



OSPREY MONTHLY

FINDING HOPE DURING GRIEF

page 1

BIBLE STUDY FOCUS

page 2

CELEBRATING BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBERS!

page 2

CHILDREN MINISTRY SCHEDULES & STEWARDSHIP REPORT

page 2

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & MARCH BIRTHDAYS

page 3

WINGS OF FAITH: OUR CONTINUING STORY Chapter 1: The Beginning

page 4

FINDING HOPE DURING GRIEF

By Pastor Jared Barkman

The beginning of 2026 has been marked with quite a bit of loss for our church family. Grief is difficult to process, especially when it comes unexpectedly - or, as has been our experience, repeatedly. With Easter just around the corner, I am reminded to FIND RESURRECTION HOPE in all things, even - especially - during grief.

As we journey further into a year marked by so much sorrow, let us cling to the truth that grief does not have the final word - that there is indeed HOPE!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1:3)



Because Christ has risen, we have been given a living hope, not a fragile wish, but a certain promise rooted in His victory over death.

In the shadow of the empty tomb, even our deepest grief is touched by resurrection light! May this Easter season renew our hearts, reminding us that while tears may linger for the night, joy comes in the morning - and ultimately, in the eternal morning when Christ returns. Until then, we grieve with hope, knowing our loved ones in Christ are safely held. We do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thess. 4:13). Instead, we look forward to the day when we will rise again to meet Christ our Savior (and our loved ones) in the air. What a day that will be!

Written with love and prayers for our church family and particularly each grieving family in our fellowship.

FROM PASTOR'S HEART



PASTOR JARED BARKMAN

Pastor Jared and his family have been part of our Osprey Church family since 2019. He has been serving as Lead Pastor since 2022.

GOD AT WORK... CELEBRATING BAPTISM AND NEW MEMBERS



"I am walking with God on His timeline. I am proud to get baptized in His name and represent His supply for my everlasting life. I am a believer in God." - Courtney

On Sunday, January 25, 2026, we concluded our worship service at Bay Preserve for a special "Baptism in the Bay". Pastor Jared baptized Courtney Pindjak, 27, following her sharing her story of faith and how she eventually trusted Christ about a year ago and decided to follow Jesus in baptism. Many members, guests, friends, and family were present. We enjoyed lunch together and a nice time of fellowship. It was a great day! Hal Davis and Courtney are engaged (wedding in April) and have also both decided to make Osprey FBC their church family through membership! Welcome Home Hal and Courtney! We're glad you're part of the family now!



TURNING POINTS... GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH & FRIENDSHIPS

Turning points are key to any story. A character moving in one direction suddenly transitions to a new path. Overcoming obstacles, the hero wins in the end. Matthew 14-28 represents a turning point in the life and ministry of Jesus. After preaching and healing in Galilee, Christ turned his face toward Jerusalem. His steps ultimately took him to a cross, a tomb, and an empty tomb. As believers we benefit from this turning point. Through his example, we learn how to face our fears, overcome opposition, sacrifice for others, and embrace the hope that only he provides. By studying Matthew 14-28, we gain a better understanding of what it means to live our faith each day – and how we can move forward to make disciples of all nations. **JOIN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP THIS WEEK! Current meeting times: Sundays at 9AM**

SERVING JESUS TOGETHER... THANK YOU FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

Children's Ministry Leadership Schedules

3/1

Kidzone: Carrie K. & Chelsea T.

Nursery: Lynne A. & Gigi B.

3/8

Kidzone: Thelma P, Tenny & Deana C.

Nursery: Courtney P. & Becky C.

3/15

Kidzone: Abby B. & Jansen C.

Nursery: Vanessa B. & Ava S.

3/22

Kidzone: Anita C. & Courtney P.

Nursery: Gigi B. & Ellahna B.

3/29

No Kidzone - Family Worship

Nursery: Jen S. & Carol B.

Deacon of the Month

Tenny Cason | 941.221.9151

Pray for Tenny, Deana and the Cason family.

Reach out to Tenny if you need assistance, prayer, or anything.

STEWARDED GOD'S BLESSINGS

Monthly Budget Need: \$14,487.67

January Giving = \$10,636.17

February Giving = \$17,098.34



ways to

GIVE



Giving is an act of worship!



