



THE LAMPLIGHTER – APRIL 2020

Oak Grove Baptist Church

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Dear Family and Friends,

Most people are glued to the events of the day. Many are self-distancing so that everyone in our society is safer. Most churches have decided to close public worship services and turn toward other means of connecting with people. We live in unprecedented days. Keep in mind; these are the types of days that birthed Christianity. The Romans occupied Israel. The religious leaders knew a significant number of facts about God but did not have a personal relationship with God. Jesus had recently been killed on a cross, and later He arose from the grave and ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father.

It was in the midst of this tumultuous time that Christianity suffered one of its most significant losses. Stephen was a deacon in the early Church. The Bible tells us Stephen was a man filled with the Holy Spirit and well respected among both Christians and the community at large. Unfortunately, the Jews determined the best way to end the movement Jesus had begun was by killing the leaders, and Stephen was first. After a mock trial and an unusual defense of his faith, Stephen was stoned. His last words were words of mercy for those who were killing him.

An act that seemed so destructive became the moment when God changed the world. Up until this point, people who put their faith in Christ were congregating in Jerusalem, waiting on His immediate return. When the Jews killed Jesus, believers began leaving Jerusalem and taking the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. In just a few years, a few hundred believers in Jerusalem became thousands scattered around the known world. Eventually, Christianity has crossed the globe. Every continent has seen evidence of the power of God through the lives of Christians. It all started with the killing of Stephen.

Today, many people are living in fear. They are afraid of a virus, their society, the community of people, and even their own family. Fear has gripped them to the point of loneliness. As we isolate for physical safety, we are in danger, forgetting the power of relationships. God has so designed us that we need one another. This is where Christians have an advantage.

For years people have been asking what difference does going to church make? Now, we have an opportunity to show them. We have been cooped up in our sacred walls for far too long. It is time we take the Good News of the Gospel to the streets. As the Church, we have an opportunity to act not in fear, but with intentionality. Take this time away from the church building and begin sharing a phone call, a written message, or a video with your family, friends, and neighbors. While everyone else is shutting the doors to their homes, reach out to neighbors, and offer help.

Help can come in the form of calls, cards, and other types of encouragement. Support can also come in the form of telling people they are not alone. As a church, we are here to help you and your neighbor. If you or someone you know need prayer, please call the church and let us know. We can add you to our prayer request lists. If you or someone you know needs someone to shop for them because they are unable to leave the house, please let us know. We have some people that are willing to help in this way as they are able. If you or someone you know needs food help, we want to try and help with this as well. As a church, we will do all we can to meet real needs as quickly as possible.

Now is a time for our church to reach out. We have been saying for many years that we want God to use us. Now is the time. If you would like to be a shopper, or maybe you can deliver food, please call the church office, and we will add your name to the list. We are also looking for people who are willing to make a few phone calls each week to check on families. If you are willing to make these calls, please let us know this as well. God is still at work through His people. The question is, will you join us in helping our neighbors in need?

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Todd Haley



Dear Church Family,

We are in the midst of most unusual times. We need to look to God and continue to support each other and be the church family we should be until fellowship resumes. For the time being, there will be no choir rehearsals. The Easter Cantata has been cancelled for this year, but rest assured we will still sing the wonderful new music we have been learning.

Thank you to the Adult Choir and everyone that attended revival services. It was a wonderful time of worship each evening. May God bless and keep each one of you!

In Christian Love, Doug



Congratulations to Ashton & Chloe Arellano on the birth of their son, Antonio Amodo Arellano born February 27, 2020 weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. Emily Hill is the proud grandmother, Dinah DeFord the proud great-grandmother.

Congratulations to Missy Bray and Josh Wenger for being voted "Teacher of the Year" at their schools! Missy teaches Special Education at Church Hill Elementary School, Josh teaches Chorus at Volunteer High School. We are proud of both of you!

FROM THE EDUCATION Minister

Spring has sprung and during this spring quarter of 2020 we are studying the book of Romans in our Sunday school literature. The book of Romans has so many great verses for the believer to commit to use in their walk.

