

OAKHILL BAPTIST CHURCH
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Oakleaves

March 2017

The Oakhill Baptist Church Newsletter

Oakhill Baptist Church
4615 Oak Hill Rd.
Evansville, IN 47711
Phone: 812-476-3450
Email: contact@oakhillbc.org
Web: oakhillbc.org
 Twitter: @oakhillbc
Find Us On Facebook! 
Weekday Childcare
Phone: 812-962-1548
Email: ohbcc@hotmail.com

PASTOR'S POINTS



Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

ascott@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

First, I want to say thank you to the church family for helping us exceed our financial goal to ensure that we pay off our church debt by the end of 2017!! We had the goal to raise \$92,000.00 and we received monies and pledges totaling \$94,000.00.!!! By exceeding our goal by \$2000.00, it will allow us to use less monies on hand to pay off our debt! Thank you for your sacrificial giving!!!

Second, I pray that you were able to be in service on February 19th as I shared possibilities for the future of our church family. If you were not there I encourage you to go to our website (www.oakhillbc.org) and listen to that sermon. In it I lay out biblical and practical reasons why we as a church are taking steps to continue to reach out to the lost in our community, as well as rededicate ourselves to making disciples. One of the steps we are asking our church to take is for some of our existing 2:42 groups to consider meeting at another time other than 9:30am on Sunday morning to free up more parking for our worship services. We have 193 parking spots and by the national average you can figure two people per car which comes to a total of 386. We always are over this number every Sunday. Our current adult 2:42 groups are considering what they can do as it relates to meeting at an alternate time. Some groups have already let me know that they can meet at another time or location to help with this parking challenge. There are some groups that are not able to meet at another time and I understand and want to thank them for considering it.

We also had a question and answer time on February 22 to speak into the reasons for the need for some of these adjustments. From that meeting, I want it to be clear that...

1. No one is being forced to change the time their 2:42 group meets. We are simply asking for our groups to consider sacrificing a preference of a meeting time to help meet the practical concern of parking. Each group will make their own decision.
2. It was presented that student ministry would not meet on Sunday mornings after August 13th, but that may not be the case if we find there is a need for a student group to meet for those families that may stay on Sunday mornings.
3. We will be starting all new Life Groups off our campus because of the lack of parking and physical space in our building. With this will come an adjustment to our Sunday morning children's ministry schedule. This adjustment is necessary for multiple reasons. We must create a sustainable model of ministry which uses our space and volunteer base to their greatest effectiveness.

I know it is sometimes hard to change the patterns that we are used to, but the Gospel and making disciples is so important that I believe it is worth asking us to be open to these adjustments. Also, you will find a frequently asked question/answer sheet at the welcome center about this new model of ministry to help answer questions that you may have.

Finally, I want to encourage us all to keep our eyes on Jesus during this time. Let's walk in his love and desire above all things what he wants in this world and in our lives!! We can never go wrong by seeking out his will and displaying his love!! I am so excited about our future!!

I love you and I love being your pastor!

Pastor Alan

THE STATS

	Feb 5	Feb 12	Feb 19	Feb 26
8:00 AM Worship	94	94	91	77
9:30 AM Worship	102	98	90	108
11:00 AM Worship	283	289	274	259
Total Worship	479	481	455	444
Life Groups	277	235	296	250
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$18,059.62	\$16,993.30	\$20,072.92	\$13,185.73
Greater Things	\$1,746.50	\$1,102.00	\$911.00	\$1,767.00
Mission Club	\$216.50	\$350.00	\$2,150.00	\$220.00

THE GROWTH INITIATIVE

Action: M.A.R.C.S. of a Disciple
Learn about the "M.A.R.C.S." of a disciple and how to gauge and experience spiritual growth.

March 17th & 18th

- ◆ **Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**
Childcare Provided.
- ◆ **Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**
Kids Praise Practice & Activities.

Sign up in the lobby or register online - oakhillbc.org/events

WOMEN ON MISSION

North America—A vast Missions Field

It's no secret the mission field of the United States and Canada holds many challenges. Seventy to 75 percent of Southern Baptist churches in America are plateaued or declining. On average, 17 Southern Baptist churches shut their doors for good every Sunday, leaving underserved and unreached neighborhoods in cities across North America.

