



# CHURCH COMMUNICATOR

Ooltewah Seventh-day Adventist Church

January 2012

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”” Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV).

In this well-known and often quoted passage Jeremiah records God’s promise to restore Israel from captivity in Babylon. There have been false prophets in Babylon predicting a short captivity and speedy return to Jerusalem, but this was not the Word of the Lord. In verse 10 God through Jeremiah tells the Jews that they will indeed be in captivity for seventy years, and then He will graciously bring them home again. Then He indicates that He has a plan, a purpose for His people.

It is especially important for us to realize that God has a plan for us as well. In a sense we are in captivity in this world of sin and sorrow. But God is not unaware of our circumstances and needs. He has a plan! He is working out His plan for us individually as well as for the Church as a body of believers. How comforting it is that His plan is to prosper us, and to give us hope. God assures us that He has our future

mapped out for us, a better future than we could possibly imagine. “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” 1 Corinthians 2:9 (NIV). God’s plan is to take us home to the place He has prepared for us.

God invites us to call on Him, to come to Him, to pray to Him. And if we do, He promises that He will listen. He promises that indeed we will find Him when we truly seek Him with our whole heart. As we commence this New Year, may I urge you to set aside time to come to Him, to pray, to seek Him earnestly, diligently. If you do, you will find Him and discover His marvelous plan and purpose for your life here and now, and more importantly, His plan for your future through the endless ages of eternity.

Yours in the Master’s service,

Michael E. Pettengill



### GOOD ADVICE FOR THE NEW YEAR

If you haven’t made your New Year’s resolutions yet, how about these from Paul’s letter to the Romans?

Let us have no imitation Christian love. Let us have a genuine break with evil and a real devotion to good. Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers, and a willingness to let the other man have the credit.

Let us not allow slackness to spoil our work and let us keep the fires of the spirit burning, as we do our work for God.

Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain the habit of prayer.

Give freely to fellow Christians in want, never grudging a meal or a bed to those who need them. And as for those who try to make your life a misery, bless them. Don’t curse, bless.

Share the happiness of those who are happy, and the sorrow of those who are sad. Live in harmony with one another. Don’t become snobbish but take a real interest in ordinary people. Don’t become set in your own opinions.

Don’t pay back a bad turn by a bad turn, to anyone. Don’t say, “It doesn’t matter what people think,” but see that your public behavior is above criticism.

As far as your responsibility goes, live at peace with everyone. Never take vengeance into your own hands, my dear friends; stand back and let God punish if he will. . . .

Don’t allow yourself to be overpowered with evil. Take the offensive - overpower evil by good! (Romans 12, Phillips translation).



Left: The Strickers  
Above: Ron Malloch  
Right: The Bremners



Above:  
Paula and  
Roger  
Wolfe

Above: The Haneys  
Right: Kim Thompson  
Below: Nancy Smiley



Above: Jacque  
Cantrell

Above right: The  
Morgans  
Right: The Truaxs



Right: The Goss Family  
Far Right: Shirley Schlender



## Singspiration, Food, Ugly Christmas Sweaters and a surprise Over the Hill Birthday for Pastor Mike

The Singspiration led by **Ron and Joan Malloch** was wonderful – everyone was singing Christmas Carols loudly and with much spirit as **Randy Angelin** played the piano!

The Social Committee had to hi-jack the Singspiration evening (to cover the surprise) and from then on the evening should have had a warning label.

First there was food – lots of food – delicious food. Sandwiches, salads and cookies – oh my.

Next, “Ugly Christmas Sweaters” – my eyes, my eyes. They came in all shapes and sizes and were made from bio-hazardous materials, vintage polyester and flammable yarns. Some were homemade, glue gunned and duct taped together. Some were found hidden in the back of a closet and one

was ripped from the mouth of the family dog. Yard sales, clearance aisles and thrift stores finished out the selections. Money can’t buy good taste was the overriding theme.

