

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

January 2019

2019

Happy New Year!



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,

As you receive this newsletter, our church family has had the opportunity to be informed about April Sharp stepping down from her official duties as our Children's Ministry Director. First let me say that I support April and her decision even though I will miss her greatly in this role. I am convinced that she has sought God's will for her and her family so the only right thing to do is support and continue to pray for her, Vern, and the girls. April has invested in the children and families of our church for several years and we should express our thankfulness to her for her faithful service. We will go forward in children's ministry building on the foundation in which she has helped to lay. Thank you April for everything! The best news in the middle of this change is that April and the family are not going anywhere!! They are still apart of Oakhill, she just no longer has the responsibility of leading our children's ministry. The Sharps will be a part of our church and will serve where God places upon their heart to serve. As we transition through this change, please know that all our children's ministries will continue as normal. We will continue to work through our great children's ministry team members to provide ministry to our children.

When April came to me several weeks ago and shared with me that she may be stepping down, I began to pray and seek God's face on what it is we should do if she decided to step down. After praying for a few weeks, April came back to me and said she knew that God would have her to step down. In those weeks of prayer God had given

me a direction forward for our children's ministry into the future. As I shared what God had laid on my heart with our elders, staff, and personnel team God confirmed His direction each step of the way as I spoke with others. I will be sharing more about that direction at the proper time, but for now I want to encourage our church family to honor April, and for us not to run past the fact that April has given so much in service to her God, her church, and specifically the children of Oakhill!!

As we go through a time of transition, I am convinced that God has so much good for us as we begin 2019 together!! Ask God to use you like never before in this new year! If you will seek His face and earnestly ask for His leading, He will give it to you! I know from personal experience.

Pastor A

I love you and I love being your pastor,

THE STATS

Dec 2

Dec 9

Dec 16

Dec 23

Dec 30

8:00 AM Worship	87	90	76		
9:30 AM Worship	225	235	246	9:00 - 243	9:00 - 224
11:00 AM Worship	234	243	249	10:30 - 289	10:30 - 270
Total Worship	546	568	571	532	494
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$19,350.78	\$16,234.29	\$17,185.86	\$17,823.66	\$19,182.40
Mission Club	\$410.00	\$120.00	\$190.00	\$565.00	\$240.00

Valentine's Banquet
Sunday, February 10th
at 6:00pm

\$35.00 per couple
Dinner, Entertainment and
Childcare included.

Purchase tickets at the Welcome Desk
starting January 13th

WOMEN ON MISSION

Cooperative Program

Working Together toward a Common Goal: Rescuing Souls

More than 90 years ago, Southern Baptists realized the challenge of reaching a lost world was too great for the approach to missions they were taking. Small congregations couldn't adequately train leaders and send missionaries on their own. A host of societies competed for funding, and missions efforts were badly fragmented. A few leaders realized the churches needed to link up in a focused partnership. Together they could accomplish what chaotic competition was preventing.

In 1925, Southern Baptists forged the Cooperative Program. Individuals, churches, state conventions, and Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entities began working together toward a common goal: rescuing souls in danger by showing and sharing the gospel all around the world. The unified budget mitigated competition and provided long-term stability for missions boards.

Even though we number more than 47,000 congregations, our churches working alone could not register the gains we see each year through our Cooperative Program efforts: 16,000 students trained in six seminaries, more than 1,100 congregations started in North America, 886 people groups and 236 urban centers engaged overseas, and almost 1.4 million people in 53 countries helped with basic life essentials like food and clean water.

When we join hands through the Cooperative Program, we are better able to obey Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations."



January Birthdays

1st - Frank Shofner, Emily Smith

2nd - Kaleigh Kempf

3rd - Kristin Anderson, Jim Jett, Melissa Laurence, Steve Van Doren, Darlene West

