

OAKHILL BAPTIST CHURCH
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 **akleaves** **January 2017**
The Oakhill Baptist Church Newsletter

PASTOR'S POINTS



Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

ascott@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

As we enter a new year my main prayer for us is that we can get "Back to Basics." By that, I mean to focus on the main thing that we have been called to as followers of Jesus. Of course, I am speaking of the call to make disciples.

Jesus gave us this task right before He left this earth (Matthew 28:18-20) and it is a task that is still not completed. So many things push in on us in life and if we are not careful we find ourselves doing a lot of things other than the main thing we have been called to. I know as your pastor that God is calling us to rededicate ourselves to the task of making disciples.

Each of us must invest in ourselves and grow in our own personal walks with the Lord, but that is not the only dynamic of making disciples. We are called to invest in the life of others. We need to do life together as the body of Christ, as a church family!! We all need to be invested in and we need to invest in others as well. In my message on January 1st, I laid out an overview of the importance of this process. We considered the earthly ministry of Jesus, as well as instruction that the Apostle Paul gave to his young son in the faith, Timothy. Those truths are the

foundation of where we are going as a church in discipleship. I would encourage you to go online and listen to that message if you were not in worship on January 1st.

Over the next several Sundays I am going to be speaking on this topic as we consider the importance of making disciples; getting "Back to Basics." **Four words** will be used over the next weeks for us to really consider how we are going to make more followers of Jesus. **Behold, Belong, Become, and Beyond.** Make sure to be in worship as we consider what I am calling "**The Disciples Declaration.**" As followers of Jesus we need to declare: **I am going to Behold, I am going to Belong, I am going to Become, and I am going Beyond.**

2016 has come and gone with all its joys, challenges, blessings, and hardships. It is now 2017 and we must look forward to what God has for us to do for His glory!! I believe with my whole heart He would have us to get "Back to Basics" and make disciples who will in turn make disciples and take the gospel around the world all for His glory!!! Let's get to it!!!

I love you and I love being your pastor!

Pastor Alan

THE STATS

	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
8:00 AM Worship	85	91	56	9:00 AM: 201
9:30 AM Worship	92	101	93	10:30 AM: 181
11:00 AM Worship	266	259	233	N/A
Total Worship	443	451	382	382
2:42 Groups	193	208	206	N/A
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$14,285.83	\$16,324.73	\$12,775.44	\$26,086.93
Greater Things	\$7,844.71	\$8,067.00	\$3,662.00	\$8,889.15
Mission Club	\$235.00	\$205.00	\$155.00	\$195.00

Join us for

entrusted

A Study of 2 Timothy by BETH MOORE

LifeWay Women

Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
Begins January 26th @ 10:00 am
Sign up in the foyer

WOMEN ON MISSION

UNDERGIRDING ALL THINGS SOUTHERN BAPTIST

AS SOUTHERN BAPTISTS, WE WORK TOGETHER TO HELP PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD HEAR AND ACCEPT THE GOOD NEWS THAT SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST IS AVAILABLE TO THEM. WE WORK TOGETHER IN A VARIETY OF WAYS: MISSION TRIPS, ASSOCIATIONAL MINISTRIES, ETC. ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS WE WORK TOGETHER IS THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

ACCORDING TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION'S WEBSITE, SOUTHERN BAPTISTS ARE A FELLOWSHIP OF ALMOST 16 MILLION MEMBERS IN ABOUT 45,000 CHURCHES IN ALL 50 STATES AND CANADA. THESE CHURCHES WORK TOGETHER THROUGH ABOUT 1,100 ASSOCIATIONS, 42 STATE CONVENTIONS, AND THE SBC TO ACCOMPLISH THROUGH VOLUNTARY COOPERATION FAR MORE THAN THEY COULD EVER DO ALONE.

DURING THE YEAR, WE COLLECT SPECIFIC OFFERINGS, SUCH AS THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS, THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS, AND THE GLOBAL HUNGER RELIEF OFFERING (FORMERLY THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST WORLD HUNGER FUND). THESE OFFERINGS ARE DESIGNATED FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS. UNDERGIRDING ALL THESE IS THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.

