



The Oakletter, March 1, 2026

This has been going on longer than I realized.

A couple of years ago, when I used to take almonds and tea out into the parking lot on Sunday mornings, I sometimes took the white board from the choir room and wrote a question on it. I remember writing one time, “Where have you seen God at work in the past week?” The question came from the book *Get Their Name*, which was recommended as a study for Oaklette in 2022 when the Coastal Virginia District delivered a Possibilities Report.

Although that study has not come to pass, the nominations committee decided last year to ask small groups at Oaklette, including Sunday school classes, Bible studies, and the choir, to pose this question every time they met as a way of getting folks to share their faith.

The question hasn’t found much purchase, so let’s try another tack, shall we? Shall we try asking both where we’ve seen God at work in the world and in our lives and also asking where we’ve found inspiration from God in the past week?

I hope we sense inspiration from God. This morning in worship, when I talk about something that happened back in ninth grade in 1977, I hope it will be evident that I felt inspired to tell this story.

I hope that you have up-to-date experiences and stories of inspiration, too, and I look forward to hearing you share them.

Thanks,

Ned

This week at
Oaklette

Sun., March 1
9:30 am Sunday
school/SOTM

11 a.m. Second
Sunday in Lent
worship

Mon., March 2
10 a.m. Food
pantry

7 p.m. HRM
Band

Tues. March 3
6:30 p.m., *The
Last Supper*

Bible study at
Salem UMC

Wed., March 4
6:30 p.m.
choir practice

Thurs., March 5
8:30 a.m.-3:30
p.m. HSOBX

10 a.m. Bible
study

Fri., March 6
10 a.m.-noon,
shelf stocking,
Community
Feed, 700 S.
Main St.

Sun., March 8
2 a.m., Daylight
Savings Time

9:30 a.m.,
Sunday
school/SOTM

11 a.m., Third
Sunday in Lent
worship

Note: March
Mission of the
Month –
Canned beans

Birthdays: John Gallop VI and Grayson Basnight, March 2; Donna Bradley, Linda Gallop, and Judy Litten, March 3; Jessica Weifert, March 4; Jacob Butler, March 6

Sunday's Gospel lesson, John 3:1-17

There was a man named Nicodemus who was a Pharisee and a Jewish leader. One night he went to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, we know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not work these miracles, unless God were with you." Jesus replied, "I tell you for certain that you must be born from above before you can see God's kingdom!"

Nicodemus asked, "How can a grown man ever be born a second time?" Jesus answered: "I tell you for certain that before you can get into God's kingdom, you must be born not only by water, but by the Spirit. Humans give life to their children. Yet only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God. Don't be surprised when I say that you must be born from above. Only God's Spirit gives new life. The Spirit is like the wind that blows wherever it wants to. You can hear the wind, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going."

"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. Jesus replied: "How can you be a teacher of Israel and not know these things? I tell you for certain we know what we are talking about because we have seen it ourselves. But none of you will accept what we say. If you don't believe when I talk to you about things on earth, how can you possibly believe if I talk to you about things in heaven? "No one has gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from there. And the Son of Man must be lifted up, just as the metal snake was lifted up by Moses in the desert. Then everyone who has faith in the Son of Man will have eternal life. "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent him to save them!"

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