5th - Jackson Dassel, Amy Mehne

7th - Maddox Calverley

8th - Ela Nixon, Kevin Beavers

9th - Ryleigh Boulware, Zachary Gregory, Keith Thomas, Jessica Morgan

10th - Emily Grace Luttrell, Phil St. Germain

11th - Dawn Ommart, Luke Reagan,

12th - Jon Hart, Carrie Young

13th - Wynter Deckman,

14th - Nick Kessler, Natalie Russell

15th - Jean Hitchcock

16th - Marge Pontious

17th - Ollie Mae Lamar, Nick Scott,

18th - Daniel Ditzer, Brandon Long

19th - Phillip Hostetler, Abbie Pavlichek, Mary Beth Potts

20th - Jay Phelps, Mark Virgin

21st - Larry Beckham, Emerson McDonald

22nd - Tom Gore, Jared Mitchell, Luke Morgan, Trevor Ray

23rd - Susie Duncan, Lucy Hernandez

24th - Jack Miles

25th - Lindsay Beck, Jimma Hogan-Pettigrew

26th - Nancy Andrews, Ben Richards

27th - Sara Calverley, Tanya Thornton

28th - Todd Butler, Carol Ruble

29th - Chace Monyhan, Connie Smith, Samantha Thompson, Penny Wilhite

30th - Paula Daily

\$PARE \$CHANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

Pastor of Missions & Administration

bgotcher@oakhillbc.org

Blog: bryangotcher.wordpress.com

I was honored to preach on December 30th about one of my passions: evangelism. This has been a journey for me, to arrive at the place where I am passionate about sharing my faith. Historically, I have been terrified in one-on-one witnessing situations. It wasn't because I lacked training. I have been trained in no less than six evangelism strategies. None of this helped me to conquer my fear of sharing my faith, which led me to believe that the reason Christians don't share is not a lack of knowledge. We might use that as an excuse but, in reality, we have more resources available to learn than ever before.

The problem for me was that witnessing always felt like a sales pitch. I felt like a vacuum salesman going door to door. It didn't feel genuine to me. It also didn't produce many genuine results. What changed for me was when I realized that witnessing was not a pitch but a conversation that should flow out of a relationship. That is not to say God might not providentially bring someone to us, like Phillip with the Ethiopian Eunuch; however, I believe the majority of witnessing opportunities will come with people we know.

I believe that God has placed us in our neighborhoods, at our jobs, in our families, on a kid's ball team, and any other place you go for a reason. Our job is to build relationships with people, so we can share. We should look at ourselves as missionaries that are always on the mission field. That parent next to you at ball practice is someone you need to get to know. That neighbor across the street is a relational opportunity. These are the types of people we should be reaching out to.

Another breakthrough for me was to realize that we are not making converts— Jesus wants disciples. This is a common misconception that is fueled by those witnessing programs. Conversion is not the goal, it is the beginning. We should be seeking to help people begin a faith journey and as they surrender to Christ we should continue to help them grow in their faith. When we view witnessing as a part of the discipleship process then it feels much more genuine.

These realizations helped me to get past my fear; however, there will always be an element of anxiety in sharing our faith, that is just the way it is. At some point we have to get over that fear by swallowing hard and doing it. We must have a greater allegiance to our Lord and Savior than we do to fear. We have to treat the great commission as a command not a suggestion. One verse that has helped me immensely is 1 Timothy 1:7, "God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." The Holy Spirit gives us the strength we need. God is right there in the midst of our conversations, helping and guiding us.

I would also encourage Christians to be familiar with scripture; develop a daily reading plan. Look for verses that will help you share your faith. Some have suggested that believers know the Roman's Road, which is simply a few verses from the book of Romans that outline the gospel. You can search these verses easily on the web. You can also read good resource like *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* by Jimmy Scroggins, Steve Wright, and Bennett Leslee. This book helps us to learn the 3 Circles, which is a witnessing strategy based on relationships and conversation. This book also has very helpful ways to turn conversations toward spiritual subjects. It is overall a great resource for any Christian that wants to share his or her faith.

The point is we are commanded to go into the all the earth and share our faith. We need to start where God has placed us right now. If you need to learn more, then do it, there is no reason to wait. If you are scared, pray that God would help you overcome that fear. Finally, ask God to show you someone in your life that would be open to the gospel message. Start small, as I challenged the church in my message, look for one person to win to Christ in 2019, that is a very doable goal. You can do it!

STUDENT MINISTRY



Brian Van Doren
Pastor of Students
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

Dear Church Family,

The Christmas season has come to an end yet again, and it's back to life as it used to be. A truly sad reality for some and a very welcome prospect for others. But there are some definite things that should never change for a Christian after Christmas time: Love, Joy, and Peace. These are words that we have seen posted everywhere during the Christmas season. And there is nothing wrong with that! It's kind of nice to see people aspiring to Christian values. But the problem is, people in the world can only hold those values for a short season. And even during that season, those values are actually quite lacking. I'm not sure how many people actually feel the love, joy, and peace when fighting the crowds at the mall or driving up and down Green River Road! Why is it that having love, joy, and peace is so hard to keep up?

