

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG,
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #1760
EVANSVILLE, IN

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

 **akleaves** **February 2017**

The Oakhill Baptist Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S POINTS



Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

ascott@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

I have been writing an article for the Oakleaves for over ten years now and almost without fail I always start it the same way: "Dear Church Family."

You know that is what we really are. We are brothers and sisters in Christ! We have been adopted into God's family as we place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

We are called to do life together. And we do not have to guess what that looks like. God's Word is clear on this matter. I have been reading a book called *Follow Me*, by David Platt. And this month I want to share an excerpt out of this book for you to consider. Platt shares...

"Biblically, a church does not consist of people who simply park and participate in programs alongside one another. Instead, the church is comprised of people who share the life of Christ with each other on a day-by-day, week-by-week basis."

"We are to live alongside one another for the sake of one another! The Bible portrays the church as a community of Christians who care for one another, love one another, host one another, receive one another, honor one another, serve one another, instruct one another, forgive one another, motivate one another, build up one another, encourage one another, comfort one another, pray for one another, confess sins to one another, esteem one another, edify one another, teach one another, show kindness to one another, give to one another, rejoice with one another, weep with one another, hurt with one another, and restore one another."

"These "one another's" combined together paint a picture not of people who come to a building filled with customized programs, but of people who have decided to lay down their lives to love one another." And at the end of all of this we find this understanding of what the local church truly is. "The church is a community of Christians who love one another and long for each other to know and grow in Christ."

This is a big part of us being effective in making disciples here at Oakhill. We need to belong to a community in a "life group". "True community exists when we are individually surrendered to God, collectively serving together, and willingly sacrificing for the good of each other."

I love you and I am thankful to call you all family,

THE STATS

	Jan 1	Jan 8	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 29
8:00 AM Worship	9:00 AM: 125	82	103	86	84
9:30 AM Worship	10:30 AM: 236	100	112	101	103
11:00 AM Worship	N/A	259	283	292	313
Total Worship	361	441	498	479	500
Life Groups	N/A	242	277	290	304
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$13,918.23	\$14,166.40	\$12,188.25	\$12,116.72	\$14,988.88
Greater Things	\$5,899.00	\$40,911.20	\$1,337.00	\$1,752.00	\$1,167.00
Mission Club	\$125.00	\$1,070.00	\$270.00	\$200.00	\$265.00



February 12th • 6:00 pm

\$30.00 per Couple
Dinner, Entertainment, & Childcare Included

If you would like to participate in the slide show presentation please send a wedding photo to ptodd@oakhillbc.org

Tickets available at the Welcome Center

WOMEN ON MISSION

A FOCUS ON NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

BY LAURA HARPER

WHO WAS ANNIE ARMSTRONG?

OUR OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS IS NAMED FOR ANNIE ARMSTRONG, A LAY LEADER IN SOUTHERN BAPTIST LIFE IN THE 1800S. BY THE AGE OF 31, THIS SINGLE YOUNG WOMAN WAS HELPING TO START A MISSIONS ORGANIZATION IN HER HOME CITY OF BALTIMORE. SHE WAS SOON USING HER GIFTS AT THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS. AT THE AGE OF 37, SHE HELPED TO START WMU AND LED IT STRATEGICALLY TO BECOME THE GLOBAL INFLUENCE IT IS TODAY. AT THE AGE OF 55, "MISS ANNIE" LEFT THE ORGANIZATION IN CAPABLE HANDS AND FOCUSED THE REST OF HER LIFE ON GRASSROOTS WORKS IN HER CITY.

