

The Lamplighter – November, 2020

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Dear Family and Friends,

In September I preached a series of messages on Giving Thanks. It was a series I planned to preach in November but felt led to share early. In October I preached a series on Generosity. Thanksgiving should translate beyond emotion and become an experience. Thanksgiving should cause us to want to share what God has so graciously given us. Sometimes people don't give because they are stingy, but more often I think people don't give because they forget the difference it is making in the world. For my last message in October I sought to share how your tithes and offerings given specifically to Oak Grove make a difference.

As a church, we share what is given with other organizations like the Southern Baptist Convention, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, Holston Valley Baptist Association, and other local ministry related organizations. We choose to do this as a church body. We are not forced, and we can stop at any time. We believe God uses what our church members give in combine with other churches to make a greater difference in the world. Here are a couple of verses we think about, and here are a few highlights Oak Grove had a hand in making happen.

By joining God in the work He is doing around the world... we have the opportunity to make an investment that pays dividends for an eternity... and you can choose to be part of the investment.

Malachi 3

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse
That there may be food in My house,
And try Me now in this,"
Says the LORD of hosts,
"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
And pour out for you such blessing
That there will not be room enough to receive it.

Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

International Missions...

12,368 New Churches Planted	396,499 Had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel
89,325 New Believers	174,393 Bible Study Participants
47,929 Baptisms	15,394 New Groups Formed
90,532 Received Leadership Training	38,866 Received Church Planting Training
3,615 Missionaries in the Field	33,068 Received Advanced Theological Training
535,325 Heard Gospel Witness	

Opportunities

154,937 Dying daily without Christ, 2 people every second
6,363 Unique Language Groups Worldwide
3,213 Languages have over 10,000 speakers
2,504 Have at least one Scriptural Translation
204 Languages need a Scriptural Translation

North America Missions... US, Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa
Needs...

363 Million People
350 Languages
14+ Religions
273 Million people who have no relation to Christ
1,000 Southern Baptist Churches close their doors for the last time each year

Our Response...

552 New Churches Planted
297 New Churches considering themselves Southern Baptist
59 New Church Campuses
908 Congregations became Southern Baptist
3,057 Missionary Units
3,758 Chaplains in the US military

We provided help with...

Food, Literacy Training, Medical Services, and Opioid Crisis help
Refugees and Internationals Assistance
Foster Care and Adoption Assistance
Assist with fight against Human Trafficking
Crisis Response
 368,000 meals
 80,000 days of service time
 5,800 homeowners served
922 professions of faith as a direct result of crisis response

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

5 Objectives

1. 50,000 Saved and Baptized 2024
2. 500 Churches revitalized by 2024
3. Plant 1,000 new churches by 2024
4. Average Church giving raised to 10% by 2024
5. Tennessee Golden Offering raised to \$3 mil by 2024

Holston Valley Baptist Association

54 Churches working together in Hawkins and Hancock County
124 Baptisms
192 Men and 78 Women attend Bible Study through Jail Ministry
Teaching Children through Bible Drill
Supporting Pregnancy Center
Support One Accord Ministries
Disaster Relief Support

Oak Grove Baptist Church

Worship
Bible Study
Discipleship Training
RA, GA, Mission Friends
Bible Drill
Choirs for all ages
Youth, Children, Nursery
Local Organizations
 Abortion Alternative
 Contact Concern of Kingsport
 HVBA Pregnancy Center
 Of One Accord Ministries
Mission Trip to Ocoee
Disaster Relief
Hilda's Helping Hands
Food for Families
Help with support for people in need

When we talk about being generous as a church, we are making a difference in the lives of people around the world every day!!! What greater investment could you make with your money, time, efforts? Thank you for all you have done, and all that you are led to do. You can make a difference here every day.

Pastor Todd



Our Christian love & sympathy are extended to:

- *Peggy Cole & family in the death of her husband, Otis Cole
- *BJ Martin in the death of her cousin, Philip Wayne Riddle



I hope everyone is doing great and staying safe during this beautiful fall season. We are so thankful for the wonderful weather that the Lord has provided every Sunday for the outside service. I am also thankful for those who have been willing to help set up the trailer, sound, and for the singers and musicians that have worked so hard each week to make the Drive-In service a success.

It is an exciting time to restart all of our choirs. We are looking ahead to the holiday season to make decisions on what will be done concerning special music presentations. All this will be decided based on safety measures and how COVID cases are going in the future.

