

Olney Street Baptist Church

The Bridge



Connecting Church, Home and the Community

Volume 1, Issue 10
July 2015



Vacation Bible School at Olney Street Baptist Church

During the week of July 20-24, Olney Street Baptist Church will hold its annual Vacation Bible School. The theme for this year's VBS is "Good Deeds for Those in Need" with the accompanying scripture of Proverbs 3:27. VBS will run each evening (M–F) from 5:30–7:30 pm with light refreshments provided. A portion of one night will be spent learning the "theme song", which will be sung during the Morning Worship Service on the Sunday following the close of VBS. A portion of another night will be set aside as "Game Night." Volunteer Sign-up sheets will be posted in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up to help with this very special event. Volunteer teachers are still needed as well as arts & craft workers and helpers to prepare nightly refreshments. For more information, contact Sisters Luisa Sanchez, Director or Tina Scott, Co-Director of VBS.

Olney Street Baptist Church Annual Picnic

Olney Street's Annual Church Picnic will be held 10 am–4 pm on Saturday, July 25, 2015 on the grounds of the church. Congdon Street Baptist Church and neighboring community organizations have been invited to join us at this event. Volunteers are needed to help with setup, cleanup, manning the grills, preparing side dishes and helping to organize activities for the children. Monetary and food donations are welcome. Please see sign-up for donations and volunteers posted in Fellowship Hall. Come and join us for a day of food, games and fellowship shared with family, community and friends. For more information contact Deaconess Bettye Clanton, Chairperson for this event.



Something to Thing About...

Submitted by Sister Ann McGloshen

By flying in a "V" formation a flock of geese increases flight efficiency by 71% compared to a single bird flying alone. When a goose leaves the formation he feels the resistance of the air and the difficulty of flying alone. Then, he quickly returns to the formation to take advantage of the flock's power in front of him. When the leader gets tired, he goes to the end of the formation and another goose takes the lead. As the geese continue to fly in their "V" formation, those following quack to encourage those in the front. In that way they maintain their speed. When a goose gets sick, is injured, or can't keep up and must leave the formation, other geese leave too. They stay with him until he dies or is able to fly again, then rejoin the group or join another formation.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10... "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." (KJV)



Praying Hands

Submitted by Sister Carolyn Addison
Author Unknown

There are hands that help and comfort
Hands that plan and teach
Hands that rest and hands that strive
For a goal just out of reach.

Hands that grasp and hands that give
Hands that work and play
Friendly hands and loving hands
That soothe life's cares away.

But, praying hands are dearest
In the sight of God above
For in their sweet and earnest clasp
Is reverence and love.

No hands can do an unkind act
Nor cause another care
Nor sin against Our Heavenly Father's love
When they are clasped in prayer.



Prayer is the foundation of our faith!

By Reverend Johnny M. Wilson, Jr. DMin. MDiv

In the words of Paul the traveler, written in many letters to the churches, ***“We do not know what we ought to pray for.”*** He also adds, “The Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will” (Romans 8:26-28). It is exciting to know that we are not left alone when we are in prayer and pour out our hearts to God.

Prayer is what is needed in our lives daily. For the events in our world, community, city, town, rural or urban are impacting every aspect of our lives. As believers, non-believers and people of the world, we depend on a higher power or we depend **on prayer that is the foundation of our faith.**

One aspect of Jesus’ foundation is his compassion for the people. Jesus, in his prophetic faith, is ***moved to compassion.*** Jesus understood the context of those in uncomfortable situations and how the “laws” restricted the goodness of God to all people. **This compassion according to Dr. Walter Brueggemann, in his book, *The Prophetic Imagination* says, “Compassion constitutes a radical form of criticism, for it announces that the hurt is to be taken seriously, that the hurt is not to be accepted as normal and natural but is an abnormal and unacceptable condition for humanness.” Jesus embraces the pain, disappointment, the joy and witnesses the needs of folks needing an opportunity to be released from the evil and unexpected circumstance of humanity’s failure toward each other.”**

On a special day Jesus’ disciples came up to him and asked an important question of Jesus. The disciples asked, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Jesus stated:

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be Your name.

Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.²

Prayer is the foundation of our faith for every believer that believes that Jesus Christ is the head of their lives. Prayer is not just an opportunity for material goods and services, it is a door to God’s divine presence.

Conclusion

What is it to have faith? Mark 11:23 says: **“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, “Go, throw yourself into the sea; and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.”** Faith is the essential quality in the heart of any believer who desires to know God and to have a relationship with Him. Faith does the impossible and nothing is impossible with God.

