

THE LAMPLIGHTER – FEBRUARY, 2019

311 Cypress Street – Mt. Carmel, Tennessee 37645 - 423-357-7241 – www.ogbchurch.org



By: Todd Haley

Dear Family and Friends at Oak Grove,

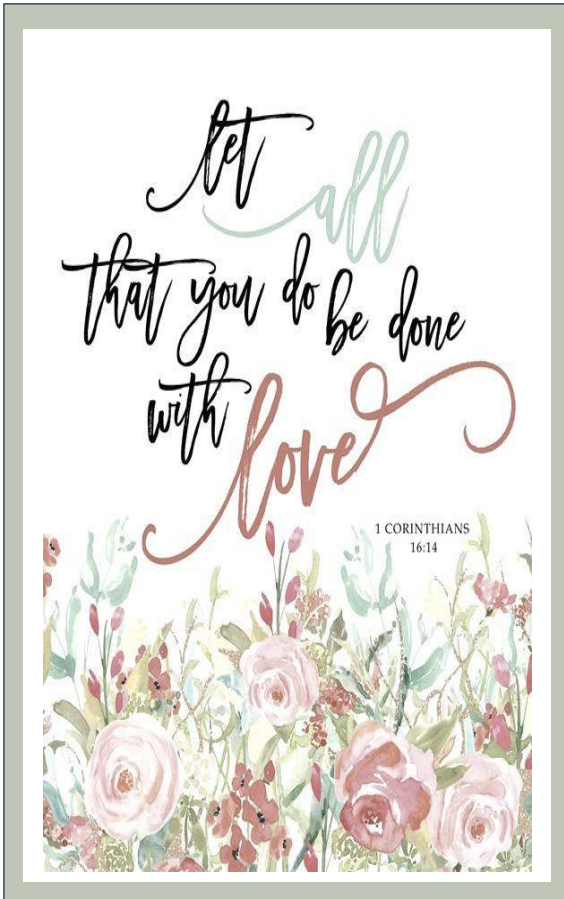
I read a great illustration this week. It went like this –
A family in a Southern Baptist Church had been inactive for years. The family never went to church anymore, and every effort to get them to attend had failed. One day one of the sons, named John, was bitten by a rattlesnake.

The father immediately sent for the pastor that he might come and pray for John. The pastor went, and this was his prayer:

“Oh wise and gracious Father, we thank You that You have in Your wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John to bring him to his senses. He has not been to church for years. It is doubtful if he has ever before in all his life felt the need of prayer. Now we pray that this will prove a valuable lesson for him and that it will lead to his repentance.”

“And we also pray, O father, that you would send another snake to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and another to bite the old man. We have been doing everything we could for many years, but all our efforts could not accomplish what this snake has done.”

“We thus conclude that the only thing that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So, please Lord, send them bigger and better rattlesnakes. Amen.”



Usually, it takes a big problem for God to get hold of people's hearts and change them into the people he wants them to be.

In my life, I never pray for problems. However, it is usually the problems that cause me to slow down, refocus on God and His way of doing things. Every time I get to the other side, I always say to myself, “From now on, I will not need problems to get my attention.” I have come to realize, the new found focus is only temporary. I must admit, the most growth I see in my life is when I totally surrender to God. Surrender usually happens best, when I have a problem.

I want to encourage you today to take another look at that problem you may be facing. The one we sometimes think is a sign that God is against us. It may be, the problem is a blessing, waiting for you to realize the difference God is making in your life because He loves you and wants to see you grow. Sometimes the blessings in your life masquerade as problems. Just a thought. I pray you and your family have a great month, and I look forward to seeing you at church this Sunday.

Pastor Todd



Dear Church Family:

As usual, let me begin by singing the praises of all our choirs and their directors! How blessed we are to have people who give their time and talents to direct our children in choir, Sunday School, Upward, Bible Drill, Missions and Vacation Bible School!! I'm sure that I omitted someone so let me apologize ahead of time, please forgive me!

It also never ceases to amaze me all the talent that our church has, as was demonstrated by the drama team and their leaders in the Christmas musical, our Easter dramas as well as the Valentine play and our Puppet or Black Light Ministry. Then comes the men who completely remodeled our baptismal quarters and the countless hours they spent!

Then a BIG THANK YOU... to all the teachers of our church who devote countless hours preparing to teach their classes, using their own resources to prepare week in and week out for the betterment of our congregation, never asking for or expecting payment for the hours that they spend...May God bless you all, and thank you for what you do!

In Christian Love, Doug



When I was young and would help work around the house, there were always lots of learning opportunities. My dad taught me that "You will get out of it what you put into it." That was typically related to getting the wood in for winter. We would cut, bust and stack wood all summer. I remember asking my dad why we had to get so much wood because I was tired, and it was not a great way to spend your summer. He told me that if we didn't, we might run out when it got cold and have to go out in the weather and get the wood then and that would be even less fun. So, we worked hard during the summers and we stayed nice and warm in the winters.

This same idea can be applied to our Bible study time too. How much effort do you put into Bible study each week? How many of us read our Sunday school lesson before we go to class on Sunday morning? Some people do, and some don't, and I have been on both sides of that one. The thing is, we should all want to get the most out of our time studying God's word. It doesn't take much and OGBC even provides free study guides to every Sunday school class.