HOW DID SHE FIND GOD'S PLAN FOR HER LIFE? SHE STUDIED HER BIBLE TO LEARN HOW TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH OTHERS; PRAYED FOR MISSIONARIES AND THOSE THEY WERE HELPING TO DISCOVER CHRIST; RALLIED CHURCHES TO GIVE MORE TO MISSIONS; AND DID MISSIONS, DISTRIBUTING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND BIBLES TO THOSE IN NEED. FLOWING FROM HER DEEP PRAYER LIFE AND INVOLVEMENT IN HER CHURCH, SHE GAVE OF HERSELF— ALL THAT GOD HAD PUT INTO HER. SHE COMBINED HER PASSION FOR GOD, HER LOVE FOR PEOPLE, HER GIFTS FOR STRATEGY AND COMMUNICATION, AND, PERHAPS MOST OF ALL, HER DETERMINATION TO SERVE WITH EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY SHE HAD. SHE LET GOD SHOW HER ONE STEP AT A TIME AS SHE CONTINUED TO TRUST IN HIM.

OAKHILL MISSION RECEIPTS FOR 2016

	MISSION CLUB	SPECIAL OFFERINGS	TOTAL
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS (ANNIE ARMSTRONG)	\$3,883.74	\$4,568.18	\$8,451.92
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS (LOTTIE MOON)	\$10,244.54	\$5,750.88	\$15,975.42
STATE MISSIONS (C E WILEY)	\$1,981.50	—————	\$1,981.50
LIFE CHANGE CENTRAL (OAKHILL PROJECTS)	\$1,981.50	—————	\$1,981.50
HIGHLAND LAKES CAMP	\$1,743.72	—————	\$1,743.72
WORLD HUNGER	—————	\$910.62	\$910.62
INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CENTER	—————	\$500.00	\$500.00

COMBINED MISSION GIVING \$31,544.68

IN ADDITION , \$57,842.10 WAS GIVEN THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, 73% OF WHICH GOES TO THE SUPPORT OF MISSIONS, AS WELL AS OUR SEMINARIES AND OTHER ENTITIES.

\$PARE ¢HANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

Pastor of Missions & Administration

bgotcher@oakhillbc.org

Blog: bryangotcher.wordpress.com

Is going to church necessary? You would probably expect me, as a pastor, to say, "Yes!" In reality, I would say, "It depends." It depends on how you view church. Do you think of it as simply a place to come once a week to get your spiritual cup filled— you just want to get in and get out as quickly as possible? Do you view it as a community, or better yet, a family?

Recently, I read an article that stated those born before 1985 are the last generation that knew life before the internet. I was born in 1980 and certainly remember life before, which makes me think, "How did we do things before the internet?" From getting directions to sending an email, the internet has made things so much easier. It has given us a level of connection that before was unimaginable. We used to have to call people at home and hope they were there to receive the call. Now, we send them a chat or a snap or a tweet or all the above. We used to write letters and mail them. Now, we can instantly communicate with email or social media.

We are more connected than ever, but is it a real and genuine connection? With social media we control the information that people see. We craft our image so people see the good parts of life. We post, chat, like, comment; however, I would argue that is only the surface of what a real meaningful connection looks like. If we are not careful, church can be just like social media— we get up on Sunday morning and put on our clothes, we fix our hair, we dress the kids and we present ourselves as a family that has it all together. Meanwhile, no one knows about the fight you had with your spouse on the way to church or the names the kids were calling each other before you loaded them into the van. The point is, just attending church does not give us a deep and meaningful connection with the Body of Christ.

Church is meant to be much more. It is meant to be a family. We are meant to invest in each other and to care for one another. If someone is hurting they are to be honest about it and receive help, encouragement, and prayer. If someone is struggling in sin they are to receive admonishment and accountability. If someone is celebrating a joyous occasion the body is supposed to jump in and praise God alongside them. Think of how a family is supposed to operate. One that is loving, caring, and helpful. Of course, families don't always get along, but they work through their differences toward deeper understanding and connection. This is the type of connection that is presented in the scriptures. This is certainly the idea that the Early Church had in Acts 2:42-47. Many were ostracized for their faith, some lost their jobs, lost their land, they had to turn to one another for help and support. They truly were a family.

