



**OZARK**  
 BAPTIST CHURCH  
*Lift up Jesus...love people!*



# The MESSENGER

MAY 2017

A publication of Ozark Baptist Church, Ozark, AL 36360



**Class of 2017**

Front Row: Jordan Childers, Ansley Dickens, Claudia Scott, Carolanne Smith.

Back Row: Wells DeLoney, Collin Searcy, Landry Tharp, Morgan McClellan, Blake Cannon, Gabe Payne. (Not pictured: Nicholas Dulancy)

## On Your Graduation

*God has brought you this far  
 To take you further still,  
 Into a future full of promise  
 As you focus on His will  
 And as you press on in Him,  
 Remember, His plan for you,  
 For this is your life's purpose  
 And the work He's called you to.*

*Unknown*



## May High School Ministry Calendar

### Sunday—May 7

3:00—Carroll HS Baccalaureate @ Ridgecrest Baptist  
 5:00—Mission Ministry Night - Assist with VBS

### Sunday—May 14

Mother's Day—No Meeting

### Thursday—May 18

6:00—CHS Graduation @ Ozark Civic Center

### Wednesday—May 24

6:30—Supper (Pizza)/Bible Study

### Thursday—May 25

4:00—GW Long Graduation Services @ Ozark Civic Center

### Wednesday—May 31

6:00—End of School Bash

### Wednesday—May 10

6:30—Supper (Hamburgers)/Bible Study

### Wednesday—May 17

6:30—Supper (Tacos in a Bag)/Bible Study

### Sunday—May 21

10:45—Graduate Sunday Recognition Service  
 12:00—Dinner for grads and families in the FH  
 4:00—GW Long Baccalaureate Service @ OBC  
 6:00—Dale Baptist Associational Evangelism Rally

### Sunday—May 28

No youth evening service (Memorial Day)

# The MESSENGER

## Worship Notes

### LIVING THE DREAM!!!

These are the words that describe the past six weeks. I have been SO BLESSED to be a part of worship at OBC!! I am looking forward to what God will do through this "church" and through the worship ministry.

### WE NEED YOU!!

We need about 10 more choir members to join us so we can have a FULL choir every Sunday. Please join us on Wednesdays at 6pm for rehearsal. Just try it for a couple of months and see what you think. You don't have to be an expert, just joyful and hopefully carry a tune (or at least know that you can't and smile a lot). We want to sing a wide variety of music and we need a good group of people to do a good job.

Also, we need several people to join our media ministry to give the team members we already have some breathing room. If you have any experience running sound equipment, or are good at computers, please let me know. After the next couple of weeks we will be arranging some training for those who are interested, along with some opportunities to shadow our existing team so you get a good idea of what the media ministry is all about.

We have some REALLY good choir music selected for the next couple of months, including music for all the special occasions coming up such as Senior Adult Day (in honor of me and my friends), Mother's Day, Graduation, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day. I look forward to what God has in store.

In Him,

Alan Newman

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SUNDAY SCHOOL  
*Make the Connection*

### Michael's Top Ten Principles for Great Sunday School Teachers

1. Prepare at least a "halfway decent" lesson each week.
2. Look for opportunities to lead your class to minister to members and potential members.
3. Lead your class to aspire to birth a new class.
4. Prepare yourself to become a better leader daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly.
5. Contact absentees when you do not know why they are absent.
6. Read!
7. Urge your class to wear nametags weekly.
8. Pray daily for your class members, but pray especially for future class members.
9. Find biblical support for what you think, do, and teach.
10. Depend on the Holy Spirit to use you to transform lives.

Our Boomer Ministry will honor all Senior Adults at OBC on Sunday, May 7. Following our morning worship services our Senior Adults will enjoy a complimentary lunch in the church fellowship hall. Dr. Ron Madison will be preaching in both services and Charlotte Madison will be speaking @ the luncheon.

At OBC, Boomers (Senior Adults), are those age 55+ and interested in fellowship, fun, food, and ministry together. If you plan to attend our luncheon on May 7 please make your reservation online, by calling the church office, or by emailing [michael@ozarkbaptist.org](mailto:michael@ozarkbaptist.org). You may also sign-up in the Atrium.

  
Senior  
ADULT  
Day  
May 7, 2017

## A Fuller Word

### Wonderful Easter Celebration:

Easter is always a wonderful time of year because we can celebrate the most important event in the history of the world, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This Easter season was special for Andrea, Rush and me because it was our first Easter here at Ozark Baptist Church. I trust that everyone was moved by the Tenebrae service and that it will become a tradition at our church.

We will follow that night up with a day of celebration on Easter Sunday because Jesus is alive!!!

### Sermon Series in Ephesians:

In Ephesians we are told to imitate Christ. What does this mean in today's world? Have we forgotten what Christ did for each of us? Has the world pulled us so far away with all of the luxuries and stuff that we have forgotten that Jesus died for us to take away our sin? And that we were told to be the ones to pass on this good news on to all of the generations to come?

In most of America today can't we even imagine what it is like to suffer in the way that Christ suffered for us? Are we too good for the real Jesus? The real Jesus bled and died for us. He spent His time with thieves and liars not just the polite society which looked and acts like we do, dress like we do, and is of the same social ethical and ethnic background as we are.

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not condemning anyone - I'm simply asking when was the last time we mingled with the lost, the lonely and the least of these which Jesus talks about in Matthew 25? Are our hands too clean to think about those who are suffering, lost, homeless, sick or dying?

