

Ponderings From the Pastor

By Brad Taylor

November is a month that we focus on two primary things: Thanksgiving and missions. During each Sunday worship service this month, we will be focusing on our reasons to be thankful. We will learn what the Word of God says about the reach of our thanksgiving, thanksgiving in the midst of adversity and Thanksgiving every day. Do not miss a single service as we will discern how blessed we are as children of God and how much we have to be truly thankful for.

It's time to plan for the Oak Grove church family Thanksgiving dinner. Join us on Sunday, Nov. 21 immediately following worship. The church will provide ham and turkey. Members are asked to bring salads, sides and desserts. Help us know how many to prepare for by signing up at the Welcome Center desk. Please include if you will be bringing a salad, side or dessert to share.

Three mission opportunities are offered this month at Oak Grove. These opportunities range from local to international. Locally, members have an opportunity to participate in a home mission project for one of our home-bound senior adult couples. Don and Helen Blankenship have



been members of Oak Grove since the church first began. Now they are needing some trees trimmed and limbs hauled away. We will meet at the church at 7:45 a.m. and proceed to the home of Don and Helen on Saturday, Nov. 13. Please sign up at the Welcome Center desk if you plan to participate in this ministry opportunity.

The second mission opportunity

for November is Operation Christmas Child. We have been gathering items for Operation Christmas Child for several months. However, November is when we pack the shoeboxes and ship them to Samaritans Purse. Items to fill the shoeboxes are needed right away. We only have a couple of weeks remaining to gather the items. Then join us Sunday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. to pack the shoeboxes and get them ready to ship out on Monday.

The third mission opportunity is participating in the week of prayer for International Missions. The week of prayer is where Southern Baptists pray for International Mission Board missionaries, their ministries and the unreached people and places they serve. Currently, the IMB has 3,667 missionaries serving all over the world. Inside this newsletter is a prayer guide for you to participate in this mission opportunity.



Give Thanks!



The month of November is about giving thanks to the Lord. We will set up the "Give Thanks" tree again, and we are asking you to write on a card provided what you are thankful for and place it on the tree.

These are some of the answers from last year, please note these are anonymous:

"I'm blessed that God gave me a great family, also, have some awesome people in my life, my church family"; "My blessings are my family, my friends and having support"; "My family and friends"; "My little family, Hunter and Grayson"; "I've grown in my faith and hope that brings joy to God"; "I am blessed with an awesome group of church goers who welcome me"; "Bryan" "Friends, Family, Pets"; "Pastor Brad and Mindy"; "My family and friends"; "Miss Barbie my teacher"; "My family brings me joy"; "I know the Lord was overjoyed when I chose not to be a heathen and live for Him"; "Food makes me happy"; "Shayla, Laura, Family, gymnastics and church"; "Family, Friends, Cat, Dance, Choir"; "Cole"; "My church family"; "My grandkids, my husband, my Lord"; "Jimmie is my blessing, I teach kids is what I do to give joy"; "Spending time with my

grandsons bring me joy"; "Giving, being nice, a phone"; "The joy of the Lord is my strength! I have joy in my family, friends and being a child of God!"; "Koooper, God gave me a good life"; "My Pastor"; "The other day I got blessed, bless them"; "Thank you for the life God gave me, He gave me a wonderful husband and the gift of Ted our son, and Carmin our daughter-in-law and our grandson Dylan. Our church God has blessed us with"; "Helped me ride my motorcycle"; A child drew a cross with Jesus on it, "Sunny"; "Merry Christmas God"; "My Church Family"; "Giving to people, He died on the cross"; and "My wonderful church family."

What a wonderful testimony from the church family about what our Father has done for us. I know there are many more blessings to share so be ready!

