

Ponderings From The Pastor

By Nick Garland, Interim Pastor

What a privilege it has been to serve as your interim pastor! I knew from the first Sunday that I was going to get to “walk for a season” with a loving, serving, and gracious church body. Along the way, what you did in welcoming and accepting Jenine and me was truly kind. Many times, churches are respectful but choose to remain somewhat “at arm’s length” with an interim pastor. However, from the very first day, your fellowship embraced us and treated us like family. I can truly say that serving as your interim has been a marvelous privilege and delight. It was an added blessing to serve alongside Brother Brian and Brother Matt. They



both love the LORD, they love you; and they are so very dedicated in their devotion to you and to their ministry roles. It was a pleasure to get to serve with them for these months.

I am also extremely happy for you that the Search Team has brought Pastor Tom and Nicole to be your new Pastor and wife. They are both the kind of folks you are going to

love very quickly. They love God’s people and are very eager to build relational ties to all within the church body. Their love for the LORD is genuine and their compassion for people is Christlike. Both have a deep desire to see the church body grow in spiritual depth, genuine fellowship, and numerical increase. Both are congenial and will make friends with all of you

easily. My prayer is that as you embrace them and they very quickly come to love you that the LORD will do a mighty work at Oak Grove that will result in the “best days ever” for all of you.

Please know that you will always be very special to the Garlands, and we will find it easy to pray for God to open the windows of heaven and pour out on you His blessings abundantly. Surely the days ahead will be filled with new folks coming to join you, new converts being baptized, and new horizons discovered as you walk with God into all He has in store for you. And always remember that with God, the best is yet to be!

412 Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader



Thank you to all who helped donate food, desserts, and their time for our Youthsgiving feast! The youth gobbled it right up and were very appreciative!

In December, 412 Youth will have our Progressive Dinner which starts at the church and finishes at the church. We will go to a few church members' houses for appetizers, a main course, and of course dessert! We will finish back at the church for our gift exchange (\$10 limit please).

Dates to know:

Dec. 14 — Progressive Dinner, 4 - 7 p.m.

Dec 24 and 31 — No Youth or Awanas

December Daily Bible Reading Plan

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 1—1 Cor 9-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 12—Acts 20:4-23:35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 23—Heb. 11-13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 2—1 Cor. 12-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 13—Acts 24-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 24—2 Tim. 1-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 3—1 Cor. 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 14—Acts 27-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 25—2 Pet. 1-3, Jude 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 4—2 Cor. 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 15—Col. 1-4, Phm. 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 26—1 Jn. 1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 5—2 Cor. 5-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 16—Eph. 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 27—2 Jn. 1, 3 Jn. 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 6—2 Cor. 10-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 17—Phil. 1-4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 28—Rev. 1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7—Acts 20:1-3, Rom. 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 18—1 Tim. 1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 29—Rev. 6-11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 8—Rom. 4-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 19—Titus 1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 30—Rev. 12-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 9—Rom. 8-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20—1 Pet. 1-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 31—Rev. 19-22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 10—Rom. 11-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 21—Heb. 1-6 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 11—Rom. 14-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 22—Heb. 7-10 | |

OGBC News Notes

Christmas party

The Church Christmas party will be 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20. See Paula Shepard for more details.

Awana Adult Van Riders Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist with Awana transportation on Wednesday evenings. If interested in volunteering as a van rider, please see Kimberly Roberts.

Candlelight Service

Our annual Candlelight Service will be 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 21. There will be no Sunday School that day.

Christmas Break

Awanas and Youth will not meet on Wednesdays, Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 due to Christmas Break. They will resume Jan. 7.

December 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

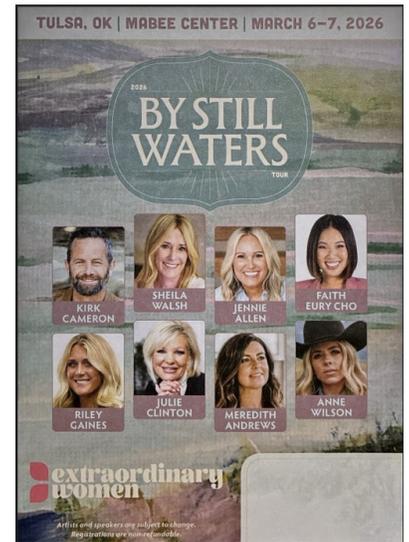
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Keith Hardison bday				Adult Game Night, 6pm	Seekers Christmas party, 5pm
7 Church Council mtg, 5pm	8 Rick Kibbe & Sharon Lee bdays	9	10	11 Crafty Christians, 10am; Audrey Bran- non, McKenzie Hahn, Toney Rob- bins & Trace Tucker bdays	12 Murray Schoen bday	13 Carmin Henry bday
14 Business mtg, noonish; Youth Progressive Dinner, 5pm	15	16	17	18	19	20 Church Christmas party, 5:30pm
21 Candlelight Service, 11am; Barbara Clark & Angela Owen bdays	22	23	24 No Youth or Awanas	25 	26 Jimmie Foster bday	27
28	29 Sean Munson bday	30	31 No Youth or Awanas			

Sign up now for Ewomen!

The sign-up sheet for the Ewomen 2026 conference is at the Welcome Desk. The conference is March 6-7, 2026. Speakers will include Kirk Cameron, Sheila Walsh, Jennie Allen, Faith Eury Cho and Riley Gaines. Praise and worship will be led by Meredith Andrews, and Anne Wilson will be in concert that Friday night.

Tickets will be order the end of December. Cost will be approximately \$75-\$80 (includes box lunch) depending on how many of us attend.

See Vicki Albright for more details.



Children's Church Lesson Calendar

Dec. 7 — "Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph," led by John and Cindy Tittle

Dec. 14 — "Mary Visited Elizabeth," led by Kimberly Roberts and Sylvia Monreal

Dec. 21 — Candlelight Service (no Children's Church)

Dec. 28 — "The Wise Men Worshipped Jesus," led by Audrey Brannon and Taylor Shepard

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