FOR EXAMPLE, ALL THE MONEY GIVEN TO THE GLOBAL HUNGER RELIEF OFFERING IS USED SPECIFICALLY FOR HUNGER-RELATED MINISTRY. NONE OF THE OFFERING IS USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. BECAUSE THOSE COSTS ARE COVERED THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, EVERY DOLLAR GIVEN TO THIS OFFERING IS USED EXCLUSIVELY TO FEED THE HUNGRY.

WOMEN ON MISSION WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY.

\$PARE ϕ HANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

Pastor of Missions &
Administration

bgotcher@oakhillbc.org

Blog: bryangotcher.wordpress.com

Every Christmas and Easter we get a family picture at church. Since everyone is dressed up and looking good, I like to have it documented. It's fun to look back at these pictures each year to see kids being added to our family and how they have all grown. Each year it is a fairly easy task, after a couple of clicks we can usually get a good picture. For some reason this year we could not get a good one. We tried three different times, and took no less than 30 pictures, but could not get one with everyone's eyes open or head turned the right way. It was very frustrating to say the least. When we got home from church we finally got a decent pic, but it still wasn't perfect in my mind. It's tough to get the perfect picture at church in front of the big tree with six people, but that's not really the point.

My hope is when we are older we can enjoy looking back on year-after-year of Christmas photos. But what about this year, the church pictures were not good. I was very frustrated trying to get this picture and had to take a break from things to get my mind right. If I was not careful I could have ruined Christmas morning, for what, a picture? After thinking about it for a couple of days the decent photo is not even my favorite.

Looking back at the 87 pictures we took, a couple of the goofy ones remind me of how silly my kids can be; but I almost missed something even greater, the real reason for Christmas—worshipping Jesus. I almost turned into a Martha instead of a Mary.

Remember the story about Jesus visiting with some of His followers and all Mary was doing was sitting at Jesus' feet...the nerve. Poor Martha was running around as the hostess: fixing food, refilling drinks, and cleaning up after everyone. I am sure she tried some passive aggressive sighs or some snide comments to get Mary to help her, but to no avail. Exhausted, she appealed to Jesus for some help from Mary. She was thinking surely Jesus would understand, after all He said He came to serve. The one thing that she missed was that worshipping Jesus supersedes serving every time. We are created to bring glory and honor to God first and foremost. Sure, we are implored to serve, and we should serve, but not at the expense of simply sitting at our Savior's feet and worshipping.

If we are so worried about having a perfect holiday that we miss out on worshipping Jesus, then we have missed everything important. More important than that perfect family picture is taking your family to church, reading the Christmas story, setting out that nativity; all the things that remind us to worship the Savior.

In the New Year, don't fill your schedule so full you miss out on simply giving glory and praise to your Savior. Take extra time to marvel at creation, belt out a worship tune at the top of your lungs, or memorize a Psalm (100 is a great one to start). Do things that constantly bring your mind back to worship, because running around serving your family, your church, your job, etc. are good things, but simply sitting at your Savior's feet is better.



STUDENT MINISTRY



Brian Van Doren
Student Pastor
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

Did you know that the average reader could read the Bible all the way through 16 times in a 30 year span? The problem is, many of us don't think in terms of 30 years. Honestly, many of us don't think in terms of more than just a couple years. Many of us think in terms of one year, especially in the new year. Often this is very helpful. It gives us goals and plans that we set forth to accomplish (hopefully) worthy achievements. But, there is a problem with this kind of thinking. It is often short-sighted and makes us develop unrealistic goals. It is very difficult to be motivated to accomplish an unrealistic goal. We need longer goals. Our lives are not sprints, they are marathons and we must run the race with endurance. Not only do we need to manage our lives as such, but we must also demonstrate such living to the younger generations.

Many students dread the question: "so what are you going to do when you graduate?" This question drives at the one thing students don't want to do; think about the future. And it is no wonder. Our culture is a "here and now" culture that wants nothing to do with longevity and planning. It emphasizes your desires "now" and disregards your desires "then." This is a tragedy, but many of us Christians contribute to this kind of thinking as well. We are guilty too of asking how to fulfill our immediate desires rather than seeking to be faithful here and now waiting for God to fulfill our desires then.