Attending Sunday school is great, and I am thankful to see so many people who diligently attend every Sunday morning. But I would like to challenge each one of you to spend 5 minutes every day studying the scripture and your Sunday school guide ahead of class. You will be blessed with how God uses that time!

Eric Counts

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.



The youth closed out the year with a trip to Dolly's Stampede. We had 51 to go with us to see the show. We were able to see the Christmas show. If you have not seen it, you need to make plans to see it next year.

Upward is in full swing and there are times available to do a devotion. Games are held each Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm, or you can do a Tuesday night at 6:30 devotion for the Kindergarten games. I encourage you to spend some time at Upward and see what a wonderful program it is. Upward allows us so many opportunities to share the Gospel with the community.

This past Wednesday night, the youth helped with a mission project. We had a great turn out, with 20 youth and 26 RA, GA, and Mission Friends participants. Thanks to all the leaders for putting the work in to make this night a success.

Upcoming Youth Events:

*February 3 – Youth "Big Game" Party at 6:00 in the gym.

*March 1-3 – Winter Youth Retreat in Gatlinburg. More details coming soon!

Blessings,
Ramona



Thank you for all the cards and prayers during the recent deaths in our family. Please continue to pray for us.

Sincerely, Kyle & Bertie Shoemaker

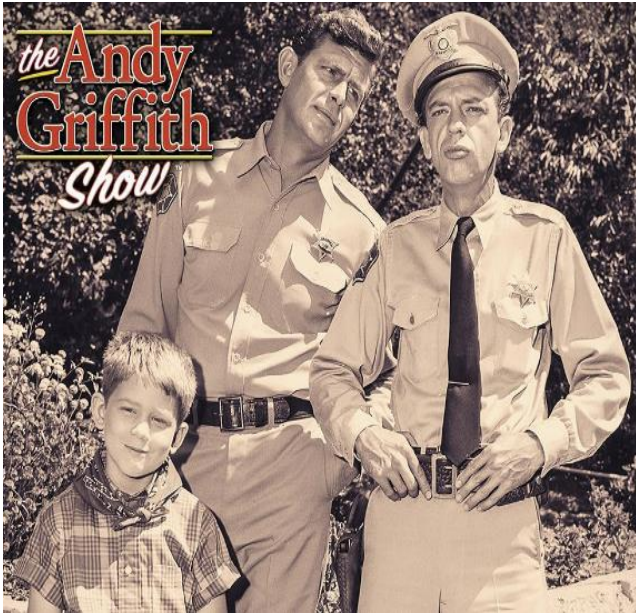
Thank you to my wonderful church family for their prayers, calls, cards, and Gideon Bibles donated in my sister's name, June Vaughn. I am so thankful and blessed to have you all in my life to help me through this difficult time.

Love, Judy Frazier



Our Christian Love and Sympathy are extended to:

- *Ruby Goins & family in the death of her sister, Buna Sturgill
- *Judy Frazier & family in the death of her sister, June Vaughn
- *April Stovall & family in the death of her aunt, Gina Kelley



OGBC Drama Team presents:

“One Strange Bird”

Friday, February 15 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 16 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 17 at 3 p.m.

Invite your friends and family to join us! All shows will be held in the Fellowship Hall.






Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry

We are continuing our year-long collection of items to pack in shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. For the month of February, we are asking for girls' accessories. Suggested items include: necklaces, bracelets, hair bows, sunglasses, watches, small sewing kits. We are also still in need of toothbrushes and long, plastic toothbrush holders. We are grateful for your support of this project!

The Upward Basketball and Cheerleading program is going strong! We are thankful for everyone that plays a part in making this program a success. Volunteers are still needed to bring food each Saturday in February. In addition, if you are interested in helping as a referee or a devotion leader during half-time, please see David Holcomb. **Upward Awards Night** will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u>Every Sunday</u> 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship, Children's Church 4:45 Children's Bible Drill 5:00 Youth Choir 6:00 PM Worship</p>	<p><u>Every Wednesday</u> 5:30 Youth Bible Drill 5:45 Preschool & Children's Choir 6:30 Youth & College & Career Bible Study, RA's, GA's, MF's 7:15 Adult Choir</p>				<p>1 6:00-9:00 Gym Christina Parker (Upward)</p>	<p>2 9:00-5:00 Upward Games</p> 
<p>3 8:00 FH  & Breakfast 6:00 Youth "Big Game" Party</p>	<p>4 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>5 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>6 5:30 Church Council 6:30 Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>7 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>9 9:00-5:00 Upward Games</p>
<p>10 AM Building Fund </p>	<p>11 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p> 	<p>12 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>13 6:30 Business Meeting</p>	<p>14 10:30 Senior Adult Choir & Fellowship 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>7:00 FH Valentine Play <i>The Andy Griffith Show</i> "One Strange Bird"</p>	<p>16 9:00-5:00 Upward Games</p>  <p>7:00 FH Valentine Play "One Strange Bird"</p>
<p>17</p>  <p>3:00 FH Valentine Play "One Strange Bird"</p>	<p>18</p>  <p>6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>19 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>20 6:30 Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>21 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23 9:00-5:00 Upward Games</p> <p>2:00-4:00 FH Drop-in 80th Birthday Party for Jerry Byerley</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>26 6:00-9:00 Upward Practice</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>6:30 Family Mission Night</p>	<p>28</p>		