

## Ponderings From the Pastor

By Brad Taylor

Committee members, officers and teachers for the church year have been approved. Those elected begin serving October 1. Serving in this capacity is one of the most rewarding ways to serve Christ. This is definitely one of the best ways to meet new people and discover what makes our church so special.

Newly elected committees should plan to meet as soon as possible to discuss ministry needs, tasks and opportunities for the coming year. Committees will also need to elect a representative to represent them on the Church Council. The Church Council will meet at least once each quarter before the regular scheduled business meeting.

We also need to be reminded to be vigilant regarding COVID protocols. If you have COVID symptoms or have been exposed to COVID, please join us via Facebook Live. The church buildings are cleaned and sprayed with the electrostatic sprayer each Friday for Sunday. Please do not enter the buildings after

the buildings have been cleaned and sprayed. Each classroom has cleaning supplies just in case something needs to be disinfected. Special safety measures are being utilized in the nursery and with youth and children. Masks and color-coded labels are available at the Welcome Center desk.

In the midst of COVID, God is blessing our church with many new guests and members. Each week comes with anticipation of who is going to join our church family today. Take time to get to know these wonderful new members. Each one has an amazing story to share about how Christ has changed their life. God is preparing us for something big as He is bringing "laborers to the harvest field." Pray for God to guide us in fulfilling His purpose as a church family!

In Christ,  
Brad Taylor

### Welcome New Members!

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Vicki Albright         | Mike and Gail Mayfield                  |
| Patty Ast              | Steve and Robin Thomas                  |
| Chad and Brittaney Day | Bryan and Nicole Zugelder<br>and Corbin |
| Jeff Hatley            |   |

### October Sermon Calendar

Oct. 3 — Knowing a All Knowing God  
Oct. 10 — Knowing a Sovereign God  
Oct. 17 — Knowing a Ever Present God  
Oct. 24 — Knowing a Loving God  
Oct. 31 — The Valley of Dry Bones



## Silent Night, Holy Night



Thank you, Jesus, we have a full Nativity crew of actors to celebrate Christ's Holy birth through a drama. Please be in prayer for the volunteers.

Also, we're in the planning stages of our 2nd Annual "Old Time Family Christmas" service, as well as our 3rd Annual Drummer Boy kick off for our Christmas celebration at Oak Grove starting Nov. 28. My favorite time of the year is Christmas because it celebrates the whole reason we have church — to celebrate Jesus Christ coming to the world to seek and save those that are lost and to give us hope. That hope is still alive for us today! John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in will not perish but have everlasting life."

As I write this article, I am reminded of how the song "Silent Night" was written. I think you will find it interesting as well.

As two missionaries were serving in Europe, they visited the small Silent Night chapel near Salzburg, Austria. In 1818, a roving band of actors were performing in towns throughout the Austian Alps.

On Dec. 23, they arrived in Oberndorf, a village near Salzburg where they were to re-enact the story of Christ's birth in the small church of St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately, the St. Nicholas' church organ wasn't working and would not be repaired before Christmas. The actors presented their Christmas drama in a private home.

The Christmas presentation was of the events in the first chapters of Matthew

and Luke, and it put Assistant Pastor Josaf Mohr in a meditative mood. Instead of walking straight to his house, Mohr took a longer way home. The longer path took him up over a hill overlooking the village.

Revealing in majestic silence of the wintery night, Mohr gazed down at the Christmas-card like scene. His thoughts about the Christmas play he had just seen made him remember a poem he had written a couple of years before. That poem was about the night when angels announced the birth of the long-awaited Messiah to shepherds on a hillside.

Mohr decided those words might make a good carol for his congregation the following evening at their Christmas eve service. The one problem was that he did not have any music to which the poem could be sung.

So, the next day Mohr went to see the church organist, Franz Xaver Gruber. Gruber only had a few hours to compose a musical setting for the poem. They now had a Christmas Carol that could be sung without an organ.

On Christmas Eve, the little Oberndorf congregation heard Gruber and Mohr sing their new composition to the accompaniment of Gruber's guitar. Weeks later, well-known organ builder Karl Mauracher arrived in Oberndorf to fix the organ in St. Nicholas church. When Mauracher finished, he stepped back to let Gruber test the instrument. When Grubar sat down, his fingers began playing the simple melody he had written for Mohr's Christmas poem.