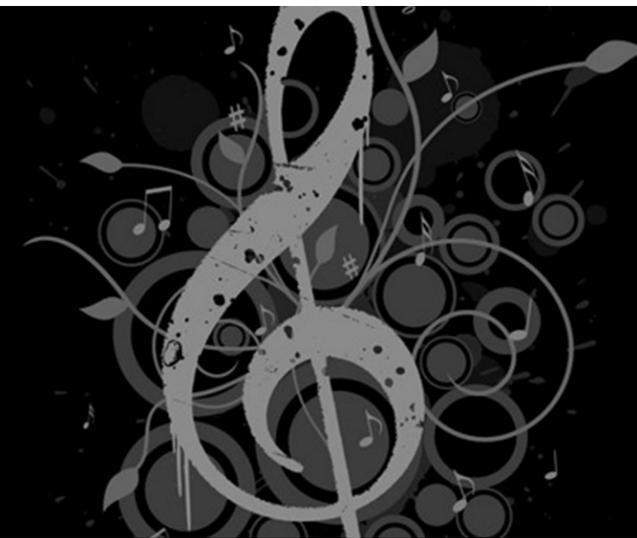
This is true and it is obvious when we start to ask ourselves how much time we spend reading the Word. But do not be discouraged. This is not meant to make you feel a burden to read your Bible for an hour every day. That always leads to exhaustion, frustration, and finally giving up. Is that not how most of our new year's resolutions go? This is, rather, a request and an encouragement to be faithful and to look at the big picture. Reading your Bible all the way through and becoming familiar with God's story of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration is much easier than you might think. The statistic above was calculated based on reading the Bible for 5 minutes every day. Just 5 minutes. What if when you were nearing the end of your life you had confidence in God's truth and salvation because you had read it entirely over 16 times? What if your children or grandchildren saw you reading the Bible every day? What kind of impact and change could that produce in your life and the life of those around you? And only in 5 minutes?

This year, the first and best way you could help me and our students would be for you to forget some outlandish/unrealistic resolution and resolve instead to look at the big picture. Choose to fight for faithfulness every day. Resolutions are only good if they have the big picture in mind and are reasonably achievable. Is daily time with God reasonably achievable in your life? Maybe not an hour, but some time at all? I think it is for all of us, including children and students. But why should we expect them to strive for this if we do not. How can I request this from you if I do not pursue it myself? But if we do resolve for this kind of faithfulness and this kind of longevity, what kind of impact should we expect to see in our church and in the lives of the younger generation? I think a bigger one than we can imagine. So will you help me? I pray that you have been and will continue to help me be an example to our students as to what faithfulness looks like. We must show them with our words and mouths what a life-long Christian looks like.

God bless, and may you have a wonderful and faithful 2017!

Brian Van Doren

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
jmitchell@oakhillbc.org

Church Family,

What a year it has been! A year ago, Annaclaire and I lived in Mississippi praying and believing in God's direction for our lives. Here we are a year later, serving with you, worshipping with you, and doing life along side of you. As we reflect on this past year, we are so thankful to God for bringing this wonderful Church Family into our lives. In just a short time we have seen God work through His Church at Oakhill, we have made friendships that feel like family, and we look forward to growing together for years to come. Thank you for loving Annaclaire and I so well over this past year. Thank you for partnering with us and the rest of our Church Family for the sake of the Gospel. I firmly believe that 2017 will be an incredible year as we move forward into what God has in store for our Church.

As we look forward, I want to bring up the words of a worship song that I believe is fitting for us. The words say,

"I will look up, for there is none above you,

I will bow down, to tell you that I need you,

Jesus, Lord of all,

I will look back, and see that you are faithful,

I look ahead believing you are able,

Jesus, Lord of all."

