

O'Brien Baptist Church

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

December is right around the corner and Thanksgiving is next week as I write this article. I pray you are growing in your faith as we worship, work, and pray together. God is certainly good to His church as we serve Him in various ways.

At the Church Leadership Team meeting in November, we discussed several important things in the life of our church. One of those things is for our church to go to an Elder Led church. I have approached three men in our congregation that have agree to become elders and oversee the spiritual needs of our church members. They are Wally Baldwin, Donnie Dunlap, and Mike Jones. Pray for us as we work toward making our church all it can be for the glory of God.

Skipper Jones is doing a great job of keeping our finances where we can see what is needed. I pray you will continue to support our church with your presence and contributions. As God blesses, we can bless others.

We have needy families in our area that are not a part of our church. Some of them allow their children and youth to come on Sunday nights. We are helping some of these families this Thanksgiving, so that they might enjoy a great meal on the day set apart for giving thanks.

Our church was blessed by being able to give children and youth gifts for Christmas. Anonymous donors wanted to show the love of Jesus to families that cannot afford to purchase gifts for their children and youth. None of these gifts cost our church anything but to show love to the less fortunate.

Keep in prayer Ken and Jane Roper on the loss of their daughter, Katie. They are dear people, and we wonder why things like this happen. But God is the God of all comfort. We can only get through this life by trusting Him. Ken and Jane, you are in our prayers and thoughts.

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn toward the birth of Jesus. Yes, we give and receive gifts from friends and family. But Christmas would not exist without the birth of Jesus. I pray we will always keep Jesus in our thoughts especially during this season.

Our Fall Family Night and Chili Cook-off went well. We had a large crowd, and everyone enjoyed the time together. The hayride went well except for Cheryl picking up another puppy. She may start a dog pound if she keeps this up. It was a cute dog!

Our Food Pantry went well this month. The volunteers worked hard and made it a great day as we served the community. Thanks to all who help in any way.

The shoe boxes are on their way to places far away. It was a good night to put them all together. The children and young people helped, and our prayers go with these boxes that many will hear the Gospel and respond.

Pray for our church that we will be a hospital for sinners to show them Jesus. All our ministries are designed to be evangelical. If you would like to be more involved, come and see me or Debbie. It is a joy to do the work of God at O'Brien Baptist. To God be the glory!

Pastor Keith

December 2024



Turn West off US 129 at CR 349 in O'Brien. Three blocks on left

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 7:00PM See info in Music Notes Page two
Chili Cookoff Winners page two
Take time to **welcome visitors** to our church services and other activities.



I wanted to begin my article for the newsletter with a HUGE THANK YOU!

It takes around \$125.00 - \$200.00 each week for our Children and Teen program on Sunday Evenings. We have around 55 to 70 kids and 25 adults, We serve a meal, crafts, life skills (cooking classes), recreation, Bible Lessons, Gas - Two vans to pick up the kids and to take home. Countless hours of preparing, studying, driving, sharing and just being there and to love the kids. So, thank you for giving to our budget each week, making it possible to take care of the kids. **Because you give, we are able to share the Gospel of Christ and have a fantastic ministry!**
We love YOU!

Senior Meal Train

What our Meal Train does...

We take enough meals for a month for each Senior Family to put in their freezer. It makes it easier to heat up and they are having a hot delicious meal.
***If you know of anyone needing meals, please let us know.

(mealtrain.com) or see Debbie Baldwin to sign up for meals.

· Putting meals together and delivery will be **Tuesday, January 7th, 9:30am.**

Children/Youth

We are collecting empty Drink Cans! To help support our Children and Youth Ministries and Camp. We collect all year.

If you have a truckload, please see Mr. Elmer

Camp Fundraiser

You can now order your Christmas baskets. Thoughts...

- Let someone know how special they are.
- A Hostess gift.
- A Hospitality Basket
- Children's Basket

Baskets are one of a kind...

Blankets, candy, cups, kitchenware, cozy

See FAMILY CORNER continued on page two

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socks, cocoa etc. you can request what you would like in your baskets as well...

Our baskets range from \$20 to \$60. The last day to order your baskets will be Wednesday, December 18th.

We can deliver baskets, or you can pick your basket up on Sunday, December 22nd. To order see Debbie J or Laura P or Cheryl.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nursing Home & Homebound Deliveries

We will be delivering little Christmas Trees to the Nursing home and those in our church that are Homebound.

Tuesday, December 3rd.

- We will be leaving the church at 9:00,
- Delivering Trees
- Lunch
- Delivering Trees

Returning back to the church around 4:00.

*** If you would like to go, please see Debbie J.

Christmas Festival in Branford Camp Fund Raiser

Saturday, December 14th, 8:00-4:30

We will be selling Fries & Funnel Cakes.

Come on out for a great time.

If you can help serve, please see Debbie J. We are making a schedule so we can work in shifts.

Christmas Eve Services

7:00pm

Cookies & Milk

If you can help by bringing homemade cookies on this evening to share.

Children & Teen Christmas Gifts

We have 27 children that could use some gifts for Christmas.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you can help.

- Please have your gifts at the church by December 15th, Sunday Evening.

- If you can help us wrap, Thursday, December 19th, @ 9:30 am.

