

OAKHILL BAPTIST CHURCH
4615 OAK HILL ROAD
EVANSVILLE, IN 47711-2943

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August 2017



≈ SUMMER ≈

time



OakhillBC.org
— a family for life —

4615 Oak Hill Rd. Evansville, IN 47711 • 812-476-3450 • contact@oakhillbc.org



The Oakhill Baptist Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S POINTS



Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

ascott@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

I pray you are doing well and are enjoying this summer season! This time of the year is very busy for us all so I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on the ministry of our church. Many exciting things have already happened and there is more to come.

First let me say, **Vacation Bible School was amazing this year!!** April and all our volunteers were amazing! With our morning and evening VBS we had right at 300 kids enrolled this year, and 18 children made professions of faith!! Praise God for all He did! It was a week full of excitement, and blessing!!

Second, the **Fireworks Celebration** we had was our biggest and best community celebration to date! We parked over 250 cars with 750-800 people in attendance! Our church family was there along with those that came because of VBS, and we also had many from the community that came because of some Facebook advertising that we did. I spoke with so many that do not have a church home but need one. It was a great fellowship/outreach event! Thanks to all our volunteers who made it possible!!

Third, our **Life Groups** now have 7 adult on-campus groups and 12 adult off-campus groups. I am very thankful for every one of these groups. We now can reach out to more people and we are seeing people getting connected to the church who were never connected before. I pray God uses all these groups to help people "belong" to our church family!

Finally, I want to mention some upcoming events that I am very excited about!

In September, we are going to have a special church-wide fellowship called, "**Family Worship Fellowship!**" We will be out at the ball fields where we had our fireworks for this event. A stage will be set up where all the activities will happen. The food truck **Pizza Revolution** will be there for you to purchase food if you would like or you can bring your own picnic style feast for your family. After we are done eating, we will gather our lawn chairs together for a special time together as a church family to worship together. This will be a great time together no matter your age or generation!! It is going to be awesome!!

Then in November we are going to have a special **marriage retreat weekend** for couples. Details are still being worked out but please save the dates of **November 3-4**. You will be glad that you did!!

Please stay tuned in to what God is doing in your church family in the middle of this busy summer. Also, please do not forget to continue to financially support your church family. Giving tends to dip during the summer and we have dipped a little more than normal. Please make the effort to catch up in your giving if you have fallen behind so we can continue to make a difference through our local church and around the world!!

I love you and I love being your pastor!

Pastor Alan

THE STATS

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
8:00 AM Worship	86	93	91	87	91
9:30 AM Worship	105	123	118	88	106
11:00 AM Worship	212	206	211	229	229
Total Worship	403	422	420	404	426
Life Group	158	175	256	237	228
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$14,623.17	\$10,960.77	\$13,398.10	\$13,070.69	\$11,292.22
Greater Things	\$1,017.00	\$777.00	\$806.00	\$1,246.00	\$820.00
Mission Club	\$180.00	\$190.00	\$205.00	\$180.00	\$205.00



Disciples Making Disciples



Living with Gospel Purpose

August 26th

- ◆ **Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Kids Praise Practice & Activities)**
- ◆ **Sign up in the lobby or register online at www.oakhillbc.org/connect/events**

WOMEN ON MISSION

Hundreds Come to Faith through Seed Distribution in Madagascar

In southern Madagascar, severe drought and famine are ongoing problems for the Mahafaly people. They're often forced to eat crops they had saved as seed for the next planting season, which means the following year they will be unable to harvest enough food. Then the cycle starts again.

IMB missionary Grant Waller met with key Mahafaly church leaders to discuss the overwhelming needs. Though faced with immediate hunger, the leaders sought a longer-term solution. "Don't give us food," they said. "If you can, give us seeds."

Grant received funds from Baptist Global Response to purchase 165 tons of peanuts, black-eyed peas, and corn. The seeds were distributed to 41,000 people in 55 villages.

