

Ponderings From The Pastor

By Nick Garland, Interim Pastor

As you and I pray for your new pastor, we need to be praying daily for the Pastor Search Team. They are meeting, praying for divine guidance, seeking to discern the right person God has chosen to lead Oak Grove. You folks have demonstrated your love for our LORD and for His Kingdom. Your Search Team is seeking to represent you well, communicate to a candidate the vision and status of Oak Grove, and to discern the will of God to be led to the right man.

I found this article this week and thought I would share it with you. There is nothing new in it, but it is a good reminder for all of us as we pray.

When praying for a pastor search committee, it is essential to ask for wisdom and discernment in their decision-making. Pray that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit as they review resumes, conduct interviews, and ultimately make a final selection.

Additionally, pray for unity among the committee members as they discuss and deliberate on potential candidates. Pray that they will be open to different perspectives and opinions but ultimately

come together in unity on the candidate that God has chosen for the congregation.

Furthermore, pray for the pastor candidates themselves, that they will be humble, authentic, and fully surrendered to God's will. Pray that they will have a heart for the congregation and a fervent desire to lead and shepherd the church in a way that honors God.

Lastly, pray for the congregation as they wait for a new pastor to be selected. Pray for patience, faith, and trust in God's timing and plan. Pray that the congregation will support the search committee and the new pastor wholeheartedly as they transition into this new season of ministry. Overall, prayer is essential in every step of the pastor search process, and by interceding for the search committee, pastor candidates, and congregation, we are inviting God to work in powerful ways in His church.----- Copied....

May the LORD bless the church, the Search Team, and the next pastor who is being prepared to come lead Oak Grove in the years ahead!



Sunday Morning Services can be watched live via YouTube at YouTube@OakGroveBaptistChurchCatoosa. A YouTube account is not needed and you can watch for FREE!

The link is: <https://youtube.com/@oakgrovebaptistchurchcatoosa?si=XB8x6oa7oyBn0PgB>.



Evan or Matt? This is from one of our theme nights, "Dress like the youth pastor."

412 Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader

Happy Fall Y'all!

We have an exciting opportunity as a church to serve our community this month with our Fall Festival! We can never have enough helpers, so please sign up at the welcome desk if you haven't! 412 Youth will be there helping gather items at stations, clean, or whatever is needed.

We will also have a Pre-Fall Festival (3-5 p.m.) for the youth before the Fall Festival (5-7 p.m.). We will have games, food, and a time of worship with the youth before helping serve at the Fall Festival.

Prayer request: Please pray for each one of these youth. We as adults know a lot of what these youth will go through as middle school and high schoolers.

One of my favorite things about Oak Grove Baptist Church was how much the people of the church cared about me when I was a youth (and still do, very much appreciated!). I was constantly asked how life was going on Sunday mornings. People were always asking about school, sports, or my extra curricular activities. So on top of praying for them, I challenge you to get to

know them! We have some awesome kids that need our prayers!

Dates to know:

Oct. 26 — Pre-Fall Festival, 3-5 p.m. (can dress up, but must be appropriate and follow dress code); Fall Festival, 5-7 p.m. (youth helping with fall festival).

Oct. 18 — No Youth or Awanas due to Fall Break.

Nov. 16 — Youthsgiving Feast 5-7 p.m.

Nov. 23 — Church's Thanksgiving Meal, noon.

Dec. 14 — Progressive Dinner.



Don't Be a Wandering Worshiper!

Submitted by Brian Holloway, Interim Worship Leader



The Bible is a great and wonderful book where we should take the entirety of it, study it with the lens of the gospel and personalize every verse and chapter. Let's uncomfortably peer into the wilderness. Do we wander in and out of the wilderness eating the daily manna only to complain about its same old taste and reminisce about the good old days or ask for more diversity in our cry for meat? Do we come after God's positional leaders demanding our will over God's? Do we wander and look at our present-day challenge and long for the good ol' days? Why do we look at the Egypt's of our pasts and not remember the chains that bound our hearts? With careful study of the Old Testament, we get a very clear model of human nature infected with sin. What took 40 years of wandering would have only taken roughly 11 days. The Israelites blamed their leadership, their situation, and their diet. They focused on the situation, not the God over the situation.

It took the Israelites 40 years to come to a place where they could properly follow God. We must take the entire bible and all its case studies and cross examine our walk against it. Otherwise, our walk that focuses on self, logic, pride, idolatry or any other of Satan's well-crafted distractions will make an easy stroll of 11 days a very challenging 40-year struggle when we should have just trusted God. The Israelite wandering was not only a very hard and challenging 40 years, but the generation responsible for the longevity of the journey never even saw the promised land.

As we consider our church and what kind of Promise Land seeker we are, let's be reminded of the entirety of the Bible as we determine what kind of worshiper we are. When we cry out "meat over manna," we are

saying God's blessing is insufficient. When we cry "Egypt over Promised Land," we remove God from our destination.