I hope that as you look back on 2016, you see the faithfulness of God. In the good times and the bad, I believe we can always see the faithfulness of God. God's love is constant and his grace is sufficient. If we believe this promise we can always see the faithfulness of God in every season. Because of this faithfulness we can look ahead with confidence and hope. We can believe that God is "able to do abundantly more than all we ask or think", according to Ephesians 3:20. God's grace is enough for us, His power is sufficient for us, and his promise to be faithful is always true. I ask that you believe this with me as we turn the page to 2017. We believe His promise and we worship in light of it. He is faithful and He is able.

In Christ,

Jared

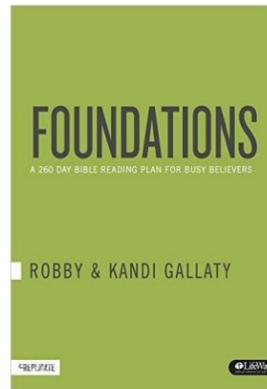
Speaking the Truth in Love

By Nick Scott

Happy New Year! 2017 is here and so is a new opportunity to recommit yourself to the Word of God. My prayer is that you would value and cherish the truth of the Bible even more this year. However, like every resolution that we make around the new year we have a tendency of losing interest or focus at some point not so long after we make the resolution. Well, I want to suggest two options that will hopefully make your resolution transition to a natural part of your lifestyle.

1. Foundations by Robbie and Kandi Gallaty

Foundations is a book based off of a Bible reading plan that Pastor Robbie Gallaty put together to help his church read through the Bible through the course of a year. It is a 260-day plan that is intended to be read 5 days out of each week. Each day has a text to read, some helpful commentary on the passage, as well as a weekly memory verse that you can meditate on throughout the week. Pastor Gallaty also teaches how to do something called a H.E.A.R. journal entry in response to what you read. This acronym stands for **H**ighlight, **E**xplain, **A**pply, and **R**espond. This moves you away from the mindset of simply checking off a box to complete the yearly plan and into a meaningful habit of observing, interpreting, and applying the truth of Scripture to your life. You can also check out the Replicate Ministries App for iOS and Android.



2. Read Scripture App



Another great tool that was just recently released is the *Read Scripture* app. This is a resource put out by Francis Chan, author of *Crazy Love*, for the purpose of helping people connect with the overall message of the Bible that points to Jesus. This app breaks down the Bible into 16 chapters of the big story of the Bible. This app also partners with *The Bible Project* and provides very helpful, short videos that explain the structure and themes of

every book before you begin reading it. For books like Leviticus, Numbers, and the Minor Prophets that may not be familiar to you at all, this is a great resource to show you the value of the entirety of Scripture. Everything is contained in this app - the daily plan, the text of Scripture to read, and the videos. You can also set up reminders on your phone too in case you need extra help. This app is now available for both iOS and Android.

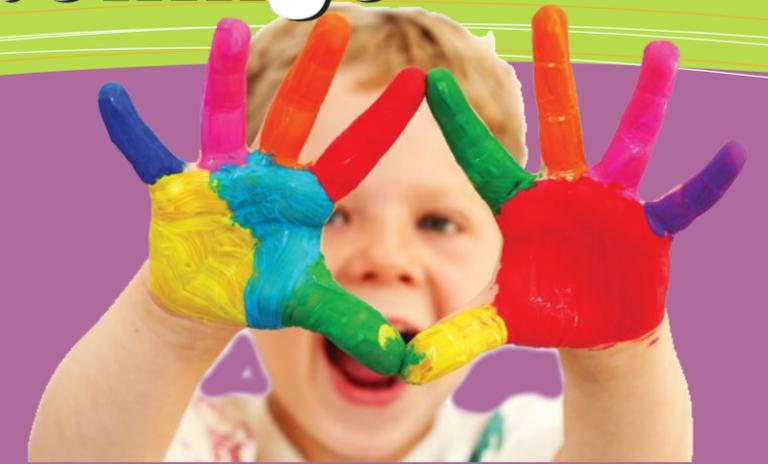
My prayer is that whatever means you use this year, that you cultivate a deeper love for the Word of God and allow it to mold you more into the image of Jesus Christ. I'm excited to see what God has in store for our church in 2017!

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.