In each location, villagers gathered under a shade tree, and each man, woman, and child received six cups of corn, four cups of peas, and four cups of peanuts. The Mahafaly church leaders told the people that they trust God for a plentiful harvest.

During the distribution, 17,000 people heard a clear gospel presentation based on the parable of the four soils (Mark 4:1-34). There are now 700 new believers and 33 new Bible study groups. Mahafaly leaders also have been invited to share the gospel in 17 more villages.

"Now that the people have seed to plant, please pray God would send rain to the dry, parched land," said Grant's wife, Jodie. "Pray for a bountiful harvest, not only in their fields but also among their hearts."

We will receive the World Hunger banks back at the church on Sunday, August 20th. These funds will be used by Baptist Global Response to feed hungry people at home and around the world.

Women on Mission will meet Monday, August 14th at 6pm at the church. All our ladies are invited to join us for study, prayer, and fellowship.

\$PARE CHANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

**Pastor of Missions &
Administration**

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**Blog: [bryangotcher.
wordpress.com](http://bryangotcher.wordpress.com)**

A vast majority of people in this world are lonely. They long for a sense of belonging. They crave community. This was never clearer than when I recently went on a mission trip with the students to Chicago. One of the greatest concerns that church planters come across is loneliness. In a city of roughly 3 million people how can one feel so alone? It is true there are people everywhere; that fact was very clear to us as we worked in the different communities and traveled to and from our lodging. It was intense how many people were in the city and, if I'm honest, it kind of got to me by the end of the week. When we left I was never so happy to see fields of corn and the significantly less cluttered highways of Indiana. Living in the city of Chicago would definitely require some adapting; which is why so many people can move there for work and never have a truly meaningful relationship with another soul. It is so easy to get up and go to work with your head buried in your phone, carry on about your day and head back home—alone.

While this problem can be exacerbated in a large city it is also a factor in your city. There are scores of people, just like you and me, that are lonely. They might even be married and the only other person they know in a meaningful way is their spouse. Of course, there are some that are very fortunate to grow up and live in their hometown, they have friends and family galore. They may even take for granted the close proximity of their family. For transplants like myself it can be much harder.

The older I get the more I see the absolute necessity for community. Kristi and I have had to work hard to forge deep, meaningful relationships. We have the added challenge of being a couple in ministry and knowing everyone, but not really knowing them. We don't want to let our guard down too much, afraid that people might see our flaws. Which ironically enough works the other way as well. Despite all of this we have produced meaningful relationships with many people. Many that we now think of as family.

This would not have been possible without the opportunity for community that the church offers. I want to emphasize the word "opportunity" because just because you go to a church doesn't mean you have community with other people. You can go to church for years with the same people and never get past the surface. It takes diligent, intentional work to grow meaningful relationships. You must invite people over, do things with them, and share with them. It seems so simple but in a world where so many people are struggling with loneliness we need to get back to connecting with others. My life group has been a god-send in this area. We feel so close to our group, they are truly like family. But it only happened when we opened our home and subsequently opened our lives. We had to show people our faults, our eccentricities, our likes/dislikes; they had to choose to accept us, warts and all. This can be scary for many people but the reward of biblical community is beyond worth it.

I am a firm believer that God designed us for community, with Him and with other people. We need it, we crave it, and we can see it in the epidemic that is loneliness. God knows this and that is why he designed the church to meet that need. Don't run away from relationships, don't put your guard up. Lean into them and experience the church as it is meant to be. The cure for loneliness is you!

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24-25

STUDENT MINISTRY



Brian Van Doren
Student Pastor
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

As the summer draws to an end my excitement and anticipation for the fall is growing stronger and stronger. We will be returning to our Wednesday night routine, which we will now be calling our Student Gathering, with the addition of our new student worship band! Also, Sunday night Life Groups will be going full force with all of our upcoming 6th graders! And to top it all off, we have some great events to look forward to like guys and girls nights, fall parties, and a full weekend of discipleship during our D-Now! We have a lot to anticipate from the Lord in the next few months.

