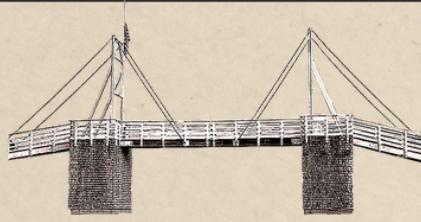


THE BRIDGE



Issue No. 1

BUILDING BRIDGES

FEBRUARY 2026

LIFE OF GENEROSITY

At the time of this writing, I am facing surgery and writing 2 papers for a course that I'm taking that will allow my ordination to be recognized by ABCOM. I've decided to reference something that I wrote earlier and yet is an important message for us all as we begin a new year. This morning, I met with a new member who wants to be involved in the ministries of the church. We discussed stewardship. Generosity is the natural expression of the transformed life that desires to honor stewardship. The transformation of a life by God, through the sacrifice of Christ and the power of His Spirit is indeed SACRED. God does it all. We have been transformed from objects of His wrath to objects of His grace and mercy. Christ sacrificed Himself that we might experience an abundant life. Some are confused about what that abundant life is all about, assuming that abundant is referring to having many things and lots of money with which to enjoy them. Abundance is so much more! Having been saved by Christ's shed blood, we are also raised out of the muck and mire of life and its consequences, by His power. All of the promises of God and all that we need are provided IN **CHRIST JESUS**.

As God has been generous with us so are we called to a life of generosity. Certainly, this involves generosity to the support of the Church as we give as an act of worship but also generosity to those in need and each other. Acts 2 clearly says that the early church took care of each other. As Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, he commended them for their generosity in helping other churches in the region that were experiencing famine. Paul in this letter established a powerful principle for generosity that each should decide what they wanted to give and then to do so cheerfully. To me this paints an attitude picture. We believe that God is generous and as we are created in His image, He has planted this generosity DNA in US. It's how we were created to be and yet we wrestle as humans to be generous with **JOY, FREEDOM, and PEACE**. When we feel compelled to be generous it can be a sour apple. The journey from a place of fear and guilt to the land of redemptive gratitude and redemptive generosity is not a simple "follow these three steps to financial freedom"! It is indeed a journey and God will empower us and strengthen us, one step at a time.

The movement towards generosity is emotional, practical and spiritual. God has created us to be generous with our LIVES, not just our stuff. I'll close with this illustration. I know that some of you have heard this story before but please bear with me. I lived at home through college and until I was married at the age of 24. My brother, who is 5 years younger, and I shared a small bedroom. He walked and talked in his sleep. The stories I could tell! Since we shared a room, he erroneously believed that we should share clothes as well. I understand as I wore some pretty cool clothes. Do you remember those platform shoes and cuffed, hip hugger bell bottoms? Righteous! We fought and argued all the time about my clothes until one Sunday when Pastor Jimmie Jackson proclaimed that the stuff we possessed didn't really belong to us and that God gave us stuff so that we could learn to be good stewards. Glorifying God by how we used things. I became convinced that my clothes were really God's clothes, went home and told my brother that he was free to wear God's clothes any time he wanted. He never wore those clothes again. That wasn't my intent but it worked out....! Withholding, grasping and clinging to that which isn't ours, but is God's, entangles our lives. Generosity makes us free!

PASTOR BRIAN SHORE



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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Brandon Wong 8 Mary Beth Patnaude 22 Rachel Peters
6 Warren Huntsman 9 Nicholas Audet 23 Starr Powell
7 Jeff Smith 11 Jess Wiggin 23 George Swallow
24 Sharon Ponte

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

John & Amy Cirincione 2/8/2003
Richard Patnaude & Caeli Beecher 2/11/2023
Dave & Linda Fleischer 2/14/1976

WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, January 14th a group of three of us met at Green Leaves Chinese Restaurant in York for our first luncheon of 2026. We were few in number as many are traveling or sick, but we had a good time and could chat altogether. Andy gave us a warm greeting and the food was plentiful as it always is there. Next month we will gather on February 11th at Billy's Chowder House in Wells.

-Pam Carnicelli



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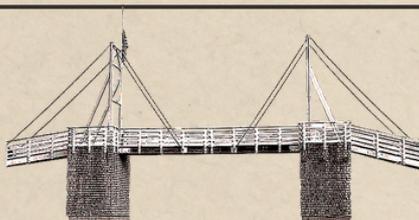
LIBRARY NEWS

Our library has acquired several new books in the past month. “The Correspondent” by Virginia Evans—fiction. Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. (This book is #1 on the Best Sellers List.) “Remember” by Karen Kingsbury—fiction. A deep regret—though Ashley vowed to start a new life when she came back from Paris, the mistakes she made there continue to haunt her. “Great Big Beautiful Life” by Emily Henry—fiction. Alice Scott is an eternal optimist still dreaming of her big writing break. Haydon Anderson is a Pulitzer Prize winning human thundercloud. They’re both on an island to write the biography of a woman no one has seen in years.

Submitted by Brenda Goodale



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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Telephone : 207-646-2160 (church office)

Pastor : Rev. Dr. Brian Shore, Pastor
Email : bmshore44@gmail.com
Pastor's cell : (904) 305-1936
Appointments available 24/7

Children's Education Director : Beth Switzer
Email : switzy63@gmail.com
Phone : (207) 337-2446

Secretary : Hilda Wynne
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00-11:00 am
Wednesday 1:00-4:00 pm; Friday 10:00am-11:00 am
Email : ogunquitbaptistchurch@gmail.com

BEACON BY E-MAIL

Please let me know if you would like to receive the Beacon by e-mail. Notify me (Hilda Wynne) at ogunquitbaptistchurch@gmail.com or 646-2160.

PLEASE INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE....

1. If your mailing address changes
2. If your email address changes
3. If your phone number changes
4. If your name changes

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

IF YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO ON THE PRAYER CHAIN, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR BRIAN OR HILDA.

**OBC OFFICE : 646-2160
PASTOR BRIAN'S CELL : (904) 305-1936
HILDA'S CELL : (207) 451-7282**

DONATING TO OBC

Donating to OBC using your Bank's Automatic Bill Pay It's simple and it's free! (We have a few contributors using it and they are very pleased with it.) Technically your pledge donations to OBC aren't "bills", but it is still possible to set it up through your bank's bill pay. You can do a one-time or recurring donation to OBC.

Guidelines to help you through setting it up:

1. Follow directions on your bank's website to set up a new bill or payee.
2. Choose to pay a company rather than a person (if given a choice).
3. Where it requests "Company Name" enter: Ogunquit Baptist Church
4. For the "Company Address" enter: Attn: Financial Secretary
PO Box 874 Ogunquit, ME 03907-3814
5. For "Company Phone Number" enter: 207-646-2160
6. For "Account Number" enter either:
 - a. Envelope # ____ (whatever your envelope # is) or
 - b. your first initial and your last name.

Example: HWynne

7. After setting up OBC as a biller, it is added to your list and you can select it at any time and enter a payment amount and payment date. There is chance to put a memo with it.
 8. You will also have the option of setting up automatic or recurring payments (this can add more convenience, but it is not recommended if there is a risk of overdrawing from your account)
- Bill Pay is usually a free service of your checking account, but some banks may charge a monthly fee for the service; this fee may sometimes be waived. The church is not charged any fees for receiving a donation through your bank's bill pay service, so what you donate is what would appear on your annual giving statements.

