

**Annual
Church Life Report
June 2023 - June 2024
Meeting Date June 16, 2024**



OAK LAWN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Linda Hartley

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ANNUAL CHURCH LIFE REPORTS

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2023-2024 INTERIM PASTOR REPORT

Having arrived at the church the last week of August, my report of this past year is truncated by a couple of months. However, my past ten months with you have been full ones and I have felt so blessed by our mutual ministry. It has been a pleasure to get to know so many of you during coffee hour and monthly board meetings. I have especially appreciated working with the Board of Deacons whose members have made my initiation here a smooth process.

Once I got my feet firmly on the ground last fall, it has been good to get to know several members who cannot attend church services. Each individual I've met has helped me get a more complete picture of what the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church means to each of you who call this your church home.

I have especially appreciated the Executive Board's decision in March to increase my weekly hours from 20 to 24. This has certainly helped me to reach out to more members for whom a pastoral visit has been important. It has also allowed me the extra time necessary to offer a June Bible study in addition to the Advent and Lenten Bible studies – both of which were well attended.

As I reflect on this past year, I feel so blessed that God brought us together last summer. It has been a joyful year for me as I have shared Sunday worship and monthly meetings with you. I trust that there are many more blessings ahead as God continues to guide our mutual ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Linda

REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR

June 2023 – June 2024

I wish to first and most importantly offer my heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated members of the Boards and Committees I had the pleasure of working with this past year. You have been a continuous source of encouragement and guidance as we, as a Church, have made some difficult decisions this year. Also, you have embraced the efforts I have envisioned through “The Board’s Room”. I reiterate some of those here:

“While this will look differently for each Board, the hope is that Boards will be encouraged to be aware of opportunities for enhancement of “the usual” and discussing potential initiatives with an eye toward church health and growth and community outreach.

Our additional hope is that this focus section will promote congregational response and thoughts relative to these initiatives. You are encouraged to reach out to the Board chair or me with questions, ideas, concerns or suggestions so that they can be part of the Board’s discussion.”

I view this as Phase I of a continuing effort for inclusive direction for our Church. This has been initiated through the guidance and assistance from ABCORI Executive Minister Courtney Davis Olds, our Search Committee and the Executive Board as we prayed about and discussed the ultimate adjustment of our Pastoral care structure.

We must now move forward using this as a basis for future discussions and decisions regarding financial stability and organizational structure. How this looks may be different for many of us, but it needs to happen if we are to move ahead. These will be “Task Force” style opportunities where those who wish to, can take part. The challenge is not from me but from each of you as we together seek our path to the future of Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church.

May the Grace and Peace of our Lord be upon us as this year unfolds.
Amen.

Bob

2023—2024 CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership as of June 1, 2023	198
Changes	
Members Who Have Gone to Glory:	Date
Margaret (Peg) Wood	6/18/2023
Baptism	0
Members Transferred to a Different Church	1
Elizabeth Caniglia	6/20/2023
Members Transferred into our Church	2
Michael and Sari Palumbo	3/23/2024
Membership as of June 1, 2024	198

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Lamarre, Church Secretary

2023-2024 PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY REPORT

Prayer shawls are available on the rack at the front of the sanctuary. Cards to give with the shawls and the book to note the receiver and the giver are on the table outside of the Pastor's office. We have given lap robes and arm warmers to the Dialysis clinic in Warwick once this year.

If you knit or crochet and would like to join this ministry, ask Carol Rathbun for a set of directions.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rathbun, for the Prayer Shawl Ministry

2023-2024 MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT

The church year started for the Music Committee by officially adding Marilyn Drummond and Margery Jones to the staff as Choir Accompanist and Church Organist/Pianist, respectively. The worship services have been enhanced with music from both the Sanctuary Choir and Choral Bells on a regular basis. The bell choir welcomed some new members this year, who are doing a wonderful job as they learn from “veteran” players. There have been a variety of additional musical offerings through this last liturgical year by Mary Ackroyd, Amy Thibodeau, Jamie Spinney, Nathan & Mary Ackroyd, Marilyn Drummond, Margery Jones, Jessica Drummond and Joanne Wales. It is a blessing to have music to supplement choir offerings in worship!