¹ **Walter Brueggemann, “Criticism and Pathos in Jesus of Nazareth,” *The Prophetic Imagination*, second edition (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001) p.88**

² ***The Ministers Bible, Holman Christian Standard Bible***

Our Day of Worship

Sister Carolyn Addison
Chairperson, Ministry of Christian Education

Quite often the question comes up as Christians if we should worship on Saturday or Sunday. The Sabbath was first introduced or made known at Mount Sinai (to Moses) as part of the Mosaic Law. Before that time it was not noted nor was it a part of any commandment.

In *Exodus 31:12, 13, 16, 17* the Bible speaks about a sign between the children of Israel and God, just as the rainbow was a covenant between Abraham and God. Sunday is to be considered and respected as The Lord's Day — a day of salvation given to us by the grace of God. In *Colossians 2:14*, Christ changed that ordinance because it was against the Christian gentile. The change was made as He suffered upon the cross.

The Sabbath (Jewish Sabbath) was not a day of worship, but a day of rest. *Exodus 20:10*. In *Colossians 2:16-17* it reads "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is Christ." Since Jesus rose, the shadow is completed.

So when people of other religious groups frown upon us we should disregard their attitude, since we are to live by the Bible — God's holy words. Sunday is not "The Christian Sabbath". Sabbath in the Bible refers to Saturday and it never changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The Catholics did not change it from the 7th day to the 1st day of the week. They however accepted Peter as the first Pope. And, in fact, the Catholic church supported some civil law enforcing Sunday as a day of worship. *Acts 20:7*.

The Lord's Day — the first day of the week, has special meaning to New Testament Christians. Jesus rose on the first day. *Mark 16: 2-9*. See the following references to Sunday, the first day, scriptures: *I Corinthians 16:2, Revelation 1:10, Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:25*.

There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

I Corinthians 12:5-7

How to Make a Submission to The Bridge

The Bridge is published four times a year. It is distributed at Olney Street Baptist Church, Camp Street Ministries and other community locations, via email and can be viewed on the church website @ www.olneystreet.com. We welcome submissions, including church ministry news, community news, poetry, member news, anecdotes, etc.

Your articles or news may be submitted via email to s.lezlee@gmail.com, placed in the Church Newsletter Committee mailbox in Fellowship Hall or given to a member of the Newsletter Committee. Any photo(s) you wish to include with your article must be submitted by email as an attachment or on a flash drive in jpeg format.

Submissions may be edited for length and content and must be received prior to deadline.

Parenting in high-tech world brings heartbreak

"Traditional Parenting" by John Rosemond
[Submitted by Deaconess Cleo Nobles]

I often hear real-life parenting stories that evoke two equally strong feelings: on the one hand, sorrow; on the other, gratefulness. I am saddened to hear these stories, always told to me by loving parents who have conscientiously tried to always do the right thing, but they also cause me to be glad beyond measure that I am not raising children today. I got out of the game just in time, it seems.

Willie and I did not have to deal with hundreds of cable channels, video games, cell phones, or the Internet with its various temptations, including social media, pornography that a 5-year old can access (Click Here if You're 18 or Older!), chatrooms, online gaming, and shopping carts. When my kids were growing up, we had a television (sometimes), period. In 1980, I wrote a column in which I speculated that video games were addictive (which we now know is true), and the president of Nintendo USA sent me a state-of-the-art video-gaming system to share with my poor, tech-deprived children so I could see for myself how wrong-headed I was. It sat, unopened, in my attic until several years ago when I gave it away. In short, Willie and I had it easy. The worst thing either of our kids did was sneak out at night after we were asleep. That would be the son, of course.

One such heartbreaking story was told to me recently. It's been told to me hundreds of times, actually, and every time my heart is broken. It begins with good, decent, responsible parents discovering that their young adolescent boy has accessed pornography of the worst sort on the Internet. They confront him. His father talks to him about how pornography disrespects women. The parents make sure he can no longer access the Internet at home without supervision. The boy figures out how to get around the blocks, how to disarm the tracking software. The parents

find him sitting at the computer, mesmerized, at 3 a.m. Then his best friend's parents call to complain that he has introduced their son to Internet pornography. The word gets around. No one will let their children associate with the boy, and the parents figure out that they've become untouchable as well. And the boy just keeps right on figuring out how to beat the system.

As the parents tell the story, they're both fighting back tears. So am I. What should we do? They ask. I tell them it sounds to me that they've done all they can. But it's not working! They say, in despair. I ask, "Can you accept that you're not going to be able to completely solve this problem? Can you accept that the river's going to find a way around your sandbags, but that you should keep putting out sandbags anyway?"

