

This year our staff has created a Ministry Plan to guide our work. Our theme is “Living Intentionally.” This theme developed out of conversations about why we do certain things as a church. Our *intention* is to weave this theme into much of what we will be doing in 5/6 main areas of church life. This plan will carry us through August 2019.

- Worship
 - Provide a resource for families to discuss why each element of worship is important.
 - Create a more user-friendly worship guide to explain certain elements of worship, including our use of the liturgical seasons.
 - **Staff conversations have begun on what we believe are important elements to our worship. We have set a deadline of December 2nd to begin unveiling a new worship template. We are also planning a worship seminar for the new year to explain why we include certain elements in our worship.**
 - **Beginning with Advent 2018 we have redesigned the worship guide, putting emphasis on certain liturgical seasons.**
 - Offer a stronger focus on certain days of the liturgical year (i.e. Reformation, Epiphany, Pentecost); explaining why these days are spiritually significant.
 - **An explanation of specific liturgical days has been added to worship, as well as specific hymns which correspond to the day.**
 - Offer themes and topical sermons throughout the year to help people in particular areas of spiritual growth.
 - **On 9/16 and 9/23, the worship focus was centered on Hurricane Florence and how we can be the hands and feet of Christ to those who are suffering.**
 - **October - Sermon series on living intentionally titled “Live. On Purpose.”**
 - **Advent – Sermon series titled “Advent-ually”**
 - **Epiphany – Sermon series titled “Bearing Witness”**
 - Find intentional ways to be more creative in the early worship service.
 - **Conversations have begun as we plan worship each week.**
 - **We are in the process of forming a team to talk about ways we can include creative elements in the early service.**
 - **Conducting a survey to better understand what worship elements are most important to those who attend early worship**
 - Utilize a larger variety of age groups in worship.
 - **Each week we have had lay persons participate in worship**
 - Be intentional about celebrating God’s work through our people and ministries, linking these celebrations to opportunities for further service.
 - **On 9/23 Lori Hoffman shared about the first Women of OBC dinner and encouraged all ladies to be involved in our women’s groups.**
 - **Karen Neal shared about Family Promise as part of worship on 10/21.**
 - **Carlton Heustess shared about Project Hope during worship on 1/27 and encouraged folks to donate to the Souper Bowl of Caring food collection.**

- Discipleship
 - Increase the number of opportunities for Pastor's Class and Baptism from once a quarter to bi-monthly.
 - **Pastor's class was held on 9/30 and Baptism Sunday took place on 10/21 with two people being baptized.**
 - **Pastor's class was held on 11/15. Baptism Sunday was scheduled for 12/9, but was cancelled due to inclement weather.**
 - **Pastor's class was held 1/24 and Baptism Sunday will take place on February 17 with two people being baptized.**
 - Offer teaching sessions on our beliefs as Christ-followers and what it means to have a vibrant, growing faith.
 - **On 10/1 Jeff offered a lecture at the Rock Hill Oratory: Center for Spirituality. This lecture centered on the importance of following the Liturgical Year, paying special attention to our Baptist roots and our observances of baptism and communion.**
 - Once a month, in different settings, use testimonies to teach how people are growing in their faith.
 - **An intergenerational "Faith Stories: conversation took place on 10/24**
 - **Each Sunday during Advent a different family shared how they had experienced God during specific seasons of life (job change, adoption, illness & graduation).**
 - Build on our women's ministries through the formation of Women of Oakland Baptist Church (WOBC).
 - **First Women of OBC dinner was held on 9/20 with over 90 in attendance.**
 - **On 1/24 WOBC gathered to assemble care packages and enjoy fellowship with cookies, coffee and hot chocolate.**
 - Increase the opportunities for men's discipleship (retreats, Bible study, etc)
 - Host a Parent/Child retreat for increased spiritual growth as families. Use this a catalyst for creating a greater emphasis on Family Ministry.
 - Establish a blueprint for faith development beginning with children and moving through adults. What are the essentials we want people to know? What is the course for getting them there?
 - By next August, propose the plan for a church-wide discipleship effort beginning Fall 2019.
- Fellowship
 - Plan a church-wide fellowship activity once a quarter.
 - **Fall Festival (bbq, caramel apple bar, pumpkin painting, table games) took place on October 14**
 - **An intergenerational group hiked Crowder's Mountain on October 28**
 - **Churchwide Christmas Caroling took place on December 19**
 - Use tools that will help people engage with one another; paying special attention to connecting worshippers from both services with each other.
 - **We have social media to inform and connect folks within the church as well as the larger community**

- **We have had ONE Worship on: August 19, December 16, January 13**
 - **Covered Dish Luncheon after state of the church**
 - Promote more intergenerational opportunities.
 - **On 10/5 the Robinette's will hosted children for a "Camp-In." James Smart led the group in worship songs.**
 - **Churchwide Christmas Caroling on December 19**
 - **Bearing Witness Conversations with Youth and Adults on Wednesday Nights from January 23 – February 27**
 - Participate with community churches in a Thanksgiving worship service.
 - **This took place on 11/18 at 6PM. Oakland hosted and five other churches participated: Oakland Avenue Presbyterian, Freedom Temple, St. John's Methodist, Episcopal Church of our Savior and Woodland United Methodist.**
 - Host a Summer Beach Blast event at the end of Vacation Bible School.
 - **Scheduled for June 29**
- Outreach/Missions
- Enrich each guest's experience of Oakland by improving the ways we connect and follow-up. Offer more information, hospitality, and concise instructions on getting involved with OBC.
 - Establish "Coffee with the Pastor" opportunities once a month to connect with visitors.
 - **CWP has been offered the last Sunday of each month at 9:45AM in the Fellowship Hall.**
 - Renovate the "Welcome Area" entering the gym doors to make it more attractive, especially to guests.
 - Create a plan for "Telling Our Story"—what makes OBC unique?
 - Continue to make our facilities more available for community use. This will also include establishing a new Facility Use Policy.
 - **Currently, OBC hosts the following groups: Shepherd's Center, Carolina Immigrant Alliance, York County Choral Society, Boy Scouts**
 - One Sunday each month we will emphasize a local ministry partner, as well as information on how to join their ministry. We will also implement quarterly hands-on mission projects.
 - **September: a team from OBC participated in a Habitat build.**
 - **October: Karen Neal spoke about Family Promise and provided information about ways to get involved. We hosted Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve who highlighted our CBF Partnership.**
 - **November: We collected Christmas gifts for Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Rev. Blake Hart preached and highlighted Carolina Immigrant Alliance**
 - **December: Stockings were distributed and returned full of socks and underwear for the Ministry Center**
 - **January: Carolton Heustess spoke about Project Hope. Non-perishable food items were collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring Offering.**

- **Discussion is taking place with Merry Makers to coordinate a new directory**
- Explore the possibility of a Minister for Education and Missions.
 - **Personnel and Finance have discussed an inclusion for this in the 2019 budget.**