

Ponderings From the Pastor

Growing Pains

By Brad Taylor, Pastor

We are amid exciting times at Oak Grove Baptist Church. Our church family is growing as we have several new members, and we are experiencing many new guests each week. This is a tremendous blessing and a great responsibility. We have a responsibility to not hinder the growth that God is bringing to His church — lending us to evaluate and make some changes to not hinder people from coming. Therefore, we must address issues related to the driveway, parking, seating in the Worship Center and Sunday school, and preserving unity.

There is a lot more traffic moving in and out of the driveway. Several people come and drop off someone to go pick-up someone else. This can pose a problem since our driveway is only a single lane. The solution is to widen the drive with another lane for proper traffic flow.

The first step and most economical step is building a gravel lane to the south of the existing lane. The cost for this has been estimated at \$6,500. Pray about what God would have you to give towards this project. Then write on your offering envelope “Driveway Fund.”

Upon entering the parking area, guests have difficulty finding a place to park. Save the places close to

the main church entry for handicap, elderly and guests. We can solve this problem by parking farther away from the building; make new rows of parking in the grass on the east end of the parking lot; and fill up the area behind the fellowship hall. We will make sure these doors are unlocked until worship service begins. Park in the area around the house. We will eventually add gravel and extend the parking area.

The next challenge involves seating in the Worship Center and Sunday school. If you have noticed that most guests want to sit close to the door or close to the back. This is a challenge to us to move closer to the front or farther away from the doors to save those seats for those who are our guests. Sunday school classes must consider this also — making certain everyone sits closer to the front of the classroom, leaving the seats that are closer to the door. Few guests want to sit in the front of the classroom.

The greatest challenge before us is to preserve the unity in the church. One thing is certain, Satan does not want our church to grow numerically or spiritually. He will do anything he can to stop that growth.

Continued on Back Page

Daily Bible Reading Plan To Read The Bible Through In 2023

FEBRUARY

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 1 - Esth 9-10, Rom 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 10 - Job 9, Rom 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 20 - Job 20, 1 Cor 7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 2 - Job 1, Rom 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 11 - Job 10, Rom 14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 21 - Job 21, 1 Cor 8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 3 - Job 2, Rom 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 12 - Job 11, Rom 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 22 - Job 22, 1 Cor 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 4 - Job 3, Rom 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 13 - Job 12, Rom 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 23 - Job 23, 1 Cor 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 5 - Job 4, Rom 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 14 - Job 13, 1 Cor 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 24 - Job 24, 1 Cor 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 6 - Job 5, Rom 9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 15 - Job 14, 1 Cor 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 25 - Job 25 -26, 1 Cor 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 7 - Job 6, Rom 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 16 - Job 15, 1 Cor 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 26 - Job 27, 1 Cor 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 8 - Job 7, Rom 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 17 - Job 16 -17, 1 Cor 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 27 - Job 28, 1 Cor 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 9 - Job 8, Rom 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 18 - Job 18, 1 Cor 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28 - Job 29, 1 Cor 15 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 19 - Job 19, 1 Cor 6 | |

February Sermon Calendar

- Feb. 5 — Caring For God's People, Ruth 3
- Feb. 12 — What's More Important Than A Wedding? Ruth 4
- Feb. 19 — Rev. Paul Simpson
- Feb. 26 — Contending For The Faith, Jude 1-4

February Van Schedule

- Feb. 1 — Dawn Benson, Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Mike Mayfield, Gail Mayfield
- Feb. 8 — Toney Robbins, Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Mike Mayfield, Gail Mayfield
- Feb. 15 — Dawn Benson, Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Toney Robbins, Michelle Hill
- Feb. 22 — Toney Robbins, Keith Hardison, Sharon Lee, Brittaney Day, Michelle Hill

OGBC Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader

This January the youth committee and some parents have been meeting about opportunities to serve and potential events we can do. So stay tuned and be praying for what God has next for Oak Grove Baptist Youth!

If you have any other questions or concerns, please email me at: ogbc.mshepard@gmail.com



February 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 Shayla Perez bday	3 Adult Game Day 11am	4 Dawn Benson bday
5	6 Chris Gutierrez bday	7	8	9 Crafty Christians 10am	10	11 Alma Bradford, Jason Collier & Mike Hill
12 Children's Valentine's Pizza Party after worship; Ellie Benton & Charlene Goodwin bdays	13	14 Michelle Hill bday	15 Madison DeVore & Jaxon Pruett bdays	16	17	18 Brenda Drabenstott bday
19	20 Tim Russell bday	21	22 Rebecca Schoen bday	23 Crafty Christians 10am; Dewayne Pierce bday	24	25 Steve Thomas bday
26	27 Richard Bradford bday	28 Sandra Rowe bday				



I Lift My Hands

Submitted by Mindy Taylor



*Be still, there is a healer
His love is deeper than the sea
His mercy is unfailing
His arms, a fortress for the weak
Let faith arise
Let faith arise
I lift my hands to believe again
You are my refuge, You are my strength
As I pour out my heart, these things I remember
You are faithful, God, forever
Be still, there is a river
That flows from Calvary's tree
A fountain for the thirsty
Pure grace that washes over me
Let faith arise (let faith arise)
Let faith arise (let faith arise)
Open my eyes! Open my eyes!!*

As I read those lyrics I get excited about what all He has done for us as well as well as how He wants to use YOU! Yes YOU! We should have even more urgency to reach out and introduce our God to others. We do that by many different avenues to show we worship Him and love Him.

The definition of worship in the New Bible dictionary says, *the word worship comes from Weor-thyscipe which means worth ship. Expressing homage to God because He is worthy.*

We do that through reading scripture, prayer, songs, fellowship with believers and doing service for Him.

This year we will have many opportunities to do just that. Make a commitment to the Lord that worship on Sundays will be a priority to grow and strengthen you and your family as you fellowship with other believers.

In April, we will celebrate Palm Sunday (April 2) and Resurrection Sunday (April 9). Also in April, we will have our first Nativity meeting and sign up. Yes it's early, but with anything pertaining to the Lord it should not be rushed or last minute — let's give Him our ALL! And with that, Sandra Eastham has been so kind as to lead a new sewing group to work on costumes. If you would like to help her with this important task, please let her or me know.

Another opportunity to serve is helping build props and scenes. If you would like to help in that area, please contact me for information. We are starting that already so don't wait to get involved.

One more thing, God has blessed the worship team with two new team members — Robin Whitlock and Jaxon Mize. Please pray for Brad and me as we work to build God's kingdom, because HE IS WORTHY!



Continued from Front Page

It would give Satan no greater joy than to get a foothold into the life of an individual or a group of individuals within Oak Grove to stir up conflict. Last month I wrote about preserving unity — take time and read and reread the seven ways to do this. If you no longer have the January newsletter, go to the church website a read it at www.ogbccatoosa.com

Let's all be faithful to Christ by doing our part to

help keep these exciting times continuing at Oak Grove Baptist Church — as our church family is growing and is blessed with many new guests each week. In your prayers, thank God for this tremendous blessing and great responsibility. Then take responsibility to not hinder the growth that God is bringing to His church by helping contribute to driveway, parking farther away, saving the seats closer to the door and in back the Worship Center and Sunday school for guests, and preserving unity with the bond of peace.

Watch OGBC Online Each Sunday

If you are unable to worship with us in person, you can log in to Facebook to watch the service online at <https://www.facebook.com/oak.grove.94043>.

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