

**MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612**

**NEWS & EVENTS – January 2026**

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A few months ago, I wrote about how Moses had heard about a land flowing with milk and honey. The Lord God had used the words *milk and honey* to describe an abundantly good and spacious land. In that article I mused about hearing that phrase during much of my life without ever tasting the goodness of what God had put together. Breakfast is better with God and milk and honey. Today, I am contemplating how much changes in the cultures of civilization and yet some things remain the same. Constancy...even in the consistency of change. Like cold milk in glass bottles. I recently discovered that it was possible to get it delivered to our door like I remember happening when I was a boy.

In the last couple of years my wife, daughter, and granddaughter have actively engaged the culture we occupy in a venture they call Three Generations Creations. Each of them invests their time, talent, and resources in their own unique creations that they make and market in various craft settings. One of these settings was in what was labeled as a night market. In a local park many tents were all lit up as people came out to shop, or participate in sightseeing. A neighboring vendor was giving out free samples of different items from a third-generation farm. My wife is rather engaging when forming new relationships, so she entered into a marketing arrangement with this farm supplier. She places weekly orders of different things the farm sells and delivers. One of those things is fresh milk in glass bottles. Each week we place a cooler on our front porch, and they deliver mostly on Tuesdays, unless a holiday alters their schedule. Then they bring it early. During the Christmas and New Year's Holidays we received an abundance of milk because some milk was brought early and it was more than we could keep pace in our consumption. In the process, one of those bottles began to develop cream on top, a natural process of normal milk. The milk wasn't sour and the cream could be skimmed off and separated. Actually, some of the cream remained in the milk and enhanced the flavor in my opinion.

It was a pleasantly different experience in the taste of milk. And a reminder of the process of life. Sometimes I think as I'm aging, I may be turning a bit sour. But what if the maturation process of life began to produce a sweetness instead? Could that be what the Good Lord has in mind for His creation?

During the Christmas season I observed my wife turning her attention away from making her inventory to sell this season to making gifts for her family. To all the ladies in the family, daughter and granddaughters, she fashioned, formed, and finished functional cutting boards for them all. The menfolk each received a chess set, including the board, the pieces, and a storage case...all made by her hand. The cutting board and chess sets were individually designed. No two are alike. Each is a totally personal gift. I watched her take the time creating. And she would talk through each one's gift while calling out the name of the recipient. Each gift was made by the maker. And all have the maker's touch upon them.

As I live out this New Year, I expect the constancy of the Presence of God to abide in His people. As I think back to drinking cold milk from glass bottles, I even remember the milkman who delivered them. We would place our empty bottles out the night before. That much hasn't changed. I think about that when I place the empty bottles in the cooler on Monday nights. A good thought to think...What if we placed our lives before the Lord when we are empty and drained, especially in times when sin has broken our stride...and caused us to stumble. Consider something I read today:

*Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;* Acts 3:19

Times of refreshing with the Lord...far better than drinking cold milk from a glass bottle.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam

(If you are unable to attend Mt. Olivet's 11 AM Sunday worship service in person, can go to website [www.mabc.org](http://www.mabc.org) and click on "Worship Services" for live streaming or prior messages.)