Yet light shines brightest in the dark. Let's not forget that North America has experienced days of spiritual darkness before. During these barren times, great awakenings and revivals have advanced Jesus' kingdom in exponential ways. It's not surprising that the greatest spiritual breakthroughs in our land have started with prayer. In prayer, we invite God in and give Him the reins. In prayer, we let King Jesus take over. This week, let's turn to the One Who reigns on high and rules all there is—seen and unseen.

Pray:

Our missionaries across North America stay Christ-centered and Spirit-led in their efforts (Rom. 15:18-19).

God sends an abundance of laborers to reach millions of North Americans living in darkness (Luke 10:2).

You and your church will be on mission for Christ in your neighborhood (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

Week of Prayer for North American Missions March 5 - 12, 2017

On Wednesday, March 8th a North American Mission Study will be presented at noon in the Fellowship Hall following our 12:00 meal. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering offers our church a chance to support the work of over 5,600 missionaries as they plant churches, reach out to college students, and so much more.

Women on Mission will meet Monday, March 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. All our ladies are invited to join us as we learn how to be on mission for Christ.

\$PARE CHANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

**Pastor of Missions &
Administration**

bgotcher@oakhillbc.org

Blog: bryangotcher.wordpress.com

The Hard Work of Discipleship

Discipleship is hard work. It is difficult and not fun. Yep, I said it. Discipleship is not fun and it is work; however, it is a worthy cause that should not be abandoned, but leaned into like never before. When I say discipleship, I mean the process of becoming like Christ through worship, prayer, obedience to God's Word, and living a spirit filled life. These are widely accepted parts of discipleship; however, the one that matters the most usually doesn't come to mind first, that is reproduction. Disciples must have knowledge of God's Word and have a strong prayer life, but they also must be seeking to make other disciples. All of the components of discipleship are hard work. Paul acknowledges this in 1 Timothy 4:7 when he says to train for godliness. He is encouraging Timothy to study God's Word so he will have sound doctrine and then encourages him to live in godly way as to be an example to the church.

It is interesting that Paul uses the word "train" along with the imagery of someone training for a physical contest. Think about an athlete that trains to be the best in his or her sport. They work night and day to get better. They examine the things they eat. They disregard social activities so they can spend that time preparing. They hope if they can work hard and perfect their craft then they can win the prize. Paul says in 1 Cor. 9:25 that they do all of this for a temporary prize, but we work and strive for eternal glory. This everlasting prize should be esteemed much more in our hearts than a trophy or medal.

It is not by accident that Paul uses illustrations of athletes and the hard work it takes to compete. He is trying to show us that becoming a fully surrendered disciple is not easy. Not only are there external things like busyness, family, work, etc., there are limitless distractions that we can entertain ourselves with, such as television, social media, hobbies, etc. We are drawn to them and obsess over them because that is what the flesh wants. It is much more enjoyable to binge watch shows on Netflix than it is to have a deep prayer life. It is much easier to work on our golf swing than it is to spend that time going through the Word with a new believer. It is easier to remain at arm's length with our neighbors than to invite them into our home and let them see the gospel lived out in our lives. This all takes hard work.

Paul says in 1 Cor. 9 that he disciplines or beats his body to make it obedient. This is most likely hyperbole; however, he is driving home a point. The flesh wants the enjoyable easy thing; it wants to deny the spirit of it nourishment and power. We must fight against this flesh, we must make war on the flesh, and we must beat it into submission. We must do the hard work of discipleship.

When we don't want to read the Word that is when we must force ourselves to read it. When we don't want to get on our knees and pray we must make our flesh bend. When we aren't bold enough to share or selfless enough to disciple someone else, we must press on do it anyway. The only way to push past the flesh is to force ourselves to move, but then after a while something amazing happens. After you beat back your desires a little bit, your desires begin to change. You start to long for God's Word, you start to enjoy prayer, and you share with boldness, and on and on. But remember, discipleship is not natural, sin wants to continue to reign in your body, and you have to refuse to let it set up camp. You have been redeemed, you are a new creation free from the hold of sin, so make war with the flesh and live by the spirit that is the only way we will become the followers of Jesus we need to be.

