



## APRIL 2021 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/OAKGROVEBAPTISTCHURCH, GRAY, TN  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfLmls7Ps35ldJjKsNv3yKA>

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Office Hours  
Tuesday – Friday 9AM-2PM

### STAFF

**Pastor**

Sherrel Nave

**Minister of Music**

Jonathan Casteel

**Minister of Students**

Joe Baker

**Financial Secretary/Custodian**

Tammy Yarber

**Ministry Assistant**

Pam Parker

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Resurrected Lord. I hope you are all doing well. Spring has arrived here in East Tennessee and with it comes the buzzing of new life and new hope. The past year has been very difficult, and I can only pray that we will see some relief from the pandemic and a return to some semblance of normal. Here at Oak Grove, we have been transitioning back to a full schedule of services along with youth and children's activities. It will take time to build up our attendance and participation numbers so please make this a matter of prayer. We know that some have decided to worship at home for a while longer and we support your decision. We look forward to seeing you in person very soon. I would like to thank everyone again for your faithful financial support over the past year. It has been a tremendous blessing!

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Easter or Resurrection Sunday. It is always such a special day for me because it means so much for us as believers and followers of Jesus. It reminds us in a spectacular way that Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave and because He lives, we can live also! The unbelieving world will always be skeptical of this mighty miracle but don't be discouraged. John's account says that Jesus told those gathered to witness his resurrected body, "blessed are they that have not seen me and yet have believed". My dear friends, we are in that blessed group. The glorious miracle of the Resurrection is the tipping point of history. If it didn't happen, then indeed, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:17, "and if Christ is not raised your faith is vain and you are yet in your sins". But if it did happen then salvation and eternal life will be a reality for all those who pray to receive Christ as Savior! I believe that the resurrection of Jesus is a historical fact. There is no other explanation for the sudden birth and growth of the early church. In 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 Paul even said that hundreds had seen the resurrected Christ and many of them were still alive at that time. In addition, there is no other way to explain the radical transformation of the apostles of Jesus and the many early followers of Jesus, most of whom were killed because of their faith. They experienced something so dramatic that they were willing to die for it. I believe that the most logical explanation is the best one, in fact the only one. Jesus Christ rose from the dead! HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Sherrel

*"I am the  
resurrection  
and the life."*  
JOHN 11:25





# Easter Egg Hunt

**APRIL 3  
3:00 PM**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
*Make the Connection*

## HOW TO SHARE CHRIST

*(Excerpted with permission from Bible Studies for Life)*

*Facebook Live Sunday School - 10:00 AM on Sundays*

Pastor and author Robby Gallaty stated that his goal for the March/April series “Essentials of Christianity” was that we would come away with a different view of Jesus Christ. This month Marshelle Jackson, author of the “How to Share Christ” series, gives us insight into how we may share this Jesus with others.

Ms. Jackson says we often find it challenging to share our faith with others. Some of us find it awkward to initiate conversation about Jesus. It doesn’t help that our culture lifts up the value of “having it your way.” In a world that tells people to “do whatever pleases you,” it can feel intimidating to share Jesus.

We don’t need to be intimidated. In this study, we will see both the importance and the responsibility of sharing our faith in Christ. The goal of this study is to better equip us to share about Jesus in practical and engaging ways, and to extend an invitation to others to know about the priceless gift we have received. In the same way we look to news outlets to keep us informed about what’s going on in the world, so we can also be a newsfeed, revealing the message and story of Christ through the pages of our own lives. Our lives add to the chapters of HlStory!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2 – Good Friday
- 3 – Easter Egg Hunt
- 4 – Easter Sunday  
Easter Cantata  
No Evening Services
- 23 – Newsletter Articles Due
- 25 – Deacons’ Meeting

## **IN-PERSON & FACEBOOK LIVE “SIMULCAST” SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM SUNDAYS**

“Essentials of Christianity” *(continued from March)*

April 4	The Resurrection of Jesus
April 11	The Work of the Holy Spirit
April 18	The Return of Jesus

“How to Share Christ”

April 25	Our Commission
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## DO YOU BELIEVE IN EASTER?

*Submitted by Rodney Hale*



Easter Sunday, April 4

11:00 AM

No Children's Church on Easter

*You're Invited!*

**JOIN SAMARITAN'S PURSE  
IN MAY OR JUNE AS WE  
SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS!**

You're invited to participate in a unique opportunity to share God's love with children in hard-to-reach countries around the world!

Nearly 300,000 gift-filled shoeboxes that were ordered through Build a Shoebox Online will be assembled over several weeks beginning May 8 at the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. You can volunteer to help pack these boxes so they can be sent to boys and girls who live in areas that are difficult to reach with the Gospel due to cultural or geographic barriers.

Please know that we are monitoring local, state, and national guidelines and making adjustments to help protect the health of those involved in packing the boxes.

Registration will open soon. Plan now to join us in May or June for this special opportunity and be a part of shining Christ's light in some of the world's darkest places.

Charles Swindoll, in *The Darkness and the Dawn*, tells the story of a wonderful Christian named Edith Burns who lived in San Antonio, Texas. This is a story that will cause you to think of Easter in a totally different light. Edith Burns was a wonderful Christian and she was the patient of a fine Christian doctor, Dr. Will Phillips. Dr. Phillips was a gentle doctor who saw patients as people. His favorite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart, and it was because of Edith Burns.

When he walked into that waiting room, there sat Edith with her big black Bible in her lap. She was earnestly talking to a young mother sitting beside her. Dr. Phillips knew why Edith was there and what she was doing. You see, Edith Burns had a habit of introducing herself in this way: "Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Then she would explain the meaning of Easter, and many times people would be saved.

Dr. Phillips walked into that office and there he saw the head nurse Beverly. Beverly had first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, "My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Beverly said, "Why yes I do." Edith said, "Well, what do you believe about Easter?" Beverly said, "Well, it's all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up." Well, Edith kept pressing her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

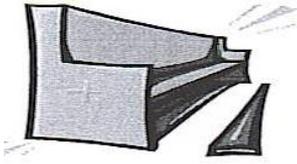
After being called back in the doctor's office, Edith sat down and when she took a look at the doctor she said, "Dr. Will, why are you so sad? Are you reading your Bible? Are you praying?" Dr. Phillips said, "Now Edith, I'm the doctor and you're the patient." With a heavy heart he said, "Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you're not going to live very long." Edith said, "Why Will Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I'm going to see my precious Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket!" Dr. Phillips thought to himself, "What a magnificent woman this Edith Burns is!"

Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips every day. Christmas came and the office was closed through January 3rd. On the day the office opened, Edith did not show up. Later that afternoon, Edith called Dr. Phillips and said she would have to be moving her story to the hospital and said, "Will, I'm very near home, so would you make sure that they put women in here next to me in my room who need to know about Easter." Well, they did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith. Many women were gloriously saved.

Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her Edith Easter; everyone except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse. She made it plain that she wanted nothing to do with Edith because she was a "religious nut." She had been a nurse in an army hospital. She had seen it all and heard it all. She was the original G.I. Jane. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, and did everything by the book. Well, one morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick. Edith had the flu and Phyllis Cross had to go in and give her a shot. When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, "Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you." Phyllis Cross said, "Well, you can quit praying for me, you religious nut, it won't work. I'm not interested." Edith said, "Well, I will pray and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family." Phyllis Cross said, "Then you will never die because that will never happen." She walked out of the room.

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## DEACON'S BENCH

I hope the newsletter finds you well. The pandemic has really set everyone back with things they wanted to do. It has affected everyone in different forms. Some have lost lives. Some lost everything they owned and some are struggling to just get by. Our nation needs Jesus Christ, and we are to share the love of Jesus. I hope sometime in the future we get to visit again, especially those in need of a Savior. Sunday is a regular day in our community. I see it all the time. There is no interest in the things that really matter anymore. Please share your story. Everyone has a story.

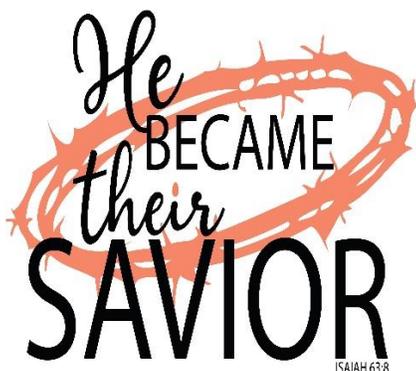
The Deacons  
Boots



Vivianne Grace Thomas  
February 25, 2021 at 4:17 PM  
6 lbs 2 oz \* 19.5 in

Proud Parents:  
Sarah and Keith Thomas

Proud Grandparents:  
Benny and Linda Gardner



Every day Phyllis Cross would walk into that room and Edith would say, "God loves you Phyllis and I love you, and I'm praying for you." One day Phyllis Cross said she was literally drawn to Edith's room like a magnet would draw iron. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day." Phyllis Cross said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, 'Do you believe in Easter?' but you have never asked me." Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted to many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked..." Edith Burns took her Bible and shared with Phyllis Cross the Easter Story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Edith said, "Phyllis, do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?" Phyllis Cross said, "Oh I want to believe that with all of my heart, and I do want Jesus in my life." Right there, Phyllis Cross prayed and invited Jesus Christ into her heart. For the first time Phyllis Cross did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels.

Two days later, Phyllis Cross came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?" Phyllis Cross said, "Why Edith, it's Good Friday." Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

Well, two days later, on Easter Sunday, Phyllis Cross came into work, did some of her duties and then went down to the flower shop and got some Easter lilies because she wanted to go up to see Edith and give her some Easter lilies and wish her a Happy Easter. When she walked into Edith's room, Edith was in bed. That big black Bible was on her lap. Her hands were in that Bible. There was a sweet smile on her face. When Phyllis Cross went to pick up Edith's hand, she realized Edith was dead. Her left hand was on John 14: "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Phyllis Cross took one look at that dead body, and then lifted her face toward heaven, and with tears streaming down her cheeks, said, "Happy Easter, Edith - Happy Easter!" Well, Phyllis Cross left Edith's body, walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting. She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. Do you believe in Easter?"



How wonderful it is to get back in service with the youth in SOS to share God's Word with them! The youth and I would like to thank everyone again for your donations to Second Harvest Food Bank in February. We collected 273 pounds of food which was greatly appreciated. The youth want to do more to serve God so we will be helping Second Harvest again a little later in the year. Also, we're going to start collecting items for the homeless starting in April, then in October/November the youth will be making blankets and scarves. Our goal is to deliver the donations to the homeless shelter by the week of Thanksgiving. We want to thank you in advance for helping our youth serve the Lord! Please be in prayer for us as we study the Word of God and grow closer in our walk with the Lord and that our youth would come to know Jesus intimately and serve Him with all their hearts.

Love in Christ Jesus,  
Joe, Karen, Dan and Sharon



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 	3 
4 11:00 AM Morning Worship Easter Cantata NO Children's Church No Evening Service 	5	6	7 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer	8	9  Lee and Jessie Bowser	10
11 11:00 AM Morning Worship Hannah Wotring Estepp Baby Shower	12	13	14 7:00 PM 	15	16  Vergil and Mary Ann Stout	17
18 11:00 AM Morning Worship	19	20	21 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer	22	23  Barbara Dixon and Charlotte Davison  Newsletter Articles Due	24
25 11:00 AM Morning Worship Deacons' Meeting	26	27	28 7:00 PM Bible Study & Prayer	29	30  Ralph and Brenda McDaniel	31

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Return services requested