Then I say something along these lines: "Are you willing to accept not only that this isn't your fault, that it has absolutely nothing to do with anything you did or failed to do, but also that you are not the appointed agents of change concerning this issue in your child's life?"

In other words, I tell them, do your best, but don't expect much in return. Pray for your son. Above all else, keep the demons of guilt at bay. Guilt is the enemy.

And then I feel guilty for being so grateful.

*Family psychologist John Rosemond: johnrosemond.com
and parentguru.com.*



Community Services & Dinner

Where:

**Olney Street Baptist Church
100 Olney Street Providence, RI 02906
401-272-1024**

When:

**August 30, 2015
November 29, 2015**

***Doors Open at 10:30 AM
Service Starts at 11AM**

***Children are a gift from the Lord...
Psalm 127:3 (New Life Version)***

Youth Activities offered at Olney Street Baptist Church

Sunday School	Sundays 9:30—10:45 AM
Church	Sundays 11:00 AM
Children's Church	Sundays 11:40 AM—Fellowship Hall
Youth Choir	Saturdays 12:00 Noon
AB Boys (7—17)	3rd Saturday of the month at 4:00 PM
AB Girls (7—17)	2nd Friday of the month at 6:00 PM
*First Fridays (of the month)	Travel to Providence Assembly of God
Steppers	Thursdays at 6:00 PM
Fellowship & Special Events	To be announced

*** Praise with Holy Hip-Hop, Gospel Rap, Spoken Word, Praise Dance, Instruments and Songs**

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.'

—Erma Brombeck



Olney Street Baptist Church on the Web

The Olney Street Baptist Church's website has been updated and re-designed by Brother Kwong Nuey. Information about Olney Street's mission, ministries, history and events has been included in this new easy to read and navigate site. The site also includes a church calendar, past and present issues of the church quarterly newsletter, *The Bridge*, and links to other relevant organizations. You are encouraged to review Olney Street's new website at www.olneystreet.com. Your feedback is welcome.

American Baptist Churches of RI (ABCORI) *Upcoming Training Events*

These upcoming training opportunities may be of interest to you:

- ♦ On Saturday, August 29 a Christian Education Training & Resource Day will be held at Canonicus Camp and Conference Center (Shaub Dining Hall) in Exeter, RI. The session, which runs from 8:30—12 noon, offers tracks for teachers and CE leaders, and a track for Pastors. Register by emailing Ann Aldrich at Rossena24@aol.com. This event is sponsored by the Camping and Youth Ministry Team of ABCORI and is offered at no cost to participants.
- ♦ First Baptist Church of North Kingstown, 1127 Tower Hill Road, will host a Leadership Development Day on Saturday, September 19 from 8:30 am—3:30 pm. Facilitator for this session is Rev. Sandra Hasenhauer, with Worship Leader Rev. Dr. Reppa Cottrell. This program is open to all women ages 18+ and offers a time to help your development as a leader. There is a \$10 registration fee for this program. To register or for more information, contact Peggy Johnson at (401) 294-2706.
- ♦ On October 16-18, the 2nd RI Christian Women's Retreat will be held at Canonicus Camp and Conference Center. The Retreat will include art, dance, poetry, writing, testimonies, music, comedy and more. Registration fee for the full retreat is \$200 which includes 5 meals, 2 nights accommodation and all activities. One day registration at a fee of \$150 is also available. Email marygoff6@gmail.com or call 401-575-0964 for more information.

Worship: The Rhythm of Life Eternal

Submitted by Sister Ann McGloshen

*[Reprinted with the permission of Reverend Clay Berry,
Pastor of Wakefield Baptist Church, Wakefield, RI]*

Because the pulses and rhythms of worship are not necessarily those we experience every day, getting “in tune” all of a sudden on Sunday morning may be difficult for some. How can you enhance your worship and enjoy it more? Try some of these suggestions during the week:

Prepare through Prayer

Prayer sensitizes us to the presence of God and helps us recognize the place He has in our lives. Since the essence of worship is praise, include gratitude and thanksgiving in your prayer all week long. As you approach God in worship, pray that He might offer you healing, direction, forgiveness, then come to honor His work in your life. Pray for those who will be worshipping with you and for those who lead our services.

Reflect on the Scriptures ahead of time

These are each week in the bulletin. This will “tune” your hearing and prepare the “good soil” of your heart to hear God’s Word in worship.

