

The Lamplighter – October 2022

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



Luke 14

15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him (**Jesus**) heard these things, he said to Him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

16 Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, 17 and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ 18 But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ 20 Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ 23 Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”

Imagine having a great party and no one you loved enough to invite was willing to attend. You thought a great deal of them, but they do not feel the same about you. It would hurt, really hurt. I am sure they would profusely apologize if you went to each of those people and told them how you had looked forward and planned and prepared for them to have a great time. When you told them your feelings had been hurt, they would apologize and reassure you they meant no harm. If you told them how you suddenly realized your friendship was not as strong as you had believed, they may go out of their way to assure you the friendship is still strong.

The problem is, no matter what they said after the fact, their actions had spoken louder than their words. Ask any Christian, and they will tell you they love God. They may tell you about a time when God came through in a challenging situation. Stories of the previous relationship with God would give evidence after evidence of how strong their relationship is with God. Unfortunately, the latest studies don’t show proof of a current relationship. By 2050 Christianity will become a minority belief system in America. What will be number one in 2050? Nothing... the number one belief system in America in 2050 will be people who do not believe in any religion. These people believe there is no God and could care less about relationships, salvation, or even forgiveness of sins.

Apathy is the greatest threat to Christianity. It is not the Mormons, Hinduism, Muslims, or any religion you can think of; it is apathy. Apathy happens when Christians find another way to spend their Sundays. Sports, entertainment, vacations, camping, shopping, or just lying in bed; none of these things are wrong. I could argue that under the right circumstances, these things are all good things to be part of a person’s life. The danger comes when these things replace time spent in God’s house with God’s people. God never intended Christianity to be a spectator experience.

So how do we change the direction of this country? Be the one who chooses to attend worship and small group every week. Be the person who brings a friend, acquaintance, or random person you meet at a gas pump. Be the person who chooses to engage, encourage, participate, and stand in the gap so others can attend church. You see, the difference maker in this church will always be you. Please make time for God and spend time with His people. The body of Christ needs you to choose to engage. Thank you for all you do. Thank you for attending Oak Grove. Thank you for encouraging others to attend church with you.

With love,
Pastor Todd



Our Christian love & sympathy to:

- *Lawerence Herman & family in the death of his sister, Bettye Johnson
- *Randy & Debbi Pressnell in the death of Randy’s mother, Ann Pressnell
- *Denise Lane & Doug Phillips in the death of their sister, Jennifer Light
- *Katherine Cuthrell & family in the death of her father, Kenneth Miller



We would like to extend a special welcome to our newest members!

We’re so glad to have you!

Jarrett & Lindsay Frauhiger, Peggy McLain

New Baby!



Congratulations to Jean Wagner on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Emersyn Kate Lane. Emersyn was born September 13, 2022 weighing 6 lbs. 11.3 oz. Cathy & B.J. Bennett are the proud grandparents.



Oak Grove Baptist Church,
For the gift of 3 Bibles to the Gideons in memory of my husband, Curtis Carpenter, I am forever grateful. May God richly bless you.
Sincerely, Maxine Carpenter, Michael Carpenter, & Amy Snyder

The RA’s would like to say thank you to the church for supporting the food drive that benefited the Church Hill Food Pantry. We appreciate the good turnout and the help.



Congratulations to Jennifer Wells on her wedding to Freddy Mathena on September 1, 2022. The happy couple was married in Greeneville, Tennessee. Jennifer is the daughter of Gary & Dare Wells, Freddy is the son of Clarence & Wanda Garst.



October is here and we have all kinds of new and exciting opportunities going on within our education ministry. We have a new young adults Sunday School class that Dallas Gibson is teaching. We also have a new college age class that is meeting on Wednesdays at 6:30 and will be studying the book Firsthand by Ryan and Josh Shook. Another opportunity is our Women’s Bible Study group, led by Connie Slaght. They are meeting on Tuesdays and are studying the book Encountering God by Kelly Minter. We have lots of other learning opportunities – Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 each Sunday morning; Wednesdays during prayer meeting at 6:30 Pastor Todd will be leading a study of the old testament prophecies that point toward Jesus and his ministry; Youth fellowship and study on Wednesdays at 6:30; RA’s, GA’s and Mission Friends also at 6:30 on Wednesdays. I hope that you will use these opportunities to join us to spend time in God’s Word.

