



## DECEMBER 2019 CHALLENGER

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### CONTACT

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#### Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday 9AM-2PM

### STAFF

Pastor  
Sherrel Nave

Minister of Music  
Jonathan Casteel

Minister of Students  
Joe Baker

Director of Children's Ministry  
Tonya Coleman

Financial Secretary/Custodian  
Tammy Yarber

Ministry Assistant  
Pam Parker

### SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

~Galatians 4:4-5

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! Well it's hard to believe but the Christmas season is upon us. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and were able to enjoy time with family and friends.

This year's Thanksgiving/Christmas luncheon will be taking place on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> after the morning service. It is always a very special time of food and fellowship here at "The Grove." I hope you are making plans to join us and bring a guest with you.

I am so excited about our Christmas Cantata this year! It is happening on Sunday evening, December 22. The choir has been working tirelessly, and I know that we will be greatly blessed. This event offers us a wonderful opportunity to invite guests to come and experience our church.

The Holy Spirit has certainly blessed our services of late, and I am so excited to see what the future holds for us. We have seen a good number of people join recently and we're having new visitors almost every service. I am so proud when our guests comment on how friendly our church is, and I know that your great spirit of hospitality is having a positive impact for the Kingdom of God. Thank You!

The Gospel says in Matthew 1:23, "And they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, God with us." The name Immanuel is a translation of two Hebrew words expressing, "God is with us." God is with us, not some prophet or teacher or holy man. But God Himself clothed in human flesh –with us! He came to where we are so that we could go eternally to where He is. God...always with us. That is the great gift, God incarnated in the person of Jesus Christ. That is Christmas!

"We need Christmas...to remind us that Love is not the gift of the giver, but the giver wrapped up in the gift."

~William Booth

Joshua and I love you all very much, and we wish you a Very Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Sherrel

## A CHRISTMAS GREETING “MIRACLES DO HAPPEN”

*Written by Charlotte Hall*

I have been a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church for seventy-five years. Since I'm eighty-eight years old and a widow, I so often think of many joyful times in years past.

Jesus came as a miracle to us. We celebrate the season of Christ's coming at Christmas time as we give, worship, and express joy to others.

“For unto us a child is born...and His name shall be called wonderful, counsellor, the mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”  
~ Isaiah 9:6

The heart of our Christian life is service. I hope I can make some lonely person happy with a Christmas card and a note or go for a visit. Take your children to visit a nursing home or a home-bound adult. I suggest they read from the Bible and sing some Christmas carols. I love “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.”

I know that He has promised me a peace and joy at a job well-done. I stop every morning to count my blessings and thank Him for so many friends that I truly love. I also want to share with people who are in need. And Heavenly Father give me one more thing – “A grateful heart.” Thank you, God, for a gift of faith. “Each day is filled with miracles that many do not see. But many take for granted the simple gifts of God.” (C. Harrison) One of my greatest joys at Christmas time is to give someone a small gift that she will not be expecting, and I do not want a gift in return.

The test of our love to God is the love for one another. Love turns on the sun and exclaims, “All is well with the world!” It comforts like a warm sunshine and refreshes like gentle rain. Henry Ward Beecher said, “Do not keep the alabaster boxes of your love sealed up.” William Wordsworth wrote, “The best portion of a good person's life is his little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and love.” Here are some free gifts to give:

To your enemy, forgiveness  
To your opponent, your heart  
To all men, charity  
To every child, a good example  
To yourself, respect

Cicero wrote, “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.”

I am grateful for the hymns we sing on Sunday morning and for my deacon, Mr. Terry Head.

My Christmas wish for you is hope, joy, and peace. I wish you love and friendship too, and may you count your blessings, and may your spirit never grow old.

Merry Christmas,  
Charlotte King Hall



### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8 Church Christmas Luncheon
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 22 Christmas Cantata
- 24 Christmas Eve  
Church Office Closed
- 25 Christmas Day  
Church Office Closed
- 29 Fifth Sunday Offering  
Deacons' Meeting
- 31 New Year's Eve



## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday Evening  
December 22  
6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of  
celebrating King Jesus!