The answer is that love, joy, and peace come from the Lord. They belong to Him, and it is only in Him that we can find them. Unbelievers can aspire to these values as much as they want. But eventually they will burn out and default back to themselves. Even Christians seem to have this same experience. But if believers and unbelievers alike cannot attain love, joy, and peace for longer than a couple weeks in December (if that), then what's the difference? And that's my point. There is a difference. Believers truly can have love, joy, and peace throughout the year, in all circumstances. I did not say they would be healthy and wealthy, but that they could have Christlike attitudes through all of life's situations. The key is that we must ask God to give us these values instead of thinking we can muster them on our own. Where is this coming from and why am I writing about this? Well, it's coming from Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." And I'm writing about it because I have found that having Christian values, even as a Christian at Christmas time, can be very difficult. The Lord has shown me that love, joy, and peace (and all the rest), are not just values that I need to try to live out, but they are realities in my heart that will only be displayed when I walk by the Spirit and not in my flesh. That simply means that I must ask God to give me His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control every single day. If I am not asking the Holy Spirit to guide my heart daily, then something else will. And it will make me unloving, dissatisfied, and in an uproar within.

I see those sad realities around me all the time in the life of students. They are dissatisfied with life, constantly fighting internal turmoil, and only full of love for themselves. It is also a reality for unbelieving adults. But it really doesn't have to be our reality. Every Christian can have love, joy, and peace, because we all have the Holy Spirit living in us! And we can have, and do have, these things for all of our lives. Maybe you feel the same tension of being a believer but struggling to experience them in your life. Maybe you know a student who desperately needs to be encouraged to pray and ask God to give them these things. My hope and challenge for us all is to be a people who walk by the Spirit and rely on Him to give us love, joy, and peace all year long! If you are following Christ, then this is your reality. Now, ask the Lord to help you experience it more this year than ever before!

Sincerely,

Brian Van Doren

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
jmittell@oakhillbc.org

Church Family,

I pray this new year finds you well. God did so many great things through our church in 2018, and we cannot wait to see what's in store for 2019. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved in our Christmas Worship Program. We could not have done it without our praise band, praise team, choir, and production team. I am so thankful for every single person who helped make our Christmas Program a special event. I also want to thank everyone who came out to participate and worship with us. I know there were so many things you could have done with your evening, so thank you if you came to be a part! It was a great night and I am so grateful for everyone who was a part.

Moving on into 2019, I want to share three prayers that I have for our Church Family this new year, and I hope you would pray these things with me as well. I know there are so many things we could pray for, and so many things that we do pray for. But the sake of space, and I'll share just a few:

1) I pray that worshipping God would be our main priority. I pray that worship would be the goal of my heart, all day, every day. I don't mean only on Sunday mornings. Should we make worship a priority on Sunday mornings? Absolutely. Should worship slide down our priority list during the rest of the week? Absolutely not. Whether we are alone, whether we are together, whether we are at work, or whether we are with our families, I

pray we would worship the one who gives us all of these things. God is good, all the time, and he deserves our worship all of the time.

2) I pray that we would pray more. I pray that I would pray more. I pray that you would pray more. I pray that we would see every meal, every goodnight story with our children, every morning coffee, as a chance to come to God in prayer. I pray that we would pray more than once a day. I'm really excited that our Church focus for 2019 is prayer, if even that I would pray more myself, with my family. How much should we pray? I can't give an exact amount of time we should spend in prayer. But I know that I should pray more than I am, and we should all pray more than we are. Join me, and let's just pray more!

3) I pray that we would worship God in a fresh way on Sunday mornings. Does this mean that we will worship God in a new way? No. Does it mean that we will worship God in a different way? No. But I also believe that God is the ultimate creator of all things. So, my prayer is that God would create something new in us as we come to worship together on Sunday morning. Let's set our expectations high. Let's set our standard high. I believe that God will do more than we ask or imagine. Let's expect Him to do just that.

I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this year. I love you all and I will see you on Sunday!

In Christ,
Jared

Spiritual Development

The Fierce Fruit of Self-Control” by John Piper



Nick Scott

Pastor of Spiritual
Development
nscott@oakhillbc.org

The very concept of “self-control” implies a battle between a divided self. It implies that our “self” produces desires we should not satisfy but instead “control.” We should deny ourselves and take up our cross daily, Jesus says, and follow him (Luke 9:23). Daily our “self” produces desires that should be “denied” or “controlled.” The path that leads to heaven is narrow and strewn with suicidal temptations to abandon the way. Therefore Jesus says, “Strive to enter through the narrow door” (Luke 13:24). The Greek word for “strive” is *agonizesthe*, in which you correctly hear the English word “agonize.”

