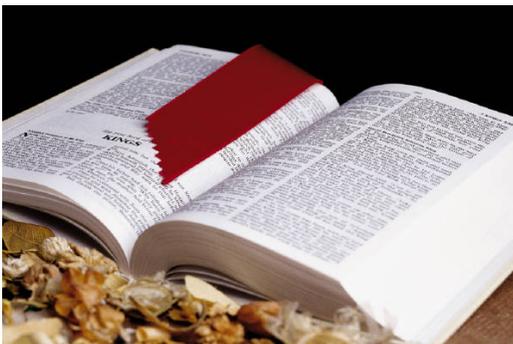
These children are on a mission, studying to show themselves approved by God. They have completed lessons such as David Does His Job, David is Brave, David and Jonathan are Brave, Jesus Heals a Man at the Pool, Jesus Feeds 5000, Jesus Walks on Water, The People Praise Jesus, Jesus Died and Lives Again and many, many more. These children have shown growth in RESPONSIBILITY, they are trustworthy, reliable obligated and accountable.

A **Special Thank You** to my daughter Robin Derry, Sis. Jean Sims, Brother Cornell McBride and staff, HUGS for taking time for this special moment.

Matthew 18:1-6

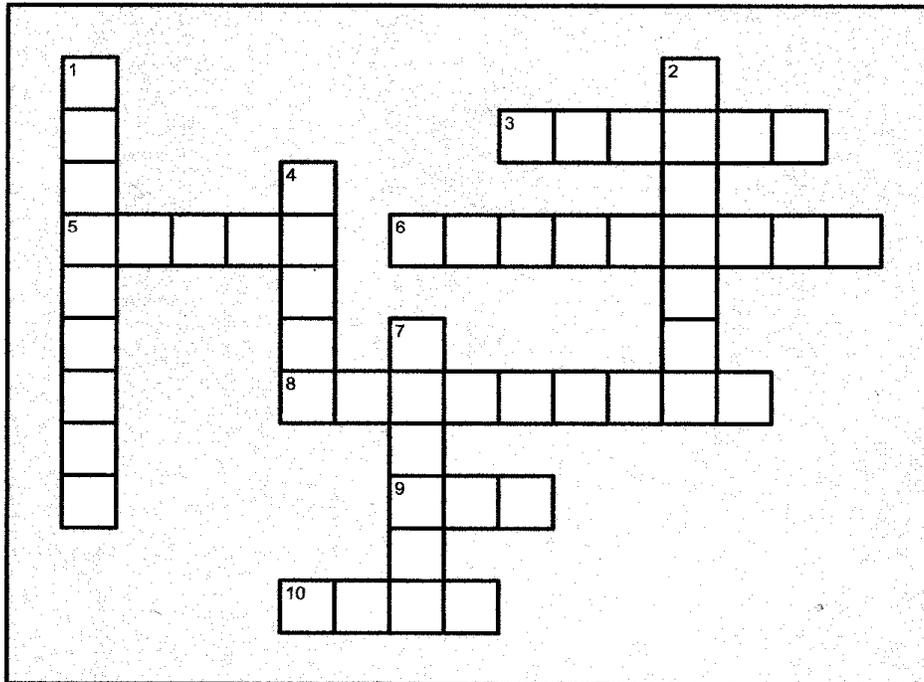
At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Taken from The African American Jubilee Edition of the Holy Bible – King James Version

Love, Sis. B. Broadnax



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Christmas



Across

3. The _____ of the world.
5. _____ on earth good will towards men.
6. City where Jesus was born.
8. The kind of clothes baby Jesus was wrapped in.
9. Glory to ___ in the highest!
10. Jesus's mother.

Down

1. Heard choirs of angels.
2. Traveled from the east.
4. Christmas celebrates his birth.
7. Where the baby Jesus would be lying.