Deeply impressed, Mauracher took copies of the music and words of "Silent Night" back to his own alpine village, Kapfing. There, two well-known families of singers — the Rainers and the Strassers- heard it. Captivated by "Silent Night," both groups put the new song into their Christmas season repertoire. The Strasser sisters spread the carol across northern Europe. In 1834, they performed "Silent Night" for King Frederick IV of Prussia. He liked it so much he ordered his cathedral choir to sing it every Christmas eve. Twenty years after "Silent Night" was written, the Rainers brought the song to the United States, singing it in German at New York's Trinity Church.

In 1863, nearly 50 years after first sung in German, "Silent Night" was translated into English by Jane Campbell or John Young. Eight years later, that English version made its way into print in Charles Hutchins' Sunday School Hymnal.

Today, the words of "Silent Night" are sung around the world in more than 300 languages. WOW!

I am so thankful for the writers of all our music that is about our Lord! It's amazing that on a given Sunday we could be singing a song as the oldest carol like "O Come, O come Emmanuel" that was written in 1000 A.D. to "Emmanuel, God With Us" by Chris Tomlin in 2021!

Our Lord IS the same yesterday, today and forever!

Thank you Jesus!! Amen!

Submitted by Mindy Taylor

# Meet OGBC's new Children's Ministry Director — Laura Holloway

Hi, my name is Laura Holloway. I am married to Brian Holloway, and together we have four children and two bonus kids.

My husband and I met at a drop-in daycare, (for babies-12 years) owned by his sister and mother. I ran the daycare for five years before Brian and I owned and operated it for 10 more years. We had disco nights, board game nights, arts and crafts, New Year's Eve lock-ins, and so much more!

Before daycare, I worked for Head Start as a bus and classroom aide. I also worked for one and half years at a public school as a special ed paraprofessional.

We opened a Mother's Day Out preschool program for babies-preK, which we ran in conjunction with the daycare the last five years.

Through the MDO, we ran camps for the older kids on school holidays.

Through our last church, I led children's church and was in charge of implementing new safety protocols our



Who's having fun at AWANA? These children are! AWANA meets 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays.

Photo by Donna Foster

pastors wanted to have in place before we found our new children's pastor.

My children attended AWANA, and very quickly I was brought in as a Sparks teacher for Kindergarten. I moved up with my class through second grade, at which point our director retired. I was selected to be the new AWANA director. After the first year, the new children's pastor and lead AWANA workers decided to implement some changes, to help focus on the children learning and understanding God's Word.

We have implemented some of those practices in our program here, as children learn in different ways, and many do not practice at home. Our prayer is that we can help the children learn in a way that meets their individual needs, through different learning styles. We are "staying together," which means that every scripture we do, everyone is learning it, regardless of if they've memorized the previous scripture. Our emphasis is on loving each child and helping to develop disciples for Christ. Approved

Workman Are Not Ashamed!

I am excited and honored to be your children's leader. My heart is for children and what is in their best interest. I am eager to take on the Fall Festival, children's retreats, camps, etc. As most of you know, it takes a village (the church) to bring up these children in a way that they will continue to love and serve Jesus Christ.

If we have not met, or chatted for a few minutes, I'd love to get to know you all (whether you have children or not!). Feel free to call or email me. I'm always up for a cup of coffee, a walk, or just stopping by for a visit.

Again, thank you for selecting me. I take this position as an honor and want to truly please God through the actions of our children's team.

I am always open to comments, suggestions, positive criticism, or any other feedback. My door (or phone) is always open.

