

Olney Street Baptist Church

The Bridge

Connecting Church, Home and the Community

Volume 1, Issue 3
July 2013

From the Newsletter Committee

Welcome to this our third issue of **The Bridge**. Our mission is to bring information about upcoming events, news from our church ministries, and other timely information to our church family and neighboring community. It is our hope that **The Bridge** helps our members and the community to stay connected. The deadline for our next edition (to be distributed in October 2013) will be posted in the church bulletin shortly. Please keep us in mind if you have fall events or activities that you would like to make others aware of. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this issue and we welcome your thoughtful comments and suggestions to make **The Bridge** a useful tool in keeping our church, homes and community connected.

Articles or news may be submitted via email, left in the Church Newsletter mailbox in Fellowship Hall, or given to a member of the Committee. And, remember, if you would like to receive **The Bridge** via email and are not currently on our email list, please contact Sister Lezlee Shaffer @ s.lezlee@gmail.com to have your email address added to the list for future mailings.



Member Spotlight

Sister Anita Abotsi

By Sister Rosia Whetstone, Church Clerk Emeriti

Anita Abotsi is the daughter of Mr. Faith & Mrs. Dinah Abotsi. She and her sister, Charlotte were born in Palermo, Italy. The family moved to Providence, RI while the children were young.

Anita attended the Robert L. Bailey Elementary School and Nathan Bishop Middle School. She is a graduate of Hope High School. She attended Rhode Island College where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She is presently in Graduate School at Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA, pursuing Licensure in Professional Counseling.

When Anita was asked, what led her to Olney Street Baptist Church? She said a family friend told us about the church. Once they visited, as a family, they enjoyed the worship service and decided to make it their home church. She was baptized October 4, 1998 by Reverend Dr. H. Lincoln Oliver. They always worship together as a family.

Article continued on next page.

Member Spotlight continued...

Anita has been very involved in several ministries and activities in the church. Namely: Steppers for Jesus, AB G.I.R.L.S., Youth Ministries, Vacation Bible School (student and teacher), Sunday School, Church picnics, Children’s Church (helper and teacher), and a member of the Christian Education Ministry.

As you can see she has been very active in the church. She stated that, “It was to the point where I had classmates tease me and say that all I did with my time was go to church. I couldn’t help it, I loved it!”

She also stated “I recall spending most of my childhood hanging with my cousins. Family is a huge dynamic for me, and I believe that stemmed from the times I spent with my aunties and uncles at a young age.”

“As a child I was very interested in music. I took recorder, violin and piano lessons. I also loved singing. The Children’s Choir and Mass Choir helped me develop my musical talent. I was a happy child as long as I was with good company.”

We all know that Anita comes from a very close-knit family. You can see and feel the love that keeps the family strong. She said, “Since I’ve joined OSBC I really appreciated the hospitality the church has shown and the way the church body has cared for me over the years.” She is most grateful for the scholarships she has received from the church.

I asked Anita, what would she like to see happening in her church? Her response was, “I would love to see the Youth Ministries (13-17 age groups) re-emerge. What I loved about growing up in this church was all the Youth Ministry activities we participated in. I remember looking forward to when I would turn 13 years old so I could join YM. The Bible studies were amazing, the fellowships created life long friendships, and we learned how to be leaders on 4th Sunday Worship service. I still keep everything I took from that experience close to my heart.”

Her favorite hymn is “He Looked Beyond My Faults.” Her favorite scripture is Psalm 139:14 “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

Anita indicated that her future plans are to graduate from the program at Liberty University, obtain her Licensure, and then work as a mental health counselor. Further down the road her goal is to open her own counseling practice.

Mark Your Calendar

Vacation Bible School @ OSBC

July 22 - 26

**Church Picnic & Colt State Park
(Bristol)**

July 27

**OSBC Trip to Sight & Sound Theatre
Lancaster, PA**

September 5, 6, 7

Church Revival

September 18, 19, 20

Men’s Day

October 20



Christian Education Ministry

By Sister Lodie Lambright, Chair
Christian Education Ministry



Matthew 28:19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you."

Sunday School/Breakfast Program

Sunday School continues to feed and nourish our spirit so that we can grow in our understanding and use of Holy Scripture. Our Breakfast Program continues to feed and nourish our body so that we can be strong in our service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sunday School, Bible Study, and Sunday worship is the three legged stool that supports us as we grow as believers in and disciples for Jesus Christ. Class graduations and culmination of the Reading Challenge were acknowledged on 4th Sunday, June 23rd.

