



FEBRUARY 2020 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

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Minister of Music
Jonathan Casteel

Minister of Students
Joe Baker

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Tonya Coleman

Financial Secretary/Custodian
Tammy Yarber

Ministry Assistant
Pam Parker

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

“For god hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

~2 Timothy 1:7

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. A month has already passed, it doesn't seem possible but indeed it is true. I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the new year. Again, I want to thank everyone for the many cards and gifts I received for my birthday. It was such a blessing!

I want to give God praise for the wonderful moving of the Holy Spirit in our services lately. The music and worship has been superb and has set the stage for the free flow of the Spirit through our fellowship. It is important that we all continue to pray that God will move mightily in our midst in the coming days. The world desperately needs to see the hand of the Lord working in our day and that will happen if we pray fervently and participate faithfully here at “The Grove.”

In last month's newsletter we began looking at the early church in the book of Acts. The followers of Christ “continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.” This is the characteristic of PREPARATION. They were committed to the Word of God. A second characteristic was PRAYER. This needs little explanation but demands equal commitment. I've already touched on this briefly, but I would like to encourage you further. I am of the belief that prayer may be the most important thing we do as followers of Christ. It is more than an act of worship or devotion; I believe it to be a primary purpose of the church. In the Model Prayer found in Matthew 6:5-13, Jesus taught us some valuable principles. Our prayer life should be characterized by 1. Concentration (vv. 5-8); 2. Consideration (v. 9); 3. Concern (v. 10); 4. Consistency (v. 11); and 5. Confession (vv. 12-13). I hope these principles will prove helpful in your devotional practice. The key for all of us is to put our knowledge to work and pray. Set aside a regular time for prayer and God's Word. It will make such a difference in your walk with Christ.

We will be having a deacon/yokefellow election on February 2. Please pray for our new additions and the entire deacon ministry. Our deacon body does an amazing job and I am so grateful for their faithful service. The Agape Baby Bottle Campaign is ongoing as well, so please give and help support this vital community organization. I love you all and I'll see you in church.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sherrel

SAFETY AT OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Every Church Member Is Responsible for Church Safety
New Policies

Back-in-the-day! You remember...when no one dared to do damage to a church for fear of God and/or the community. Doors were always open. That is not so much the case today. With that in mind, we have to be diligent today to be a welcoming church where we also worship free from worry. "How?" you ask. Every member is charged to be a part of the safety team. We must take responsibility just as our parents did in our youth!

Every Member Serving on the Safety Team

First, by prayer, every member is asked to make safety a part of their prayer time: on your knees or on your pillow, before breakfast, driving to church, and/or walking in. Every member has confessed to being a believer. That puts you in the court of the King! Let's practice faithful prayer.

Second, every member occupies a pew with someone beside, behind or in front of you. Your eyes are the best eyes to deter unwanted events. As you have prayed, you will make those beside you welcome. You also need to be aware of any strange bags or roaming eyes, or happenings and, of course, report it immediately. See something? Say something immediately! Pass it on from your responsibility to a Greeter Team Leader! Each Sunday, the bulletin will list the Greeter Team Leader for the day. You should report any concerns to that person.

Third, and new beginning February 2: all doors will be locked at the beginning of the service hour. No doors will be left unlocked when no monitors are present. The children's door is locked at the service hour and not monitored afterward. Greeters willingly miss announcements and some music to remain at the locked doors at the Front and at the Ramp until five minutes past the service hour. We invite you to set alarms to arrive timely!

Whether we enter a school building, a restaurant, a shopping mall, or, yes, even church, we must think and act strategically about our safety. We must use common sense and wisdom in our approach and planning for the unexpected.

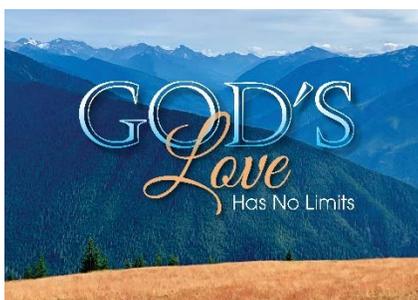
2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Robert Harris
Greeting / Safety



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2 – Deacon/Yokefellow Election
- 19 – Newsletter Articles Due
- 20 – Ladies' Fellowship at OGBC
- 23 – Baby Bottle Campaign Ends
Deacons' Meeting



FELLOWSHIP OF TENNESSEE BAPTIST EVANGELISTS BIBLE CONFERENCE

March 6 – 9, 2020

Oak Grove Baptist Church and other area churches will be hosting the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists' Bible Conference on March 6 – 9.

OGBC will host on Friday evening at 6:30 PM with Evangelist Harold Hunter bringing the message. Music will be provided by the Sullivan Baptist Choir and by soloist Carolyn Reed.

OGBC will also host on Saturday from 10:00 AM to noon and again on Sunday morning at the 11:00 AM worship hour. Bible Conference services are planned at other churches for Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Bro. Toonie Cash, President of the Fellowship of Tennessee Evangelists, will provide more details for the March newsletter. Make plans to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!



WOW! What a wonderful time we've had in January. We learned that Jesus is in the Bible from the first Word in Genesis to the last Word in Revelation. We learned why we believe in the Trinity, what it means to be made in the Image of God, and about the Power of Prayer! I can't wait to see what God has to show us in His Word for February.

The youth will also be doing service work throughout the year. Our first project is collecting food and monetary donations now through February 16th for our Oak Grove Food Pantry. Your support and prayers for the youth, Joe, Karen and I are greatly appreciated.

