

Welcome to *Our Church* Oakland Baptist Church



Oakland Baptist Church (OBC) is located in a highly visible and central location in a growing rural county, blessed with ample facilities to connect with our community and make disciples. We have a long dedication to the Truth of God's Word and its power to direct us. Over the past year, we've gone through a time of transition and are ready to revitalize our vision and mission in order to glorify God and to lead the people of our community and the world to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ and to help them grow to spiritual maturity. We are open to whatever direction God's Will takes us and are seeking a Shepherd to lead us in pursuit of this exciting future.

A Brief History

Oakland Baptist Church in King George, VA, has a rich history which dates back to its establishment in 1885 with 32 members. As the church grew, it purchased the current 16+ acre site on Rt. 301 and in 1967 built the main church we continue to use today. In late 2002, we purchased an additional building and 13+ acres of land adjacent to the present site enabling much needed expansion for the membership of over 400. In 2016, the church incorporated and thus updated the constitution and bylaws. OBC is an autonomous congregationally governed church which aligns with the Southern Baptist Convention; we support both the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia (SBCV) and the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) cooperative programs to advance God's kingdom around the world.

At Present

OBC is in the process of revitalization. We are seeking to rebound from 20 years of steady decline in membership and desire to leverage our 30 acre campus as a platform to reach out to the community. Our facilities include two buildings with sanctuary and fellowship hall as well as expansive grounds for outside activities. Currently, our congregation is predominantly white and over the age of 45, but we hope to find ways to attract more young families and a more diverse demographic. After over a year of parking lot and online services during COVID, we reopened our buildings in July 2021, resumed all services, and now average 75 for weekly attendance.

We praise God that He has provided for us to pay off all debt in 2022 through the sale of land. Our annual budget is ~\$443K. In addition to a future full-time pastor, our paid staff includes a Facilities Manager, a part-time Worship Leader, and a part-time custodian. Volunteer staff include a Youth Leader, a Ministry Assistant, and a Financial Secretary.

OBC shares our God's love by supporting several local, domestic, and world-wide missions. Our church is involved in the local community through Care Portal and Mobile Food Pantry, providing food and supplies for those in need on a monthly basis. Working through the BGAV, we send members to directly engage in disaster relief efforts in the US. For over 35 years we have directly supported foreign missions in Africa, Peru, and Haiti, sponsoring missionaries and sending members on mission trips.

Strong ministry areas ready to support growth of our members and families include:

- AWANA Children's Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Small Groups
- High Power Soccer (1 week summer event with 40 children and 40 adult volunteers)

Reflection

Our church has been through many adjustments involving periods of growth and reduction. Here is the timeline of recent Senior Pastors:

- Senior Pastor 1957-2000 (Retired)
- Senior Pastor 2000-2003 (Resigned)
- Senior Pastor 2004-2021 (Retired)
- Transition Pastor 2021-present

At its peak (2000-2001), attendance was close to 400 with two Sunday Morning Worship Services. During that time, there was a Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and a Youth Pastor. After the resignation of the senior pastor in 2003, the Associate Pastor was called as the Senior Pastor and the Youth Pastor resigned to plant a new church within the same community. OBC has been on a slow decline since its peak, with some members leaving OBC to join the new church plant and others migrating to other area churches. Prior to COVID, attendance averaged about 140 between two services; we had reduced to a single pastoral position, a full-time Facilities Manager and two part-time administrative staff. During COVID, we closed our facilities and went to sermons on-line with small groups on Zoom. After a few months, we resumed worship with parking lot services, then fully reopened in July 2021.

Some known needs:

- Developing a culture of prayer
- Revitalizing our worship service as a start
- Outreach (evangelism) and connecting to our community
- Improving external and internal communication
- Growing our congregation with increased cultural and generational diversity
- Equipping members to disciple, mentor, and encourage others
- Adapting our leadership structure as God leads to provide spiritual depth and continuity for support to the Senior Pastor, including the possibility of Elders

Looking Ahead

While many changes have taken place for Oakland Baptist Church, we remain focused on our mission to “**make disciples** who **connect** with God and people, **grow** in relationship with Christ, and **produce** through outreach and service” and our vision “to know God and make Him known.” As we look to the future, we envision connecting with the 24-35 year old generation with ministries to new believers, recent college graduates, service members at the local Navy base, newlyweds, and young families. We want to be constantly growing and being transformed in Christ’s likeness, taking individual steps of faith and mentoring others on the discipleship journey. We want to be a focal point in our community to meet local needs and be a resource for spiritual growth. We recognize the need to adapt our services and plans to meet these needs. We want to leverage our facilities to engage the community. Most of all we know that we need God at the center of our church, leading us in His time to accomplish His Will and bring glory to His Name!

“Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

Phil 3:13b-14 (NIV)