Membership Education

The really good news is that we welcomed six new members into our church body. Sisters Areema Sweeney and Cheryl A. Leyden, Brothers Mike Ashby, Dwayne E. Becton, Clarence Malone, and Albert L. Smith II were accorded membership and received the Right Hand of Fellowship on May 5, 2013. The bad news is that Sister Areema Sweeney and Brother Mike Ashby will be relocating to Philadelphia, PA in the very near future. They will be missed but we wish them every success as they continue along this road we call life. A new class, with four applicants, started on June 16th.

Vacation Bible School - July 22-26

Planning is underway. Vacation Bible School will be for all ages 6 years and above. We surveyed our Sunday School classes to find out what they recommended as topics for the program. They suggested faith, unity, prayer, and obedience as the topics to be explored and the planning committee will incorporate these themes into the program. Flyers will be distributed throughout the community to encourage participation. A simple snack will be served at the beginning of the program and the family and community will be invited to attend a presentation and light meal on the final day. Willing hands are invited to make this a rewarding event.

Dr. Rose Butler Browne Education Fund

There are no graduates this year. An award will be made to Sister Charlotte Abotsi to continue supporting her in her academic pursuits. The award was made on 4th Sunday, June 23rd.



Continued on next page

Christian Education Ministry (continued)



CHOICES

Our Father threw us several curve balls when He gave us free will and yet required obedience to His commandments. The elephant in the room is choice. We make many choices every day of our lives. We choose whether we will attend Sunday Morning Worship. We choose whether we will attend Bible Study or Sunday School. We choose whether we will use our gifts and talents to serve in accordance to the Great Commission. We choose as to how we use our right to freedom of speech. We choose how we will use our time and our financial resources. Every choice has consequences, some intended and some unintended. Every choice that we make opens some doors and closes others. Salvation is our gift but there are some strings attached. Faith, obedience and service are the strings attached to salvation and choice is the glue that holds it all together. Be vigilant. Pay attention to the choices you make. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" are the words we want to hear on that glorious day when we meet our Maker.

As always, I extend my gratitude and appreciation to all members of the Christian Education Ministry and to all members who contributed their time and gifts.

OSBC CHURCH REVIVAL

Olney Street Baptist Church will hold its annual fall Revival beginning on Wednesday, September 18 through Friday, September 20. The program will begin with Devotions @ 7:00 pm each evening, with the Revival starting promptly at 7:30. The Revival will be preceded by an hour of prayer on Monday & Tuesday evenings.



PRAYING
for
Revival

if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.
II chronicles 7:14

The Theme for our revival is "The Power of Prayer", with scripture reference I Samuel 1:12-20. Please mark the dates on your calendar now and plan to join us for this time of praise, worship and fellowship. Several choirs will perform during the Revival including our own OSBC Choir and Male Chorus. Each member is asked to give a \$20.00 donation.

The Revival Committee is being chaired by Sister Linda Twyman. The committee could use some help with planning the program and light refreshments for this event. If you can lend a hand, please contact Sister Twyman. Please look for more details in upcoming church bulletins.

DEACONS MINISTRY

News from the Deacons Ministry

On Sunday, June 16, the Deacon Ministry of Olney Street Baptist Church was pleased to present Brother Albert L. Smith with a plaque honoring him as the 16th recipient of OSBC's "Man of the Year" award. Congratulations to Brother Smith for this much deserved recognition.



The Deacons Ministry asks the members of Olney Street to join them in extending congratulations and best wishes to three of our oldest members who recently or will soon be celebrating birthdays:



Deaconess Hazel Bradley (July 2) — 100 years old

Sister Catherine Matthews (October 17) — 104 years old

Sister Emma Parker (November 20) — 99 years old

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.

Mrs. Dora Nelson

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton

Mrs. Emma Parker

Mrs. Doris Simmons

Mrs. Earline Davis

Mrs. Helen Butler

Mrs. Durlene Nembhard

Mr. Russell Nicholas

Mrs. Louise Malabrie

Deaconess Hazel Bradley

Mrs. Catherine Matthews

Mr. Walter Baptista

Mrs. Lillian Shaffer

Mrs. Van Johnson

Mrs. Helene Hammond

****See Sunday Church
Bulletin for
contact information***



Youth Ministry

The Relay for Life Step up to Stomp out Cancer Fight Back Bazaar was a success. The Relay for Life teams raised over \$650.00 on June 1, 2013.



The youth worked very hard for two months creating hand-made crafts, coming out on Friday and Saturday nights to get the job done. Hamburgers, hot dogs, baked goods, popcorn and a car wash were some of the attractions of the day.

