The Oakletter, April 19, 2026

Sunday's Gospel, Luke 23:13-35

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Oaklette changes pastors this summer

Good: I've been bumped off the front page by the Gospel. That's how it should be.

As I shared in worship last Sunday, I've been projected for a transfer to Luray UMC in the Shenandoah Valley. My last Sunday at Oaklette is June 21. Moving day in June 24. Oaklette's new pastor has not been named yet, but word will be shared as soon as they are announced. I pray that Oaklette continues to pray and to embrace its Breakthrough Prayer, confessing to the sustenance we all receive from God and asking God for a deeper, more rooted relationship, and committing to embrace those around us in this community. I am glad we created this rich prayer two years ago.

I am glad, too, that we're confirming Kacy Bailey June 7, and that she's participating in a confirmation class with students from Community and Salem UMCs. I was hoping that we could receive Kacy as a member of Oaklette before she goes to ECU. Kacy comes from an oustanding family and I'm sure that she understands the meaning of church memebrship. I hope that Kacy will consider affiliating at a UMC in Greenville. She and her family know Jonathan Soulen from the days when they were members at Epworth and Jonathan now belongs to a church in Greenville so there may be a conduit there.

Oaklette has better times ahead. May we all continue to grow in our relationship with God through Jesus Christ and may we all continue to work for the realization of God's kingdom.

Amen. Thanks be to God, *Ned*

Birthdays: Donna Baker, April 19; Scott Weifert, April 22; Charles Enlow and Joyce Gaston, April 25

This Week at Oaklette:

Sunday, April 19: Sunday school and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's chruch [C. Gallop/L. Gallop] @ 11 a.m.; confirmation class @ 5 p.m. at Community UMC
Monday, April 20: Food pantry [J. Carter/B. Swoope] @ 10 a.m.; HRM Band @ 7
Tuesday, April 21: referendum voting at Oaklette, 6 a.m.-7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 22: choir practice @ 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 23: HSOBX @ 8:30 a.m.; Bible study @ 10 a.m.
Friday, April 24: Shelf stocking at the Community Feed at Berkley, 700 S. Main, Norfolk, 10 a.m.-noon
Saturday, April 25: invitation for all to join Salem United Methodist Men for breakfast at Angie's @ 8 a.m.
Sunday, April 26: Sunday school class and SOTM @ 9:30 a.m.; worship service and children's church @ 11 a.m. [**note**: **volunteers needed for children's church**]; confirmation class @ 5 p.m. at Salem UMC

Prayer list: Pastor Tyrone Armstrong, Donna Baker, Preston Basnight, Tanya & Steve Benton, Sandy Carraway, Megan Carroll, Chesapeake Fire Dept., Coastal Va District & DS Givens, Kaylee Cuccorillo, Rylee Amelia Dimitry, Bille East, Jay Eckert, ForKids, Joyce Gaston, Freekind Virginia, Bill Gilliam, Kaye Herndon, Ethel Hickman, Debbie Hodges, Home School Out of Box, Earl Jenkins, Teal Jenkins, Pat Johnson, Kaon Hardy, Brian Lincoln, Dave Lorence, Rose Marie Madu, Wayne Magner, Walter Nebrotskie; Pat Newbern, Dakota Rebel, Ray & Bob Rosales, Rhonda Roughton, Loretta Smith, the League of Advocates, Virginia Conference & Bishop Sue, John Tandy, Marilyn Washington, Monica Whitehurst, Phyllis Buchanan Wolfe, Our Country & Military, Our Pastor