Items needed: Canned meats such as Spam, Tuna, Canned Chicken, Vienna Sausage, and Potted Meat. Crackers, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jellies, Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, all types of paper goods and monetary donations to get items as needed. Note: please check expiration dates.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Sharon



Agape Women's Services Baby Bottle Fundraiser is underway. Please take a bottle and help support an unborn baby in our community. Fill it with spare change, little bills, big bills, or checks (payable to Agape Women's Services). Please return your filled bottle by February 23. If we run out of bottles, you may still give. Just place your donation in an envelope, mark for Agape, and place in the offering plate or donate at:

agapewomensservices.com/donate or through PayPal at paypal.me/agapeic

Happy February from the Mighty Oaks Children's Department! I know it seems a bit early, but we have started our countdown to VBS. The theme this year is Mystery Island. This VBS brings up and answers questions like...Is there just one God?... Who is God?...What is God like?...Does God love me?...Can I know God?

Our kids wrestle with these questions every day. At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a lot of confusion in the world about who God is and what he's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing He is through the pages of scripture.

Mystery Island VBS is packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator and the salvation He offers through Jesus Christ. Each day the kids will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how it applies to their lives.

Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as we track down the one true God at Mystery Island! The VBS volunteer form will be included in the February 2 church bulletin. Be ready to seize your opportunity to help in OGBC's most important outreach program!

Tonya Coleman
Children's Director



The Awana club year is quickly flying by. It's already February and we will soon begin preparing for our Awana Awards Ceremony in May. If your clubber is trying to complete their handbook, please take a few minutes to look it over with your clubber to help plan out the rest of the year.

February is full of special events. On the 5th, clubbers will get to spend their points (dollars) they've earned in the Awana store. On the 12th, clubbers and leaders are asked to wear pink, red or purple for Valentine's Day. Extra points will be given if they participate.

Looking ahead...March 11th - wear mismatched socks or shoes, April 1st - Spring Break, April 15th - Easter Celebration (we need a special volunteer to share the wonderful message of Easter), April 29th - Wear a baseball cap or a crazy hat.

Remember as we celebrate February, God loves you and so do we!

Serving Christ,
Patricia, AWANA Commander



The choir at Oak Grove Baptist will begin practicing for the Easter cantata starting in February. If you'd like to join us for rehearsals, we'd love to have you join us any Sunday at 4:45 for practice. The cantata title this year is "Living Hope." We had a great year in the music program last year in 2019, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for the Oak Grove Choir in 2020. It is my sincere desire to serve the congregation through song, and I would love the opportunity to work with you and help you develop your own musical talents and abilities. If anyone would like to sing or play a musical instrument for a special, or even accompany the choir as we sing, I would love to talk to you about becoming involved with the music ministries at Oak Grove Baptist. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll be sure to get you involved. Thank you for all of your support and prayers. If you ever need anything from me or have suggestions you'd like to see implemented in our services, please feel free to talk to me anytime.

God bless.

~Jon Casteel



Ladies Fellowship will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. here at Oak Grove. Please bring a covered dish and a friend. Our topic is "People and Snowflakes are all Different. God made them both!" We all have a purpose in life whether great or small. Come out and see what God has in store for you! We hope to see you there.

Love in Christ Jesus,
Patricia and Sharon

I guess you have already made the comment, "I can't believe it is 2020." So be it we have so very much to be thankful for, beginning with the fact that we have a gracious merciful heavenly father that wants us to continue our efforts of promoting a Sunday School that can be a shining light in our surrounding communities.

We do have a great group of teachers with 5 adult classes, 3 classes for children and one class for the youth. Of course, we have a nursery when needed for the babies. Also, I might add, we no longer have the class that Coach Snyder was teaching. It was originally a class for young adult singles but transitioned into a mixed age class as is the current auditorium class.

There are legitimate reasons for taking a look at some needed changes in the Sunday School department. Therefore, I suggest the following: As I have said before we need to start a class for Young Married Adults. Not only would that new class fill a void for that age group, it could eventually have great potential for more children in Sunday School and in the children's ministry. Hopefully, the nominating committee will meet soon to explore this possibility. So, for now I am asking anyone that has been a member for one year and is qualified and has the desire to be a teacher and begin a new class to let me or the pastor know. Not to diminish the role of all our senior members and how they are very important and add so much to the livelihood and success of a growing church, we must look to the future to be a thriving church that meets the needs of everyone. All ministries from the nursery to the elderly are extremely important, but it is obvious that the long-term future of any church are the opportunities that we have available for all new worshipers and potential members. Once this is an established class working on the goal of increasing its membership, then I think many doors of service will open up for the good of our church's effectiveness in reaching people for the Lord. It is very obvious that our church regular membership as far as age being a factor is trending rapidly toward mostly seniors present in our regular services. I am not asking for a complete Sunday School revitalization but trying to grow on a great foundation that we already have because over time we will need some new teachers, committee members, deacons, Awana leaders and workers and many more positions to fill in future years.

I am not trying to be a pessimist or alarmist, but we have to look at what would serve our needs for the greater good of the church. I hope to have a Sunday School teachers' meeting in the near future to discuss our need for some changes. Our SS attendance is somewhat in a stagnant stage so I welcome any suggestions that we can move us forward. Again, thanks for your faithfulness and support, and I would ask you to pray about these issues.

For the cause of Christ,
Jesse

FEBRUARY 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1
2 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church Deacon/Yokefellow Election 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	3	4 6:30 PM Visitation	5 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	6	7  Meals on Wheels Vergil and Mary Ann Stout	8
9 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	10	11 6:30 PM Visitation	12 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	13	14 Valentine's Day  Meals on Wheels Dickie and Kevin Rice	15
16 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	17 President's Day	18 6:30 PM Visitation	19 Newsletter Articles Due 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	20	21  Meals on Wheels Lee and Jessie Bowser	22
23 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	24	25 6:30 PM Visitation	26 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	27	28  Meals on Wheels Benny and Linda Gardner	29

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Return services requested