- If you can help deliver gifts, Christmas Eve after our services that evening.

Family Fall Night & Chili Cook-Off

Congratulations to our winners

Tie for First Place

Scott Welch & Sandra

Jones

2nd Place

Pastor Keith

Nursery Shower

We have a new nursery in progress...

Janet is doing an awesome job painting.

Pictures are coming soon.

We are growing and need a new nursery... this is what we need help with...

- · Crib Sheets
- · Wipes
- · Toys for 6 months to 2 years.
- 1 bottle or dry Baby Laundry Detergent

VAN CLEANING

Thank you Seth and Donnie for Cleaning our Vans!

Making a Difference

Christmas Store...

- We are collecting items for the Christmas store for the Children & Youth.
- Any items you have you are ready to get rid of that you think the kids

See *Family Corner* continued on page three



Psalm 107:1 says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." This is the time of year we make a point of giving thanks to our God. We are to give thanks, not just for what He has given us, but because He is good. How has God been good to you this past year?

The choir will be singing at the Christmas festival in Branford on December 14th. Be sure to come support your church choir!! Be praying that we will plant some seeds of the gospel with our songs.

Choir retreat is January 4th 9:30-2:30. Any and everybody is welcome. You don't have to be a choir member to attend. If you think you might be interested in joining the choir, this would be a great opportunity to see what choir is all about.



Carrie Caskin, singing and Shonda Johnston on piano provided the special music Sunday, November 17th

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Dec 24th at 7:00 PM. You won't want to miss it. Bring the whole family and come reflect on the gift of our Savior.***

Cookies and milk will be served afterwards. Bring a plate of cookies to share.

Ladies Day December 21st

10am at Debbie Baldwin's home.

Please bring a breakfast themed covered dish, a white elephant gift (If new- no more than \$10 please), and at least two dozen cookies to exchange.

Some ladies may want the recipe you used

If you have any questions please contact Aurora

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would love to give their mom, dad, people the children live with, brother or sister.

- Wrapping paper & Tape
- Please begin saving small to medium boxes.

Praising God for our Growth!!!

Because we are growing, we need help with the following...

Help in the nursery on Sunday's

If you are interested in working in the nursery, please see Debbie J. so that we can get you on a rotating schedule.

Help on Sunday evenings

for Children or Youth (Kitchen, Bible Classes, Craft Classes, Recreation)

Children's Church Schedule

December 1st

Debbie J. & Kylie

December 8th

Aurora & Celine

December 15th

Debbie B. & Miley

December 22nd

Janet & Brooklyn

December 29th

Laura P. & Delilah

Save the Date

Friday, January 18th

Children's Lock-in

Kindergarten – 5th grade

1 Timothy 4:12

Regardless of your age, God can still use you. If you feel God calling you to a ministry, GO FOR IT!

Let our Leadership know your heart, where you would like to serve.

OBRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH

PANTRY NEWS

FEEDING THE FLOCK

Another month has gone by that the Lord has used us to feed his flock. Giving God all the glory in our efforts, He has blessed us with a full pantry. With Thanksgiving being only a week after our Pantry Day, we did our best to give everyone a heavy load. With extra canned goods and some great frozen meat. While our produce we had did not stay fresh long enough for us to give out, we were able to donate 1700 pounds of potatoes to the Suwannee County Sheriff's office, that they use to feed those in the county jail. I never want to waste what God has so generously provided to us.

Through your continued genericity, we had sufficient cereal to give what we had out this month, and milk to go along with it; therefor your continued effort in cereal donations is still greatly appreciated. I have made it known to those at the FDA that cereal is an important need for us.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the volunteers who show up every third Tuesday of the month to physically hand out the much-needed groceries for those who are in need. And to the people who made food donations who make our efforts so worthwhile. God had put us here to do His will, whatever that may be.

Pantry By The Numbers

	People	Families
September	544	172
October	433	142
November	499	162

Maintaining and Growing Our Active Church

O'Brien Baptist Church is very active, serving children, youth and adults in its ministry as well as service to the community. Our outreach programs encourage children and youth to attend through our transportation (van pickup) services, providing food and learning about Jesus activities. Adults have opportunities to attend Church Services and Bible studies, volunteering for programs at church and our community outreach pantry. Church volunteers also provide food for those unable to get out thru our *Meal Train* program, delivering meals. For those in attendance on Sunday night, an early meal is provided for youth and adults prior to evening services. Additionally, our church facilities must be maintained in good working order to provide comfortable facilities for our attendees. We are all aware that inflation has given rise to the cost of providing these programs and services. Please consider all of the above in your faithful Tithes and Offerings giving in the coming months. We are in need of your financial and volunteer support to sustain these much needed programs and activities.

O'BRIEN BAPTIST CHURCH

9544 East CR 349

(386)935-1503

www.obrienbaptist.org

Pastor Keith Jones

(386)590-8093

Sunday Morning Worship** 10am

Sunday evening service 5:45pm food 5pm

Mid-Week Service Wed., 6pm

**Children's Worship During the sermon

Choir Practice: Sundays after morning service

Men's Bible Study: See Keith for times

MONTHLY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES:

Food Pantry

Building Fund

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes