



OCTOBER 2020 CHALLENGER

OAKGROVEBC.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/OAKGROVEBAPTISTCHURCH, GRAY, TN

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

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy god?"

~Micah 6:8

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SHERREL

Dear Oak Grove Family,

I greet you all in the Wonderful Name of Jesus and hope this finds you well. I want to thank everyone for your continued prayers and financial support during this uncertain time. Speaking for the entire staff, we are so grateful, and I know that God will reward your faithfulness. The current health crisis continues to impact our world in general and our area specifically. It has altered our lives in numerous ways bringing with it discouragement, confusion and worry. Most of us are experiencing some measure of weariness from all this and we can't really see an end in sight. I want to encourage you to keep the faith and pray fervently because God is still in control and He will see us through. God is never taken by surprise and there is no force or power that can stop His prophetic plan from being fulfilled!

We were planning to restart in-person Sunday School and children's ministry in October but unfortunately that will be delayed for at least another month and possibly through the end of the year. I know this is disappointing news and I am very sorry. The staff and I along with our deacon leadership have labored over these decisions and you have my word that we will make every effort to resume a full schedule as soon as possible. The continuing health risk factors combined with certain logistical and personnel issues have caused us to reconsider our proposed restart date. We are currently exploring alternative options and meeting times for our small groups. Again, I am sorry for the delays and the disruptions. I just want to make things as safe and as comfortable as possible. Thank you for your patience.

For the past few weeks, I have been preaching a new series entitled, "How Does The World Look?" It has centered around how we as Christians can develop and deploy a Biblical Worldview. A recent message in that series dealt with the subject of meaning and purpose in life and asked the question, "Why am I here?" We looked at Genesis 1:26-27 and saw that God has created us in His image which confirms that God loves us and that life has meaning and purpose. On Wednesday of that week I followed up on the theme of meaning and purpose by looking at Micah 6:6-8. In that passage the prophet says in verse 8, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." What a powerful message for us as believers today! In this world of rioting and reviling, it is imperative that Christians set a godly example. We must treat others fairly, mercifully, and compassionately. We must love and respect others and help them when we can. We must walk in humble obedience to God each day. That is at least, in part, what it means to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly. Joseph Parker, in commenting on Micah 6:8 said, "All controversy, all resentful intellectualism, all selfish calculation, all vicious political Christianity, must fall before this sublime revelation." Our very life and existence is a gift from God, we mustn't take that gift for granted. Let us then strive to live in obedience to God's will and purpose. I love you all and I'll see you in church or on Facebook!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Sherrel



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry kick-off is Sunday, October 4. Due to the pandemic, this year will be the year kids need shoebox gifts the most. They need hope. What a wonderful feeling you will have filling a box or boxes for a special girl or boy with gifts that you picked out with love.

Boxes will be available at the front and ramp entrances or in the church office. You may also use a standard size shoebox or plastic box. Regular boy/girl labels and follow-your-box labels will be available for your convenience. Please pray over your filled box and return it by Sunday, November 15.

Below is some helpful information that I received at a project leader workshop.

1. When packing a shoebox, it was suggested taking items out of their original packaging and repacking in Ziploc bags, pencil bags, etc. I did this and filled a Walmart bag full of trash.
2. Make specialty items. Suggestions: scarves, small wooden toys, potholders, tote bags, small hand puppets, sundresses, cross necklaces, or any jewelry. Search Pinterest for more ideas.
3. Shipping is expensive. Include \$9 per box if you're financially able. Each country has different shipping zones and rates. For example: Shipping to Mongolia is \$127.21 and increases per weight.

Remember, this may be the only gift a child receives in their lifetime. Will you partner with Samaritan's Purse to share that glorious hope with boys and girls around the world—many of whom have never heard the Name of Jesus?

Blessings,
Patricia



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 14 – Quarterly Business Meeting
- 18 – HBA Annual Meeting
- 22 – Newsletter Articles Due
- 25 – Reformation Sunday
- 25 – 2021 Budget Requests Due

* * *

SOS, Oaks and Offshoots, small groups postponed until further notice.



2021 BUDGET REQUESTS

All staff members, officers, and committees need to submit budget requests by Sunday, October 25. Please place the request in an envelope and drop it into the wall pocket outside the church office. Thank you!



The ETSU Baptist Collegiate Ministry is reaching students for the cause of Christ by sharing the gospel and providing discipling opportunities. Johnathan Chapman, Director of BCM, is reaching out offering three ways churches can help their ministry efforts: 1) Prayer, 2) Donations to the food fund at etsubcm.org/, and 3) Donations to the Pop Tart ministry.

OGBC wants to say a heartfelt thanks to members of our congregation for recently donating several boxes of Pop Tarts for BCM!

CHANGE YOUR SPOT

In the Old Testament, Jeremiah becomes so disgusted with his people's unfaithfulness and idolatry that he almost believes they can't change. He wonders whether a leopard can change its spots. When a Sunday school teacher posed that question, one student pondered before replying, "Yes ... If he doesn't like the spot he's in, he can change it."

Jeremiah reached a similar conclusion: His people could change their evil ways — their "spots" — if they chose to. "You can do good who are accustomed to do evil," he says (Jeremiah 13:23, NRSV). As another prophet later notes, God has shown us "what is good ... To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV). What spot — or spots — can you change?



Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (*Emphasis added.*)

Have you ever felt alone? I believe we have all gone through times of struggle and loneliness. I have spoken with so many people from inside and outside our church family about what is going on in the world today. The common theme during these conversations is the loneliness they feel. Think about it, with the quarantines and social distancing it is easy to feel that way. It makes us wonder where God is in this and wonder if He is listening. The Bible assures us He is always with us and He has NOT forgotten us.

I remember going through the darkest time of my life and wondering where God was and if He even loved me. The great theologian, Dickie Rice said, "Son, sometimes we all feel like our mama don't love us and our feet stink, but God always loves us." That's deep, Dad.

Folks, we can't all be together right now and for those of us who, for various reasons, can't meet with us during worship at the church, this is for you. Please know YOU are NOT alone. You are loved, cared for, and prayed for by your church family. God created His church to be His hands and feet. Please know that we are a family. If you have a need please don't hesitate to let us know. We are not made to go through stuff alone. We as a church family are with you. We are working hard to find ways to come together even if it is virtually. We are family. Remember, I love you, but God loves you more.

Love people till they ask you why. Then tell them why.

Kevin Rice
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FACEBOOK LIVE SATURDAY "SUNDAY" SCHOOL

11:00 AM Every Saturday

October 3 and 10 will end the Tony Evans series "After God's Own Heart: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" with the following topics:

Honor Marriage	October 3
Honor All Relationships	October 10

The series "All In: A Life of Commitment" begins on October 17.

Christ's Commitment to Us	October 17
Our Commitment to Christ	October 24
Committed to His Word	October 31



Executive Board Meeting Report Rodney Hale

The Holston Baptist Association Executive Board meeting was held on September 22, 2020 at Antioch Baptist Church in Johnson City.

There were approximately 15 to 18 in attendance in person and others in attendance by Zoom web conference. It was my first time attending the HBA Executive Board meeting as the OGBC representative, and I must say I was quite impressed with the materials provided.

Pastor Lester Morelock (First Baptist, Jonesborough) chaired the meeting and gave the devotion from Nehemiah 1 bringing out the following points:

1. There must be a clear recognition of the need! There are 4 million lost folks in TN, 80% of our neighbors are not in church, and only 1 of 10 generation Z youth will come to Christ by the time they are adults!
2. We must be concerned enough to pray and fast for the need!
3. Nehemiah made a commitment to make a difference!