We get a taste of what is involved from Matthew 5:29: “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away.” This is the fierceness of self-control. This is what is behind the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:12: “The kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.” Are you laying hold on the kingdom fiercely? Paul says that Christians exercise self-control like the Greek athletes, only our goal is eternal, not temporal. “Every athlete [*agonizomenos*] exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (1 Corinthians 9:25). So he says, “I discipline my body and keep it under control” (1 Corinthians 9:27). Self-control is saying no to sinful desires, even when it hurts.

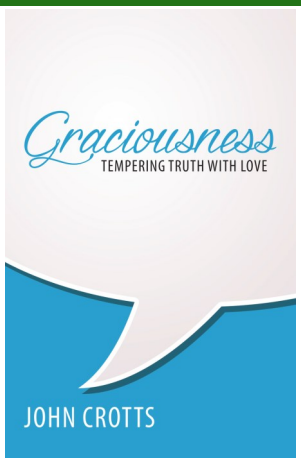
But the Christian way of self-control is not “Just say no!” The problem is with the word “just.” You don’t just say no. You say no in a certain way: You say no by faith in the superior power and pleasure of Christ. It is just as ruthless. And may be just as painful. But the difference between worldly self-control and godly self-control is crucial. Who will get the glory for victory? That’s the issue. Will we get the glory? Or will Christ get the glory? If we exercise self-control by faith in Christ’s superior power and pleasure, Christ will get the glory.

Fundamental to the Christian view of self-control is that it is a gift. It is the fruit of the Holy Spirit: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . . self-control” (Galatians 5:22–23). How do we “strive” against our fatal desires? Paul answers: “For this I toil, struggling [*agonizomenos*] with all his energy that he powerfully works within me” (Colossians 1:29). He “agonizes” by the power of Christ, not his own. Similarly he tells us, “If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13). “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). We must be fierce! Yes. But not by our might. “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord” (Proverbs 21:31).

And how does the Spirit produce this fruit of self-control in us? By instructing us in the superior preciousness of grace, and enabling us to see and savor (that is, “trust”) all that God is for us in Jesus. “The grace of God has appeared . . . training us to renounce . . . worldly passions . . . in the present age” (Titus 2:11–12). When we really see and believe what God is

Recommended Resource— *Graciousness* by John Crotts

Sometimes we have important things to say to other Christians, but if we deliver our message ungraciously, they won’t benefit from it. Author John Crotts points out that God cares about how we say what we say: “It is not enough always to say the truth; you must also say the truth in love.” In *Graciousness*, the author addresses Christians who are zealous for God’s truth yet struggle to communicate it graciously— in a loving way. Filled with practical instruction and wise insights, this book includes a biblical description of graciousness, with a look at positive examples and commands from the Bible and methods for cultivating graciousness in various areas of the Christian life. Be equipped to speak the truth in love!



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,

As I write this article, it brings to the surface many emotions. As you know, this will be my final article to write as a staff member of our church. With a lot of prayer and thought I have decided that it will be best for me and my family to step away from my position as the Children’s Director at our church. I am at peace with this decision and am so blessed to have had this opportunity to be Oakhill’s Children’s Director and to love on each of your children.

I would like to share my heart now so you can better understand. Oakhill is my church family, it is where my husband, girls and I call our church home. I genuinely love the people that make up this amazing church and I love being a servant of our Lord. Pastor Alan has often told me and most of you that ministering to others can be messy. This is all so true, with ministry comes the heaviness of carrying each other’s burdens because we have a great love and care for each other. With the weight of vocational ministry pressing in on my family and me, I know without a doubt that God is wanting me to place more focus on my family and nurture our love for our church.

This change is bitter sweet because with change comes sadness, nervousness, and even fear. Proverbs 3:5-6 comes to mind when I think of this change “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do and He will direct your path.*” There are no better words for us to go to during this time of change. When I consider this decision, I am able to look back and see God’s hand moving long before the thoughts even came to mind. We may not understand His plan but we trust in Him and we seek His will for the path He wants for us.