What an opportunity our church was given to demonstrate God's love to children in need around the world. Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry was a great success. Because of you, we collected 55 shoeboxes. These simple boxes filled with love and gifts will travel around the world and the good news of Jesus Christ will be shared. Please continue to pray for the child that will receive the box you or your family prepared. If you paid shipping on-line, remember to track your box. You will be amazed of its final destination.

Serving Him,  
Patricia



## MISSION SPOTLIGHT

### PINE OAKS ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE

*\*Help Needed\**

Located just off University Parkway, Pine Oaks Assisted Living is the south Johnson City branch of Cornerstone Village. They are a Christian based continuing care retirement community offering Independent Living, Assisted Living, Short Term Post-Acute Rehabilitation, and Long-Term Care. Pine Oaks is a 69 bed/10 large "husband-and-wife apartment" facility currently housing 13 memory patients and 55 assisted living residents. They are an integrated healing community where residents are able to thrive through professional and technical care combined with compassionate and positive human relationships.

Many members of local churches and other organizations regularly volunteer their time and efforts to love and minister to the residents of Pine Oaks. As with many other facilities and programs, Pine Oaks has suffered funding cuts, so they are now needing to rely more heavily on churches and other organizations to provide "activities, perks, and entertainment" to their residents.

Their greatest need currently is for entertainment for the month of December. The OGBC Choir is looking at the possibility of helping fill this need. Individual members of the choir or congregation are also encouraged to answer this need. Just call the church office (477-3141) for contact information.

The facility also needs small gifts to provide as prizes for their bingo games which is a regular activity for residents. Suggested items: travel size lotions, shampoos, perfumes/after shave, toothpaste, shower gels, soaps, tissues, jewelry, whatnots, as well as word puzzle books, adult coloring books, etc. The activities director suggested that anyone cleaning out, paring down, or simplifying may want to donate good condition/"like new" small items no longer wanted. A container labeled "Pine Oaks" is located at the ramp door for your donations. Your generosity will be most appreciated.



Sunday Nights – 6:00 PM

The youth, Joe, Karen and I want to thank all those who help support our youth. We are very grateful for anything and everything you do, especially your prayers! I want to thank all our youth, Nikki Thompson and Jonathan Casteel for helping and participating in the "Scariest Story Ever Told" play. May all of you who saw the play be blessed by the message.

This year our focus was on being the Hands and Feet of Jesus. I'm very proud to say that the youth worked and helped out with 14 different projects throughout 2019. Please be in much prayer for our youth and leaders as we head into 2020, I know God has big plans for us as His Word says in Jeremiah 29:11.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Sharon



Before you know it, Christmas will be here! The choir has been working very hard on the Christmas cantata, and we are excited to be able to present it to the church on December 22nd in the 6:00 PM evening service. There is still time for you to join us in the choir for the cantata if you would like. We have new folks joining us almost every week, and I'm very thankful to God for all of the wonderful people He allows me to work with each week in the choir at Oak Grove Baptist Church.

We are trying to work out an opportunity to go into the community and sing for a nursing home. If you, or someone you know, has a need for us to do something of that nature, please let me know and we will do our best to work something out. As always, 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. Please let me know if you are interested and I'll be sure to get you involved.

Thank you again 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



Sunday, December 8

Immediately After Morning Service

Join us as we fellowship and celebrate our Savior's Birth!

November was a month filled with color and thankfulness. God's beautiful creation was shown by the different colors of leaves and our club exploded with color during our "wear your school colors" night. A lot of schools were represented.

We should be thankful for all the blessings God has given us. I have a lot to be thankful for and would like to thank all our leaders and volunteers that show the love of Jesus to the children that participate in Awana.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the clubbers will have an opportunity in the Awana store to use points they've earned to purchase gifts for their family. Also, on December 18<sup>th</sup>, our club will celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas Celebration. Club will be dismissed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Serving Christ,  
Patricia, AWANA Commander



## LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING 2019

Church Goal: \$1500

In driving time, she was born about five hours from us and was appointed to serve as a missionary many sailing days away from us. Lottie Moon was born to affluent tobacco farmers and was one of the first women to earn a Master of Arts Degree in a southern institution. She learned Latin, Greek, French, and Italian, then later she became expert at Chinese.