Submitted by Laura Holloway

# Book-at-a-Time Bible Reading Plan

## October Bible Reading Plan

|  |  |  |                             |   |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeremiah | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Isaiah | Oct. 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-42 | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 | Oct. 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 & 3 John <input type="checkbox"/> 32 |
| Oct. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-15        | <input type="checkbox"/> 15                | Oct. 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 43-46 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 | Oct. 21 ----- Reflection -----  |
| Oct. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 16-18        | <input type="checkbox"/> 16                | Oct. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 47-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 | 1 Peter   |
| Oct. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 19-21        | <input type="checkbox"/> 17                | Oct. 14 ----- Reflection -----         |                             | Oct. 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 <input type="checkbox"/> 33        |
| Oct. 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 22-24        | <input type="checkbox"/> 18                | Oct. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 50-52 | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 | Oct. 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 34        |
| Oct. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-27        | <input type="checkbox"/> 19                | Lamentations                           |                             | Ezekiel   |
| Oct. 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 28-30        | <input type="checkbox"/> 20                | Oct. 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2   | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 | Oct. 24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> 35        |
| Oct. 7 ----- Reflection -----                |  | Oct. 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5   | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 | Oct. 25 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/> 36        |
| Oct. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-33        | <input type="checkbox"/> 21                | 1 John                                 |                             | Oct. 26 <input type="checkbox"/> 8-11 <input type="checkbox"/> 37       |
| Oct. 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 34-36        | <input type="checkbox"/> 22                | Oct. 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3   | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 | Oct. 27 <input type="checkbox"/> 12-15 <input type="checkbox"/> 38      |
| Oct. 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 37-39       | <input type="checkbox"/> 23                | Oct. 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5   | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 | Oct. 28 <input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 <input type="checkbox"/> 39      |

### OGBC Youth

The Youth group has been consistent with around 15 students coming on Wednesdays. God is doing good things with OGBC youth — so keep praying for the youth! Games and pizza will be after the morning service Oct. 10.

Any questions, email me at: [ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com](mailto:ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com).

Submitted by Matt Shepard

### Van Schedule

Oct. 6 — Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Matt and Taylor Shepard

Oct. 13 — Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Toney Robbins, Jeannene Zillman

Oct. 20 — Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Brad Taylor, Pat White

Oct. 27 — Keight Hardison, Sharon Lee, Toney Robbins, Sue Pierce

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are sent out the third week in November. We need pencils, crayons, large erasers, colored (map) pencils and pencil sharpeners.

We also need "wow" items, soccer balls and pumps, dolls, stuffed toys, cars. Also needed are fun-filler items like yoyo's, marbles, Hot Wheel-type cars,



kids fun jewelry, brushes, combs, hair barrettes, plastic (no glass) mirrors.

Thank you! God bless you for helping send a Gospel opportunity to a needing child. One "GO" box actually touches at least SEVEN people as families are exposed to Jesus' love!

Submitted by Donna Foster

# October 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|                           |                            |                          |    |                                  |  |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
|                           |                            |                          |    |                                  | 1<br>Adult Game<br>Day, 11am             | 2                         |
| 3                         | 4                          | 5                        | 6  | 7                                | 8<br>Jeff Arp &<br>Rodger Scott<br>bdays | 9<br>Dicus Benton<br>bday |
| 10<br>Robyn Shoun<br>bday | 11                         | 12                       | 13 | 14<br>Crafty Ladies,<br>10am-2pm | 15                                       | 16                        |
| 17                        | 18                         | 19<br>James Owen<br>bday | 20 | 21                               | 22                                       | 23                        |
| 24<br>Dick Carson<br>bday | 25<br>Sara Maloney<br>bday | 26                       | 27 | 28<br>Crafty Ladies,<br>10am-2pm | 29<br>Charles<br>Zimmerman<br>bday       | 30                        |
| 31                        |                            |                          |    |                                  |  |                           |

# OGBC Nursery News

There is a lot happening in the nursery! If you look in, you will find some happy kids learning, singing, reading, praying and even doing some art work. New toys have been brought in that can be sanitized and keep the kids entertained!

We now have a fully staffed nursery schedule. Each worker serves on the same Sunday each month, on a weekly rotation. The schedule is posted in the nursery for everyone to see, but we could always take more volunteers.

Here are a few things we have implemented to keep the spread of germs down:

1. All toys are sanitized as they are played with, as well as the tables, chairs and equipment.
2. Bags are always left in the cubbies, to keep the child's belongings safe.
3. All cups are only brought in during snack time and then placed back in the child's cubby. This keeps the child from drinking from a cup that isn't theirs.
4. Snack is served only at the table in individual cups. When snack is done, everything is thrown away and the tables sanitized.
5. Only authorized nursery work-

ers are allowed in the classroom, to keep direct contact minimal.

Songs, stories, Bible verses and more are offered each Sunday to instill the love of Jesus early on and keep the precious littles busy having fun.

This month we are learning all about fall: **"Fall on your knees and Pray. Jesus never Leaves you!"**

Everything from apples, pumpkins, leaves, and even some spiders and bats, God has created a wonderful world full of amazing things!

**Submitted by Jennifer Boyer**

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