

From Pastor Jim What's In a Name?

“What’s in a name?” Juliet asks Romeo in Shakespeare’s romantic tragedy. “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

However, sometimes a name has inherent meaning and import. For example, the names of God are in and of themselves rich with significance. *Yahweh*—the eternal I Am. *Yahweh Yireh*—this eternal I Am is my Provider! The Redeemer He has provided is named *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace!*

At other times, what’s in a name is what we put into it. That is a reality which has dawned on me with new force during the past year as your Elders have wrestled with the possibility of a name change for Oakridge Community Church.

I admit that during most of the 7.5+ years I have been connected with Oakridge, I have not been excited about our church name. It’s not that I had anything against the name. It’s just that the name didn’t seem to hold much meaning or significance to anyone.

The first time Jill and I drove into the church parking lot in the daylight, we couldn’t help but notice and appreciate the stately oak trees on the ridge across from the church building entrance. It was easy to assume, right or wrong, that the name *Oakridge* must have been derived from this setting. As much as I appreciated the scene, I had a hard time understanding why a church would be named after a physical setting rather than after some grand and glorious gospel truth.



Then the first time I drove past the church building on County Road 5 (Stillwater Boulevard) and noticed the name of the cross street (Oakridge Road), I realized it was possible the name *Oakridge* had been derived from a combination

of the setting of our trees on the ridge and the nearby street name. Once again, there didn’t seem to be much spiritual significance involved.

Another factor affecting my lack of excitement about our name became involved as I got to know and talked with the people of Oakridge while serving as interim pastor. Longtime members of the church expressed to me that they didn’t like the “new” name of Oakridge Community Church (adopted in 1989). In fact, some told me that as far as they were concerned, this church would always be thought of as First Baptist Church of Stillwater, Minnesota!

So my first impression was that we seemed to have a name that had more to do with where our building was located than with any spiritual meaning—and a name that wasn’t appreciated by the congregation all that much. What could be done about that?

Four months after I was called as Lead Pastor, I made a first attempt at investing our name with some spiritual significance. The first week of June, 2006, I did a search of the Bible using the word *oak*. The word is found 33 times in its singular and plural forms. However, only one of those occurrences had any positive, spiritual importance: Isaiah 61:3.

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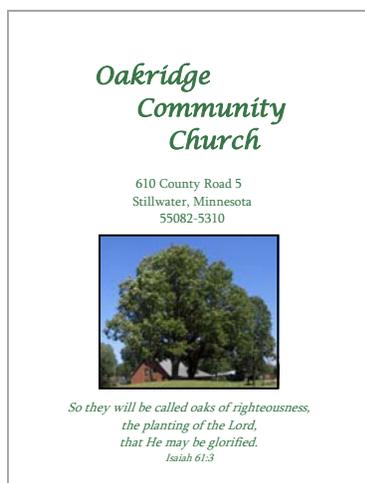
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What's In a Name?

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So since June 11, 2006, Isaiah 61:3 has been printed on the front of our bulletins each Sunday in an attempt to connect our name with concepts such as growth and maturity in the Lord by His gracious work and for His glory. On September 24, 2006, above that verse we added a picture of the oak trees on the ridge of the church property in order to reinforce this connection.



That's pretty much where things stayed until 2012, when the idea of changing the name of Oakridge was proposed in light of the marriage of Oakridge and Sovereign Grace Community Church. From the beginning my attitude toward that proposal was noncommittal. I told the Elders several times that changing the name just for the sake of changing the name was not something that excited me. However, I also told them that if we could come up with a name that had rich spiritual significance and meaning, I could get excited about that quite readily.

We tried. The process of coming up with potential names was good for us, because it led us to discuss who we are as a church, who God wants us to become and how we

want to be perceived by the community. As you may recall, we went so far as to present some new name possibilities to the congregation.

But in the end, we determined that changing our name was not something we should do now. As we came to that realization, something unexpected happened. We took a closer look at the name we already have and the verse we have used to give some Biblical significance to it. We looked more closely at Isaiah 61:3 in its context.

We also began to see other valuable ministry connections that can be made with the name *Oakridge* and more effective use of the connections that were already in mind. We started getting excited about our name like we had not been before! As this happened, we knew we wanted to share that excitement and, more specifically, the reasons for that excitement with you.

Pastor Jonathan began sharing about this in his article in the December 2012 *Oakbridge*. If you checked out our newly-remodeled web site and watched the introductory video, you probably noticed that I shared some about this there, as well.

But there is more to tell you regarding the reasons why we have come to appreciate our name and what it can represent so much more than we did before. It is my intention to share those reasons with you. The trouble is, I'm out of room for this issue! So I guess we'll have to wait until the February *Oakbridge* to give you more.

See you then!

