

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 2022

OUR  
FOUNDATIONS  
AND WITNESSES

Rev. Amantha Barbee, 2/6/22

Mr. Alfred Appiah, 2/13/22

Rev. Dr. Deborah Mullen, 2/20/22

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, 2/27/22

Join us as we celebrate the history of Blacks in America. We will tell a story of Communion, Ancestry, Education, and the Future of the USA.

## PASTOR'S PAGE

Family and Friends,

We have a long history of celebrating Black History Month here at OPC. We are excited about celebrating this year as well. Historically, we have focused on famous Black people who have made tremendous contributions to our world. This year we will ask the question, "what did it take for them to get there?" There are many unsung heroes and heroines. Who are they? What did they do? Growing up Black in the south was an experience, the only experience I know. I was sheltered from many of the realities of my fellow Black siblings because I lived in an environment of total safety, safety from financial woes, home insecurities, food insecurities, education insecurities, and parents who protected me from the insecurities they knew existed all around me. My parents understood the beauty of diversity and made sure that my life reflected exposure to people who didn't look, think, or live like me. This included people who didn't have as much security as we did.

I lived in a neighborhood filled with educators. Everyone in the neighborhood was Black. I went to church with a 100% Black membership. We protected, cared for, loved, and supported one another in every way. What I heard in the two totally black spaces I encountered was a clear and consistent message. RESPONSIBILITY. We knew what we experienced was not the norm in many places. Therefore, we had a responsibility to share with others. We shared our time, our resources, our voice, and our love for self and humanity. We were not allowed to make excuses for not excelling. There was a collective sense of pride in people that I still carry today. We were taught to believe in one another, and we did, and we still do. We were taught that "we are our sibling's keeper," no exceptions, ever.

The interesting thing about our community is that many of the parents had been born into poverty but their parents had a common desire for their children to exceed societal expectations of Black kids from west Charlotte. Parents were so close that we would visit one another's places of birth. A great percentage were from the rural south. We learned to love and respect the land by summer visits to "grandma's" house. Again, RESPONSIBILITY. The land is a gift to be nurtured. This may all seem a bit Pollyanna, but I do pray that we can gather around our Black children and families today in a way that responsibility for ourselves and others becomes a common theme as we hope and pray for a brighter future for all God's children.

Rev. Amantha L. Barbee, Senior Pastor

## The Log

Newsletter of  
Oakhurst  
Presbyterian  
Church USA  
February 2022  
This issue:

Pastor's Page

Page 1

Birthdays

Session

Deacons

Weekly

Meetings

Covid Update

Page 2

Christian

Education

Page 3

Spiritual Growth  
and Outreach

Page 4

Climate Care  
Corner

Page 5



# January 27, 2022

## Session Meeting

- Received Melissa Cobb into membership by letter of transfer from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Athens, GA.
- Heard reports from Sessional committees on actions taken by their committees to protect and sustain creation.
- Approved participation in Presbyterian offerings - One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace & Global Witness and Christmas Joy, during 2022.
- Heard that the retirement of Kelly Newkirk, bookkeeper, and the resignation of Jaquel Scott, Youth Director, have been accepted.
- Heard that return to face-to-face worship is planned for February 20.
- Elected Commissioners to 2022 Presbytery meetings. The first meeting is February 12.
- Approved the 2021 Annual Statistical Report of the church and 2022 Budget.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2-1 Paula Alston, Lunda Speight  
2-5 Jane Royall  
2-6 Isaac Chase, Patricia Essah, Brandon Knight  
2-9 Jerry Watts  
2-10 Ailya Epps  
2-11 Rachel Jones, Silas Wauchope  
2-12 Kathy Negrilli  
2-14. Jane Jenne, Ray Wetzel  
2-15 Anna Watkins Davis, Marni Riley  
2-17 Miya Riley  
2-18 Elinor McNinch  
2-19 Andrew Marti  
2-20 Harriett Alson  
2-21 Lydia Green, Asa Hill, Fred Kuhstoss, Suzannah Lipscomb  
2-22 Tea Marley, Daniel Orta  
2-23 Hal Davis, L'Anni Hill, Marcia Peters  
2-24 John Gose, Erin Myers-Beck  
2-25 Jacob Evans, Ruth Anne Foote  
2-26 Vistor Meza  
2-28 Keeron Emmanuel, Joshua Randolph, Terance Shipman

## NEW COVID UPDATE

January 27, 2022  
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### WEEKLY MEETINGS

#### Sundays

10:00 am Expanding our Story of  
Black History  
11:00 am Worship

#### Mondays

6:00 pm Journey Through the  
Psalms - Rev. Barbee

#### Tuesdays

7 pm Virtual Gospel Choir

#### Wednesdays

4:30- Racial Justice Vigil  
7:30 pm Virtual Chancel Choir

#### Thursdays

10:30 am - Prayer Group  
4:30 - Racial Justice Vigil

#### Saturdays

10 - Racial Justice Vigil

## DEACONS:

Deacons for the month:  
Susan Hylen, (404-373-2334  
Deborah Carter (706) 340-7359



Giving statements will be emailed by February 1. Questions may be addressed to Virginia Richards, [vrichards@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:vrichards@georgiasouthern.edu) or Dennis Hollins, [dhollins7@gmail.com](mailto:dhollins7@gmail.com)

# ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Expanding our Story of Black History: Listening to the stories of Slave Castles in Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah, Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. DuBois.**  
Leader: Alfred Appiah, OPC Intern. Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 at 9 am - 10 am on Zoom

**Feb 6 - Slavery from the Ghanaian perspective through slave castles**

People have heard a lot about enslaved people once they were in the U.S. and possibly on the voyage to the U.S., but little information about how these people became enslaved people in the first place and how that impacted the people of Ghana. Tour virtually the Cape Coast and Elmina slave castles in Ghana to explore a brief history of the slave trade in Ghana, along with the church's involvement.