My family and I have a strong desire to serve alongside each of you and our Pastors at Oakhill. Do not get discouraged during this time of change. I know God has great plans ahead for our church, allowing us to bring Glory to Him. I want to encourage each of you to continue serving in your areas of giftedness. For those of you that are seeking a place to serve, now is the time to consider children’s ministry. Our pastors have a true love for the people that make up this wonderful church and I have faith in knowing that they will look to God for wisdom during this transition. Our children’s ministry will continue to be a wonderful place for our children to learn of Christ’s love and allowing them to grow in their spiritual walk. We have amazing teachers that love children and have great passion to see them have a relationship with Christ. I’m looking forward to serving in a different capacity with these same teachers. God’s hand is at work and I’m excited to watch His plan unfold and for the future of our children’s ministry.

Thank you for allowing me to love on your kiddos.

God Bless,

April Sharp

January 2019 Ministry Calendar

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 Groups Wednesday Schedule 12:00 pm Prayer & Bible Study Luncheon 6:00 pm Student Gathering & AWANA		1 New Year’s Day Church Office & Daycare Closed	2 NO Wednesday Activities	3 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	4 Upward Games	5 Upward Games
6 Regular Sunday Schedule	7 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	8 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	9 Regular Wednesday Schedule Deacon’s Meeting 6:00 pm	10 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	11 Upward Games	12 Food Pantry 9:00 am State Hospital Ministry 9:45 am Upward Games
13 Regular Sunday Schedule Off Campus Life Group Kick-Off	14 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	15 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	16 Regular Wednesday Schedule	17 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	18 Upward Games	19 Food Pantry 9:00 am Upward Games
20 Regular Sunday Schedule Student/Parent Lunch 12:45 - 2:00 pm	21 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	22 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	23 Regular Wednesday Activities	24 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	25 Upward Games	26 Upward Games
27 Regular Sunday Schedule	28 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	29 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm	30 Regular Wednesday Activities	31 Upward Practice 5:00 - 8:00 pm		

Serving Others at Oakhill

January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Deacon of the Week Jeff Thornton (812) 746-8739 Ty Nixon (812) 518-8759 Chair Set-Up Team Kessler/Pettigrew Life Groups	Deacon of the Week Alan Simpson (812) 477-7204 Chris Fischer (812) 630-9443 Chair Set-Up Team Mosaic/Schloss/A.Scott Life Groups	Deacon of the Week Chad Mehne (812) 774-6212 Robert Jackson (812) 491-6803 Chair Set-Up Team BASIC Life Group	Deacon of the Week Brad Lamar (812) 480-9663 Chair Set-Up Team Gotcher/Calverley Life Groups
8:00 AM Service			
Nursery Shaun & Robin Hudson Greeters Ron & Shirley Wiggins Welcome Center Shirlene Kilgore	Nursery Mary Gamblin & Daniel Bannister Greeters Randy & Penny Wilhite Welcome Center Dawn Ommart	Nursery Doris & Maci Rutledge Greeters Bob Williams & Marge Pontious Welcome Center Mary Gamblin	Nursery Jane Jett & Alice Mosley Greeters David Harmes & Sharon Harmes Welcome Center Amanda Washburn
9:30 AM Service			
Nursery Adam & Jamie Ice Greeters Brett & Tammy Creamer, April Helm, Cheri Koberstein Welcome Center Robert Jackson	Nursery Dave & Kristie Swenson Greeters Ryan & Wynter Deckman, Sandy Dierlam, Ron Wiandt Welcome Center Sondra Schloss	Nursery Chris & Amanda Washburn Greeters Jeff & Janice Hostetler, Tom Stofleth Welcome Center John & Pam Schultz	Nursery Heather Ntweo & Lauren Phelps Greeters Jon & Heidi Hart, April Helm Welcome Center Deann Moss
11:00 AM Service			
Nursery Cheri Koberstein & Amy Olsen Toddlers & 3yrs Bethanne Long & Sammy Thompson, Bryan & Amanda Bishop	Nursery Evan & Valerie Luttrell Toddlers & 3yrs Melissa Owen & Lucy Thornton, Melody & Alexa Miles	Nursery Toni Gillispie & Sarah Richards Toddlers & 3yrs Blake & Kelsie Palmer, Sara & Bryan Calverley	Nursery Jon & Heidi Hart Toddlers & 3yrs Ryan & Wynter Deckman, Kristi & Sydney Gotcher
Greeters Jim & Barb Burns Welcome Center Kathleen Qualkenbush Van Driver Robert Jackson	Greeters Curtis Cronch, Dawna Fischer Welcome Center Jacob & Gina Townsend Van Driver Ron Wiandt	Greeters Sara Calverley, Lauren Phelps Welcome Center April Helm Van Driver Wandel Hagan	Greeters Keith & Teresa Thomas Welcome Center Darrell Ommart Van Driver Brad Lamar