In early December the rectifier which supplies power to the organ was replaced. It was wonderful to have the instrument working again for the Advent and Christmas seasons! Hopefully in June the major repair of the static reservoir will be completed and the organ will sing again for many decades to come with its new “breathing power.” Many thanks to Brian, our organ technician who personally cares for the organ. We are fortunate to have his expertise and genuine care for this most precious instrument.

In June, Beth Lamarre will begin inserting slips for Hymn Requests in worship bulletins. Marge will keep those references and utilize the hymns in worship throughout the summer months while the choirs are in recess. Thank you in advance for sharing your favorites.

May God’s enabling spirit continue to be in our midst as we seek to honor Him through our continued service as His body in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Respectfully Submitted,
Margery Jones
Chairperson for the Music Committee

2023-2024 BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the members of the Board of Deacons: Rennae Bell, Darlene Conti, Chuck Jones, Marge Jones, Mike Moore, Carol Rathbun, and Fran Sisson. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served with each of you. As usual, you have each gone above and beyond the duties of a Deacon. I am not sure you know how to do anything differently and know the word “no” exists.

Working with Pastor Linda has been a delight. With her guidance and insightful and spiritual messages every week, we have been inspired to grow in our faith and understanding of God’s word.

This Board continues to provide assistance, usually food, to those who request a need. This is made possible by your generous donations to our Deacons Fund. This year, we were also able to send a donation to Heifer International, an organization which provides families with resources, education, and opportunities for a future filled with hope and possibility. Most of this help provides opportunities to alleviate food insecurities, whether it be through education, providing animals so families can not only feed their own families but are able to make a living for their future.

Again, thank you to all who use their God given gifts to do our part inspreading God’s word, not only by speaking, but in our actions. Please know you each have made a difference in someone’s life. May you always be in someone’s prayers and may you have blessings beyond measure.

Peace,
Judy Butzier

2023 - 2024 BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

The Board of Christian Education had another very busy, fun-filled year. With more than 10 events filling the calendar this year, including new opportunities for gathering in addition to the traditional liturgical events throughout 2023 and 2024, Oak Lawn and the Board continues its mission of community outreach and fellowship.

Events

There was no shortage of fun family-friendly events throughout the year. The annual picnic at the Masonic Youth Center was an intimate crowd, but Bananagrams, hotdogs and burgers, and the egg toss improved the afternoon greatly, despite there being no pool! Rally Day on September 9 was a great success, with 44 people in attendance. The Board also added bowls full of foam shapes to each table, and many families and people took advantage of the craft and created their own masterpieces. Bingo Night on October 3, a first-time Lego-building event after worship on October 15, pumpkin carving on October 28 and a Harvest-themed coffee hour on October 29 filled up the calendar for the month of October. Family Game Night on November 10 was a success, and the Sunday School classes presented depictions of their Faith as part of the Stewardship campaign on November 12. December was busy with families reading each Sunday for Advent, as well as Christmas Eve, and the Christmas pageant featuring the youth and children (and some props skillfully made by Nick McCann) in silhouette on December 10 was beautifully executed by Robin with assistance from Board members and our Sunday School teachers (thank you to Mindy, Marilyn, and Jess!). A well-attended Family Game Night on January 26 and a Holiday Mash-up Bingo Night on February 22 got us through the winter doldrums, and though torrential rains kept away the crowds for the March 23 Easter Egg Hunt, those present enjoyed the festivities. Family Game Night on May 17 was well attended, where “Grounded for Life” was the hit game of the evening. The Board rounded out the very busy year with Youth Sunday on May 19 for Pentecost and Church School Sunday on June 9.

Missions

This year the Board of Christian Education opted to change the Missions focus to Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, a non-profit deeply committed to serving homeless and at-risk veterans. The organization offers housing, employment training, and basic human needs including food and personal hygiene items. Any food or other items donated to the church for Missions, as well as the standard Children’s Mission Offering (\$50 monthly) now goes toward the crucial work of OSDRI.

