The Lamplighter – May 2021

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

John 12

35 Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light."

Dear Family and Friends of Oak Grove,

When I was a kid, my best friend's house was on the street behind ours and up a pretty good way. We rode bikes, played games, and wore a path through the dirt that all the kids in the neighborhood followed. The area between the houses was wooded, and our path skirted those woods. During the days, we built forts, climbed trees, and played all over those woods. We knew every tree and had fallen out of most of them. However, at night it was different. At night the porch lights only traveled as far as the woods started. At night there was a section of the path that had no light at all. You could see the light from the back porch in the distance, but you had to go through the darkness to get there. Many a night, I would stand at one end of the darkness and look to the light at the other end, straining to see what might wait for me on the edge of the woods. The fear, insects, and my heartbeat all filled my ears when I was about to take the journey. I would take off and get through there as fast as I could so as not to disturb any of the scary things that dwelt in the woods after dark. Then, as though crossing a finish line, I would burst into the light of the backyard. I could breathe again, safe from the fear of whatever it was that lived in the woods at night.

May is when we celebrate graduates of all types. We have kids that will graduate from Kindergarten to Elementary, Elementary to Jr. High, or Jr. High to High School. Each point a remarkable milestone for the child and their family. Then we have the High School and college graduates who have achieved a great accomplishment and tremendous milestone. Students will move onto college, into the workforce, and a few will choose to serve in the military. For all of them, life will change.

As a church, we have tried to show them the light. As they take steps into an unknown future, they can, if they choose, take the light with them. As a church, we congratulate the students and their parents as they take those first timid steps onto a new section of the pathway. We encourage each to trust in the light of Christ. While we never know where the path will lead, we can understand that the creator of the path will light every way.

Pastor Todd Haley

THANKS FROM THE HEART

We want to thank our church for the prayers, condolences, and cards in the death of my sister, Norma. We are thankful for our church family.
Richard & Connie Slaght

Thank you so much for all the prayers, encouraging words, Gideon Bibles, memorial gifts, and the wonderful food provided for us at Carol's memorial service. Also, thanks to the people who made the service possible – the choir, quartet, sound, livestream and to all those who attended. We are so blessed to have a church family to love us and hold us up during difficult times.
David & Diane Holcomb

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers, phone calls, and food. Thank you to Pastor Haley for conducting Frances' funeral and the Lighthouse Quartet for singing. We appreciate all of your support.
Thank you, Jim Thacker

Congratulations to Tori Williams on the birth of her daughter, Lilith Jade Willey born March 23, 2021 weighing 5 lbs, 7 oz. Steve Williams is the proud grandfather, Ken & Connie Williams are the proud great-grandparents.

From the MINISTER of Education

How important is Bible study to you? Be honest. Is it a priority for you every day or something that you get to if you have time? Sadly, many of us do not stay in God's Word as we should. Paul, writing to Timothy encouraged him to stay in God's Word, presenting himself to God as one approved, rightly handling the word of truth (2Tim 2:15). The only way to do that is by consistently spending time in God's Word. That means spending more time through the week than just on Sunday morning. We should spend time in God's Word every day and I pray that if you are not already doing that, that you will make this a priority immediately. If you don't know where to start, or don't understand what you are reading, get a good study Bible. There are several good ones available and we would be happy to recommend some if you have questions. Let's encourage each other to continue growing closer to our Lord!!

Blessings,
Eric

Music Notes

It is exciting to see our church getting closer to normalcy. We had a wonderful service April 4th as the choir helped us experience Easter – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and how His sacrifice led to salvation. Many thanks to our choir for the great job leading in worship.
As we look ahead to spring and summer events we have many wonderful worship opportunities coming up! The Sunbeam Singers and Children's Choirs will present their spring musicals on Wednesday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m. Please show your support for these kids and their leaders by attending this special event.
On the evening of June 6th we are planning a concert with Phillips & Banks. This quartet has performed at OGBC before, and what a blessing it was! If you are not familiar with this group, it is comprised of two couples who use music to spread the Gospel of Jesus. Mark your calendar for this event. More details will be coming soon.
We are also planning our patriotic musical for Sunday, July 4th at the 11:00 service. Veterans will be recognized, along with First Responders – Police – Fire – EMS. We will have a slide presentation and patriotic music as well.
Lastly, on August 8th we will have our fall kickoff with an outdoor cookout and music night, which will begin at 5:00 that evening.

