

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

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November 2017



Giving
Thanks
for you
this Thanksgiving



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



Dear Church Family,

I am so excited to be able to share some wonderful news! Back in 2008 we as a church began a journey of faith as we expanded our church facility to accommodate the growth of our church that God had brought to us. We initially entered into a capital building campaign to raise 1.7 Million dollars to build the current facility that we worship in. Along the way the church also approved about \$300,000 to build out our fellowship hall, and to invest in repairs and upgrades to our church campus. We made a pledge to be debt free within ten years and by God's grace and your faithfulness, **I am pleased to announce that we are debt free!!** We will be celebrating this great news at our church-wide Thanksgiving Banquet on November 19th. Make sure to be there for a great night of fellowship and celebration!

Along with this great news we have also had a very generous gift given specifically to go towards the purchase of a new church sign. With this generous donation along with monies on hand our sign is paid for in full and should be in place by mid-November! God is so good! I am so excited for what God is going to continue to do among us. We are positioned like never before to be used by God to make disciples into the future. This is our mission and our focus. Ask God to do a deep work in you, and then ask Him how you can engage in your church family to make a difference in the lives of others.

I also want to say a word of thanks to Jacob Townsend. Jacob is getting ready to once again lead us as a church family into an awesome season of UPWARD basketball and cheerleading. We are so ready for the season. Please pray for Jacob as he leads us in UPWARD ministry. In the middle of all that Jacob does in the life of our church, he has also recently begun a new job as well. In light of all of this, Jacob has let me know that for right now he desires to step back from his responsibilities as one of our Lay Elders. He is still going to be one of our Life Group Leaders, and lead out in UPWARD, but for now in the middle of job transition and all the other things of life he needs to step back. I totally understand Jacobs' request and support him fully in his decision.

With all that said, we have so much to be thankful for! We are debt free, we have a paid for new church sign, and we have a wonderful ministry that is beginning (UPWARD) that is going to impact many families in our area! If you can help in any way, contact Jacob Townsend or April Sharp!

Thank you all so much for your faithfulness to God throughout the years! And thank you for remaining faithful as we continue to invest in God's family and kingdom right here at Oakhill Baptist Church.

I love you and I love being your pastor,

Pastor A

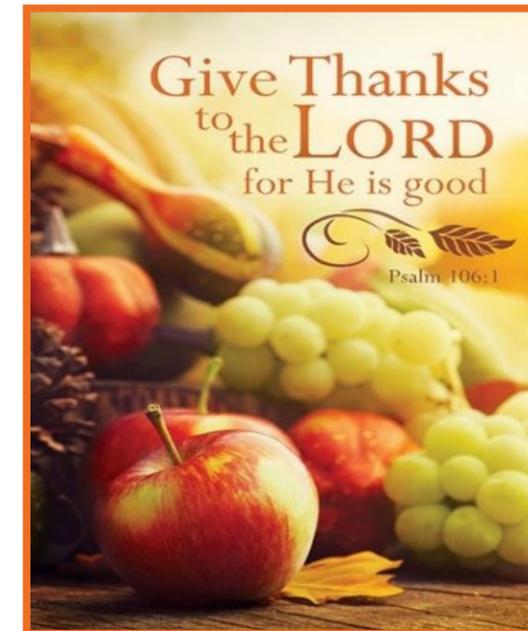
Alan D. Scott

Lead Pastor

ascott@oakhillbc.org

THE STATS

	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
8:00 AM Worship	84	88	83	83	81
9:30 AM Worship	163	180	157	149	125
11:00 AM Worship	188	206	236	250	221
Total Worship	435	474	476	482	427
Oakhill Budget Offering	\$17,236.58	\$12,412.21	\$17,917.58	\$11,792.32	\$15,064.48
Greater Things	\$3,233.00	\$652.00	\$955.00	\$1,545.00	\$846.00
Mission Club	\$300.00	\$265.00	\$160.00	\$225.00	\$200.00



Give Thanks Offering November 19th

Almost every year for the last 11 years we have either met 100% of our budget or came very close to it. This year though we are running behind by about 10%. We are asking our church family to help us make up ground on our budget short fall by giving to a "Give Thanks" offer on November 19th as we gather together to celebrate God's faithfulness to us. Offering will be collected in the morning services or that evening at the Thanksgiving Banquet.



Thanksgiving meal provided! Bring a dessert to share.

WOMEN ON MISSION

International Mission Study

The mention of Russia may conjure up images of Romanov royalty, cultural icons such as Mikhail Baryshnikov and Dostoyevsky, or maybe a parade of dictators like Stalin, Lenin, or Khrushchev. What probably doesn't come to mind is Muslims.

However, Muslims are actually one of the indigenous peoples of Russia, their roots lying deep in the isolated villages of the Caucasus region, the mountain range separating Europe and Asia.

But besides those indigenous people, there has been a rebirth of Muslim influence in Russian cities in the past 25 years, as the crumbling of the Berlin Wall changed the relationship between Russia and the Central Asian republics. Now migrant workers from the south come in unprecedented numbers to work in the large cities. In fact, Moscow's Muslim population has grown from 1 million to 2.5 million in the last few years, making it the largest Muslim city in Europe.