The Roman's Road (3:23, 6:23, 5:9, 10:9-10) is a fantastic evangelistic tool for the believer to use when witnessing. Romans 8:28 brings comfort to the believer during difficult times and displays the sovereignty of God. Romans 12:1-2 reminds the believer to be different than the world around them while presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice. These are some of my favorite verses in all of scripture. Joining together for Sunday school may not be possible right now, but I encourage you to continue to study God's Word. Blessings! Eric



The youth will be taking a break for the next couple of weeks due to the social distancing that is happening because of COVID-19. I encourage you to spend time with your families and enjoy this time of slowing down. I know that things seem uncertain and maybe a little out of control, but I want to assure you that what is happening does not surprise God. God is still in control and we need to place our faith and trust in Him. God is bigger than anything we face in this life. "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Psalm 46:10. Ramona Adams

Shoebox Ministry



For the month of April we are collecting Ivory soap, plastic soap boxes, and washcloths for our Operation Christmas Child project. Our goal is to have enough items to pack 250 shoeboxes. Thank you!



Our Christian love & sympathy are extended to:

- *CJ Calhoun & family in the death of his mother, Peggy Kerns Calhoun
- *Connie Slaght & family in the death of her aunt, Gladys Stewart
- *Lois Epperson & family in the death of her brother, Daniel Jeter
- *Jen Cox & family in the death of her uncle, James Davis
- *Bertie Shoemaker & family in the death of her husband, Kyle Shoemaker



Living in Saturday

Saturday of Holy Week is a strange day for the church. It's sandwiched between Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross, and Easter, when he rose.

Certainly, we know the truth and triumph of the resurrection, but until Jesus comes again, we're living in Saturday. The Lamb of God has been sacrificed, and the curtain of sin that separated us from God has been torn down. Yet we're still looking forward to – as Jesus said – the renewal of all things.

Although we may be battered and bruised, stumbling, limping or crawling, we shouldn't wallow in defeat. Instead, we can be confident in the victory Jesus won for us. We can shout with Paul, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

While you look back to Friday and forward to Sunday, live victoriously in Saturday. Jesus has won and has run the victory lap...and he's coming around again.
–Gregg McCaslin

An Easter Prayer

Once again, Lord, we are astounded by the incomparable and glorious event of Easter.

To remember how you conquered sin and evil through the resurrection of Jesus stirs up joy and hope within us.

It comforts us greatly to know that because Christ was raised from the dead, we who are "in Christ" have the assurance of eternal life.

Furthermore, to have the living Christ as our Savior and the undergirding Holy Spirit as our daily Companion assures us of grace that never fails us.

Finally, it is a certainty that all things good and desirable are possible for those who love you, because Christ lives and reigns as King of our lives.

All praise and glory to you, loving Creator,
now and forever! Amen.

By Charles Ferrell



Services at Oak Grove Baptist Church are currently suspended until further notice. Morning worship will stream live on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. on Facebook. A weekly bulletin will be sent out via email. It will contain updates and sermon notes for the current week. If you are unable to access our service through Facebook, DVD copies will be available. Please call the church office if you would like to request a copy of the services.

Our Easter Cantata and Drama scheduled for Sunday, April 5th and Friday, April 10th have been cancelled, along with the Priscilla Shirer Simulcast scheduled for Saturday, April 25th. This was a difficult decision, but church leadership felt it was a necessary one to protect the health of our congregants. Pastor Todd, Deacon Officers and Church Council will be partnering to gather new information as it becomes available. As soon as decisions are made regarding church services, information will be passed along to you.

Hilda's Helping Hand Blessing Box

We are currently in need of supplies to help stock Hilda's Helping Hand Blessing Box located in our upper parking lot. The Blessing Box (sponsored by Girls in Actions and their leaders) is a place where folks may take what they need, and leave what they can. Lately, GA leaders have stocked the Blessing Box at least twice each week. With so much demand, supplies have dwindled quickly.

This could be a good time for you to clean out your pantry and donate items (current expiration dates only please) or perhaps pick up a few extra items on your next visit to the store. Suggested donations include: Canned goods, crackers, non-perishable foods, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.



¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

Prayer Requests

<p><u>In the Hospital</u></p> <p>Lorraine Chastain – NHC (Kingsport)</p>	<p><u>In Sympathy</u></p> <p>Bertie Shoemaker & family – death of her husband, Kyle Shoemaker Teresa Bridges & family in the death of her father, Kenneth Collins</p>
<p><u>In Assisted Care</u></p> <p>Lois Epperson—Elmcroft Dana Hurd—Church Hill Life Care Mack Roller Tempie Smith—Church Hill Life Care Frances Thacker—Church Hill Life Care</p>	<p><u>Military Personnel</u></p> <p><u>Air Force</u> Tanner Armstrong (Karla Bullock’s nephew) Tucker Armstrong (Karla Bullock’s nephew) Morgan Brake (Denise Brummitt’s granddaughter)</p> <p><u>Navy</u> Josh Strickland</p>
<p><u>Mission Needs</u></p> <p>Michael Templeton & family—Church planters in Turkey Ocoee Mission Trip— June 2020</p>	<p><u>Lost People</u></p> <p>Kelly Brittany Michelle – John’s sister Teresa Ryan</p>

Short Term—30 Days

2/25 Junior Meade – friend of Courtney Wilson – black lung, pneumonia
 2/26 Chad – John Keck’s friend – having rough times
 2/26 Bernice Arrington – flu, pneumonia in both lungs
 2/26 Ryan Morgan – grandson of Harry & Velma Morgan
 2/28 Leah Osborne - foot issues
 2/28 Ed Blessing – Joe Blessing’s brother – fell and broke his hip
 3/1 Brenda Seaver – Becky Lawson’s sister – needs a liver transplant
 3/1 **B.J. Martin** – Recovering from being sick
 3/1 Pat Castle- Charles Castle’s sister – heading to Nashville to help with storm damage
 3/3 Kermit Dean – heart issues
 3/3 **Marie Lucas** – Health issues
 3/3 **Kathy Salyer** – recovering from surgery
 3/9 **Angie Shelton**
 3/11 Air Force Graduates – Morgan Brake and friends
 3/13 Harley Brewer – On life support at Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital
 3/13 Phyllis Miller – Brenda Philyaw’s sister – 2 falls recently
 3/13 **Wayne Wilmoth** - scheduled for heart valve replacement, had heart cath on 3/23

Long Term—90 Days

1/8 Mary Avers (Eric Counts’ coworker) – Cancer
 1/8 **Carol Boshaw**
 1/8 Jill Carver—Breast Cancer
 1/8 **Paul & Sue Couch**
 1/8 **Ashley Counts**
 1/8 Debbie Damron— slowly recovering from massive stroke
 1/8 Pastor Brock Davis—needs heart transplant
 1/8 Joanna Dingus—cancer, blood clots in legs, struggling & weak
 1/8 Kristen Dykes—Diagnosed with MS
 1/8 Haskell Haynes—Pancreatic cancer, doing okay
 1/8 Sandra Justice—Stage 3 lung cancer
 1/8 Russell Lane (Betsey Ritz’s father) – dialysis
 1/8 David Love—cancer
 1/8 **Bill & Brenda Philyaw** – Bill – Staph infection
 1/8 Randy Pressnell’s parents
 1/8 **Tony & Betsey Ritz**
 1/8 **Dale & Kim Roberts**
 1/8 Opal Stevenson—Cancer
 1/8 **Craig Tanguay**—hip getting worse
 1/8 Holly Tucker
 1/8 Jackie Tymon
 1/8 Brent Warner—Pancreatic cancer
 1/8 Betty Watson (Trudy Price’s mother) - hospice care – dementia
 1/22 Cam Kindle – Infant son of Brett Kindle
 1/26 Bobby & Betty Berry – Bobby – doing worse, Betty – R.A., MRSA, going to have spinal surgery
 1/29 Tiffany Facemeiger – Breast cancer
 1/29 Libby Stapleton – Breast cancer
 1/29 Melody Haigler
 2/2 Joyce Hobbs – Cancer
 2/5 Michael Greer – Cancer – at Vanderbilt
 2/5 Chris Holder – chemo
 2/12 Charlie Weaver – Lymphoma
 2/19 Lisa Kulig – donating kidney to stranger
 2/19 Jason – 6 year old – needs liver transplant
 2/26 Jason Hughes & Daniella Carbajal – discouraged
 3/6 **Rachel Ritz** – kidney, bowel issues, tethered spinal cord
 3/6 Tammy Ball – Colon Cancer
 3/6 Christina Oliver – In need of a lung transplant
 3/11 Marcie Hooven Dingus – breast cancer
 3/15 Covid-19 Virus & effects