Make plans now to be a part of the wonderful things that are happening at OGBC.

In Christian Love, Doug

Congratulations to our 2021 High School Graduates!

Blaire Barrett – Dobyns-Bennett High School

Nicole Byerley – Volunteer High School

Peyton Christian – Volunteer High School

Ty Evans – Volunteer High School

Samantha Flippin – Volunteer High School

Anna Haley – Volunteer High School

Hannah Johnson – Volunteer High School

Samuel Lane – Home School

Ryan Marshall – Volunteer High School

Carlee McLain – Volunteer High School

Noah Osborne – Dobyns-Bennett High School

Delaney Price – Volunteer High School

Grant Snyder – Volunteer High School

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Graduates,

Congratulations on your upcoming Graduation. It is a bittersweet time for me. While I am so proud of your accomplishments, I am also sad that some of you will be leaving for college in the fall. I am so thankful that God has allowed me to watch you all grow up and grow in your walk with God. I want you to know that you will always be welcome to be involved in youth. I hope you will continue to come to youth as leaders for the younger ones. They need role models and I can't think of a better group than you all to help them grow in their walk with Christ. Each one of you will hold a special place in my heart and I will always be here for you.

We are starting a study in Esther. As we see in the life of Esther God had a plan and purpose for her life. God has a plan and purpose for your life. Esther 4:14 Mordecai tells Esther that she has come to the Kingdom for such a time as this. Mordecai was reminding Esther that she had a purpose and job to do. God has placed you here for such a time as this. Wherever God may lead you in this life go and make a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Blessings,
Ramona

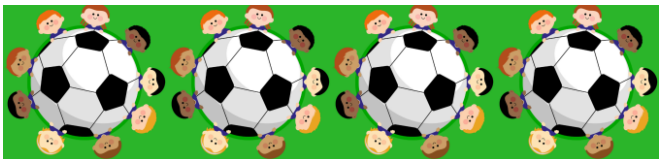
2021 Royal Ambassador Sleepover & Race

Congratulations to the winners in our RA Race!
Lads: 1st place – Lucas Smith, 2nd place – Shelton Winegar, Best Design – Ayden Bullock
Crusaders: 1st place – Riley Hicks, 2nd place – Dixon Armstrong, Best Design – Cooper Armstrong
Adults: 1st place – Brad DeFord, 2nd place – Parker DeFord, Best Design – Tim Bullock
We are so proud of all of our RA boys! Thank you for making this year's sleepover & race a great success!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Our Christian love & sympathy are extended to:
*The family of Roger "Bear" Johnston
*Richard & Connie Slaght in the death of Richard's sister, Norma Rae
*The family of Robert "Bob Wilmoth
*Robert, Mary & Emily Doyle in the death of Mary's brother, William Burkheart
*Jim Thacker & family in the death of his wife, Frances Thacker

May Shoebox Collection



For the month of May, the Shoebox Ministry team is asking for donations to purchase soccer balls and pumps for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts. We are able to buy the items in bulk, which results in lower prices. Your gift of $7.00 will purchase a soccer ball and a pump. If you would like to donate, please mark your envelope "Shoebox Ministry". We hope to provide 250 shoeboxes for boys and girls around the world.

THE MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING BENEFITTING TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

Each year on Mother's Day we collect a special offering to benefit Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. These homes provide Christ-centered, nurturing homes for children in difficult situations across Tennessee through compassionate on-campus homes and foster families. TBCH believes every child should experience the stable, nurturing love of a family. They also believe the most crucial thing that can be shared with a child is the love and hope of Christ.

May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:00 Associational RA Race Weigh-In 10:00 Races begin
2 8:00 Deacons Meeting & Breakfast 11:00 Baptism	3	4	5 5:30 Church Council 6:30 Prayer Meeting	6 7:00 Baptist Women	7	8
9 Parent/Child Dedication TBCH Offering	10	11 6:45 HVBA Exec. Committee Mtg	12 6:30 Business Meeting (Elect messengers to SBC)	13	14 	15
16 11:00 Baptism	17	18	19 6:30 Sunbeam Singers & Children's Choir Musicals	20	21	22 11:00 FH A. Marshall
23 1:00 Gym S. Osborne	24	25	26 6:30 Prayer Meeting	27	28	29
30	31 Office Closed					