Come join us on Sunday mornings as we I continue to preach through Paul's letter to the believers at Ephesus and as we are challenged by tough teachings!

Blessings,  
Pastor Eric



## NEW SECURITY!

In February, our church voted to enhance our entry and security system, along with added "all campus" Wi-Fi access. Most of the work has now been completed and our new security system has been installed. Our entire facility is now alarmed and requires the use of a security code to deactivate the alarm. For this reason, we are reissuing swipe cards for the doors to the Gym to all members who wish to have one.

The Gym door does not require a security code. HOWEVER, we will be issuing new swipe cards and providing a security code to those who have legitimate need to have "after-hour" access to the main building. This will be a limited number, as the monitoring system will report a breach of security and summon the police.

All security cards will be deactivated on Monday, May 8. Therefore, if you need Gym access or have a legitimate reason for full facility access you must complete a SwipeCard Form in the church office either before or after this date. You may also complete the form online. We currently have over 680 SwipeCards assigned, most only for the Gym. We know that you will help us by being patient during this time.

Bro. Michael

## GA AND RA RECOGNITION SERVICE

Wednesday, May 24  
6 PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a time of celebration of our GA and RA workers and students.



Dale Baptist Association

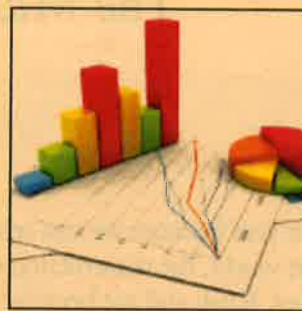
## Evangelism Rally

Sunday, May 21, 6 PM @ Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Ozark, AL



APRIL 23 -- 29, 2017

Weekly Budget Needs: \$17,699.46  
 Weekly Budget Received: \$12,535.00  
 Budget Required YTD: \$300,380.82  
 Budget Received YTD: \$275,198.98



APRIL 9 -- 15, 2017

Weekly Budget Needs: \$17,699.46  
 Weekly Budget Received: \$16,344.00  
 Budget Required YTD: \$265,491.90  
 Budget Received YTD: \$246,310.98



APRIL 30 -- MAY 6, 2017

Weekly Budget Needs: \$17,699.46  
 Weekly Budget Received: \$13,710.00  
 Budget Required YTD: \$318,590.00  
 Budget Received YTD: \$288,908.98



APRIL 16 -- 22, 2017

Weekly Budget Needs: \$17,699.46  
 Weekly Budget Received: \$16,353.00  
 Budget Required YTD: \$283,191.36  
 Budget Received YTD: \$262,663.98



## From the Second Chair

It has been a thrill to be a part of Ozark Baptist Church. In the past three months, I have had the privilege to attend meetings with our deacons, ministry groups, workers, VBS leadership, staff, and our Executive and Personnel Committee. I value every opportunity to serve our Lord through His Church here in Ozark.

As I mentioned last month, one of our challenges we face is to grow our Sunday school through reaching new people. In order to reach new people we will need to create new classes. One of the first classes we will birth is a group for young adults, better known as 20-Somethings. We have committed to begin this class on May 7. Andrea Fuller, our pastor's wife, will be serving as the teacher for this new group. If you are a young married couple, engaged to soon be married, or a single Young Professional,

I invite you to join us in this great endeavor. This class will meet in the Faith Factory each Sunday @ 9:30 AM.

I know it is not polite to continue to "harp" on things, but I have a burden for our preschool and children's ministries. Research, both anecdotal and empirical, suggests that no church will be healthy and experience normal growth without healthy preschool and children's ministries. So, it is imperative and urgent for us to address the needs in these areas. **WE NEED WORKERS!** Most Christian educators, including this one, would say that we need to **PUT OUR BEST WORKERS** in our ministry to birth - 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We often think that these ministries are little more than baby-sitting. Nothing should be further from the truth! Children learn much and quickly during these formative years. They become "who they are going to be" during these years. If we fail our young ones during these years we not only bring heartache and pain for them and their parents, but also for our church and society. **PLEASE - PRAY** about your part in these vital areas of our church. I challenge each of our members to commit to serving on the **EXTENDED SESSION ROTATION** as well as to serving as ministry leaders in missions education, Sunday school, discipleship, and special event ministries. Currently, DeNiece and I are leading a mission friends class for 2s and 3s on Wednesday evenings. The time investment is small but the dividends are great.

I commend all of our member for being "early adopters" of many of the administrative changes of the past two months. Doing things decently and in order is part of our call to follow Christ. Many of you have accepted the invitation to create Realm logins, give online either through Realm or through text. You have also embraced the online registration forms for volunteering, meal reservations, and payment for events. Thank you for being so gracious. Remember, these things are available for your convenience and intended to simplify your life!

You will see elsewhere in this document information about Senior Adult Day on May 7. If you are a Boomer Gamer you will want to join us on Wednesdays @ 9am for Pray and Play. We have a short Bible study, eat snacks, play cards and other games, and eat more snacks! Bring a snack and join the fun. We have other events planned in the near future so keep an eye open for all of our forms of communication for more information about what we are up to.

If you need me you may contact me @ [michael@ozarkbaptist.org](mailto:michael@ozarkbaptist.org) or @ 205-394-3279.

See you Sunday!

Bro. Michael