Youth News

Submitted by Jeremy Misener

How does Christmas profoundly address the tragic events that occurred in Newtown, Connecticut? This question, and others that flowed from it, was something we spent some time talking about at our Friday Night Light on December 14. Why do these tragedies happen? Is God in control? Is God just? Is God loving? How does this affect our perspective of what is important as fathers? mothers? teenagers? Where is our hope found? It was a good discussion, because it led us to the only place we can run:

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come!*

We prayed. We worshiped. Come, Lord Jesus, come! We celebrate Your first coming and all that it accomplished, and we ache for Your second coming to rule over a Kingdom that will be characterized by justice, life, peace and righteousness!



Camp Lebanon Winter Retreat

Friday, January 25 – Sunday, January 27



Remember to be praying that God would work in the lives of our youth during the upcoming weekend retreat at Camp Lebanon.

Please also pray for energy for Jeremy and Susan, who are a couple of “older” counselors who may need a couple of weeks to recover from the weekend!

Joshua & Kara Dunckel

Ministry in Romania

Submitted by Mike Jacobs

In developing the missions focus for the January newsletter, which is the ministry of Joshua and Kara Dunckel in Romania, I felt that God wanted me to step back and see what He is doing, not just in Romania, but right here in the United States. First let's look at what God is doing in Romania from the perspective of Joshua and Kara.

Some days it is easier to rest in God's event planning than others. Last week was one of those weeks, as Joshua attended the Central and Eastern European Mission Forum in Lviv, Ukraine. A Romanian friend and missions leader had invited him to come and offered to drive. As if the world did not feel small enough already, upon looking over the schedule we realized that the pastor of one of our supporting churches was a speaker at the conference.

Normally one would appreciate a 28-hour-round-trip drive only for its utility in arriving at one's destination. The drive turned out to be a time of sharing stories of God's calling in our lives and ideas for greater Romanian involvement in the Great Commission. For some time Joshua and a colleague have been working on development of a tent-making model for Romanian missions along the lines of what the church in the Philippines has been doing. The friend who was driving shared the story of a conference he had just attended where he met a Filipino who is involved in the tentmaking movement in the Philippines and discussed ways to implement the model in Romania. To have a church leader in Romanian missions catch this vision and develop a key contact is an answer to prayer.

The conference itself was an occasion where business was pleasure. Spending time with like-minded people with a common passion was as refreshing as a retreat for Joshua, in spite of the long days of meetings.



Kara, Isobel, Noemi, Joshua

Joshua networked with a number of missions leaders from around Europe who are eager to see the Romanian church succeed in sending missionaries. Their experience, expertise, and enthusiasm were encouraging and will be helpful in future initiatives. He was able to connect with an organizer of the European Urbana-type missions conference Mission Net. We are looking forward to participating in their efforts to share what great things God is doing in missions and motivate others to greater involvement.

At the conference it became evident that the rest of Eastern Europe looks to Romania as a leader in missions sending for their area. The Romanian participants appreciated this sentiment, but took it as a challenge to be an example worth following. We are pleased to see the progress that has been made here in Romania and the enthusiasm to continue sharing the greatness of our God with other people groups.

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Joshua & Kara Duncckel

Ministry in Romania

Submitted by Mike Jacobs

What struck me, and what I wanted to point out, is that even though we may think of Romania as someplace where we would typically send missionaries, God is working through Joshua and other like-minded Christians in Romania to develop a sending ministry to other countries. This is interesting in and of itself. However, what prompted me to step back was contained in the information provided by OneChallenge, Joshua and Kara's sending organization. Let me share with you some of what was provided.

Many people would not naturally consider America to be a mission field, but OC recognizes it as a very strategic place for our mission efforts. Few countries possess the convergence of three factors: First, we enjoy freedom to share our faith. Second, the potential of meeting a Christian and finding a nearby church is very high. Third, God is bringing the nations to the United States. And most importantly, God is at work!

- ◆ Between 1991 and 2004 the U.S. population grew by 15% while the number of adults who do not attend church grew by 92% (from 39 to 75 million unchurched).
- ◆ There are at least 361 unreached people groups represented in the U.S.

- ◆ 20% (42.8 million) of all international migrants are in the U.S.

- ◆ About 70% of international students are never invited into an American home to experience hospitality.

Missions today is FROM everywhere and TO everywhere. As we continue to send missionaries from the U.S. to other countries, and as we do mission work here in our own nation, God is sending missionaries TO America from other places. Rather than question whether or not this is needed, we should rejoice and welcome such efforts from zealous brothers and sisters. This year our counterparts in Brazil have appointed their first missionaries to the U.S. team. Sepal USA will be providing leadership training to Brazilian pastors in the eastern U.S. Pray for a wonderful spirit of cooperation!

It's exciting to hear about what is going on in Romania and other areas of the world. It's interesting to think that the United States may be some other countries' mission field. Let's pray that we are willing to share the Gospel with others when we're provided the opportunity.