ONLINE
osprey.church/give



IN-PERSON
as plates are passed



TEXT "@FBCOsprey" to 52014
Once setup, text amount to give very easily

M

UPCOMING EVENTS

07 Dog Fashion Show

9:00 - 10:30 A.M. | Saltwater-themed costume contest, refreshments, give-aways, and more!



Time Change Weekend - Spring Ahead

A

08 Guest Speaker, Aron Rice

Pioneers International Missions

R

14 Hazel Santisteban's Service

11:00 AM | Celebration of Life, with potluck reception following

C

15 Bridal Shower

11:30 A.M. | For Courtney Pindjak

21 Church Serve Day

9:00 - 11:00A.M. | Misc. inside projects and cleaning

H

22 Business Meeting

After service

29 Pasta, Palms, and Praise

Bring a pasta dish and dessert for this special 5th Sunday / Palm Sunday fellowship meal together



EASTER IS APRIL 5, 2026

*Schedule and invite cards
to be provided soon!*





WINGS OF FAITH

Our Continuing Story

First Baptist Church of Osprey, FL



Key Researchers and Contributors: *Thelma Proctor and Pat Behrens*

Pastor's Note: During this special series looking back at the history of our church, we will see God's providential hand in each season of ministry. It is my prayer that this will inspire us to embrace the pioneering spirit of faithful men and women in our church's past. As God keeps writing our story, let us ride on Wings of Faith, soaring to new heights as we build on this legacy and experience what He has for us today and in the future. May we, in this generation, do all we can to reach our growing community and be found faithful passing this Gospel-faith to those who follow us.

Chapter 1

The Beginning

The year is 1909. Osprey is a little fishing village. Transportation to and from the area is by boat, by wagon along a rutted sandy trail, by horse, or by foot. The railroad passes through the area about two miles east of Osprey. Paved roads don't exist yet in the area. Common occupations include fishermen, farmers, laborers, and trades such as carpentry. The population of the entire Sarasota area is less than 1,000 people.

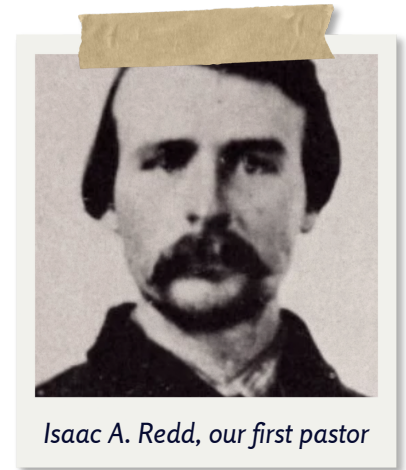
Though Osprey is small, it has the one-room Bayonne schoolhouse on the bay (located in what is now Vamo). During the week it serves as the area's school and on weekends, or when school is out, people gather there from miles around to worship.

It is Sunday, August 29, 1909. The Reverend J.C. Dubose traveled all the way from Lake City to preach a weeklong revival at the Bayonne school and today is the last day. The folks attending have talked about officially starting a church and today, at the end of the service, they will take a vote.

Reverend Dubose baptized fifteen people today in Little Sarasota Bay. Now it is time for the business meeting. The vote passes to form the Baptist Church of Osprey.



Bayonne School, where it all began



Isaac A. Redd, our first pastor

There are twenty-one charter members: V. A. Saunders and his wife, Mary, Jack Holland, Harley Holland, Florence Shumard, Clara Shumard, Flossie Shumard Ragan, Mrs. Mandie Shumard Turner, Edith Holland, Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Stephens, Idella Stephens, Eunice Hopkins, Mrs. J. C. McCrea, Horace Driggers and his wife, Freddie, Lloyd Holland, K. D. Cowart and his wife, Axie, Malissa Skinner, and Mrs. J. M. Rogers.

The members also vote to call the Reverend I. A. Redd as their first pastor (he is also pastoring the Homewood church). V. A. Saunders is called as the church clerk and K. D. Cowart as deacon and the meeting closes.

The church meets one or two weekends a month depending upon weather. Preaching services are Saturday night, Sunday morning and sometimes Sunday evening too. There are some challenges though, facing this new, little church.

Find out how the story continues in next month's newsletter.