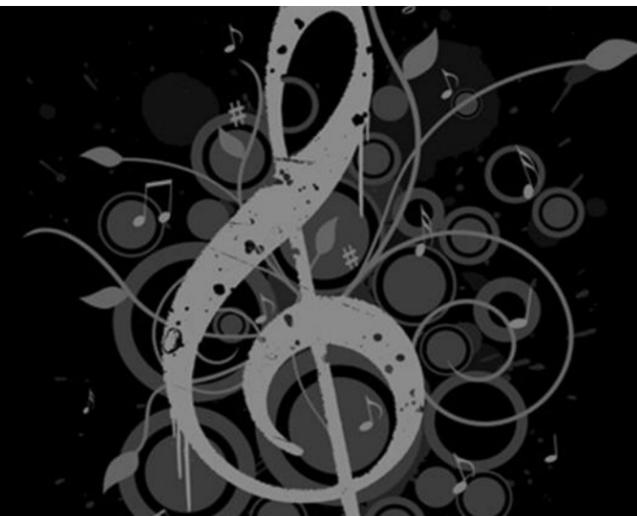
The return to a normal schedule can be a really good thing. Summer time for students is a fun time with many opportunities to hang out and enjoy the sun. But with a regular schedule, healthy habits are more easily maintained. One aspect of healthy habits for students is their involvement in church activities including (but not limited to) that of the student ministry. Hebrews 10:24-25 says "let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." This is what we are commanded by scripture to do. And what a great command! The Lord is telling us through the author of Hebrews to literally get together, hang out, and encourage each other in Christian love to obey Christ by doing good deeds. This is our goal with all the things we have planned for this coming semester in the student ministry. And I want to encourage you, if you are a student, to come and be a part of all that God is doing in this particular area of our church. If you are the parent or grandparent of a student, I would like to also encourage you to persuade your students to continue in their faith and in their participation with our ministry for them at our church. Not only is it expected of us from scripture, but it is ultimately a great blessing to those who dedicate themselves to Christian love of others. Right now, one of our main goals in the student ministry is creating an atmosphere that promotes Christian unity and discipleship. This atmosphere can only be achieved when we adhere to the words of Hebrews 10:24-25 and God working in us to bring it about.

I have been constantly encouraged by the students in our church. Their desire for unity and their thirst for what the Bible has to say is such a blessing. With a constant focus on the gospel, a passion for discipleship, and a united group of students bound in the love of Christ, there's no telling what God can do in the life of our church! I hope that as we look forward to the future, these desires will never wain, and I am praying that we can all be excited about and dedicated to what God is doing through the ministries at our church. I can't wait to continue taking this journey with you as we all follow Christ together!

Sincerely,

Brian Van Doren

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
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Church Family,

I hope you are having a great ending to your summer, as we look forward to a great Fall season together. One of the things that I love about Fall, is that our Church Family is consistently together! During the summer months, we are so busy with vacation, travel, sports, etc... and these are good things to be valued, but I love being together! So as we turn to a new season of weather, life, and ministry, God has been impressing on my heart the importance of Sunday worship. I know that we get tired, I know that we get busy, but on Sundays, we get to do something that doesn't happen any other day of the week. We get to come together as a faith family, we get to fellowship, we get to lift our voices in song, and we get to dive into the word of God together. We get to do this in freedom, and in joy! As I am reminded of so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world that pay a huge price of persecution to worship, people who risk their lives and their families to worship together, we get to come together in freedom to worship the One who saved us. What a great joy and privilege this is!