We were blessed to have four teams out of Olney Street Baptist Church:

Loving Hearts
The Rock
The Indestructibles
The Classicalites

On June 21–22 our teams participated in Relay for Life at Toll Gate High School in Warwick. To date we have raised a total of \$4,144.90. We have until August 30th for a final count. Donations can still be received. Thank you all for your support and generous donations for this year's Relay for Life!

It is time to celebrate, remember and fight back!

Nadine Rucker, Captain (Loving Hearts)

Women's Ministries ~ ABWM—RI

American Baptist Women's Spring Conference

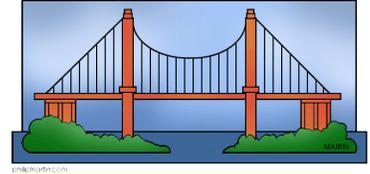
On June 14 & 15, Canonicus Camp and Conference Center was host to the American Baptist Women's Spring Conference, "*Shaped for God's Purpose...In the Potter's Hands.*" The Conference Scripture was lifted from II Timothy 2:20-26 (TEV). The keynote speaker was Lois Olmstead, a woman of faith who delivered her message with encouragement and inspiration. A nationally renowned speaker, Lois is also an acclaimed author. She is a believer who shares her faith in God openly and with conviction.

Several Olney Street members joined approximately 100 women and girls gathered for this two-day event. This wonderful weekend included Bible Study, Evening and Early Morning Devotions, five different "Interest Groups," a Book Signing with our keynote speaker, a lot of great music, a time to meet/make new friends and to spend some time with old acquaintances, and an Ice Cream Social. Exhibits and literature about various women's programs was available for informing and sharing. Activities were also available for our AB G.I.R.L.S. Conference participants donated over 500 pairs of socks and over 3,000 cups for South Providence Neighborhood Ministries. All activities were planned and organized by the Conference Planning Committee, lead by its Chairperson, Sister Ann McGloshen.

This time of fellowship and learning was truly a wonderful experience for all who attended. We all feel blessed to have been a part of this very special weekend.

Bridging the Gap

By Sister Ann McGloshen



Bridging the Gap...How do we bridge the gap when there has been even the slightest rift between friends, family members and/or co-laborers in the faith community? The article below is an e-mail message I received some time ago. The author is unknown. Perhaps someone may find it useful as we journey along life's hi-ways and by-ways.

The Carpenter

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a *small misunderstanding* and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence –an 8 foot fence- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you." The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day – measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge - a bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched. "You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

THE MORAL OF THE STORY IS THIS:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you helped get to where they needed to go.

God won't ask the square footage of your house, but He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.

God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation, but He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in Heaven, and not to the gates of hell.

Summer Health Concern ~ Skin Cancer & Sunscreen

[The following excerpts were taken from the US Food and Drug Administration and the Skin Cancer Foundation websites]

Question: Do people of African American heritage have to worry about getting skin cancer? **Answer:** Yes!

Melanoma is the third most common type of skin cancer among all racial groups. Melanoma does not discriminate. In fact, African-Americans are more likely to die from melanoma – the deadliest, most common form of skin cancer – than are Caucasians in the United States. Although the incidence of skin cancer was more than 10 times higher among whites, African –Americans who contracted melanoma had a far lower survival rate than whites, according to a study done by the University of Michigan. Whatever our skin color, we’re all potentially susceptible to sunburn and other harmful effects of exposure to ultra violet (UV) radiation.

Skin cancer is on the rise in the United States. The American Cancer Society estimates that one American dies every hour from skin cancer. In 2012 alone, the American Cancer Society estimated there would be more than 76,250 new cases of malignant melanoma.

Here are some tips for you and your family to stay safe this summer:

Reduce Time in the Sun ~ Limit sun exposure between 10 am and 2 pm, when the sun’s rays are strongest. Even on an overcast day, up to 80 percent of the sun’s UV rays can get through the clouds. Stay in the shade as much as possible throughout the day.

Dress with Care ~ Wear clothes that protect your body. If you plan on being outside on a sunny day, cover as much of your body as possible. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, long sleeves, and pants.

Be Serious about Sunscreen ~ Check product labels to make sure you get

- a “sun protection factor” (SPF) of 15 or more. SPF represents the degree to which a sunscreen can protect the skin from sunburn.
- “broad spectrum” protection – sunscreen that protects against all types of skin damage caused by sunlight.
- water resistance – sunscreen that stays on your skin longer, even if it gets wet. Reapply water-resistant sunscreens as instructed on the label.