**Feb 13 - Fight for Independence in Ghana through the story of Kwame Nkrumah**

Participants will watch a video on the fight for Independence of Ghana, led by Kwame Nkrumah and its impact on Africa, then discuss Nkrumah's speech that the independence of Ghana is meaningless without a total liberation of the African Continent. Participants will get to write about what inspires them to be freedom fighters and contribute to the Black Lives Matter agenda, like Nkrumah.

**Feb 20 - Black Prophetic Fire: Chpt 1 - It's a Beautiful Thing to Be on Fire, Frederick Douglass**

**Feb 27 - Black Prophetic Fire: Chpt 2 - The Black Flame, W.E.B. DuBois**

These two weeks will be a study of the book by Cornel West, Black Prophetic Fire as he has a conversation about the lives of several U.S. civil rights activists. No need to have the book as the information will be presented in class.

**Adult Education for March 2022 Sunday Mornings on March 6, 13, 20, 27**

**Lenten Bible Study Leader: Tim McNinch. Details to come.**

**Living in the Wilderness Times: Book Study of No Cure For Being Human (and other truths I needed to hear) by Kate Bowler** Leader: Pastor Heather

As we enter the 40 days of Lent, the number 40 reminds us of the time for God's people in the wilderness, Jesus' journey in the desert and how, as people of God, we now are also in a desert or wilderness time. During this study we will look at how we will answer the same question the people with Moses faced - how do I live now? How do we move forward when there is no going back? - as we look at Kate Bowler's book, No Cure for Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear) and her invitation to be human together. Because, together, we can learn how to build a beautiful life inside new limitations. Together, we can learn how to find hope and courage and beauty by making peace with our beautiful, terrible finitude.



**NOT TOO  
LATE TO  
PLEDGE**

*Stewardship  
Campaign 2022*

Pledge here on our  
[Website](#)

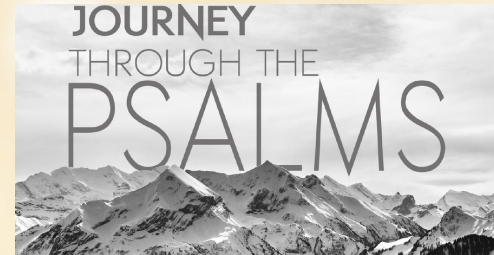
**Monday Night Spiritual Growth in a New Year  
with Rev. Barbee - Mondays at 6:00PM EST**

Starting January 10- February 28

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84902991330>

No one would have ever believed that we would have experienced so much change in our lives since March 2020.

Surely we would be free by now, free from pandemic, free from racial discord, free from recreating the way we even go to the grocery store, free from being forced to look at a computer all day, free from not being able to see our family and friends, but we are not. How in the world do we get to a place of freedom? We turn to the word of God. Join us as we **Journey through the Psalms (JTTP)** where God gives us full permission to feel, to grieve, to scream, and to have hope, peace, joy, and love.. [Click here for Syllabus](#)



**Our Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, 2022.  
Come and worship together as remember God's presence in our fragile, human  
lives and find comfort through our faith together.**

**12:00 pm - Virtual service of prayer and music\***

**6:00 pm - Outdoor service with reflection, prayer and music\***

**- in lower parking lot with social distancing and masking (COVID dependent)**

**\*ashes will be available for individuals to pick-up for use  
to mark themselves with sign of the cross**

## Climate Crisis Corner

Our actions and our advocacy are powerful means to address the climate crisis our world is experiencing. Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address climate change (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>). There are 596 active chapters across the country with 14 in Georgia. Some of you may know Henry Slack of Decatur. He's a member of CCL and often speaks to local groups about the need for climate action, specifically a carbon fee and dividend. You may want to check them out.



The Build Back Better Act contains provisions to address climate change. Now is an excellent time to contact President Biden and our Georgia Senators and ask for a strong climate policy in the Build Back Better Act; policy that reduces America's carbon pollution 50% by 2030. The CCL website makes it easy.

This is likely to be our best chance for meaningful climate action legislation in 2022. Let's be sure our voices supporting God's creation are heard!

### A ClothingWise Tip from your CreationWise subcommittee

Scientists concerned about the fashion industry say it has its own part to play when it comes to protecting the planet. According to the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the fashion sector uses more energy than aviation and shipping combined, accounting for 10% of global carbon emissions and 20% of wastewater ( AJC 10/19/21).

So what can WE do? Buy clothes from thrift stores or consignment shops and use hand-me-downs from family and friends. Always take your clothes you no longer wear to thrift stores, charity centers, or church clothes closets. If you're an animal lover there are thrift stores which give their proceeds to animal shelters. Most importantly, stop and consider our Mother Earth before making new purchases.

Submitted by Mary Gould

### LED for You

Would you like to save some money by lowering your electricity bill and, at the same time, reduce your carbon footprint? Your CreationWise team, with funding from the Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPL) and the Gould Art sale, has a plan to help you do that, called LED for You. This project will help you begin, or complete, your transition to LED lighting for your home. There is no cost to you. Contact John Baldwin or Kathy Hancock to get started,

### Note cards and Envelopes

Beautiful note cards, designed by Bob Gould and daughter, Kathyne, are for sale on the Gould Art website. Each card and envelope is only \$2 and all funds raised go to further the mission of our Peacemaking & Justice committee.