As a Church, we aren't perfect. Our lives are messy. One pastor once told me, "If you ever find a perfect church, don't go there because you will ruin it." This is true, because there are no perfect churches, and there are no perfect people. We're all imperfect sinners in need of a perfect savior. Thankfully, God showed His mercy to us by sending Jesus to be our perfect savior. What a joy it is to join in the same room with other imperfect people, other messy people, and other sinners, and lift one voice to a perfect Savior. One of the joys of being the Worship Pastor here, is that I get to see and hear the sounds of the saints in front of me every Sunday. The voice of the Church is beautiful. No, we all can't sing well. We all can't keep melody, rhythm, etc. But when we are together, the sound of the saints is a glorious sound. It's one worth sacrificing your time and schedule to be a part of.

So this Sunday, next Sunday, and even the Sunday after that - make it a priority to be at Church with your family. Lean into the joy of God, and join in with the sounds of the Saints. There is nothing like being in the presence of the Church in the presence of God. I love you all. I love worshipping with you.

In Christ,

Jared

Spiritual Development

Recognize the Spirituality of Work

by Donald Whitney



Nick Scott
Pastor of Spiritual
Development
nscott@oakhillbc.org

Bill often wonders whether he is a second-class Christian because of the less-than-Christian atmosphere where he works. His occupation is good and necessary for society, but it's also one in which liars, cheats, and thieves seem to flourish. Vulgar and blasphemous language typically fills the air of Bill's workplace.

For other believers, the problem at work is not a godless environment; it's the gnawing lack of meaning to their labor. They trudge through tedious days on a job that often feels intolerably unimportant.

Can followers of Jesus work in these conditions and still maintain a close relationship with Him? Or is the Lord somewhat disappointed in them because of where they work or what they do?

God ordained work. Before sin entered the world, "the Lord God took the man [Adam] and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). All kinds of work—paid and unpaid—are necessary in the world for us "to subdue it"

according to God's will (Genesis 1:28). People must grow food, care for children, make clothes, tend the sick, construct buildings and roads, transport goods, govern the cities, and so forth. Obviously, therefore, God intends for most people to devote themselves to what's often called "secular" employment. Only a small percentage should be vocational pastors, church-planting missionaries, and the like (even though more are needed). Otherwise, who'd work the fields, deliver the mail, build ships and cars, develop water systems, and make medicines?

Because God has ordained it, all work has a spiritual dimension. The Bible repeatedly commends useful, honest labor (see Ephesians 4:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:10), which shows God's intense interest in it. When we actively recognize His presence in our workplace, we acknowledge His sovereignty over all of life. And that's basic to true spirituality.

Even if your daily responsibilities may seem dull and unimportant, or cause you to associate with and support worldly, God-hating people, remember that "the Lord takes pleasure in His people" (Psalm 149:4). And He takes pleasure in us not just at church, but at work, too. He's as attentive to us in our work routines as He was to Joseph in his service as Potiphar's slave, to Jesus in the carpentry shop, and to the apostle Paul when he was making tents.

Work is not a hindrance to spirituality; it is a part of it. Even slaves were instructed by Paul not to fear that their awful condition in any way diminished their spiritual standing with God (see 1 Corinthians 7:22). Our spirituality depends upon who we are in Christ, not the circumstances of our workplace. God's presence and favor are not limited by coworkers or job descriptions.

Enlarge your vision of your spiritual life to include your daily work. "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24). Present your work to God. You are working for Him.

(Excerpted from *Simplify Your Spiritual Life* by Donald Whitney)

Kids Happenings



Proverbs 22:6

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

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



Hello Church Family,

Currently we are preparing for Kids Camp! This is always an exciting and exhausting week for our leaders and children. I know God has wonderful things planned for everyone that attends. So many people have been investing into our children's lives and camp is always a fantastic opportunity for kids to experience God and show their love for Him. Thank you to every parent for allowing your child to attend and for Amy Mehne, Leah Ice, Nick Scott and Jacob Townsend for volunteering to chaperone. You all are awesome!