Also, the nativity drama practices are under way, and we are excited to re-enact the night that our Savior was born. I would like to thank all of those that are giving of their time and finances to prepare for this. Those that will be acting are: Sharon Lee, Paula Shepard, Richard and Alma Bradford, Jim and Jerry McEntire, Robin Thomas, Tony and Brenda

Drabenstott, Jimmie Foster, Chip and Robyn Shoun, Denise Brownlow and Brian Holloway.

Also, I would like to thank those that have stepped up to sew the costumes: Sandra Eastham, Wanda Jones, Lois Gerhard and Donna Foster. Working together we are accomplishing A LOT. The song "Forever" stands out the most to me about giving thanks this month. Is there one that stands out to you? Sing it in your heart today and give thanks. "Forever" by Chris Tomlin, written from the Holy Word Psalm 107: *Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King: His love endures forever. For He is good, He is above all things. His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise. With a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, His love endures forever. For the life that's been reborn. His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise. Forever, God is faithful, forever God is strong. Forever God is with us, forever. Forever, God is faithful, forever God is strong. Forever God is with us, forever, forever. From the rising to the setting sun, His love endures forever. By the grace of God, we will carry on. His love endures forever. Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise.*



OGBC News Notes



OGBC Youth

We had an awesome time at our youth pizza party on a Wednesday night! We had a great time of fellowship and games.

The Youth are looking at investing in a ping pong table. So if anyone has an idea where we can purchase one (new or used), please let me know.

Should you have any questions, email me at: ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com.

November Sermon Calendar

Nov. 7 — The Reach of our Thanksgiving

Nov. 14 — Thanksgiving in the Midst of Adversity

Nov. 21 — Thanksgiving Every Day

Nov 28 — Call His Name Immanuel

Time to Sign Up for Ewomen

It's time to sign up if you would like to attend Ewomen. The event will be March 4-5, 2022 at the Mabee Center. The speakers will be Kayleigh McEnamy, Katherine Wolf, Chonda Pierce and Liz Curtis Higgs. Friday night's concert will be Mandisa. A sign-up sheet will be at the Welcome Center desk. Cost is \$71, which includes a box lunch for Saturday. If 10 or more ladies sign up, the cost will be discounted.

See Vicki Albright for more information.

OGFD Annual Chili Supper

Oak Grove Fire Department is hosting their 25th annual Chili Supper and Auction. This event will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6. Come support our local fire department!

Staff Christmas Bonuses

Donations are now being taken for our staff Christmas bonuses. To donate, mark your contribution envelope "Love Offering Staff."

Van Schedule

Nov. 3 — Keith Hardison, Denice Jackson, Sharon Lee, Toney Robbins, Mike and Gail Mayfield

Nov. 10 — Keith Hardison, Denice Jackson, Sharon Lee, Brittany Day, Janeen Zillman

Nov. 17 — Keith Hardison, Denice Jackson, Sharon Lee, Mike and Gail Mayfield

Operation Christmas Child

This month, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes will be sent out.

Still needed are items such as 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.



November Bible Reading Plan

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psalm	Nov. 11 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 137	Nov. 22 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 146
Nov. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 20-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 123-124	Nov. 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 138	1 Thess.	
Nov. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 24-26	<input type="checkbox"/> 125-126	Nov. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 139	Nov. 23 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 147
Nov. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 27-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 127	Nov. 14 ----- Reflection -----		Nov. 24 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 148
Nov. 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 128-129	Nov. 15 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 140	Nov. 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Joel	<input type="checkbox"/> 149
Nov. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 35-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 130-131	Nov. 16 <input type="checkbox"/> 16-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 141	Micah	
Nov. 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 39-42	<input type="checkbox"/> 132	Nov. 17 <input type="checkbox"/> 19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 142	Nov. 26 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 150
Nov. 7 ----- Reflection -----		Daniel		Isaiah	
Nov. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 43-45	<input type="checkbox"/> 133-134	Nov. 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 143	Nov. 27 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 40
Nov. 9 <input type="checkbox"/> 46-48	<input type="checkbox"/> 135	Nov. 19 <input type="checkbox"/> 4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 144	Nov. 28 <input type="checkbox"/> 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 41
John	Psalm	Nov. 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 145		
Nov. 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 136	Nov. 21 ----- Reflection -----			

International Missions Prayer Guide

Nov. 28 — CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Pray for inroads for Indigenous believers who are reaching the lost.