Taking first place and winning a really huge fruit cake courtesy of Big Lots was **Kim Thompson** wearing Christmas lights and a Christmas tree skirt (no really, a Christmas tree skirt). **Don and Mary Beth Morgan**, who showed up after being run over by a herd of reindeer, earned a plastic container of Christmas Candy Corn for second place. Third place and a bag of nuts went to **Hope Stricker** who forgot to change out of her pajama bottoms when she escaped from Moccasin Bend. She topped it off with a sweater from the collection of **Jacque Penne**.

**Ray Carson** took fourth place even though the Peruvian Ambassador had called and insisted that their alpaca needed to be returned immediately. Ray got the coveted Fruit Loops Prize that was later eaten by his alpaca hat. Honorable mention and a really small fruitcake went to **Katrina Crisp** who was wearing the aftermath of an explosion between a candy truck and a UPS delivery of Quilted Northern.

Then it was time to surprise **Pastor Mike** for his 60th Birthday with a Grinch cake (the fire department on speed dial), balloons, tacky gifts, over the hill items and books.

Social Committee & Special Helpers:  
**Lupina Haney, Nancy Smiley, Katrina Crisp, Becky Pettengill, Mary Beth Morgan, Jacque Cantrell, Kim Thompson and Gail Morgan.**

### *Family Ministry*

As another year begins, we often spend time reflecting upon the one that just passed. For most of us, this past year has contained a mixture of trials and triumphs. Sometimes we face the new year with apprehension as we wonder what it will be like. Jesus warned that in this world we will face tribulations and disappointments. The question isn’t “Will trials come?”, because they will. Rather, the question is, “How will you respond to these unwanted, unexpected and often painful circumstances”?

God can give you the strength to remain faithful and loyal to your commitment to follow Christ, come what may. Do not permit sickness to discourage you. Do not allow the death of a loved one to destroy your

faith in God, regardless of the circumstances. Do not let economic and financial problems limit your loyalty to God. Do not falter because of broken relationships in the family, or even in the church. Do not quit the faith because somebody who you admire has left the church, or is challenging some fundamental doctrine. In other words, don’t give up; don’t stop coming to church; don’t throw away your lesson quarterly; don’t throw away your confidence in God.

When challenges disrupt your life, fight back with Bible promises, claiming them as yours. Check out the following promises (just to name a few!): Psalm 121:1, Psalm 55:22, Psalm 34 (notice that David did not say that God answered him immediately, only that God heard him and answered), John 16:33 (Jesus understands from

personal experience what it is like to live in this world and will enable us to overcome), Proverbs 3:5, 6 and Hebrews 10:35.

I may not know what 2012 will be like, but I am certain of three things: First, troubles are going to come, but so will blessings; Second, God will see us through whatever comes. Through God’s power, hold fast like Paul, keep the faith like Job, and say as did Joshua, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”. Joshua 24:15; Third, we are now one year closer to our Heavenly home than we were last year at this time! Have faith, dear ones, in God. He is good and faithful all the time.

Adapted from “Facing Family Crises” by Ron & Karen Flowers

**Linda Kulik**, Family Ministries

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Terri Cole  
Marian Coulter  
Wanda Milton
- 2 Eva Biggers
- 3 Richard Banks  
David Denton  
Chris Snowden
- 4 Chris Dodd  
Landon Stricker  
Shelley Van Cleave
- 5 Jeff Baldwin  
Seth Springer
- 6 Larry Stephenson
- 7 Jane Bell  
Penny Smith
- 8 Delbert Fisher
- 10 Julie Neal  
Harold Preston
- 11 Maribel Bowerman  
Keli Forbeck
- 13 Nubia Gallegos  
June Kennedy
- 14 Bruce Bowers  
Leah Hicks  
Don Schlender
- 15 Briana Bottomley  
Steven Littell  
Joan Malloch  
Dennis Whidden
- 16 Iona Neikirk  
David Vega
- 17 Scott Springer  
Jasmine Vassar
- 18 Ed Demaree  
Bradley Hyde  
Christian Rogers  
Emily Webb  
Freda Zollinger
- 19 Carolyn Springer
- 20 Tobey Dockery  
John Thompson