Name _____

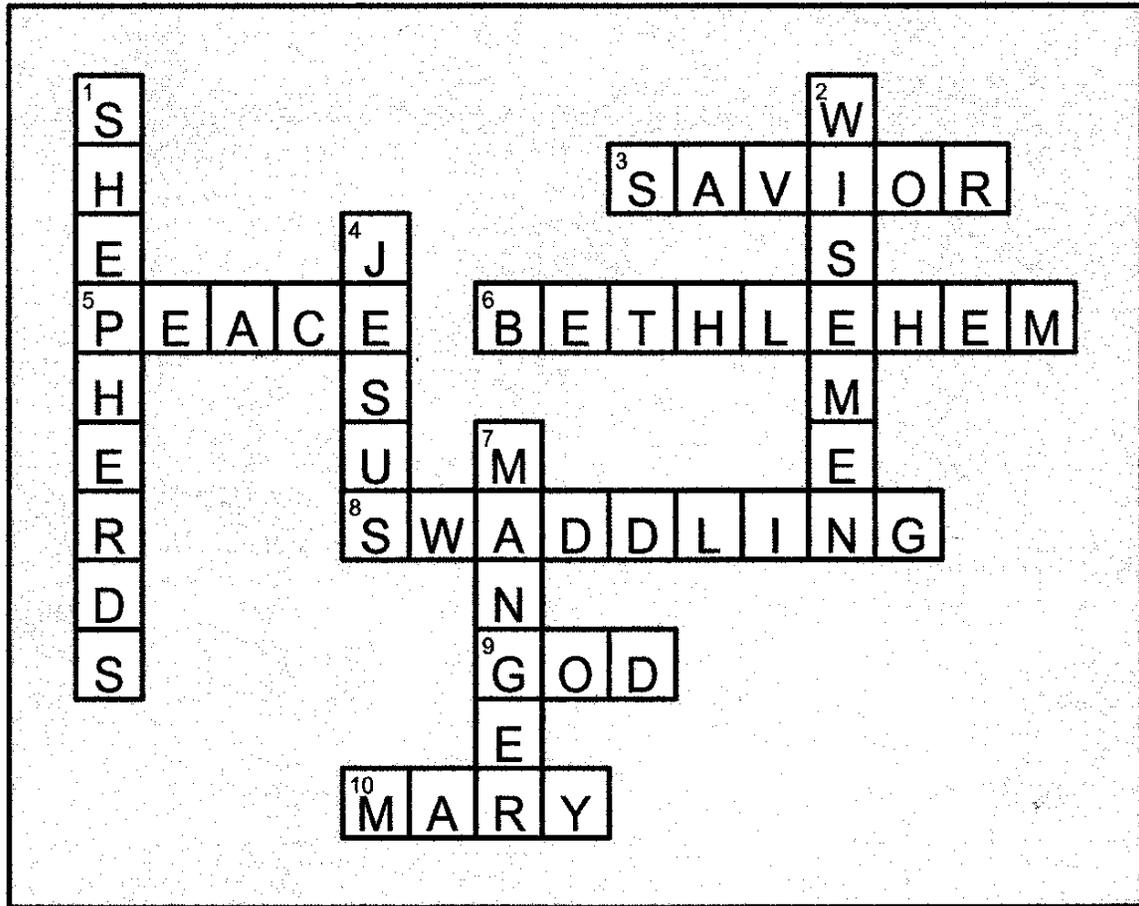
Christmas



- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|------------|---------|
| Christ | Child | Baby | Born | Wisemen |
| Shepherds | Angels | Sing | Hallelujah | Savior |
| King | Prince | Peace | Love | Joy |
| Manger | Hay | Swaddling | Mary | Joseph |

Created with the help of Worksheets - www.Qualint.com

Christmas



Across

3. The _____ of the world.
5. _____ on earth good will towards men.
6. City where Jesus was born.
8. The kind of clothes baby Jesus was wrapped in.
9. Glory to ____ in the highest!
10. Jesus's mother.

Down

1. Heard choirs of angels.
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Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American cultural holiday conceived and developed by Dr. Maulana Ron Karenga, was first celebrated on December 26, 1966. Kwanzaa is traditionally celebrated from December 26 through January 1, with each day focused on Nguzo Saba or the seven principles. Derived from the Swahili phrase “mantunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits”, Kwanzaa is rooted in the first harvest celebrations practiced in various cultures in Africa. Kwanzaa seeks to enforce a connectedness to African cultural identity, provide a focal point for the gathering of American peoples, and to reflect upon the Nguzo Saba, or the seven principles, that have sustained Africans. Africans and African-American of all religions faiths and backgrounds practice Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa was born out of the whirlwind of social and political changes of the sixties decade. The sixties represent one of many eras during which the African and African-American struggle for freedom and self-identity reached its historical peak, spawning multiple revolutionary movements.