In addition, our 5th graders held a bake sale a couple weeks ago and raised \$352 to go towards clothing for an orphanage in India. I am in awe of our children when they work together with their talents to serve others. Thank you to everyone that purchased the treats. I know this was very encouraging for the children and good for your sweet tooth as well.

New kids Sunday morning format... I am exciting to inform you of the changes that will be happening within our children's ministry starting August 13th. Let me start by saying these changes were laid on my heart at least three years ago after attending a children's ministry conference. Along with the staff of our church and the leadership of our children's ministry, I truly believe this concept would glorify God and discipline our children in ways that have yet to be experienced here at Oakhill Baptist Church. With an intentional, effective worship experience and consistent, devoted weekly teachers our children will benefit from this format in both the 9:30 and 11:00 worship hours like never before.

Your child will continue to have the opportunity to participate in their own Life Group where they will study the bible each Sunday and additionally will have a worship experience tailored to their age group. These worship experiences will prioritize the same things that are prioritized in our adult worship times. Children will join other similar age groups in our student room for 20-25 minutes each morning and experience a kid friendly greeting time with their friends, high energy and slower intimate worship music, daily scripture readings, and weekly opportunities to give an offering towards a monthly mission's emphasis.

I pray you are as excited as our church staff, teachers, and worship leaders are for this amazing opportunity for our children to have a more effective and intentional Sunday morning worship. God's hand has been moving for several years to finally give us this coming change to disciple our children in ways like never before. God Bless.

April Sharp



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Amazing Opportunities to Pour Into Children
During 9:30 & 11am service times starting in August

- **One year Commitment to teach children. This is age specific. (Lifeway curriculum provided "Bible Studies for life") * You choose your service time to serve.**
- **Adult & Youth Worship Leaders and musicians during Kids Praise for mixed ages. (4 yr-2nd gr. & 3rd-5th gr.)* You choose your service time to serve.**

August 2017 Ministry Calendar

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Schedule 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:30 am Contemporary Worship 11:00 am Contemporary Worship 5:00 pm Student Life Group	Wednesday Schedule 12:00 pm Prayer and Bible Study Luncheon 6:00 pm Student Gathering 7:30 pm Worship Team Practice	1	2 Regular Wednesday Schedule	3	4	5
Jr High Mission Week						
6 Regular Sunday Schedule Student Pool Party @ Sharp's House 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	7 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	8	9 Regular Wednesday Schedule New Student Orientation (upcoming 6th graders) 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	10	11	12 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 a.m.
13 Regular Sunday Schedule Promotion Sunday New Kids Schedule Begins	14 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	15	16 Regular Wednesday Schedule Deacon's Meeting 6:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.
20 Regular Sunday Schedule	21 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	22	23 Regular Wednesday Schedule No Bible Study Luncheon M3 Meeting 6:00 p.m.	24	25	26 Growth Initiative 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
27 Regular Sunday Schedule	28 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	29	30 Regular Wednesday Schedule Discover Oakhill 6:00p.m. AWANA Registration 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	31		

PROMOTION
SUNDAY

Sunday, August 13th

School age children will move up to next grade

GIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST **world hunger FUNDS**

Please continue to feed your World Hunger bank. Return to Welcome Desk by Sunday, August 20th.

M³ Members' Meeting
Mission, Ministry, & Money
 Wednesday, August 26th 6:00 PM

DISCOVER OAKHILL A class for new members and those interested in membership.
August 30th @ 6pm Sign up at the Welcome Desk.
Fellowship Hall Dinner and Childcare provided.

The Growth Initiative
 Disciples Making Disciples
Living with Gospel Purpose
August 26th
 Saturday from 8:30am - 11:30am
 (Kids Praise Practice & Activities)
 Sign up at the Welcome Desk or register online at www.oakhillbc.org/connect/events

Registration
 August 30th

Arrive anytime between 6:00 pm & 7:30 pm to register your child and purchase AWANA items needed.