The transitory life of the migrant has proven to be fertile soil for the hope of the gospel. Making this time in history a remarkable opportunity to share Christ. Christian workers are developing methods to come alongside the Muslims of Russia to give them a hope and a future.

Learn how God is at work bringing Muslims to Himself in the International Mission Study 2017. Peek into life behind the veil of Islam in Europe and be challenged to develop your own strategies to share Christ with the Muslims around you.

Women on Mission will meet Monday, Nov 13 at 6:00 pm at the church. All our ladies are invited to be with us. Our study is Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 12:00 pm following our noon lunch in the fellowship hall.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st - Duke Dockery, Levi Dunn, Landon Weinzapfel	14th - Bryan Bishop, Keegan Griepenstroh
2nd- Jamie Erikson, Jeremy Schmitt, Derrick Thompson, Lucy Thornton	15th - Isaiah Schmitt
3rd - Rudy Cabrera, Zach Fuller, Campbell Jackson, Blake Palmer, Charlene Stricklen	16th - Debbie Sutton
4th - Lucas Pettigrew, Morgan Virgin	18th - Hannah Comer, Helen Evans, Drew Phebus, Aletha Poag
5th - Addy Bishop	19th - Dennis Fuller, Rick Koberstein
6th - Kian Lowe, Macie Swenson	20th - Jeff Thornton
7th - Amy Dassel, Steve Mahon, Kelsie Palmer, Mourine Schmitt, Kherington Smith	21st - Maria Broshears
9th - Carl Jones	22nd - Randy Rich
10th - Alex Conner, Angala Luttrell	23rd - Judy Bates
11th - Vesta Sauter	25th - Bailey Defries, Debbie Simpson, Dana Tribble
12th - Emma Lear, Joseph McElroy	27th - Khloe Basham, Madelyn Gentry, Karlie Lear
13th - Kenny Gamblin, Emek Ntewo, Ashtyn Sharp	28th - Michelle Eakes, Brianna Miller
	29th - Deann Moss
	30th - Gracie Hart, Justin Scott, Kristie Swenson

\$PARE CHANGE



Bryan R. Gotcher

Pastor of Missions & Administration

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Blog: bryangotcher.wordpress.com

As I sat at our annual food pantry training I looked around and realized that I was the youngest person in the room. There were food pantry ministries from all over the tri-state area and many of them were run and staffed by senior adults. That got me thinking about how much seniors serve. I truly believe that without senior adults, retired adults, and disabled adults churches would not be able to offer the amount of ministry that we do and subsequently not help as many people in the community. From this we can understand two important things:

1. Seniors Are Valuable

Seniors (I am primarily thinking about those 60 years and above and in most cases retired or semi-retired) are not valued in our society. Our culture values youth over experience. There is so much talk now-a-days in church life about engaging millennials, which means the seniors can go quietly unnoticed. Many people don't care what seniors think or, at the very least, think they are outmoded. However, seniors offer a unique life perspective. They realize that life is a marathon. They realize what's important in life. Young people have a lot to learn from them and need to value them.

2. You Never Retire from Ministry

Many seniors also never retire. Sure, they might retire professionally, but it is hard to go from working every day to all of a sudden doing nothing, so they naturally look for something to do. You look at any volunteer organization, including the church, and what do you see...seniors. Retirees are the ones working at the food banks, they are helping to fix things around the church, visiting shut-ins, spearheading mission's offerings, and the list goes on and on. Seniors that love God and love their church never retire, they continue to serve often until they just physically can't.

Young People (I use this term loosely, anyone under 60) need to be challenged by the involvement of senior adults. There are three ways in which we are challenged:

1. Are You Too Busy to Do Ministry?

I know what it is like to have the stresses of life and the pressures of work and family. We often feel like we are meeting ourselves coming and going. Busyness seems to be a way of life, but is it the right way? I think we need to step back and realize that we don't have to schedule ourselves every hour of the day, especially to the exclusion of ministry. If you're too busy to serve the Lord, then you're just too busy. You need to cut some stuff out and find time to serve somewhere.

2. Serve Now and You'll Serve Then

I remember someone telling me that if you want to build a lifelong habit then start it when you're young. Want to be a saver? Then start saving from the first time you get paid for mowing or babysitting. Those habits will stick with you for the rest of your life. The same is true with serving. If you don't make it a habit now you will never do it, there will always be an excuse, or another thing that takes precedence. If you want to serve the Lord then do it now, don't wait.

3. Today's Young People are Tomorrow's Seniors

Finally, I just want to remind all the young folks that today you are relevant, but tomorrow you may be feeling forgotten by our culture. Realize that seniors are valuable: get to know some of them, listen to them, help them, and serve alongside of them. You may just learn something new.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Dear Church Family,

This time last year I wrote my first Oakleaves newsletter article. The past year has been a wonderful and challenging year. Kayla and I love living in Evansville and serving here at Oakhill Baptist Church. We have fallen in love with the students and families here and we plan on getting to know the families of our church even better over the next year. We hope that we have been a blessing to you and your family in some way, because you have certainly been a blessing to us.