This was certainly a much-needed message for us as believers today! We need to see the need, be concerned enough to pray and fast about the situation and be determined to make a difference. Wow! We have a job to do, and time is getting short!

A report was heard from the Transition Team (Search Committee). They have received over 106 applications for our new Association Mission Strategist position (formerly Director of Missions). They hope to be able to recommend someone after the Annual Meeting in October, so that was encouraging!

The bright spot in the reports was delivered by Jonathan Chapman, ETSU Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director. They planned a meeting for 50 and had over 200 students show up, and they have been having good attendance since that meeting. More students than ever signed up for small group discipleship, and students have been responding positively to the Gospel! Great report!

Thank you for electing me to this exciting position for the church!

PREPARE YOUR CHILDREN ESTABLISH A FIRM FOUNDATION

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Whether you are building a new home or raising a young child, laying a solid foundation is essential. If you establish a firm base, you can be reasonably confident that the future will remain on stable footings. A faulty foundation, however, foretells that headaches are on the horizon.

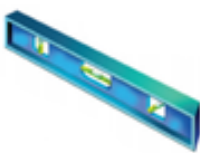
Three tools are essential to lay a good foundation for a new home: a plumb line, a square, and a level. Here's why these instruments are so important to builders of homes—and how they illustrate Biblical concepts that “build” young children.

Trust the Tools



A plumb line is a simple piece of string with a weight attached to one end. Tie the string to a fixed object and when the weight comes to rest, it points directly to the earth's center of gravity. Regardless of the terrain, the plumb line establishes true vertical orientation. A plumb line assures that your walls are plumb—straight up and down. The prophet Amos used a plumb line as an object lesson to reveal the Word of the Lord to Israel. It illustrated that God's people had moved from the model of justice He had given them (Amos 7:7-8; Isaiah 28:17). A plumb line reminds parents and children that they need to know what God expects of them. As they grow, kids must develop a reservoir of knowledge based on a Biblical worldview.

A square is a tool used to obtain right angles. A framing square quickly enables the builder to measure precise angles, so he won't cut corners or “miss the mark.” Use a square to make sure that your footers and walls meet at exactly ninety degrees—so they are “square.” Christ's righteousness is the standard that God uses to examine a person's character. The Lord even measures the motives of every heart (1 Corinthians 4:4-5)! A square prompts believers to remember that God's righteous standard discloses both their integrity and their inconsistencies. Growing kids can learn to display Christlike character in every area of life.










A level consists of a sealed glass tube mounted on a straight-edge. The position of the air bubble within the liquid-filled tube reveals whether or not a surface is level. A carpenter's level ensures that your entire foundation is perfectly horizontal.

John the Baptist urged God's people to “make straight the way of the Lord.” He told them to level the valleys and mountains to give the Messiah direct access to their lives (Luke 3:4-6; Isaiah 40:3-5). A level reminds parents and children that they must also take action steps to receive the Lord and to follow Him. As kids grow, they acquire skills to demonstrate faithful conduct that honors God and helps people.

Note to Parents: Along with the Bible, the upcoming Oaks and Offshoots program will use DiscipleLand curriculum to teach children what's in the Bible and how to develop the skills and character of a true disciple who can be counted plumb, square, and level in the eyes of God.



OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2  Rodney Hale and Vergil Stout	3 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
4 11:00 AM Morning Worship	5	6	7 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	8	9  Ralph and Brenda McDaniel	10 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
11 11:00 AM Morning Worship	12	13	14 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer 	15	16  Lee and Jessie Bowser	17 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
18 11:00 AM Morning Worship HBA Annual Gathering	19	20	21 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	22 Newsletter Articles Due	23  Benny and Linda Gardner	24 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School
25 11:00 AM Morning Worship 	26	27	28 7:00 PM Facebook Live Bible Study & Prayer	29	30  Mike and Barbara Dixon	31 11:00 AM Facebook Live Saturday "Sunday" School

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Return services requested