The church today should be a family. Now, I realize it is hard to get to know all the people that attend Oakhill. But a good place to start is in a small group. I know it may sound cliché, but I truly don't know what I would do without the support of my small group family. I can go to them anytime with a prayer request and I know they are lifting it up. I can count on them to be there with me in the good times and the bad.

Church should not be a once a week, get in, get out stop. You don't need a church like that. You need a church that is a family. It should be a place where you invest your life in others and they invest in you. That is a church that is necessary for believers to be a part of. Oakhill is not perfect and we have some growing to do in this area, but one way you can help is to join a small group and get connected like you never have before.

STUDENT MINISTRY



Brian Van Doren
Student Pastor
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

It has already been quite a year for some of us this past month. As I talk with students, there are still a lot of troublesome things going on in their lives. This could lead one to despair and sorrow. For many, anxiety-driven depression can take hold and deal heavy blows to their lives. This is the reality that our students live in. According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (<https://www.adaa.org>), over 27 million people experience General Anxiety, Panic Anxiety, or Social Anxiety yearly. Most of these people start experiencing these feelings at a very young age. One of the most frequent conversations I have with students is about anxiety and depression. One wonders how this could be. What is the cause of such hopelessness in the lives of our young ones?

There are probably a million factors as to why students experience anxiety and depression. If we wanted to eliminate all of those factors in order to secure an anxiety and depression free life for them, it would be impossible. Is the problem social media? Is it bullying? Is it self-esteem issues? Is it boredom? Is it cell-phones? Is it entitlement? In one sense, it is all of these and many more. In another sense, it is none of these. These things are symptoms of much deeper heart issues. As any good doctor knows, if you treat the symptoms but not the illness, then the patient will not recover. So what is the illness? What is the solution?

This is a problem that I think the Word of God ultimately answers. The definitive problem is our sinful desires. This does not mean that God or the Bible simply overlooks all those things like bullying or self-esteem. Those are very important issues that the Bible speaks to; and the Word of God gives us everything we need to overcome those issues. Ultimately, Christ is the One who gives students the grace they need to overcome worldly woes. As sin causes us to be bound to depression, addiction, fear of man, lust for entertainment, unhealthy relationships, and the like, Christ gives us all we need to overcome and live healthy, godly lives. 2 Peter 1-3 says:

To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

This means that Jesus is what our students need. Don't get me wrong; students may need to see a professional and talk about the problems in their lives. There may be symptoms of the problem that need immediate attention. But that should not replace the antibiotic of the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached to them in their circumstances. Do not doctors often prescribe medicine for the symptom and an antibiotic to kill the illness? That is what the gospel is for our lives. The cure to our anxieties and sorrows.

This month, if you or people in your family are suffering with anxiety or depression or anything really; remember that Christ is the final solution. In Him you can find peace and grace to overcome this world.

Sincerely,

Brian Van Doren

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
jmitchell@oakhillbc.org

Church Family,

Let's consider this question together. What motivates our worship? What motivates *your personal* worship? There are a lot of ways in which our worship is motivated on Sunday mornings. It can be motivated by the type of morning we've had. Did you have a good, peaceful morning? If so, you might be motivated to sing and worship powerfully. Did you have a tired, restless morning? If so, you might not even feel like opening your mouth to sing. What else motivates our worship? Could it be the songs we're singing? Could it be the worship lighting? Could it be the style of music? We have a tendency to let our preferences and emotions motivate our worship. And these aren't necessarily bad things. It's normal to have preferences in worship when it comes to style, songs, ect. We're human, and we all have opinions. But our emotions and preferences cannot be the chief motivator of our worship. Worship is a response to who God is, and what He's done for us. Therefore our worship should always be motivated by the greatness of God, and the truth that this great God saved sinners like us. This truth is driven by the word of God, and our worship should be driven by the Word of God, as it points to the greatness of God. This truly motivates our worship. We love the Bible, because it shows us the glory of God.