January Bible Reading

- 1 Genesis 1-3
- 2 Genesis 4-7
- 3 Genesis 8-11
- 4 Genesis 12-15
- 5 Genesis 16-18
- 6 Genesis 19-21
- 7 Genesis 22-24
- 8 Genesis 25-26
- 9 Genesis 27-29
- 10 Genesis 30-31
- 11 Genesis 32-34
- 12 Genesis 35-37
- 13 Genesis 38-40
- 14 Genesis 41-42
- 15 Genesis 43-45
- 16 Genesis 46-47
- 17 Genesis 48-50
- 18 Exodus 1-3
- 19 Exodus 4-6
- 20 Exodus 7-9
- 21 Exodus 10-12
- 22 Exodus 13-15
- 23 Exodus 16-18
- 24 Exodus 19-21
- 25 Exodus 22-24
- 26 Exodus 25-27
- 27 Exodus 28-29
- 28 Exodus 30-32
- 29 Exodus 33-35
- 30 Exodus 36-38
- 31 Exodus 39-40

January Birthdays

January 6 - Sharon Moser
 January 11 - Riley Horejsi
 January 12 - Jackie Magler
 January 20 - Tim Hood

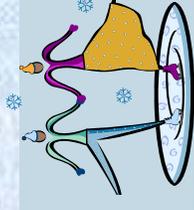
January 21 - Tom Weber
 January 22 - Jaya Stout
 January 27 - Hannah Horejsi
 January 30 - Jerry Olsen

This year the order of the Old Testament readings is similar to Israel's Hebrew Bible. The New Testament readings are based upon non-conclusive research regarding the order in which the books were authored.

*The fear of the
 Lord is the
 beginning of
 wisdom;
 A good
 understanding
 have all those
 who do His
 commandments;
 His praise endures
 forever.*

Psalm 111:10





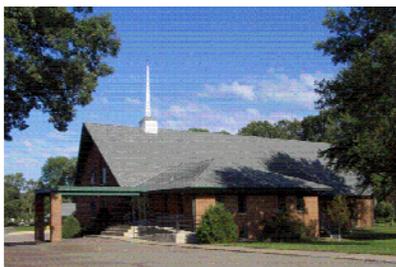
January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;</i> <i>His mercies never come to an end;</i> <i>They are new every morning;</i> <i>Great is Your faithfulness.</i> Lamentations 3:22-23</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>2 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 1:00-3:00 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Youth Meeting</p>	<p>3 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 9:00 a.m. - Worship Team Practice</p>	
<p>6 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Youth Planning Meeting 3-5 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit Christmas Exhibit</p>	<p>7 1:00-3:00 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit 4:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Missions Committee Mtg. 6:30 p.m. - Piecemakers 7:00 p.m. - DeCaro Care</p>	<p>8 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Hark! The Carols of Christmas Exhibit</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 1:00-3:00 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer</p>	<p>10 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 3-5 p.m. - Hark! The Carols of Christmas Exhibit</p>	<p>14 1:00-3:00 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit 4:00 p.m. - Elders/Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m. - DeCaro Care Group - All</p>	<p>15 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Hark! The Carols of Christmas Exhibit</p>	<p>16 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 1:00-3:00 p.m. - HTCoc Exhibit 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Youth Meeting</p>	<p>17 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group</p>	<p>18 6:00 p.m. - Friday Night Light</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship 1:45 p.m. - Good Samaritan Sunday Service</p>	<p>21 7:00 p.m. - DeCaro Care Group - Men</p>	<p>22 7:00 p.m. - Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>23 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Connecting in Prayer</p>	<p>24 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group</p>	<p>25 Camp Lebanon Winter Retreat</p>	<p>26 Camp Lebanon Winter Retreat</p>
<p>27 Camp Lebanon Winter Retreat 8:30 a.m. - Prayer Time 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:20 a.m. - Worship</p>	<p>28 4:00 p.m. - Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m. - DeCaro Care Group - All</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 a.m. - Prayer Time 6:30 p.m. - Conn. in Prayer 7:00 p.m. - Youth Meeting</p>	<p>31 6:30 p.m. - Butler Care Group</p>		

Here We Went A-Caroling.....



On Sunday afternoon of December 16, thirty-two people from our Oakridge family went to Greeley Healthcare Center to sing Christmas carols to the residents. You can see from our photos that we had a great mixture of friends and families from age two to teens and adults. Each family from *Promise Kingdom* had a bag of handmade gifts and Christmas cards (which they had colored) to give to each of the residents. What a blessing to see the interaction of our kids with each of the 70 residents! It was hard to tell who enjoyed the time more!



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CHURCH

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OCC Vision

The vision of Oakridge Community Church is to spread a joyful passion for the absolute, eternal supremacy of Jesus Christ in all things, to all peoples.

OCC Mission

The mission of Oakridge Community Church is to glorify God by delighting in, declaring and displaying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