Miscellaneous

This year the Board tried a few new endeavors, including the use of a new church-issued credit card for purchases. This made the logistics of event planning (such as purchasing prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt) and curriculum purchasing much easier.

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The Board began a new Lego creativity event after church service that will hopefully become a staple each year. It also surveyed OLCBC members on which types of dinner foods would be best for Bingo and Family Game Night events. Lastly, the Board this year switched to entirely virtual monthly meetings, which has allowed for better access and availability for those with full schedules who would like to serve.

Church School/Curriculum

Sunday School and Youth class continues each Sunday with the exception of the first Sunday of each month. Students may choose to stay upstairs for Communion and the service, and younger children (10 and under) can join in for Craft Sunday.

Boomwhackers Sunday (the fourth Sunday) continued when possible. OLCBC's Reducing the Risk policy remained in effect by utilizing the services of the Board of Christian Education members when needed in the "Middle" classroom. This year in the fall, students learned about the nine Fruits of the Spirit, led by Robin and Corinne, and Marilyn and Jess in the youth class, culminating in a big fruit salad made by the children and enjoyed by the congregation. New curriculum was purchased in 2023 and early 2024, with the goal of conducting more class sessions with lessons that guide the "middle" class through reading their Bibles more often. This has been a success.

Youth Sunday was on May 19, which was beautifully and artfully done with Marilyn and Jess leading the youth class. Pentecost and its themes of wind and fire were evoked with red and orange streamers throughout the sanctuary, and people blowing air across water bottles. Church School Sunday with the theme of "Let me tell you about my Jesus" was on June 9 with the participation of both the Sunday School and Youth classes and the students leading the service and presenting depictions of "their Jesus."

Thank you to all the teachers who continue to devote their creativity and time to our children: Marilyn and Jess Drummond, and Robin Butzier and Corinne Ricketson. And my sincerest thanks to School Superintendent Robin Butzier and Board Members Corinne Ricketson, Mindy McCann, and Jenna Antunes for their limitless passion, enthusiasm, creativity, and time this year!!

Laura Dwyer, Chair

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

The auditing committee met with Lynne Kemp to review the Church's financial transactions for the calendar years 2022 and 2023 on Saturday, March 2, 2024.

The committee found no irregularities in the Church's finances.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dwyer

Jim Ellison

John McCann

2023 - 2024 BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The Board of Trustees finished another busy and exciting year of completed and ongoing projects. These are just a few highlights:

- The side door lock was repaired.
- Outside electrical outlets replaced.
- Various repairs in and around the Parsonage
- The church organ repair is nearing completion.
- Plumbing in the Ladies and Men's rooms was repaired.
- The pole that secures the chain across the far end of the parking lot was repaired.
- The curtains in the Quaker Room were painstakingly removed, laundered and rehung.
- A "triangle" patch of trees and brush in the rear of the church parking lot was cleared and weed killer applied. Mulch application is next.
- A major ant infestation was quelled.
- A new fryer was purchased which is used for clam cake making.
- The carpet in the Quaker Room and adjacent hallway was professionally cleaned.
- A local architect has been retained to draw up preliminary plans to make our church more accessible.
- Spring and Fall property clean-up.
- New Fellowship Hall rentals
- New telephones were purchased for the church.

The above list may seem modest, but each bullet point represents much planning and waiting and in some cases frustration and regrouping but always fulfilling and in some cases exciting! Some of the projects took place over weeks and in some cases, months. The hard work, research and dedication of a few resulted in monumental 'ah, ha!' moments. Big thanks to board members, Jim and Julie Ellison, Scott Lewis, Bob Kolb, Bob Butzier and Lynne Kemp. There were many others who helped -by that I mean, selflessly gave up their time to come together as one church family to do tasks and 'pitch-in'! Thank you!

So, stay informed, stay enlightened and as my dad would say. Stay Tuned!

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Wales, Secretary

2024 MAY DAY REPORT

Our 155th May Breakfast is officially complete, and I can say with confidence that we are back in full force, with many volunteers pitching everywhere we needed help. We were greeted by many familiar, and some new, smiling faces, as well as some who experienced their 1st May Breakfast and were very happy to say that they would be back next year!