As a schoolteacher in Georgia, she joined a local church and ministered to impoverished families. At age 32, the International Mission Board appointed her as a missionary to China where she served nearly forty years.

She was a tiny woman, 4 ft. 3 in. tall. When famine struck the Country in the early 1900's, Lottie considered others before herself. Thus, in sharing most of her food, she weighed only 50 pounds when she was ordered back to the States for medical help; however, she died en route.

Of all the numbers you just read, the most impressive is this: The annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions has raised a total of \$1.5 billion for missions since 1888 and finances half the entire Southern Baptist missions budget every year.

December 1 will kick off our Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal for our offering this year is \$1500.00. This money helps send missionaries with the gospel to unreached peoples around the world. As you begin to pray for international missions, please prayerfully consider your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.



## “BE BORN IN US TODAY”

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” The hymn’s final stanza addresses the town’s most famous newborn:

*O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;*

*Cast out our sin and enter in;  
be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;*

*O come to us, abide with us, our  
Lord Emmanuel!*



I’d like to take a moment to brag on our Children’s Church kids. A couple months ago, we decided to do a project for some folks who aren’t able to attend church. When I presented the project to the children, they were super excited to get started. Each week they have been making ornaments to put on miniature trees. They have been so excited about each new ornament and have been so faithful to show up and help. The unconditional love our church children have for others has been amazing! During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, they have shown, it’s so much better to give than receive!

Tonya Coleman  
Children’s Director

## THE UNIQUE SAVIOR

*Excerpted with permission from Answers in Genesis  
Tim Chaffey – December 24, 2012*

While thinking about the circumstances surrounding Christ’s birth, Christians can rejoice that the Messiah has come to earth and dealt with our sin. We can praise God for fulfilling His promises, and we can have complete confidence that He will always be faithful to do what He has declared.

Despite what many believe today, the religions and religious leaders of the world are not the same. Many people in our culture promote the ridiculous claim that Jesus was just another religious leader—a good person who tried to make life better for others—but Jesus is unique in so many respects. He alone was a “good person” since He lived a sinless life. Every other religious leader has been sinful and needed a Savior. But Jesus did not need a savior; He is the Savior.

There are no prophecies foretelling details about the birth of other religious leaders. No prophecies alerted the world to the coming of Muhammad (Islam), Joseph Smith (Mormonism), David Koresh (Branch Davidians), Charles Taze Russell (Jehovah’s Witnesses), Siddhartha Gautama (Buddhism), or any other founder of the world’s religions. Yet the Old Testament pinpointed numerous details about the life of the Son of God and Savior of the world.

So what do these prophecies tell us about Jesus? In just the first two chapters of Matthew, we see that God foretold the virginal conception of the Messiah, who would be born in Bethlehem, yet in some way would come out of Egypt and be called a Nazarene. We also see that bitter agony would grip the mothers in that area.

In the genealogy recorded in Matthew’s first chapter, we discover the fulfillment of several other Old Testament prophecies. Jesus was from the line of Abraham ([Genesis 12:3](#)), Isaac ([Genesis 26:4](#)), Jacob ([Genesis 28:14](#)), Judah ([Genesis 49:8–12](#)), Jesse ([Isaiah 11:1](#)), and David ([Isaiah 9:7](#)). But that’s not all. A search through the rest of Scripture would reveal dozens of other details prophesied about the Messiah, including the following facts:

- He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt ([Matthew 21:4–10](#); [Zechariah 9:9](#)).
- He would be betrayed by a friend ([John 13:18](#); [Psalm 41:9](#)).
- The betrayal would be for 30 pieces of silver ([Matthew 26:14–16](#); [Zechariah 11:12](#)).
- The money would be used to purchase the potter’s field ([Matthew 27:3–10](#); [Zechariah 11:13](#)).
- The Messiah would die a sacrificial death for us ([Matthew 27:50](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Daniel 9:26](#); [Isaiah 53:8](#)).
- He would die with criminals but His burial would be with the wealthy ([Matthew 27:57–60](#); [Luke 23:33](#); [Isaiah 53:9](#)).
- He would rise from the dead ([Matthew 28:6](#); [Psalm 16:8–11](#); [Isaiah 53:10](#)).
- He would say certain words on the Cross. He would be mocked, and people would gamble for His clothes ([Psalm 22:1, 8, 18](#)).