Think of discipleship as training for your spiritual muscles; you must go back to the gym day in and day out, even if you are tired or sore. And over time you begin to see amazing results as you simply persevere through the ups and down. Don't give up, do the hard word of discipleship, it is worth it!

STUDENT MINISTRY



Brian Van Doren
Student Pastor
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

I want to share with you a little of my heart and philosophy for student ministry. It is quite similar to how I view adult ministry or ministry of any kind really. What I want to share with you has to do with how to reach the lost. Much of student ministry has to do with how to reach out to lost students who don't know Jesus. This is what drives much of what many student ministries do. This is obviously a very correct motive that drives youth ministers. I have that same drive. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20) is one of the most important motivating factors for how and why I do ministry. No one would disagree with the fact that we must be reaching out to the lost students in our community. The question is: how do we go about doing that?

Many student ministry philosophies take the approach that the best way to reach students is to get them into our building and around Christians so we can share the gospel with them. We must figure out ways to attract students to us so that we can give them what they need. This is not an altogether ineffective method of ministry. There are very many churches who attract hundreds of students to their facilities and then share the gospel with them. There has been fruit from these ministries, as to be expected any time we share the gospel. We have, and will continue to have, events that bring students into our sphere of influence! But I wonder if the Bible leads us to make that our entire focus for ministry? My argument is simply that you never see Jesus and His disciples attracting people to them with anything other than Jesus Himself. I think that we tend to forget that Jesus *is* attractive to a world that is lost and suffering. I just wonder if we are sometimes too focused on attracting people to us, or if we are focused on taking the attractive gospel to them?

In scripture, I see the early disciples taking the gospel to the people they knew, sharing their faith with those in need. My hope is that our students would be people who would go and share their faith with their friends and families. My goal with our students is to make them "fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). I want to equip them for ministry for the rest of their lives (Eph. 4:11-13). I want them to be the catalyst for reaching the lost. That is what I see in scripture. God uses His people to reach those in need. I want to show the students how to be used by God to make an impact on this world.

There may be some who will disagree with this ministry philosophy. "What student wants to come to church when it's not all about having fun together??" someone might say. Be encouraged! Students who love Jesus will come. They will also go and make disciples of their friends who will then come too. Lost students want to come to church only when it no longer looks or feels like church. That is why we must be equipped to go to them and share with them where they are. If only 20 of our students shared the gospel with only 5 people each year, and only 1 of those 5 got saved each year and repeated the process, then in three years 140 people would get radically saved. **140 people...** My prayer is for the Student Ministry at Oakhill to be used by God to make an impact on Evansville like never before! But for this to happen, we will need to be patient, faithful to the Lord's way, and prayerful. Would you please pray with me for our students and their friends who need the gospel?

Sincerely,
Brian Van Doren

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
jmittell@oakhillbc.org

Church Family,

Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then draw near to the throne of grace to help in time of need."

This is my prayer for our Church family as we move into a new season of spring. I pray we could consider Christ, who He is, and the implications that His perfect, sinless life has on our lives. Jesus knows. Jesus understands our struggles. He understands our weaknesses. He understands our temptations. But Jesus, who was without sin, he is our **Great High Priest**. Because He is our Great High Priest, we can draw near to him at all times. In the good, in the bad, in the uncertainty, and in the valley, we can draw near to Him. We can draw near to him with confidence that he knows us, he understands us, and he loves us. It's an honor to know Jesus, which we are unworthy of. And there's power in being **known by Him**. As we move forward together, let's lean into Jesus. Let's depend on Him. Let's learn from Him. And let's take comfort in knowing that we are known by Him and loved by Him. Let's worship with this truth deep in our hearts. On Sundays, we're singing to and worshipping to a God who knows us and loves us deeply. It doesn't get much better than that.

