



# ENCOURAGER

Volume 12, issue 9

MAY 2017

## Remember this stuff too . . .

- Youth Cinco de Mayo - Thurs, May 4th.
- Graduate Recognition - Sun, May 7th at 11am.
- Deacon's Meeting - Sun, May 7th at 7:00pm.
- Wednesday Supper - Wed, May 10th at 5pm.
- Business meeting - Wed, May 10th at 6pm.
- Senior Adult Trip to Lloyd's - Sat, May 13th.
- Baby Dedication - Sun, May 14th.
- No Evening Service - Sun, May 14th.
- CLC Reserved - Tues, May 16th.
- Youth to work Lake Fest in Pell City - Fri & Sat, May 19th & 20th. Bus/van reserved.
- Newsletter deadline - Sun, May 22nd.
- Wednesday Night Supper - Wed, May 24th.

## May Birthdays

- May 1—Kolton Hardiman
- May 2—Tammy Young
- May 5—Catina Gordon
- May 7—Shelia Giddens
- May 10—Chris Collier
- May 12—Roxanne Harris
- May 14—Kay Luebs
- May 16—Lane Guy
- May 17—Lilly Carter
- May 21—Glenn Hamilton, Sherry Hill
- May 22—Gay Guy
- May 23—Ellen Ezekiel
- May 24—Amanda Atchley
- May 25—Myles Jacobs, Carl Williams
- May 26—Whitney Wesson
- May 27—Blake Carmack, Danny Courson, Brad Harris, Logan Lawrence, Joe Love
- May 28—Trent Roberson
- May 29—Wesley Guy, Pat Williams
- May 30—Gail Collum



## May Anniversaries

- May 1—Harold & Dolores Catchings
- May 2—Kevin & Kellie Ingram
- May 7—Carl & Pat Williams
- May 17—Jerry & Karen Culver
- May 23—Chris & Anneliese Varnado
- May 27—Scott & Kathy Hamlet
- May 31—Eric & Tammy Edwards

If you did not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please call the church office at 256-249-3850 and update your records. Thank you!



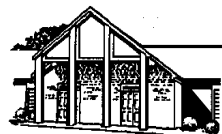
June 16-17, 2017  
at the BJCC Arena.

Guest speakers will be:

Bill Butterworth,  
Coach Hugh Freeze, David Jeremiah, Fred Luter,  
Henry Cloud, & Phil Waldrep. Worship Leader:  
Charles Billingsley. See the sign up board to register.  
See Tom Young for more information.

## Ministry of Hope

Confidential, Christian counseling is provided free of charge by Darlene Touart. To schedule an appointment, call the church office at 256-249-3850 or call Darlene at 256-872-6140.



## ODENA BAPTIST CHURCH

115 Odena Rd North  
Sylacauga, AL 35150  
256-249-3850

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### Church Staff:

Danny Courson  
Pastor

Josh Piper  
Associate Pastor of Youth  
& Outreach

Dolores Catchings  
Pianist

Harold Catchings  
Drummer

Anneliese Varnado  
Secretary

### Services:

#### Sunday:

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Worship Service 11:00 AM

Choir Practice 5:00 PM

C.I.A. 6:00 PM

Worship Service 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday:

Supper 5:00 PM\*

Youth 6:00 PM

Prayer Meeting 6:00 PM

Team Kid 6:00 PM

\*Every other Wednesday.

## From Your Pastor

I remember years ago, when the WWJD movement began. WWJD stood for “**What Would Jesus Do?**” All manner of merchandise from t-shirts to bumper stickers to jewelry was sold with the bold letters WWJD. In every situation, it reminded us to pause and think about how Jesus would respond to the current circumstances. While it was and still is a popular question, I want to propose another way to look at those letters.

I suggest we reassign meaning to the letters WWJD with the words “**Walking With Jesus Daily.**” I have noticed many people will ask what Jesus would do, but then disregard the answer with the excuse that “times have changed,” or “he is no longer here,” or “I’m not Jesus.” The world looks at Jesus in a much different way than true believers. And you might be surprised that many who identify themselves as Christians see no need for their words or actions to align with the one they publicly identify as the Lord of their life.

**We should always remember that Jesus is not a figure from the past, but He is in fact alive and very much present with us through His indwelling Holy Spirit.** We need to think and act as Jesus would because He is with us every day in every situation. Christians never face anything alone because Jesus is always present with us.

Asking what would Jesus do is a great tool for considering how He might respond to a given situation. But following that up with the reminder that we are walking with Jesus daily reminds us that **our response must be the same as His response.** The chorus of the hymn “He Lives” comes to mind: “He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way. He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart. You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart!” **Are you walking with Jesus daily?**

**Sunday, May 7, is our Graduate Recognition.** We thank God for the accomplishments of all our students. We are proud of you and pray God’s blessings on your next steps in life, wherever He may lead you. We praise God for His guidance and direction for each of you.