- Daryl Walter
- 21 Hope Arp  
Sandra Smith
- 22 Eddie Aikman  
Matthew St. Hilaire
- 23 Ralph Whitehead
- 24 Julie Jensen  
David Johnson  
Amber Schober
- 27 Annabelle Goss  
Larry Otto  
Kayla Painter  
Ed Young
- 28 Jerre Conerly
- 30 Christopher Dickerson  
Dennis Galbraith  
Cindy Mountcastle  
Bob Shearer
- 31 Margo Haughee  
Matthew Miller  
Michael B. Pettengill  
Christine Reinoehl  
Hope Stricker

**Young-at-Heart Luncheon**

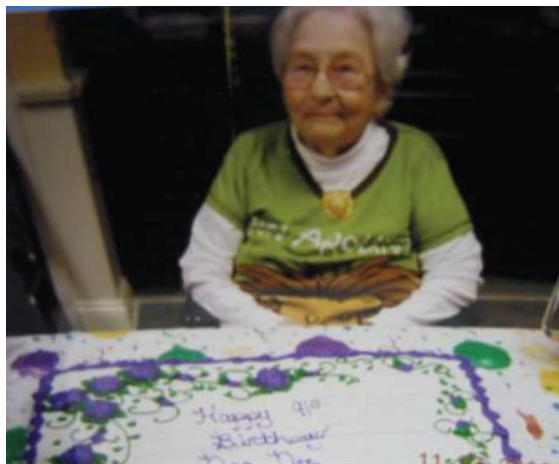
**Friday, Jan. 6 at 12:00 p.m.** meet at the **Acropolis** for a Dutch treat luncheon. Everyone is invited, Age is not a criterion. The Young-at-Heart meet monthly, on the first Friday, for a Dutch treat luncheon and you're always invited. Watch this publication and the church bulletin to learn the meeting place.



Surprise - a day that will live in infamy - an early 60th birthday for Pastor Mike with balloons, gifts and a Grinch cake by **Piece-A-Cake** baker **Mark Houghton** .



**Virginia Lyons** celebrates her 90th birthday!



The **ROMEO's** (Retired Old Men Eating Out) celebrate with Fernon Retzer at Quiet Oaks. L to r: **Jim Haney, Fernon Retzer, David Stevens, Jim Overstreet and Delbert Fisher.**



# January 2012

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>OAKS &amp; CA Christmas Vacation</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>		<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Pathfinders 6:30 PM - FCtr. Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM - Sanc.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Choir Practice 6:00 PM - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Young-at-Heart Luncheon - 12:00 Noon OAKS Vespers 5:00 p.m. - FCtr.</p> <p>Sunset 5:42</p> <p>Adv. Director's Council</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Church Services: Oolt. - Pastor Mike NR - Pastor Ted Vespers - FCtr.</p> <p>Sunset 5:43</p>																																																																																																		
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>OAKS Fin. Com. 6:30 PM OAKS School Board - 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Pathfinders 6:30 PM - FCtr. Adventurers 6:30 PM - Youth Room Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM - Sanc.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Choir Practice 6:00 PM - Sanctuary Church Finance Committee - 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Sunset 5:49</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Church Services: Oolt. - Pastor Mike NR - Steve Bremner OAKS Band Movie Night - 6:30 p.m. - FCtr.</p> <p>Sunset 5:50</p> <p>Pathfinder Tee...</p>																																																																																																		
OAKS Week of Prayer "Stars & Jesus" - Ron Malloch																																																																																																								
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Pathfinder Tee...</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>OAKS - No School (MLK, Jr. Day)</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Pathfinders 6:30 PM - FCtr. Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM - Sanc.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Choir Practice 6:00 PM - Sanctuary Evangelism Com. 7:00 PM</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Sunset 5:55</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Church Services: Oolt. - Pastor Mike NR - Shawn Kelly Adventurer Potluck and Lock-in</p> <p>Sunset 5:56</p>																																																																																																		
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Church Board 7:00 PM - FCtr.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Pathfinders 6:30 PM - FCtr. Adventurers 6:30 PM - Youth Room Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM - Sanc.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Choir Practice 6:00 PM - Sanctuary</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Sunset 6:02</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Church Services: Oolt. - Pastor Ted NR - Pastor Mike</p> <p>Sunset 6:04</p>																																																																																																		
<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>OAKS Self Evaluation Study Visit - FCtr.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">December 11</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 12</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				December 11							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	February 12							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
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## Women's Ministries