In Christian Love,
Doug



Well it is November already!! This year is an election year and the presidential election will decide who will be leading the most powerful country in the world. Whichever candidate wins, we should know that God is pulling the strings. He has His hand on this nation and is in control. That doesn't mean that He is always blessing us, as He sometimes must rebuke His children. But it does mean that He is in control, always. Regardless of who leads our nation, regardless of all the politics involved, our God will continue to reign eternally. There are no limits to His term.

I want to encourage all of you to educate yourselves on the candidates and vote based on whom you see line up more with God's Word. So often, the issues get clouded and you wonder whom you can trust getting information. Sit down and develop a list for yourself and compare and contrast each of the candidates and their position on each of those items.

Continue to pray for our country and for God to lead His people to be burdened for those that are lost. God bless!

Blessings,
Eric



The youth are now meeting for Sunday School at 9:45 in the youth room. If you have not had a chance to attend Sunday School, I hope you will make it this Sunday. We are also still meeting on Sunday Nights at 5:00 for IGNITE.

This past Wednesday Night the youth prepared and delivered meals to our homebound. This is something we will be doing at least once a month. It is such a blessing to be able to serve our homebound.

Hearts on Fire will be virtual this year. I have already signed our group up for this event. It will be on Friday Nov. 20, 2020 at 8:00. We will meet that night to watch the event on the mezzanine. Mark your calendar for this event at Oak Grove.

Ramona

Operation Christmas Child

We are counting down to the Shoebox Collection Week, which will be November 16th – 23rd. This year, we are excited to be a drop-off location for area churches to bring their shoebox gifts. If you would like to pack your own shoebox, please return it to the church by Sunday, November 22nd. Containers are available outside of the office. Perhaps you would like to pack a shoebox online... if so, please visit samaritanspurse.org and click on the provided link. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity amidst a most challenging year. Please continue to pray as these gifts go to children all around the world that need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!



Tuesday, November 3

This election year, let's join together in praying for our country and its leaders. May we all view each other with the love of God.



Angel Party – Saturday, December 12th

Each Christmas Oak Grove Baptist Church has an “Angel Tree” ministry that helps provide Christmas gifts for several families in our area. Each child has been registered and accepted as an Angel. Their clothing and shoe sizes are listed, along with a wish for a gift they would like to have. The Angel Tree will be in the foyer on Sunday, November 1. If you would like to help, please select an angel, purchase gifts, and return them to the church (wrapped and in the provided plastic bag) by Sunday, December 6.

The Angel Tree Change Box is now in the foyer. Every year we collect spare change to help provide gifts or other supplies for the Angel Party.

This year we will have a Drive-Thru Angel party on Saturday, December 12 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Participants will pull through the parking lot and view scenes from the Nativity story. Our guests will then receive their presents and a hot meal to take home with them. Please be in prayer for the Angel Tree directors, volunteers, and especially the families that will be touched by this ministry. Thank you!



Upward Basketball & Cheerleading

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading will still happen for the 2020-2021 season, although it will be different from years past. There will be an informational parent meeting on Monday, November 16th and Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Anyone wishing for their child to participate should attend ONE of these meetings.

Little Word, Big Difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks for everything. You don't need to give thanks for that bad day. Or for that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks for the difficulties, but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks *in* everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and His glory.

- Tony Evans

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time Ends 5:30 Deacons' Meeting - Sanctuary	2	3 	4 6:30 Prayer Meeting	5	6 	7
8	9	10	11  Veteran's Day 6:30 Business Meeting	12	13	14 4:00-6:00 – Gym J. Wagner
15	16  7:00 – Upward Parent Meeting - Sanctuary	17  7:00 – Upward Parent Meeting - Sanctuary	18 6:30 Prayer Meeting	19	20	21
November 16-23 – Shoebox Collection Week						
22 1:00-4:00 – FH S. Russo	23	24	25  No Wednesday evening service or activities	26  Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed 4:00-8:00 – FH A. Lambert	28
29	30				Every Wednesday 5:45 – Sunbeam Singers, Children's Choir 6:30 Youth Bible Study, RA's, GA's, Mission Friends 7:15 Adult Choir	Every Sunday 9:45 – Sunday School, Outdoor Worship 11:00 – Indoor Worship
Week of Prayer for LMCO – November 29 - December 6						