



THE OAK GROVE MESSENGER

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GARY STAFFORD, PASTOR; LORI BETH BELK, CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR; DANIEL DYKES, YOUTH DIRECTOR

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY (SOHLS)

In 2019, SOHLS will take place on January 20th. The following was updated December 2018 using 2017 data provided by the Tennessee Dept. of Health Division of Policy, Planning and Assessment-Health Statistics (<http://health.tn.gov/statistics/ITOP.htm>):

Incidence of Abortion

In Tennessee...

10,810 abortions took place in 2017.

This figure includes 2,174 to residents of other states representing **20%** of all abortions performed in TN.

The total number is a **3.78% decrease** from 11,235 abortions in 2016.

Among TN residents...

there were **8,636 reported abortions** in 2017, an **11.26% decrease** from 9,732 resident abortions in 2016. Since 1973 (the year of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion) **642,500** Tennessee babies have died from abortion.

National Numbers

Currently, there are about

926,190

abortions in America each year.

.....
From 1973-2017

60,069,971

babies died from abortion.

1:9 Ratio of abortions to live births among TN residents

11% of resident pregnancies ended in abortion in 2017.



“ ... I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants ” Deuteronomy 30:19

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SENIOR ADULTS (ACORNS)

The Oak Grove Senior Adult ACORNS had their Christmas meeting on December 13th in the Family Life Center. Harriet Cannon had the program which was Christmas music presented by the singers from the Helen Tucker Center in Ripley. Chad McMillan from our church was one of the singers. Everyone was blessed by the music these adults presented.



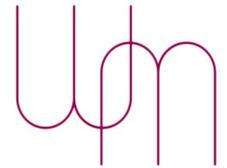
CITA provided gifts for all the Helen Tucker clients and gifts for the ACORNS present. Everyone also enjoyed the delicious luncheon meal provided by CITA.

The January 10th meeting will be a white elephant gift exchange and birthday celebration for everyone's birthday for the entire year. The meeting will be at the church at 10:30 am with a potluck meal. Make plans to join us in January.

—*Janice Martin*

WMU NEWS

The WMU Quarterly Meeting is Tuesday, January 8th at Smyrna Baptist at 7:00pm. The Mission Project is supplying onesies and one piece sleepers for newborns and preemies to be taken to the Med. Karina Kline, who did mission work in Ecuador, will be the guest speaker. There will be a box out by the bulletin board to put your items in or you can give them to Harriet Cannon. Please bring the items to the church no later than Monday, January 7th.



The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was taken during the month of December. Our church goal was \$3000 and through your generous gifts, **\$3548** was given to support International Missions.

Also in December, Oak Grove WMU provided doughnuts to approx. 50 students at Dyersburg State Jimmy Naifeh Center to support the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. On December 14th, twelve Christmas baskets were packed and delivered to some of our members.

We are also beginning the Homebound Ministry to a few of our church members who can no longer attend church.

Other WMU events:

January 13-19—Oak Grove WMU delivers New Testaments to Newborns at BMH-Tipton

January 20—Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

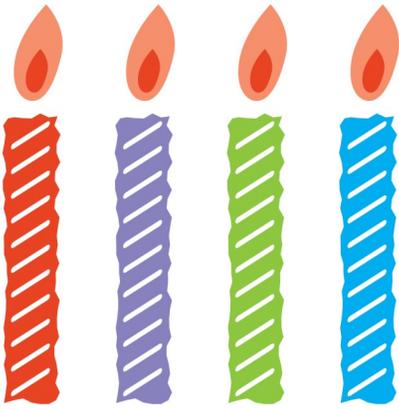
TEDDY EVANS MISSION FUND

Our Missions emphasis this month is the Teddy Evans Mission Fund. This fund exists to assist church members and groups in the Big Hatchie Baptist Association go on mission trips and be witnesses in our nation and to the ends of the earth. Several people in our congregation have benefitted from this fund. Please pray and give as the Lord leads you.



(Brochures on the Teddy Evans Mission Fund are available on the table outside the sanctuary).





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH



- 2** Lori Beth Belk
- 13** Reed Chipman, Johnnie Butterly
- 15** Daniel Dykes
- 16** Glinda Pruitt, Gary Stafford
- 17** Anna Dale Simpson
- 19** Clifton Pruitt
- 25** Teresa Elam
- 26** Courtney Howard
- 27** Karroll Warberg
- 28** Joe Elam, Josie Harrison
- 31** Dominick Harris