By creating Kwanzaa, African-Americans sought to rectify the cultural and economic exploitations perpetrated against us during the months of October, November, and December (the Christmas season). During this season, corporate America typically ignored the quality of life concerns of African-Americans, yet encouraged participation in the commercialism of Christmas. Additionally, African-Americans did not observe a holiday that was specific to our needs. A review of the major holidays celebrated in the United States reveal that not one related specifically to the growth and development of African-Americans. The development of African-Americans. The development of Kwanzaa assumed a reassessment, reclaiming, recommitment, remembrance, retrieval, resumption, resurrection, and rejuvenation of the “Way of Life” principles recognized by African-Americans.

These principles have strengthened African-Americans during our worldwide sojourn.

Today, Kwanzaa is recognized by missions throughout America and the world. It is celebrated in community settings provided by homes, churches, mosques, temples, community centers, schools, and places of work. Kwanzaa allows us to celebrate the season without shame or fear of embracing our history, our culture, and ourselves.

Article taken from Kwanzaa@123Holiday.net



cb100312 www.fotosearch.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

Kwanzaa Challenge

Complete the multiple choice activity.



- ___ 1. Ears of corn - Symbolizes the offspring the children
A. Zawadi B. Mkeka C. Muhundi D. Mazao
- ___ 2. Straw Mat - Symbolizes African traditions and history
A. Mkeka B. Zawadi C. Kikombi Cha Umoja D. Kinara
- ___ 3. The Crops - Symbolize the historical roots of Kwanzaa as a harvest-type/first fruits celebration
A. Mazao B. Kinara C. Mishumaa Saba D. Kikombi Cha Umoja
- ___ 4. Gifts - Symbolizes the key role of education and culture in Kwanzaa
A. Muhundi B. Zawadi C. Kikombi Cha Umoja D. Mkeka
- ___ 5. Seven Candles - Symbolizes the seven principles of Kwanzaa
A. Kikombi Cha Umoja B. Kinara C. Mishumaa Saba D. Muhundi
- ___ 6. Candle Holder - Symbolizes the continent of Africa, African place of origin and roots
A. Mazao B. Kikombi Cha Umoja C. Mishumaa Saba D. Kinara
- ___ 7. Unity Cup - Symbolizes the First Principle of Kwanza and is used for pouring libation
A. Mkeka B. Muhundi C. Mazao D. Kikombi Cha Umoja



TAKE TIME TO FELLOWSHIP! WORSHIP! STUDY!

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS DECEMBER-MARCH 1 2009

December, 2008

- 7 – Mary Praises God
- 14 – Elisabeth Honors the Messiah
- 21 – Shepherds Glorify God
- 28 – John The Baptist Preaches God's Message

January, 2009

- 4 – Midwives Serve God
- 11 – Rahab Helps God's People
- 18 – Joshua Leads Israel
- 25 – Samson's Mother Prepares

February, 2009

- 1 – A Shunammite Woman Hosts Elisha
- 8 – Nathan Confronts David
- 15 – Ester Risks Her Life
- 22 – Isaiah Answers God's Call

March 2009

- 1 - A New Spirit

Bible Study is a wonderful time to listen, learn and discuss our Lord's teachings and direction for our lives. Please join us in our discussion and learn about our Christian faith!

If you have questions or need clarity on God's Word, we invite you to attend our **School of the Word Bible Study** every **Thursday** evening at **7:00 PM!** Come prepared. Bring your Bible, Bring your pen, bring your paper, and bring YOUR FRIEND!

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY

- 8:00 AM Early Morning Worship
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:45 AM Praise & Worship
- 11:00 AM Morning Service
- 11:00 AM Children's Church
- 1:00 PM Guardian Care Visitation (3rd Sunday)

MONDAY

- 6:00 PM Sunday School Ministry (3rd Monday)

TUESDAY

- 6:30 PM KEM Community Voices

WEDNESDAY

- 6:00 PM Trustee (3rd Wednesday)
- 7:30 PM Mass Choir (before 2nd Sunday)
- 7:00 PM Mass Choir (before 4th Sunday)

THURSDAY

- 2:00 – 6:00 PM Pastor's Office Hours
- 12 NOON Noon Day Prayer
- 5:30 PM Missionary Ministry (3rd Thursday)
- 6:00 PM Senior Usher Ministry (4th Thursday)
- 7:00 PM School of the Word Bible Study

SATURDAY

- 11:30 AM Youth Ministry (before 3rd Sunday)
- 1:00 PM Deaconess (before 1st Sunday)
- 1:00 PM Women's Fellowship (3rd Saturday)