



The Lamplighter



OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH—FEBRUARY 2023

PASTOR'S PEN

Romans 8

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is a promise that comes with the word "Love" when two people say it to one another. Or, at least there should be. Unfortunately, we forget or become far too complacent with a very powerful word. When the word "love" is used, it should hold a gravitas that says "Unending Strength," "Eternal Courage," "Depth of Caring, Sharing, and Devotion," or maybe "You will Never be Alone." A person should be able to count on the word "love" as much as any contractual obligation or commitment made to another. But in the world we live in, there is a different reality.

We love peanut butter, candy, and flowers. People love dogs and cats, goats and sheep, in my father-in-law's case he loves his cows. I am not sure why that is, he never names them, yet I can tell by the look on his face there is something special about cows. We love the Dodgers, the Vols, the Lady Vols, and the local High School Teams. We throw the word around so much, it seems we may have forgotten what it really means.

God shows us what "love" should look like, feel like, and the weight it should carry. The Bible tells us that God loves the world so much that He was willing to give His only begotten Son so that the world could be saved. That is what "love" looks like.

The Bible says we are more than conquerors through God's "love." We are made to feel we can overcome all things because God loves us. Death? No problem. Life? No problem. Angels, Principalities, Powers? That doesn't scare us. Present difficulties, future problems? We can face them with confidence. Heights, depths, or any other created thing? Nothing scares us, why? Because God's love makes us feel like nothing can separate us from it, and if we have His "love" then we have enough.

So as we move into February, and we share the "love" of God with others, let us make sure we cared enough to share the word and the full weight of its' meaning, power, and feeling. Let us make sure the world knows what the word "love" means by illustrating the kind of love God has already shown us. It is through this kind of "love" that the world will know we really are "His" children.

With Love,
Pastor Todd



Dear Oak Grove Folks,
 Thank you for the gift of Gideon Bibles in honor of Shirley Harris.
 She loved you from a deep heart.
 Richard Harris, Joy & Ted

Thank you for the donation of the Gideon Bibles in memory of
 Scott's mom and for all the calls, cards, texts, and concerns in her
 passing.
 The Carmack Family

Hello! My name is Oksana Lypskaya. I want to express my deep
 gratitude to you for your attention and care. Thanks to you, my
 children had a real holiday at Christmas. It is very important for me
 and my family that in this difficult moment for us we are not alone,
 you pray with us and help us get through these difficult moments.
 Immensely grateful to you,
 Oksana, Maxim & Alisa



Our Heartfelt Love and Sympathy To:

- *Scott Carmack & family in the death of his mother, Nadine Carmack
- *The family of Lorraine Chastain
- *The family of Tempie Smith
- *The family of BJ Martin
- *David Morton & Kennedy Thacker in the death of their sister/grandmother, Mary Bailey
- *Ron Wilson in the death of his brother, Berlin Wilson, Jr.

*The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
 Psalm 34:18*



Vacation Bible School 2023
 June 12th—16th
Ocoee Mission Trip
 June 18th—23rd

Baptist Women Happenings

Lunch Bags for Salvation Army

For the February mission project, Baptist Women will be providing lunch bags to the Salvation Army. These bags will be filled with food, water, and a tract for the person that receives the lunch. The ladies are asking for monetary donations to purchase needed items. If you would like to give to support this project, please mark your envelope "Baptist Women". Bags will be assembled at the next Baptist Women's meeting on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Day

In the past, Oak Grove had an annual Men's Day and Women's Day. It has been several years since we have observed these special services. On Sunday, February 19th we will again celebrate Women's Day at OGBC. Breakfast will be served in the gym at 9:00 a.m. and will be available for girls & ladies of all ages. During worship that day, we will have an all ladies choir, along with special testimonies from some of the women of our church. We look forward to this wonderful time of worship. Make plans now to be a part!

Welcome Little Ones!

*Congratulations to Josh & Kaitlyn Wright on the birth of their son, Cyrus Bradley, born December 21, 2022, weighing 7 lbs. 2 oz. Brad & Ashley DeFord are the proud grandparents. Dinah DeFord is the proud great-grandmother.

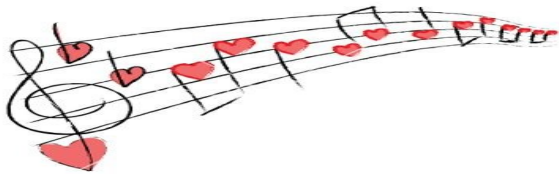
*Congratulations to Bryant & Lauren Adams on the birth of their son, Cal Thomas Adams. Cal was born January 17, 2023, weighing 8 lbs. Ramona McDermitt and John & Andrea Murnane are the proud grandparents. Sandy Lane is the proud great-grandmother.



As we enter the month of February our Sunday School classes have already made it through half of our study in the book of John. It has been a fantastic study so far as we have seen how Jesus ministered to the lost and the lame. Reading again about the miracles that He performed and how He cared for those around him renews your faith and rekindles the hope of spending eternity in His presence. If you are not in Sunday School, let me appeal to you to join a class. Our classes act as small groups where we can pray for and check up on one another. We have ten adult classes ranging from college to senior adults and each one of them are led by very capable teachers. I hope that you will join us this Sunday morning at 9:45!