I think OAKS did a great job kicking off the celebration of the season Friday night, 12/9 with the OAKS Christmas Play. It was a blessing! Sunday, 12/11 continued the celebration with the Women's Ministries Christmas social. The Spirit of Christmas filled the air as about 50 ladies enjoyed a great meal prepared by the WM committee, as well as good fellowship and an awesome performance by Covenant of Praise! The ladies had been asked to bring something new for a female and the floor beneath the Christmas tree was filled. These have been donated to the Samaritan Center from the ladies of the Ooltewah SDA Church Women's Ministries. Thank you to all the ladies who brought these wonderful things! And thanks to my wonderful committee (including a few others) for the work you did before, during, and after our program!

May the Lord bring many blessings to each of you in the New Year!  
-Rhonda Wellborn, WM Coordinator



Enjoying the meal.



The Covenant of Praise Men's Chorus lead by Herb Poulson gave a wonderful performance.



Susan Miller was the accompanist for the Covenant of Praise. There were lots of gifts to go to the Samaritan Center and the decorations on the tables were just beautiful.



*"I really enjoyed yesterday's social. I thought the menu was very good in more ways than one. Even though I "pigged" out with 2 bowls of soup, 2 rolls, some salad and dessert, I did not feel stuffed or having had too much sweets like usually follow a holiday meal. Thanks a lot. Another thing, it is always good to eat somebody else's cooking. Happy holidays. Love Marlene (Keaton)*

Dearest Church Family,

Happy New Year! 2012 will be filled with awesome gifts from God for you and your family. I truly believe this fact simply because we have not because we ask not.

There is a fictional story told about a man who had a dream about Heaven. In his dream there was a very large room with much sadness surrounding the entrance. When the man asked what was so sad in such a large room, the guide answered, "oh! That's the room of unasked prayers!" We know there will be no sadness in Heaven, but the story illustrates the importance of going to God about everything in prayer. He delights in showing us His Love and His Grace. Pester Him with His promises, then, stand back and watch Him complete mighty works in your life and those for which you pray. I personally know He is ready, willing, and able to accomplish great things for those who love Him, if only we ask and truly turn it over to Him.

One of our kindergarten students stated that his New Year's Wish/resolution is, "We just love everybody, and get packed up to go home with Jesus". Packing up may mean something different to each of us, but I choose to believe that "packing up" means emptying out our selfishness and filling up with His Righteousness. The Mayan calendar is said to end in 2012 and so is the world, BUT we know not the time or day of His coming so we must be ready...today. Treat each day as if it is the last, and help those around you to be ready, too! It is time to go home! Let's be packed up, along with our loved ones, and ready to go home. It is time to go Home!

In His Service,

Kim Thompson  
OAKS Principal

OAKS... a great place to grow with God!

"There is a mighty oak planted inside each acorn. God planted a special purpose in each of us for His Glory. Stretch toward Heaven and Follow His Will."