Sunday Morning Worship

Jan. 6

Sandra Howard
Carolyn Jones

Jan. 13

Carolyn Hadley
Kim Lawrence

Jan. 20

Laurie Van Cleve
Elaine Anderson

Jan. 27

Jan Bringle
Harriet Cannon

Feb. 3

Teresa Elder
Marjorie Goforth

SCHEDULE

USHERS

GREETERS

PRAYER

COUNTERS

JANUARY 6

Tyler White, Jon Michael
Cannon, Van Bringle,
Jimmy Butler

Kathy Reeder

Roger Ralph

Kathy Reeder, Mickey
Elder, Glinda Pruitt

JANUARY 13

Ron Cooke, Chad
McMillin, Ryan Howard,
Todd Reeder

Vickie Johnson

Philip Mistretta

Ellen Newman, Sandra
Howard, Janet Wilson

JANUARY 20

Joe Elam, Allen Belk,
Wayne Owen, Zack Walker

Philip Mistretta

Jim Martin

Jim & Janice Martin,
Carolyn Jones

JANUARY 27

Lenard Cannon, Andy Van
Cleve, Henry McClain,
Corey Wilson

Glinda Pruitt

Andrew Brown

Teresa Elam, Jessica
Jones, Kelli Cousar

FEBRUARY 3

Tyler White, Jon Michael
Cannon, Van Bringle,
Jimmy Butler

Ron Cooke

Jim Warberg

Mike Howard, Dale
Armstrong, Deanne Hughey

MISSIONS UPDATES

The Sidhom Family

Ryan & Clarissa Sidhom visited Oak Grove on Sunday, Dec. 30th to give us an update on their ongoing work planting a church in Vancouver, Washington, Portland Oregon's largest suburb. They have been there for about 20 months since leaving the missionary house here.

As you recall, they chose this area primarily because there is a minimal Gospel presence, less than 100 SBC churches for 2.4 million people or 1 church for every 28,000 people.

While church planting and trying to find a place for the church to meet, Ryan and others have been serving at Harney Elementary School and Clark College. In the midst of a seemingly impossible situation of the cost of renting a place for \$1000/Sunday, "God has opened tremendous doors and given us the property of a dying church in the middle of our neighborhood." They plan to launch River City Church on Easter Sunday 2019 (<https://rivercityvancouver.com/>).

Some of their prayer needs: Financial support—supporting churches and individuals for ongoing partnership; for a hedge of protection against spiritual attacks; health of family & marriage; Banner, who has a speech problem; and an individual to work with the college students.

If you would like to donate to them, there are some giving cards that explain how to give online or by mail on the table beside the bulletin board.

Information taken from the following website: <http://rivercityvancouver.com/partner/for-churches/>



Ryan, Clarissa, Banner, and Anchor

The Best Family

The Best Family is preparing for a new place of service. They were here in the missionary house on furlough from China when they discovered in September that China would not grant them a visa to continue to teach there because of increasing government restrictions.

That same day, they received a call from a local missionary Alexei in Chile., South America. He "told us of the great need for workers to come and teach, plant churches, and work in the seminary being started." The area is Antofagasta, Chile.

In December Mark & Pam "spent 10 wonderful days there teaching, preaching, and seeing the tremendous spiritual needs. After much prayer, they accepted the Call to live and work in Chile as missionaries.

The Bests plan to go to New Hampshire the first week of January to help with a church plant there, then to move to Chile in the spring and begin work. They will be serving as independent missionaries with the umbrella service organization *Mission Quest*.

Please pray for the family as they begin their new assignment and for safe travel to New Hampshire and the work being done there. The following are urgent one-time needs: a vehicle for use in Chile (must be purchased there, as we cannot drive it down or ship it); airfare for our travel to Chile – \$1,200 per ticket (4 for our family); someone in the US to help us produce and mail newsletters (around 4 times each year); textbooks in Spanish for the seminary students, especially in Systematic Theology.

If you would like to support & partner with them, contact *Mission Quest* by going directly to the Best Family web link at: <https://missionquest.org/163> . Advise them that you want to support Mark & Pam Best. For further information, you may also go to the website at www.missionquest.org or call 773-998-3878. Their updated email is marknpam@gmail.com



AWANA STARTS BACK WED., JAN. 9TH AT 5:30 PM

Empowered

The One who calls you to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature is the One who by your consent, goes into all the world and preaches the Gospel to every creature through you!

—W. Ian Thomas

Enter in

Tired of making small talk at church about the weather or sports? Then follow Edward Welch’s advice to “enter in” to the lives of your fellow worshipers.

A churchgoer once asked Welch, author of *Caring for One Another* (Crossway), two simple yet profound questions: “What was the best thing about your week, and what was the worst thing about your week?” About a month later, when some issues were weighing heavily on Welch’s heart, he wondered who’d be willing to pray for him. Immediately, the person who’d asked him those two questions came to mind.

When worshipers are willing to enjoy one another’s blessings and be burdened by one another’s difficulties, Welch says, the body of Christ gets built up.

**New
to Our
Family**

Andy Neely



WORSHIP AT THE GROVE—Music Fundraiser for Youth Summer Camp: Saturday, Jan. 12th at 6 pm in FLC; DESSERTS NEEDED FOR SALE TO PUBLIC

YOUTH MEAL FUNDRAISER: Sunday, Jan. 13th after the morning service; \$8/plate to go

YOUTH CAMP DEPOSIT OF \$150 DUE JANUARY 15TH

AWAKENING—Youth-Led Worship; Sunday, January 20th at 6 pm; All are invited!

DNOW DEPOSIT OF \$10 DUE JANUARY 27TH



- * **Valentine Banquet Hosted by Youth to Raise Money for Summer Camp: Saturday, Feb. 2nd**
- * **Disciple Now Weekend: Feb. 22-23 at Brighton Baptist**

Reading resolutions

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That’s a worthy goal, but God doesn’t require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word — and thus be with him — so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God’s Word is a precious gift, but we need to “unwrap” it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: “Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate ... your life.”