On another note, as we move forward, there are few things that I want you to be aware of. To begin, our next Kids Praise Saturday is on Saturday, March 17th. This is during our next Growth Initiative Weekend, and we want you and your children to be involved in both. So, if you are planning to come to The Growth Initiative that day, please bring your children so that they can be involved in worship. The children who come on Saturday will learn the worship set for Sunday, and on Sunday, they will lead our church in worship in our 2nd and 3rd services. Please plan to be a part!

Lastly, on Friday night, April 14th, we are having a **Good Friday Night of Worship**. I want to ask you and your family to make every effort to be a part of this. It will be a powerful evening as we come together and contemplate the Cross, Jesus' death, and what that means for our lives. We will then follow up with a huge celebration on Easter Sunday, April 16th, in light of Jesus' power of death, and his resurrection. What a great weekend it will be! Make plans to be present! I love you all, and I love worshipping with you every week. See you Sunday!

In Christ,
Jared

Speaking the Truth in Love

By Nick Scott

Do you ever feel discouraged? I found a helpful article about how to fight against discouragement and I wanted to share it with you this month. Here is an excerpt that I found to be very helpful in combatting feelings of despair and resting in the promises of Jesus.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1)

Discouragement is a temptation “common to man” (1 Corinthians 10:13). And in dealing with it sometimes we need tenderness and other times we need toughness. But either way discouragement is not to be tolerated or wallowed in. It’s to be fought. If we linger in discouragement it can be costly. Its sense of defeat and hopelessness saps us of energy and vision. It can consume a lot of time. It can keep us from doing what we need to do because we don’t want to face it. And it can even be contagious, weakening others’ faith.

When we feel discouraged we want comfort, which is right to feel. But the comforts we often turn to are ways to avoid our fears rather than ways to muster our courage to face and overcome them. When this happens discouragement simply becomes sinful indulgence in unbelief, no different than indulging in lust or anger or other sins of unbelief.

Jesus does not want us to be discouraged. In fact, he commands us not to be. Listen to what Jesus says to his disciples just before what probably was the most discouraging experience of their lives — his brutal death: “Let not your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1, emphasis added). Note Jesus’s words, “let not.” These are not merely comforting; they are commands. He knew they would be tempted to fear. Things were going to look very bad, like the whole mission was imploding. What were they to do instead of being afraid? Believe! “Believe in God; believe also in me.” In other words, “Don’t let your hearts be ruled by what you see. Let them be ruled by what I promise you.” And that’s what he’s saying to you and me too.

What’s tempting you to discouragement today? Are you having a hard time believing that God really will work for good what looks so bad to you (Romans 8:28)? Then it’s time to fight, not pout or shrink. Think of discouragement as your faith being choked. When you’re choking, it’s not the time to plop down in front of the TV with a plate of comfort food to medicate your melancholy. You need to dislodge the obstruction so you can breathe. You need to fight for life. You may need to get someone to give you the Heimlich.

Go get encouragement — faith-fueled courage. Don’t let discouragement choke you. It’s dislodged by believing promises. God gave us the Bible so that “through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). Don’t let your heart be ruled by what you see. Let it be ruled by what Jesus promises you.

(Excerpt from "Don't Let Discouragement Choke You" by Jon Bloom from desiringgod.com)

Kids Happenings



April Sharp - asharp@oakhillbc.org
Children's Ministry Director

Proverbs 22:6
Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.



Hello Church Family,

These past several months have been amazing! I am so thankful for all the volunteers that have helped out with our Upward ministry. I want to say a very special thank you to the Townsend family, Kilgore family, and my husband and girls. You have sacrificed so many hours to this ministry and given of yourselves for the sake of others. Thank you for your patience with me, your time and energy to the league, and for loving the children and their families in such an amazing way. So many people have been praying for the children and families involved and God has answered prayers. Each year we pray for life change within the people of the ministry, good coaches, referees, concessions help, set up /clean up, and prayer warriors. And, each year God provides all of this. Our Upward ministry offers opportunity and responsibility for our church family, as well as an opportunity for life change within our community. It's so much more than a ministry of our children's department. It is a ministry of our church.