-Max Lucado

- January 3: School Resumes/2nd Semester Begins**
- January 6: OAKS Home & School Light Supper & Vespers at 5 pm**
- January 9-13: "Stars and Jesus" Week of Prayer by Ron Malloch at 8:15 am in the church sanctuary**
- January 10: School Board 6:30 pm**
- January 14: OAKS Movie Night 6:30 pm**
- January 16: MLK Jr. Day (No School)**



### **Carpet Fund**

Goal . . . . .	\$20,000
Donations as of 12/10/11 . . . . .	\$4,494
Still needed to raise . . . . .	\$15,606

# Prayer Requests



Our condolences to the family of **Marjory Reed**  
**Dean Maddock** (Gretchen Sigsworth's father) - 12 broken ribs from a fall  
**Connie Jones & family** - death of her cousin, Melvin Stephens  
**Iona Neikirk** - knee surgery  
**Jackie Smith** (Dale Smith's mother) - breast cancer  
**George Schultz** - health concerns  
**Sarah Jane Reeves** - recovering from pneumonia  
**Richard Beasley** (Andrew Eszler's grandfather) - diagnosed with cancer  
**Beverly Ackerman** (Wayne Ackerman's wife) - recovering from surgery  
**Joe Manning** (Lester Manning's brother) - colon cancer  
**Mary McMurray** - health concerns  
**Vivian DiDomenico** - health concerns  
**Mindy Ford** (Renee Chastain's friend) - breast cancer  
**Tom Keaton** - health concerns

**Our Shut-ins:**  
**Jane Bell, Vivian DiDomenico, Virginia Lyon and Bettie Varner**

Service personnel  
**Esther Bonney**

Our Missionaries  
**Ariosto, Nubia, & Daniel Gallegos**  
**Jonathan & Karen Lovitt**  
**Neil & Holly Lovitt**  
**Lauren Sigsworth**  
**Darrel & Juanita Steel**

Our world in crisis, all our soldiers & their families

Continued prayer for the tornado victims in our area

Next Month:  
Please submit your praise reports.  
Please email them to Lupina Haney:  
[lupijimha@gmail.com](mailto:lupijimha@gmail.com)

## Prayer Warriors

This is the beginning of a whole new year, a clean slate in which we can mark with beauty by sharing the blessings that God has given us or mar the slate with discontent and idleness.

Psalm 5:3 shows us God's love with a promise, "In the morning O' Lord you hear my voice and in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation"!

Prayer has to do with the whole being of a person. When a person prays, he does so with his whole nature. When he received benefits in prayer, it involves his whole being. The greatest results of praying come to him who gives himself - all of himself, all that belongs to himself - to God.

This is the secret of full consecration and the sort of praying that produces the largest fruit. E.M Bounds

I am looking forward to a new year of blessings and answered prayer.

Please join us on:

### January 14 for potluck and fellowship

For those of you who are new and haven't had the opportunity, please come! We welcome you with open arms and hearts.

*Sondra Chilson*

*Eva Nordgren*

Ooltewah Seventh-day Adventist Church  
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*"Christ-centered, Spirit-filled People,  
Knowing, Reflecting and Sharing God."*



## INDIAN RIVER CITRUS FRUIT ORDERS

are being taken by the Ooltewah Timberwolves  
Pathfinders to raise funds for their trip to the Southern  
Union Pathfinder Camporee at Kulaqua Springs, FL. If  
you would like to support your Pathfinder club while enjoying delicious citrus  
fruit contact an Ooltewah Pathfinder or call the church office at 238-4619.

### Upcoming Events:

Dec. 17-Jan. 2	OAKS Christmas Break
Jan. 3	School Resumes
Jan. 6	Young at Heart Lunch at Acropolis
Jan. 6	OAKS Vespers at 5:00 p.m. - FCtr.
Jan. 7	Singspiration/Vespers at 5:30 p.m. - FCtr.
Jan. 14	OAKS Band Fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. - FCtr.
Jan. 15	Pathfinder Teen Ski Trip
Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Day NO School at OAKS
Jan. 21	Adventurer Potluck and Lock-in - FCtr.

**Church Finance Committee**  
**Thursday, Jan. 12, at 7:00 p.m.**

**OAKS Finance Committee**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 p.m.**

**OAKS Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 6:30 p.m.**

**Evangelism Committee**  
**Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Church Board Meeting**  
**Monday, Jan. 23, at 7:00 p.m.**