Protect the Eyes ~ Sunlight reflecting off sand or water further increases exposure to UV radiation and increases your risk of developing eye problems.

Tips for eye-related sun safety include:

- When buying sunglasses, look for a label that specifically offers 99 to 100 percent UV protection.
- Eyewear should be labeled “sunglasses.” Otherwise, you can’t be sure they will offer enough protection.
- Pricier sunglasses don’t ensure greater UV protection.
- Ask an eye care professional to test your sunglasses if you don’t know their level of UV protection.
- People who wear contact lenses that offer UV protection should still wear sunglasses.
- Wraparound sunglasses offer the most protection
- Children should wear real sunglasses (not toy sunglasses) that indicate the UV protection level.

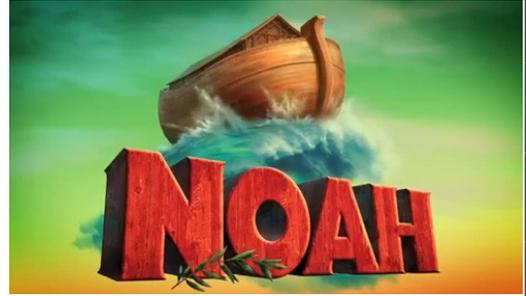
For additional information on skin cancer, melanoma and sun safety, visit the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website @ www.fda.gov or the Skin Cancer Foundation @ www.skincancer.org and search on “skin cancer.”

September 5, 6, 7, 2013

**Sight and Sound Theatres, Lancaster,
Pennsylvania**

~ Where the Bible comes to life! The moment you step through the door...the size, the scope, the excitement of what's to come...suddenly comes to life!!!

After nearly a decade in hiatus, this original biblical epic is back by popular demand — showing for ONE SEASON ONLY! Join the millions of people from all over the world who have seen this one-of-a-kind, awe-inspiring family experience. Noah's message of hope will take you on a remarkable journey of faith as you witness the struggles of Noah, his family and their journey as faithful servants of the Lord. Watch in amazement as the 40-foot high ark is constructed right before your very eyes.



Trip Details: Three days, two nights, two breakfasts, one dinner, plus ticket to see the play *NOAH*. All for \$290.00 **Deadline: July 28, 2013.**

First 50/Don't be late!

Contact persons: Brother Jesse Bradley — (401) 301-6320

Deaconess Bettye Clanton — (401) 272-3243

Baptist Distinctions

Ever wonder what makes Baptists different from other Christians? If so, here is some food for thought. One of those “distinctions” is “Bible Authority”. Additional Baptist distinctions will be included in upcoming newsletters.

Bible Authority ~ The Bible is the final authority in all matters of belief and practice because the Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself. Whatever the Bible affirms, Baptists accept as true. No human opinion or decree of any church group can override the Bible. Even creeds and confessions of faith, which attempt to articulate the theology of Scripture, do not carry Scripture's inherent authority. It is to the Bible that we turn when we have questions that need answering — about the church, about ministry, and about the way God's people are to conduct themselves.

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. I Thessalonians 2:13

**Olney Street
Baptist Church**



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Olney Street Baptist Church

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

Officers & Ministries—2013

Church Officers

Sister Joyce Hall, Church Clerk
Sister Lodie Lambright, Chair, Christian Education
Deacon Charles Nobles, Chair, Deacon Ministry
Sister Dorothy Henley, Acting Chair, Trustee Ministry
Sister Charlene Simmons, Treasurer
Brother Andre Williams, Asst. Treasurer
Sister Ann McGloshen, Sunday School Superintendent
Sister Agnes Ashe, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent
Brother Edward Roberts, Church Moderator

Christian Education Ministry Members

Sister Naomi Brown	Sister Tondalay Brown
Sister Dorothy Cooper-Browne	Sister Mary Henley
Sister Nadine Rucker	Sister Lezlee Shaffer
Deacon David Simmons	Sister Tamara Thornton
Deaconess Idela Wilson	

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

Trustee Ministry Members

Brother Paul Dalrymple	Sister Barbara Dodd
Brother Calvin Guyton	Sister Dorothy Henley
Sister Collita Miller	Deaconess Vivian Moore
Sister Sharon Ottey	Sister Cheryl Roberts
Brother Albert Smith	Brother Gary Washington

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	Sister Tamara Thornton, Advisory
Deacon Raymond Scott	Sister Lodie Lambright, Ex-Officio
Brother Gary Washington	Rev. Dr. Johnny M. Wilson, Jr., Ex-Officio
Sister Rosia Whetstone	
Sister Lezlee Shaffer, Coordinator	