Blessings,

Eric



Music Notes by Doug Wagner

We have had a great start to the New Year! I am grateful for our Adult Choir that sets the tone for our worship service through music. It is wonderful to see such great participation from the congregation as well.

Wednesday nights are exciting as our Preschool & Children's Choirs are having good attendance. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to participate, we would love to have more!

The Adult Choir is working hard on the upcoming Easter musical. We are seeking people to participate in the Easter drama. If you are interested in helping, please see me, Jaynie Connell, or Noah Osborne.

In Christian Love, Doug



Let's Go Bananas

When the baseball team in Savannah, Georgia, got new owners in 2016, it also received a new name and identity — the Bananas! Adding pep to what often seemed a long, boring game, Jesse and Emily Cole offered a creative new experience, full of entertainment and spectacle. Players wear all-yellow uniforms (sometimes kilts), and the mascot is a banana named Split. Cheering on the team are the Banana Nanas senior-citizen dancers and the Man-Nanas Dad Bod Cheering Squad. The entire organization sets out to bring hospitality and joy, sending people home thinking, "This was the best experience of my life!"

What if Christians, individually and as a community, fully embraced *our* new name and identity, sharing radical hospitality and profound joy with everyone? Jesus has bought us from our former owner, sin, and given us a new name: Beloved of God. This identity may seem silly to some, just as the Savannah Bananas raised eyebrows initially. But before long, the delighted fans were *going bananas* for them!

With the same wild abandon and big-hearted outreach, the church — with its much-greater message — can spread love and goodwill, and have fun doing it!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 4th

The Holston Valley Baptist Association will be hosting Not Ashamed: Equipping Believers for Gospel Conversations. This seminar hopes to provide Christians with answer to some of the difficult questions that non-believers ask. It will be held at Rogersville First Baptist Church from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Breakfast will be served, followed by two breakout sessions, and ending with a discussion panel. Breakout sessions include:

- Why can't we just agree that love is love?
- Do I really need God to be a good person?
- If God is good, why have I suffered so much?
- With so many religions, why should I believe that Christianity alone is right?
- How can I encourage my children to keep the faith in an unbelieving world?

Monday, February 13th

The Senior Adults (age 55+) will have a get-together on Monday, February 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Chili and baked potatoes will be served. If you plan to attend, please sign up in your Sunday School classroom or at the Welcome Center.

Sunday, February 26th

There will be a breakfast for Sunday School teachers and assistants on Sunday, February 26th at 8:30 a.m. in the gym. All teachers and helpers are encouraged to attend.

YOUTH EVENTS

The youth have started a new Bible Study on Wednesday nights. The study is Contagious Faith by Mark Mittelberg. As followers of Christ, we have a calling to share God's love with others, but most of us are not comfortable doing this. This study will give the students skills to share Christ with others in a way that best fits their God-given personalities. I hope your student will attend the Bible Study each Wednesday. If any parents would like to come to youth on Wednesday you are welcome to join us.



The Big Game Party will be Sunday, February 12 at 6:00. We will have games, food, and a halftime devotion. Make plans to attend the party and invite your friends.

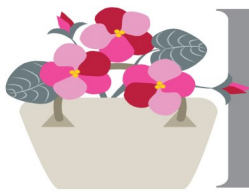
Ramona

BEYOND CANDY HEARTS AND ROSES

The first half of February seems dominated by pink and red, cards and candy. But people not in a loving romantic relationship can sometimes feel left out of the festivities. Of course, all people need love — and certainly love is not limited to the romantic kind. Author Leo Buscaglia, who became known as “Dr. Love” for writing about the topic, said, “Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that — beyond candy hearts and roses! But Valentine's Day is as good a reminder as any.





February



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Every Sunday

9:45
Sunday School
11:00
Morning Worship

Every Wednesday

5:45
Preschool Choir
Children's Choir
6:30
GA's, RA's,
Mission Friends
7:15 Adult Choir



1

6:30
Prayer Meeting

2

6:00-9:00
Upward

3

7:00
Baptist Women

4

8:30 HVBA
Gospel Conv.
Workshop @
Rogersville FB
9:00-4:00
Upward Games

5

8:00
Deacons' Mtg

6

6:00-9:00
Upward

7

6:00-9:00
Upward

8

6:30
Business
Meeting

9

6:00-9:00
Upward

10



11

9:00-4:00
Upward Games

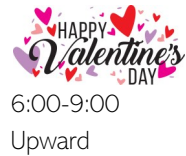
12

5:00
Church Council

13

6:00-9:00
Upward

14



6:00-9:00
Upward

15

6:30
Prayer Meeting

16

6:00-9:00
Upward

17

6:00 Caring
Card Ministry

18

9:00-4:00
Upward Games

4:00-8:30 FH
C. Wenger

19



20

Presidents' Day
6:00-9:00
Upward

21

6:00-9:00
Upward

22

6:30
Prayer Meeting

23

6:00-9:00
Upward

24

25

9:00-4:00
Upward Games

26

8:30—Gym



27

28