**Sunday, May 14, is Mother’s Day and Baby Dedication.** Please notify the church office if you would like your child or grandchild to participate in the dedication service. We praise God for each child and we truly desire to glorify Him through the way we care for and train our children. We will not have an evening service on the 14<sup>th</sup>, as we encourage families to spend this time in honor or in memory of their mothers.

**Sunday, May 28, is the observance of Memorial Day.** While we remember the sacrifice of the men and women who have laid down their lives for our freedom as a nation, we also reflect upon the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins, and the men and women who have laid down their lives for our faith.

Finally, I encourage you, if you use a smart phone or tablet, to go to the app store and download a free app called **ChurchLink**. This is a new tool we will be using to enhance communication. We will be using this app more and more in the days and weeks to come to share announcements, prayer requests, meetings, and other information. We hope you will find this a helpful tool to stay informed of what’s happening at Odena.

Looking forward to a great month of ministry!

*Bro. Danny*

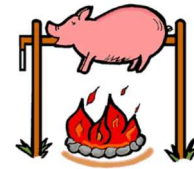
### Graduate Recognition



Sunday, May 7th

During the morning worship service. If you have a student who will be graduating high school, please see Josh Piper or contact the church office for more information.

### Senior Adult May Event



Sat, May 13th

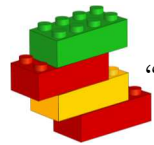
Lunch at Lloyd's Restaurant

The bus will leave the church at 10:00 AM. Please see the sign up board to register.

### Baby Dedication

Sunday, May 14th during the morning worship service. Please contact the church office to submit your child's full name, date of birth, names of parents, siblings, and both maternal and paternal grandparents.

### Vacation Bible School



Maker Fun Factory

"Created by God, Built for a Purpose"

June 12-16, 2017

We need volunteers for Registration, Sound and both leaders and helpers for the: Imagination Station, Game Maker, Bible Discovery, Kid Vid Cinema, and the Snack Factory. There is a sign up table in the church vestibule. Please see Nicole Peoples for more information.

#### Wednesday Night Supper

Wed, May 10th:  
Fried Fish  
Fries  
Coleslaw  
Dessert

Wed, May 24th:  
Spaghetti  
Garlic Bread  
Salad  
Dessert

#### Youth Camp Meeting & Pool Party

Wed, June 28th

At the home of Savannah Varnado.

Details coming soon!

The Youth Department is requesting donations of any kind of chips, dip and 2-liter sodas for this event. Please see Josh Piper for more information.

### Youth Fundraiser

The Youth will be working the Pell City Lake Fest on Friday, May 19th and/or 20th. This is an all day event. The weather will be hot so all attendees are asked to wear sunglasses, hat/cap, and sunscreen.

Please see Josh Piper for details and to sign up to work. The bus/van are reserved for Fri & Sat. If you have questions about the details and nature of this event, please ask Robb Peoples.

### Youth Yard Sale

The Youth will have a yard sale in the CLC on Saturday, June 10th. We are in need of donations for the yard sale as well as volunteers to help. If you have items that you can donate, you can begin bringing them to the CLC on May 21st. If you can help or have questions, please see Josh Piper.

All proceeds will be used to send our youth to MFUGE.

### Youth & Outreach Ministry

The month of May brings a lot of changes. We have seniors graduating, school exams, and summer beginning.

I don't want us to lose our focus because during the next two months the youth will have a lot going on! On May 4th the youth will meet at El Vaquero's at 6:30 to celebrate an early Cinco De Mayo; we have Senior Recognition on May 7th; and we will be working the Pell City Lake Fest on either May 19th or 20th, the date is still TBD.

Outreach—we will have an Outreach meeting June 11th at 4 pm.

# MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Youth to eat Mexican	5	6
7 Graduation Recognition Deacon's Meeting	8	9	10 Wed Night Supper Business Meeting-6pm	11	12	13 Senior Adult Trip Bus/Van Rsvd
14 Baby Dedication No Evening Service	15	16 SHS Soccer Banquet CLC Rsvd	17	18	19 Youth Lake Fest Fundraiser Bus/Van Rsvd	20
21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Wed Night Supper	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### High School Senior Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 7, 2017

We will recognize our graduating high school seniors beginning with a breakfast at 9:00 AM and concluding with a slide show presentation and sermon. Please be in prayer for all of our graduating seniors as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Madi Catchings	Megan Gaston	Savannah Varnado
Skylar Conlon	Tyler Hamilton	Deven Varner
Samuel Courson	Emily Machen	Riley Watkins
Paige Davis	Andrew Morgan	Kyle Woods
	Micah Thomas	

### Alabama Baptist Children's Home & Family Ministries

Each year the Children's Home sponsors a "Camp of Champions" at Shocco Springs Conference Center. The cost of the camp is borne entirely by the Children's Home costing nothing to those who attend. They have requested help in providing snacks for camp. If you feel led to purchase an item for donation, see the list in the church vestibule or contact the church office. Please see the list before making a purchase because they are in need of specific items. All items should be packages of individually wrapped snacks. There is a collection box in the church vestibule. All items are due to the church no later than Sunday, May 21st.