The story of the Israelites in the wilderness can be applied in many areas, as it is a great study in our own human sin nature. As we look at worship, it's always important for us to know that worship is much bigger than Sunday morning music or even music for that matter. The fact is we worship every second of our lives. What we do with our time is a direct reflection of what we worship in that time. The fleeting seconds spent in our life's worships in one of two directions, towards God or away from Him. We get to choose. We can worship God through the truth or worship self through the world. Let us be careful not to remove God from any moment of worship. As we apply this to God's instruction on musical worship, are we worshipping the music or style or the one who it is about? Do I dislike the sound and remove God from it because it is not "my style"? Do I edify one song over another as if there is more God in this one than that one? Do you allow God to speak to you in the songs that aren't your style, familiarity or liking? It would be hard to hear from God if your ears would not hear or your heart was hard because of its sound or literary style.

All too often I have been hit with the bronze snake about my feelings towards song style. Although repentance was needed, on the other side offered a greater richness for my love for God as I softened my heart to new and challenging ways to musically worship God. When I took my eyes off the music and focused on God, my nearsighted and frustrating 40-year

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OGBC News Notes

LOL Autumn Trip

OGBC's LOL group is planning a day trip on Oct. 24. Destination is still in the planning stage. Contact Denice Jackson for more information.

Catoosa Hometown Halloween

The Mission/Outreach committee is planning an information table at Hometown Halloween. This event will be Oct. 25. Contact Nancy Onyon for details.

October Daily Bible Reading Plan

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 1 Luke 1, John 1:1-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 12 Matt 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 22 Matt 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 2 Matt 1, Luke 2:1-38 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 13 Matt 12:22-50, Luke 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 23 John 7-8 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 3 Matt 2, Luke 2:39-52 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 14 Matt 13, Luke 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 24 John 9:1-10:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 4 Matt 3, Mark 1, Luke 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 15 Matt 8:14-34, Mark 4-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 25 Luke 10-11, John 10:22-42 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 5 Matt 4, Luke 4-5, John 1:15-51 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 16 Matt 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 26 Luke 12-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 6 John 2-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 17 Matt 14, Mark 6, Luke 9:1-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 27 Luke 14-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 7 Mark 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 18 John 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 28 Luke 16-17:10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 8 John 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 19 Matt 15, Mark 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 29 John 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 9 Matt 12:1-21, Mark 3, Luke 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 20 Matt 16, Mark 8, Luke 9:18-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 30 Luke 17:11-18:14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 10 Matt 5-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 21 Matt 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28-62 | <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 31 Matt 19, Mark 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct. 11 Matt 8:1-13, Luke 7 | | |

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journey became a well supplied 11-day journey to a space of fellowship and comfort in God. As we use musical worship as a weapon, it is only weaponized when God is at the center. Familiar songs and beautiful melodies are wonderful and can make the worship comfortable, but we must challenge ourselves to seek God in the songs of old and songs of new. The familiar and unfamiliar. We can even remove God from liked familiar songs as we might be focusing on the wrong

reasons for our love of the song or just allow it to become empty words. Exploring new ways of worship keeps our tools sharpened. But we only sharpen those tools when we look to the one who can actually sharpen them. Musical worship is a component of worship where we tap into the expressing our love for God through music and reminds us of His character and promises. We have the privilege to engage in musical worship and express the gratitude we have all while boldly proclaiming we are God's children not Sa-

tan's. May we take the 11-day journey in all areas of our worship. May we never compartmentalize areas in our Christian walk and turn it into a 40-year journey. May our walk be challenging and we see God's blessing in the challenge. When my focus in musical worship went from a 40-year experience to an 11-day experience only one thing changed. The direction of my sight. And the things of the desert grew strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

October 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 John Pugh bday	2	3 Adult Game Night 6pm	4
5	6	7	8 Jeff Arp & Rodger Scott bdays	9 Crafty Christians 10am	10	11
12 Zaden Wilson bday	13 Brandon McCormick bday	14	15	16	17 Abigail Roberts bday	18
19 Jennifer Chambers & James Owen bdays	20	21	22	23 Crafty Christians 10am	24 Kathy Ballard bday; LOL trip	25 Sara Maloney bday; Hometown Halloween
26 Fall Festival 5- 7pm (Youth 3-5pm)	27	28	29	30	31	

Children's Church Lesson Calendar

Oct. 8 — "God Told Jeremiah What To Write," led by Audrey Brannon and Taylor Shepard

Oct. 12 — "Ezekiel Offered Hope," led by Kimberly Roberts and Sylvia Monreal

Oct. 19 — "Prophets Told About Jesus," led by Nancy Onyon and Brittaney Day

Oct. 26 — "Jesus Read The Scriptures," led by John and Cindy Tittle

OGBC Deacons:

Rodger Scott 918-698-1021;
Rick Kibbe 405-742-8857;
David Gaulding 918-740-0035



Welcome new members:

Quincy Bell

Trace Tucker

Holly Walker

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