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Many other prophecies could be listed that were perfectly fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ. These were not lucky guesses made by fraudulent prognosticators; they were precise predictions made by the all-knowing God of the Bible who repeatedly demonstrated that He has perfect knowledge of all past, present, and future events. Consequently, we can be completely confident that He will always make good on His promises and that those future events He has foretold will certainly come to pass.

### Conclusion

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus came to earth in a humble manner. The Savior of the world and God of all creation put on humanity to die for our sins and conquer death, giving the hope of salvation to all who turn from their sin and believe on Him. One day, He will return in judgment, and He will not appear as a seemingly helpless baby, but as the risen, glorified, sovereign Lord and Judge.

What will it be like for you when He returns? Will you be safe and secure because you have been saved by His amazing grace? Or will you tremble in fear before the holy and righteous God as you are condemned for rejecting His gracious offer of salvation (Revelation 20:11–15, cf. Philippians 2:9–11)? If you are currently an unbeliever, I urge you to turn from your sin and cry out to Jesus to save you from the eternal torment we all deserve for our rebellion against the infinitely holy Creator. I pray that you find the same joy shared by the shepherds who visited Jesus on the night He was born.



December 29

SEWING • 4 • SOULS

Ministering to God's children through the simple gift of clothing. Now accepting donations of fabric, thread, lace, trim, ribbon, and bias tape. More information on the Church Family Bulletin Board in the back hall.

### FREE BOOKS!

Due to the digital age taking its toll, Harmony Baptist is closing their church library. If you have a favorite author and would like Patricia to look for a book(s), please contact her during office hours M-W-Th-F, 9AM -1PM.

## Budget \$ Approval

December 11, 2019

7:00 PM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Well, here we are approaching all the excitement heading into another Christmas season. I know our church has been busy with different activities leading up to the new year. I am grateful for 4 adult Sunday School classes and individuals along with Pastor Sherrel also participating in giving toward the Angel Tree to make this Christmas special for children active at the Baptist Center in Johnson City. Also, the Samaritan's Purse project filling many shoe boxes for the underprivileged children around the world. Also, the Brotherhood will continue their fruit basket ministry to the homebound and nursing home members. We can never give too much in serving others.

We have had a subtle increase in SS attendance over the last few weeks which I am happy about. The winter SS literature will be in the classrooms. If you do not receive it, please let me or Carolyn know. I strongly advise you to study the lesson and be prepared to participate each Sunday. We have great teachers that prepare many hours to make this time of fellowship one of learning and inspiration. Say a prayer for them and encourage them.

I think the overall advancement and success of a SS lies in small groups that feel a closeness, where class members feel free to give their opinions and share their life events and experiences relating to the lesson. I think our teachers would endorse and receive more class participation in a smaller classroom setting. I know to revitalize our SS would be a hard task among members, but I think it would be worth giving it some discussion and see where it takes us. Maybe the church council, deacons, teachers and pastor could give some serious thought to seeking some changes in how we can best move our SS forward that would give us good results not just in attendance but in spiritual growth making us better servants. I think my concerns need to be looked at or least a survey taken to see if this a feasible task we should undertake. Please begin to pray about these concerns and I am open to discussion for the betterment of our church and Sunday School.

For the cause of Christ - Jesse



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6  Lee and Jessie Bowser	7
8 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church <b>CHRISTMAS/ THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON</b> 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	9	10 6:30 PM Visitation	11 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	12	13  Benny and Linda Gardner	14
15 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	16	17 <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b> 6:30 PM Visitation	18 6:45 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Youth	19	20  Mike and Barbara Dixon	21
22 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM <b>Christmas Cantata</b>	23	24 6:30 PM Visitation	25  <i>Christ the Savior Born!</i> <b>Merry Christmas!</b>	26	27  Ralph and Brenda McDaniel	28
29 11:00 AM DiscipleTown Children's Church 4:45 PM Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM Discipleship Training 6:00 PM SOS	30	31 6:30 PM Visitation				

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Return services requested