If you like numbers, here you go! We had 40 basketball coaches and 169 basketball players. We had 10 cheer coaches and 32 cheerleaders. We were able to house 11 games each weekend at our church during the months of January and February. And 26 practices each week between our church and the AIS First Ave School. Of the 202 participants in our league 51% of the participants have either no church affiliation or no solid biblical teaching and 25% are our own children. Over half of the families in our Upward ministry need to hear the word of God! This is a huge responsibility and opportunity and I am so blessed to have volunteers to come along side our Upward leadership team and do just that. I give praise to God for providing all of our needs and opening hearts to proclaim His name and opening hearts to hear the message.

On a separate note, please be on the look out for sign up sheets in the lobby for our upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza (April 15th 1pm) and Vacation Bible School (June 26th-30th). These are both great ways to serve our community and church family. I would love to have all of you be apart of these awesome opportunities that God gives our church to minister and love on others. Thank you for allowing me to love on your children.

God Bless,
April Sharp



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Help needed during 11am service

- Kids worship leaders
2 leaders needed

If interested please email asharp@oakhillbc.org

March 2017 Ministry Calendar

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 Regular Wednesday Schedule Deacon's Meeting 6:00 p.m.	2	3 UPWARD CELEBRATION K- 4TH 6:00 PM	4 UPWARD CELEBRATION 5TH - 8TH 8:00 AM High School GUYS night 6:00 p.m.
5 Regular Sunday Schedule Worship Rehearsal 2:30 p.m.	6	7	8 Regular Wednesday Schedule North American Missions Study 12:00 p.m. **NO WORSHIP REHEARSAL**	9	10	11 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 a.m.
ANNIE ARMSTRONG (NAMB) WEEK OF PRAYER						
12 Regular Sunday Schedule	13	14	15 Regular Wednesday Schedule	16 VBS TRAINING AT FIRST BAPTIST HENDERSON 5 - 8 PM	17 GROWTH INITIATIVE CLASS 6:00 - 8:00 PM	18 GROWTH INITIATIVE CLASS 8:30 - 11:30 AM Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. Middle School GUYS night 6:00 p.m.
19 Regular Sunday Schedule FOOD PANTRY RESTOCK VBS VOLUNTEER SIGN UP IN LOBBY	20	21 LLL Senior Adult Breakfast 8:30 a.m.	22 Regular Wednesday Schedule	23	24	25
26 Regular Sunday Schedule Worship Rehearsal 3:00 p.m.	27	28	29 Regular Wednesday Schedule	30 STUDENT RETREAT	31	
SPRING BREAK						

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM

EASTER
Eggstravaganza
we need your help!
please donate wrapped candy for our egg hunt!

We will begin collecting donations of individually wrapped Easter candy, as well as plastic Easter eggs

March 12th

Candy and eggs may be dropped off in the collection box located in the foyer

OHBC FOOD PANTRY RESTOCK

Sunday, March 19th

Help feed our community by restocking our food pantry. Brown bags will be provided at the Welcome Center. You may fill them with any non-perishable food items or toiletries, however listed below are some specific needs:

- Canned Fruit • Box Cereal • Canned Soup • Canned Ravioli • Spaghetti •
- Canned Tuna • Box Macaroni & Cheese • Regular Sized Rolls of Toilet Paper •

Bring your bag back to church on Sunday, March 19th. All of the bags will be presented at the altar and prayed over. Each bag will have the potential to help someone not only have their physical needs met, but to hear the life changing truth of the gospel.

THE **FULCRUM**

HOW CHRIST BRINGS BALANCE TO ALL OF LIFE

Student Retreat
March 30-April 1
Cost- \$85
Sign up in foyer or at oakhillbc.org/events

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Life Groups (Bible Study)
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
Life Groups (Bible Study)
5:00 p.m. Student Life Groups - Jr. & Sr. High

Wednesday Schedule

12:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study Luncheon
6:00 p.m. AWANA
Student Midweek - Jr. & Sr. High School
7:30 p.m. Worship Team Practice