Come with Expectation

An attitude of openness is essential. This allows the Spirit room to move in your life. If you are receptive to God, He is better able to speak to you. If you let go of some of your inhibitions and trust God then you are better able to offer God your faith, your praise, your confession, or need for healing. And, He is better able to respond in the fullness of His love for you.

Bring an Offering

Sacrifice, surrender and obedience are also important to an attitude of worship. Through worship we offer God our lives in many ways. Come to worship prepared to give freely from your heart. Offer God your best, whatever that may be, and you will have truly worshipped.

Women’s Ministry at Olney Street Baptist Church



“Stepping Out on Faith Together”

Women’s Ministry will not hold meetings in July & August. Please see “***Mark Your Calendar***” on next page for dates of our fall meetings including a special meeting on September 25 @ 6 pm initiating a joint mission project (women and girls). Additional information on this project will appear in upcoming church bulletins.

All women and girls are welcome!

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”
Psalm 27:1

Mark Your Calendar!!!



Advisory Council Meeting	Monday, July 13, 6:00 pm
Church Quarterly Business Meeting	Thursday, July 16, 7:00 pm
Vacation Bible School	July 20—24, 5:30—7:30 pm
Church Picnic @ OSBC	Sat., July 25, 10 am—4 pm
Sight and Sound Theatre trip (Philadelphia)	August 14-15
ABCORI Christian Education & Resource Day @ Camp Canonicus	Saturday, August 29, 9 am—12 noon
Women's Ministry card-making project (girls and women)	Friday, September 25 @ 6 pm
Church Revival	TBA
Women's Ministry meeting	Saturday, October 3 @ 9 am
Men's Day Service @ OSBC	Sunday, October 18, 11 am
2nd RI Christian Women's Retreat @ Camp Canonicus	October 16—18
ABW Fall Mission Day	Saturday, October 24

Sick and Shut In*

Let us continue to spread hospitality to our homebound.
Romans 12:13 says: "Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality."
 Bless someone with a phone call, a prayer or a visit.

Sister Dora Nelson
 Sister Doris Simmons
 Sister Helen Butler
 Sister Durlene Nembhard
 Deaconess Hazel Bradley
 Sister Barbara Fuller
 Sister Josephine Oliver

Brother Russell Nicholas
 Sister Lillian Shaffer
 Sister Van Johnson
 Sister Louise Malabrie
 Brother Walter Baptista
 Brother Frank Whetstone

****See Sunday's Church
 Bulletin for
 contact information.***



Olney Street Baptist Church



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Olney Street Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr., Pastor

Rev. Bassey Ekpong, Associate Minister

Officers & Ministries — 2015

Church Officers

Sister Joyce Hall, Church Clerk
Deaconess Bettye Clanton, Asst Church Clerk
Deacon Charles Nobles, Chair, Deacon Ministry
Sister Dorothy Henley, Chair, Trustee Ministry
Sister Charlene Simmons, Treasurer
Brother Andre Williams, Asst. Treasurer
Sister Carolyn Addison, Chair, Christian Education
Sister Mary Henley, Sunday School Superintendent
Sister Agnes Ashe, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
Brother Edward Roberts, III, Church Moderator

Christian Education Ministry

Sister Dorothy Cooper-Browne	Sister Luisa Sanchez
Sister Lucille Henderson	Sister Tina Scott
Sister Ann McGloshen	Sister Lezlee Shaffer
Sister Collita Miller	Deacon David Simmons
Brother Philip Renzi	

Deacon/Deaconess Ministry

Deacon James Dixon	Deaconess Hazel Bradley
Deacon Charles Ross	Deaconess Bettye Clanton
Deacon Raymond Scott	Deaconess Vivian Moore
Deacon David Simmons	Deaconess Cleo Nobles
Deacon Vincent Tiemo	Deaconess Thelma Ross
	Deaconess Lillie Scott
	Deaconess Dorothy Williams
	Deaconess Idela Wilson

Trustee Ministry

Sister Naomi Brown	Sister Cheryl Roberts
Brother Paul Dalrymple	Brother Albert Smith, Sr.
Brother Calvin Guyton	Brother Kinzel Thomas
Brother Charles Hall	Brother Wopre Tiemo
Brother Kwong Nuey	Brother Gary Washington
Sister Sharon Ottey	

Olney Street Baptist Church Mission Statement

To promote Spiritual Growth, Evangelism and Stewardship through Bible Study,
Prayer and the Development of Ministries throughout the Body of Christ and the Community.

Newsletter Committee Members

Sister Ann McGloshen	Deacon Raymond Scott
Sister Rosia Whetstone	Sister Lezlee Shaffer, Coordinator
Sister Schellie Johnson	Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr., Ex-Officio