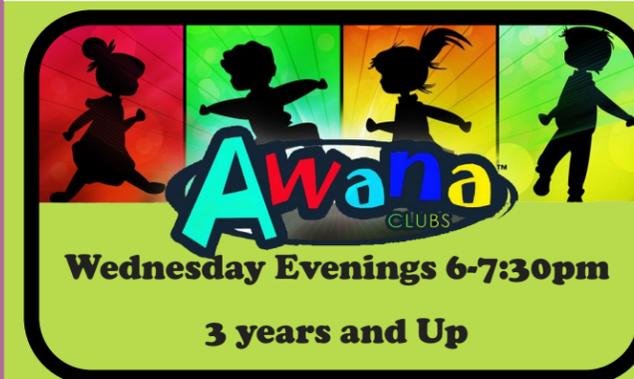
Hello Church Family,

Happy New Year! I have been praying that everyone has a wonderful holiday season. I know that 2016 brought a lot of up's and down's for so many of us. I'm thankful that we had each other to share in those moments. To have a church family that encourages, uplifts, prays, cries, laughs, and shares in all of the emotional times that this life brings is such a blessing. We have a very special church family. I hear of many churches that are our size that have a disconnect within the relationship of the church. I am in awe so many times when I see and hear about how close of a church family we are. This is something we should all cherish and desire more of.

Just recently my family and I were able to join a group of other families within our church to start an evening small group (2:42 group). This has been such a blessing for everyone involved. We meet in a home, share snacks, fellowship, dive into the word, share our struggles, thoughts and do life together. It's a wonderful group and a time that I look forward to each week. We are able to slow down our day and relax on the couch while the children play together during our lesson time. Of course, we check when needed, but for the most part it's their time to fellowship as well.

As a children's director and a parent, it makes me smile to see that the children love this time together just as much as their parents. And the children are fully seeing their parents sitting with other adults with their bibles open and learning more of His word. They are understanding that this is a time that even adults need, not just children. Sometimes when we separate ourselves from our kids during our quiet time it becomes "out of sight, out of mind" for them. What an amazing example we are setting for these young ones. If we don't teach our children how to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to. I love being able to love on all the children and serve alongside each of you as we help families to raise up the next generation of our church. I pray you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 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
2 leaders needed

If interested please email
asharp@oakhillbc.org

January 2017 Ministry Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Traditional Service 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service 10:30 a.m. *NO 2:42 Groups	2 Church Office Closed Childcare Closed Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	3 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	4 Regular Wednesday Schedule	5 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	6 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	7 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 Regular Sunday Schedule Student Ministry Parent Meeting 5:00 p.m.	9 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	10 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	11 Regular Wednesday Schedule	12 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	13 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	14 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food Pantry 9:00 a.m. State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 a.m.
15 Regular Sunday Schedule	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	17 LLL Senior Adult Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	18 Regular Wednesday Schedule Deacon's Meeting 6:00 p.m.	19 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	20 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	21 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.
22 Regular Sunday Schedule STUDENT SMALL GROUPS - JR & SR HIGH START BACK UP 5:00 PM	23 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	24 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	25 Regular Wednesday Schedule	26 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	27 Upward Games 5 - 9 p.m.	28 Upward Games 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.
29 Regular Sunday Schedule	30 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	31 Upward Practices 5 - 8 p.m.	Sunday Schedule 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship 2:42 Groups (Bible Study) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 2:42 Groups (Bible Study) 5:00 p.m. Student Small 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 Ministry PARENT MEETING

Sunday, January 8th • 5:00 pm • Youth Room
Come meet with Pastor Brian and hear about his vision for the future.
Follow Student Ministry on Facebook - ohbc student ministry



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

YES! ACCOUNT

This new opportunity will allow you to save money on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis to put towards your child's ministry events.

To start building your child's Yes! (Youth Event Savings) Account now, just note your *child's name* along with Yes! on a Ministry Event envelope or using Push Pay.

The amount of money that you choose to add to this account is completely up to you. The money will be placed into your child's account to be used at your discretion towards church events your child may choose to attend.

HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

Please update any changes in your information such as: Address, Phone Numbers, & Email.

You may do so by simply using the tear out guest card in the bulletin. Just write update on it. **THANK YOU!**