Blessings, Eric



Harvest Festival- October 31 -If you would like to help with popcorn, cotton candy, sno-cones or games let me know and I will get you signed up to serve.
Hearts On Fire- November 18-20- Pigeon Forge TN. Sign-ups are going on now. If you plan to attend I will need to know by Oct. 5. The cost of the trip is \$75.00. This includes the conference, lodging, and all but 2 meals.

If you have not joined us for Wednesday Night Youth come and check out what we are doing. I would love for you to be a part of the youth group.

Ramona

MUSIC Notes



What an exciting start we have had to the fall season! Our Children's Choirs are back in full swing and having good attendance in each group. The Adult Choir is working hard to prepare for the Thanksgiving musical, which will be presented on Sunday, November 20th at 11:00 a.m. There will be testimonies and special music that morning and we look forward to this wonderful time of worship as we reflect on the goodness of God. We are also excited to have Thankful Baptist Men's Choir returning to Oak Grove on Sunday evening, November 6th at 6:00. Make plans now to be a part of both of these events.
In Christian Love, Doug



Each year congregations set aside the month of October to honor pastors and ministerial staff for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. We would like to say a great big "Thank You" to Pastor Todd, Doug, Ramona & Eric for all they do in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This month we encourage you to show your appreciation through a card, email, text, or small gift. Just saying a kind word of thanks from your heart is a wonderful expression of appreciation too.



The start of the 2022-2023 Upward season is just around the corner! The mission of the Upward program is to promote the discovery of Jesus through sports. Basketball (Cost \$50) is open to boys grades K-9 and girls grades K-7. Cheerleading (Cost \$55) is open to girls grades K-5. Upward evaluations will be held on Tuesday, October 25th, Thursday, October 27th, and Tuesday, November 1st from 6-8 p.m. each evening. All participants are asked to attend ONE evaluation session. Practice will begin the week after Thanksgiving, with games starting January 7, 2023.



ANNUAL MEETING

The Holston Valley Baptist Association Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 24, 2022 at Rogersville First Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to attend this yearly business meeting and celebration of all that God has accomplished over the past year through the Holston Valley Baptist Association. The first meeting will begin at 4:30p.m., followed by a fellowship meal at 5:15 p.m. A second session will begin at 6:30 p.m. Devotionals will be led by Johnny Carr and Neal Lane. The featured speaker will be Rev. David Singleton from E3 Ministries. This year's theme is "Witnesses to the World".

Harvest Festival

Monday, October 31st ~ 5:30-7pm

It's Harvest Festival time at OGBC! We will have Trunk-or-Treat, games, food, and loads of FUN! This is one of our biggest outreach opportunities. We need lots of volunteers to help with greeting guests, games, food service and handing out candy. A sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center. We are also in need of individually wrapped candy donations. You may leave those in the bin outside of the office. Thank you!



The Shoebox Ministry Team requests monetary donations for the month of October to purchase last minute items and to help with shipping costs. You may also pack a shoebox online for a cost of \$25, which includes items for the box and shipping costs. Thank you for your support of this ministry throughout the year. The OCC Shoebox Collection Week will be November 14th – 21st.



OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship, Jericho Junction, Children's Church, Nursery	Every Wednesday 5:45 Sunbeam Singers, Children's Choir 6:30 Youth Bible Study, RA's, GA's, Mission Friends 7:15 Adult Choir					1
2 8:00 Deacons' Meeting	3 5:00 – 9:00 Gym L. Hicks	4 9:45 & 6:00 Women's Bible Study	5 6:30 Prayer Meeting	6 7:00 	7	8
9 6:00 Gym D. Holcomb SS Fellowship	10 Columbus Day 	11 9:45 & 6:00 Women's Bible Study	12 6:30 Business Meeting	13	14	15
16	17 5:00-9:00 – Gym L. Hicks	18 9:45 & 6:00 Women's Bible Study	19 6:30 Prayer Meeting	20 5:00-9:00 Gym L. Hicks 6:00 Caring Card Ministry	21 	22 12:00-5:00 Gym S. Armstrong
23	24	25 9:45 & 6:00 Women's Bible Study 6:00-8:00 Upward Evaluations	26 6:30 Prayer Meeting	27 6:00-8:00 Upward Evaluations	28	29
30	31 5:30-7:00 					