With that being said, we appreciate all who helped to make this year's May Day such a "Great Day". No overnight rain could dampen our spirits! Everything went well without any unexpected surprises and the day was a wonderful success! We served 520 paying customers and over 60 volunteers! Once again, Laura Dwyer did a great job getting the word out about breakfast with her advertising savvy. Beth Lamarre took care of printing and Beth Moore took care of folding all the May Day programs that are handed out during the event.

This May Breakfast would not have been done without all who made donations and worked to raise monies for the general fund, by selling Breakfast tickets, May Sweets, Corn Bread Mix, Church Cookbooks, Tapes and Choir CD's. A big thank you to the entire May Breakfast Crew that included: Marilyn & Tom Drummond, Jamie & Nate Spinney, Patricia Doran, Jenna Antunes, Karen Nadeau, Cheryl Candon, Rennae Bell, Judy Butzier, Bob & Dee Kolb, Mike & Beth Moore, James Marsocci, Scott Lewis, Robin Butzier, Jeffrey & Morgan Butzier, Marge & Chuck Jones, Darlene Conti, Paula Bowry, Karen Coutu, Beth Kershaw Shirley, Pam Pearson, Carol Rathbun, Corinne Ricketson, Emily & Brooke Bedetta, Sophia James, Mike, Sari & Skylar Palumbo, Joey Crudale, Colby Cramer, Beth & Roger Lamarre, Richard Davidson, Fran Sisson, Rick Nadeau, John Kirkland, Frank McGovern, Alan Ruthven, Jim Ellison, Michelle Emery, The McCann Family & Pastor Linda Hartley.

A very special thank you to Lynne Kemp, Beth & Roger Lamarre, Bob & Dee Kolb, Betty Drew, Sue & Tom McMillen, Darlene Conti, Carol Rathbun, Pam Pearson, Linda Palazzo, Ron McDonald, Texas Road House & Mills Coffee Roasting Company for their generous donations to May Day that helped to reduce our expenses! We would also like to thank all who came and supported this wonderful tradition. We are looking forward to our 156th May Breakfast, Thursday, May 1, 2025. A very big thank you to very special helpers this year - Marilyn & Tom Drummond, Scott Lewis, Jamie & Nate Spinney, Alan Ruthven, Robin Butzier, Beth & Roger Lamarre, Beth Kershaw Shirley & Jeff Butzier, - for all of their hard work and extra support. What a great team! As members and friends of the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church, we are blessed to be a part of this wonderful tradition. My thank you's would not be complete without a great big hug to my husband Jim. You are my rock and support throughout life, I don't know what I would do without you! And to our daughter Jamie for going over and above on May Day, by even crawling under the stage to put away the last of the May Day supplies at the very end of clean up, and for filling all those jobs that needed to be done even at the last minute. You all continue to amaze with your willingness to just get it done!

It was my pleasure once again this year to serve as Chair of this time-honored tradition and to welcome Jeff Butzier as my co-chair. It was great working with you! Many thanks and blessings to you all for such a wonderful day! Another spring is complete with the 155th May Breakfast at the Oak Lawn Community Baptist Church!

Blessings,

Julie Ellison

JUNE 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

OFFICERS

Moderator
Assistant Moderator
Secretary of the Corporation
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Church School Superintendent

Bob Butzier
Chuck Jones
Julie Ellison
Lynne Kemp
Chuck Jones
Robin Butzier

DEACONS

2027 John McCann
2027 Amy Thibodeau
2026 Mike Moore
2026 Chuck Jones
2025 Rennae Bell
2025 Carol Rathbun
2025 Fran Sisson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2027 Sari Palumbo
2027 Robin Butzier
2026 Jenna Antunes
2026 Mindy McCann
2025 Corinne Ricketson
2025 Rachel Provencher (filling open 1 year term)

TRUSTEES

2027 Beth Lamarre
2027 Roger Lamarre
2027 Mike Palumbo
2026 Bob Kolb
2026 Jim Ellison
2025 Julie Ellison (filling open 1 year term)

Each term continues until the Annual Church Life Meeting of the year listed.