Pray churches who participated in Americas Connect will continue to pursue opportunities to serve.

Pray the Lord will facilitate more church connections. opportunities to serve.

Nov. 29 — NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST

Pray that God will call out more churches to join the work to reach NAME peoples with the gospel.

Pray for more long-term missionaries in the fields among

the unreached.

Pray that the light of Christ would break the barriers that keep many from hearing the gospel.

Nov. 30— SOUTH ASIA

IMB workers Skip and Kim Meyer* have spent their lives on two very different mission fields but with the same purpose: giving hope to people who need it and equipping others to do the same.

Dec. 1 — SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Pray for the African orality trainers as they continue to organize and teach others how to effectively use Bible storying to share and teach

God's Word.

Pray that the graduates of IBBT will put into practice the orality skills they have acquired when they return to their towns and villages.

Pray for the unreached people groups of Sub-Saharan Africa, asking God to confirm in their hearts the truth of the stories they hear.

Dec. 2 — CENTRAL ASIA

Pray that the desperation the Turkmen feel would make their hearts soft toward the good news of Jesus.

Pray that God will heal the deep wounds in believing families and use them to build His church.

Pray that God will turn the hearts of Turkmenistan's leaders toward the needs of the people and that they will rule with wisdom, justice and mercy.

Dec. 3 — SOUTHEAST ASIA

Pray with Momma that the Lord will continue to move in people's hearts.

Pray for the Spencers and for other IMB missionaries in Southeast Asia who are ministering in places of civil unrest.

Pray for courage for the new believers.

Continued on back page

November 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Jim McEntire bday		Micah Holloway bday	Adult Game Day 11am	Abby Jines bday; OGF chili supper 5pm
7 Sue Pierce bday; Daylight Saving Time ends 2am	8	9 Lisa Lee bday	10 Randy Brannon, Jim Collins, Searra Story bdays	11 Crafty Ladies 10am; ;Veterans Day	12	13 Work Day at Blankenships
14 Kelley Munson bday; Pastor's class luncheon; Shoebox packing	15 Eric Treesh bday	16	17	18 Crafty Ladies 10am; Adult Movie Day 1pm; Katie Curtis & Josh Moss bdays	19 Josh Story bday	20 Allen Tittle bday
21 Sissy Edmundson bday; Church Tgiving dinner, noon	22	23 Lois Gerhard bday	24 No Wednesday evening activities	25 	26 Mike Nottingham bday	27 Helen Blankenship bday
28 Martha Whitesell bday	29	30				

International Missions Prayer Guide

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Dec. 4 — EAST ASIA

Pray for HIM to continue to prosper and send out more Taiwanese missionaries with each passing year.

Pray for Taiwanese missionaries who have already been sent out; pray God would bless their ministry.

Pray for IMB missionaries and Taiwanese Baptist partnerships to continue to grow for the sake of the gospel.

Dec. 5 — EUROPE

Pray for the Lewises and Daniel as they lead Mozaika and for the leaders of other new churches beginning in surrounding cities.

Pray for the Bible training center for pastors and for the ten men who are training for future ministry.

Pray for two new IMB families coming to join the work in Czechia this year.

Oak Grove Baptist Church
P.O. Box 1358
307 South 273rd East Ave.
Catoosa, OK 74015

Welcome New Members!

Maci Moss

Debbie Santmyer

Mission Opportunity in Catoosa!

On Saturday, Nov. 13 you'll have the opportunity to help out an OGBC family.

Volunteers are needed to help trim trees, then haul off the limbs for Don and Helen Blankenship.

See Pastor Brad for more information.