Bobby Jameison said, "If you want your people to praise God, show them the greatness of God. If you want them to bring God glory, show them God's glory." We want to see the Glory of God together, through His word. And when we truly see God for who He is, our worship is no longer motivated by the songs we enjoy, the time of the day, or our personal emotions, but this all takes a back seat to the Glory of God, who is worthy of worship, no matter the circumstances. Jameison goes on to say, "We stir up worship not by focusing on worship, but by filling the mind's eye with a panoramic vision of the beauty and holiness of God." We all enjoy certain songs, certain styles, certain worship settings, ect. But they are all just vehicles for our worship. They help take us to a place where we can passionately worship God.

Just a few weeks ago, Annaclaire and I went hiking up in Illinois. The hike was a beautiful hike, but the entire time, I kept commenting on the new hiking boots I had received for Christmas. The entire trek up the mountain, I kept annoying my wife with comments about my new boots. But when we got to the mountain top, and when I looked out and saw the view, I no longer cared about my new hiking boots. I could have been barefoot, and I wouldn't have noticed. The shoes may have brought me to the mountain top, but I was there for the view. In the same way, we have vehicles in worship that come in the form of songs, styles, and preferences. But these are vehicles that help get us to a place to see the greatness of God, and we can't help but to respond in passionate worship. So as we come together on Sundays, let's not forget that we are there to worship God because of who He is, and what He's done for us, and our preferences won't change that.

In Christ,

Jared

Speaking the Truth in Love

By Nick Scott

I have recently been rereading through Dr. Don Whitney's book *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. If you have not read this book I would commend it to you highly. It is an approachable, practical guide on how to cultivate spiritual disciplines of Bible intake, prayer, worship, and others. The section that has made the biggest impact on me so far is about how Christians are to meditate on God's Word.

Meditation is the step most often neglected as we take in the truth of the Bible. We can be good at hearing, reading, studying, and even memorizing Scripture, but meditation is where the truth of Scripture is distilled into the day-to-day activities of someone's life. Unfortunately, the idea of meditation is often associated with the New Age practice of emptying one's mind in order to achieve mental passivity. But the Bible advocates meditation that *fills* one's mind with God and His truth. The following quote helps illustrate the necessity for meditation:

"A simple analogy of how meditation works would be a cup of tea. In this analogy your mind is the cup of hot water and the tea bag represents your intake of Scripture. Hearing God's Word is like one dip of the tea bag into the water. Some of the tea's flavor is absorbed by the water, but not as much as would occur with a more thorough soaking of the bag. Reading, studying, and memorizing God's Word are like additional plunges of the tea into the cup. The more frequently the tea enters the water, the more permeating its effect. Meditation, however, is like immersing the bag completely and letting it steep until all the rich tea flavor has been extracted and the hot water is thoroughly tintured reddish brown. Meditation on Scripture is letting the Bible brew in your brain."

Dr. Whitney gives many examples of how to implement meditation into your life that are too numerous to list here, which is why I recommend this book to you, but here are a few that stand out.

First, rewrite the text into your own words. Paraphrasing the verse you are considering is a good way to make sure that you understand the meaning of the text. How would you convey the content of the verse faithfully, yet without using the words of the verse?

Second, think of an illustration of the text. What picture explains it? Jesus himself utilized this method when he compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed in Luke 13:18-21.

Third, look for applications of the text. The outcome of meditation should be application. Meditation is incomplete without some kind of application, like chewing without swallowing.

Lastly, pray through the text. Biblical meditation must always involve two parties - the Christian and the Holy Spirit. Praying over a text is the Christian's invitation for the Holy Spirit to hold His divine light over the words of Scripture to show what you cannot see without Him.

The key to mediation is to not rush. Take your time. Read less (if necessary) in order to meditate more. There's no value in reading more if at the end you cannot recall anything of what you have read. My prayer is that we would all grow in our ability to meditate on God and His truth, and that the Word of God would become more precious to us as each day passes.

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,

I'm currently knee deep in Upward season and AWANA, as well as preparing for our upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza and Vacation Bible School! Let's just say I catch myself thinking of the tasks at hand rather than having relational conversations with kids and parents. Don't get me wrong, it's a good thing to have my mind focused on the details of the ministry. But in return it's a bad thing to be caught up in the busyness of discussing plans and watching the clock and calendar. All the while, "life" is happening around me and I'm missing out on seeing God's blessings and hurting myself and others by not experiencing the joy of those moments.

I recently came across an article by Karl Bastin, who is a veteran children's pastor and founder of kidology.org. His article helped me to understand that "We can't help growing older, but we can help growing up." In his article he writes:

"Kids live in the moment; adults are always going somewhere. Adults seem to always be in a hurry, discussing and planning for the future. Kids watch the world around them while adults watch the clock. Kids don't worry about the future. *Now* is what's important. It's why homework and practicing is so challenging for them. To connect with kids, we need to compromise by helping them prepare and joining them in the moment. Do you notice cool bugs? Can you spot a picture in the clouds? Can you stop and just enjoy something without concern about what's next? When you live in the moment, you make powerful connections with kids because they see most adults as just leading, directing, and giving instructions. When you stop and enjoy something in the moment, as trivial as it may be, you stand out as an adult who can relate to a kid's world. **Growing up, not old.** There are so many things we can learn from kids, and these things are key to ministering to them. While growing up, adults tend to leave behind many traits of children that they'd be wise to embrace. We can't help growing older, but we can help growing up. Keeping a childlike heart and approach to life is not only healthy, it's also the secret to effective relational ministry."

I pray these words spoke to you in a way to encourage you to find your inner child and live in the moment. Never forgetting that God is in control, not us. Relax, Breathe, and enjoy every moment.

God Bless,
April Sharp



Wednesday Evenings 6-7:30pm

3 years and Up

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY
VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

• **Help needed during
11am service**

• **Kids worship leaders 2
leaders needed**

**If interested please email
asharp@oakhillbc.org**

February 2017 Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Regular Wednesday Schedule	2 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	3 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	4 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
5 Regular Sunday Schedule STUDENT MINISTRY SUPER BOWL PARTY 5:00 PM	6 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	7 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	8 Regular Wednesday Schedule	9 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m. LLL SENIOR ADULT TRIP MOONLITE BBQ 11:00 AM	10 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	11 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 a.m.
12 Regular Sunday Schedule VALENTINES BANQUET 6:00 PM	13 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	14 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m. VALENTINE'S DAY	15 Regular Wednesday Schedule Childcare Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.	16 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	17 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	18 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.
19 Regular Sunday Schedule	20 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m. PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 LLL Senior Adult Breakfast Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	22 Regular Wednesday Schedule M3 MEETING 6:00 PM	23 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	24 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	25 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
26 Regular Sunday Schedule DISCOVER OAKHILL 5:00 PM	27	28	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 7:30 p.m. Student Midweek - Jr. & Sr. High School Worship Team Practice			

STUDENT SUPER BOWL PARTY
FEBRUARY 5TH
FELLOWSHIP HALL & GYM
5:00 PM

Many of our 2:42 groups will be gathering together to watch the Super Bowl in different homes.
 For more information on attending one of these homes to watch the game contact Pastor Nick - nscott@oakhillbc.org

M³ Members' Meeting
Mission, Ministry, & Money
 Wednesday, February 22nd 6:00 PM

DISCOVER OAKHILL *A class for new members and those interested in membership*
February 26th 5:00 pm
 Dinner and Childcare will be provided
Fellowship Hall
 RSVP by February 19th
 Sign up in the foyer or email Pastor Bryan - bgotcher@oakhillbc.org

Oakhill Baptist Kids STUDENT recycling PROJECT
 Green Tree Plastics ABC (A Bench for Caps) Partnership Recycling Program
 Oakhill Childcare reached their goal! Thank you! Now the Kid's and Student Ministries are collecting plastic caps. So, please continue to save your caps!