This month is Thanksgiving month. It is incredibly easy to think of things to complain and gripe about, but what is less natural, and infinitely more beneficial, is for us to consider what things the Lord has blessed us with. I've been thinking about this regarding the lives of students in today's world. I look around and see all the worldly influences they are being inculcated with and I am tempted to complain. But that doesn't really get us anywhere. So recently I have been trying to focus on how thankful I am that there is at least one place they can go to be nursed back to health with the truth; and that is the Church. The more I think about this, the more I am thankful that there is a place that I can go to be comforted, encouraged, grown, challenged, and rescued by the truth that our society is quickly jettisoning. I see the problems in the world and I cannot think of anything that will sufficiently remedy the issue except for the gospel of Christ. And we, His Church, are the ones who are to be equipped with that truth so we can be a lighthouse to a dark world. I am thankful for our church and its commitment to equipping disciples to be lights in the darkness. I am thankful for the students, their families and the joy we bring each other in Christian fellowship. And I am thankful for the blessing that we can find our joy in Christ rather than in the world where it cannot be found.

I would like to stir you to think about these things as well. Be careful, this is a busy time of year (what time of year isn't busy?) and that means that we can easily be distracted from what's most important. The enemy does not want you to think about how wonderful it is to belong to a family of believers that meets regularly to speak truth and encourage one another to go out and keep living for Christ. He wants you to be focused on other things, good things, but not eternal things. If you are a parent or grandparent reading this, think about how wonderful it is that this family of believers here at Oakhill Baptist Church is committed to teaching the younger generations the truth and equipping them to live it. There is nowhere else in this world that will teach them eternal, life changing truth like the Church. I am abundantly grateful to be able to teach students several times a week truth that gives life and joy and peace. They need that desperately!! So do you and me. Could you imagine living in the world not knowing where to find life, joy, and peace? Our culture tempts students to think they can find those things in relationships, social media, entertainment, sex, money, social status, and even suicide. We, the Church, know better. A gospel centered home and the Church are the only places where the younger generation can go to learn where they can find their true joy. Apart from God and my family, there is nothing I am more thankful for than the Church. My prayer is that, when you really think about it, you would feel the same.

Sincerely,

Brian



Brian Van Doren
Pastor of Students
bvandoren@oakhillbc.org

WORSHIP



Jared Mitchell
Pastor of Worship
jmitchell@oakhillbc.org

Psalm 100 says,

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his [a]; We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

With this Psalm in mind, and as we approach a season of thankfulness, I want to point us to the most important element of our worship – Thanksgiving. In Psalm 100, it is written to enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. When we worship, we give thanks. But why do we give thanks? What are you thankful for in your life? Are you thankful for your family? Your friends? Your job?

The reality is that we have so much to be thankful for. But it's important to remember to whom we owe our thankfulness. James 1:17 says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above." It's important for us to remember than everything we have in this life comes from our Father in Heaven. Our families, our jobs, our money, our things – every good thing is from the Father. We only have Him to thank for the good things in our lives.

But our thankfulness stretches far beyond our material possessions. As children of God, we have eternal life. God calls us Sons and Daughters. Jesus died in our place, for our sins, so that we could live with the Father forever. For this – we are to be eternally thankful, and constantly filled with thankfulness and praise.

So as we approach our time in worship, we reflect on everything we are thankful for – realizing that every thing we have on this earth has been given to us by God. But ultimately, we approach our time with worship filled with thankfulness because we see what God has done for us through his son Jesus. We realize that without the cross, we could not be thankful. We could not have peace. We could not have hope. But thanks be to God, that we can have eternal peace, hope, and righteousness based on what Jesus did for us on the Cross. So as you reflect on what you are thankful for in this season of Thanksgiving, remember the cross. Remember Jesus. Let's not wait until Christmas to set our hearts on Christ, and what He has done for us. And for what He has done, we are eternally thankful, and our hearts are filled with constant praise!

In Christ,
Jared

Spiritual Development

Who Are You Through Christ?



Nick Scott
Pastor of Spiritual
Development
nscott@oakhillbc.org

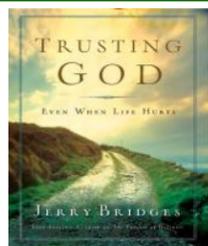
As a disciple of Jesus, we have been given a new nature and identity. Our heart has been transformed, our eyes have been opened, and our lives have been set on a path of dedication to our new Lord, Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, but many times I need to be reminded of these truths and more specifically about what the Bible says about who I am in Christ. I want to use this opportunity to remind you and encourage you to cling to these promises and unshakeable realities that are true if you have trusted in Christ. There are many distractions and temptations that will take our eyes off of these truths, but we can respond back in the same assurance that John Newton had when he said "Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior."

- Through Christ, I am dead to sin (Romans 6:11).
- Through Christ, I am spiritually alive (Romans 6:11; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
- Through Christ, I am forgiven (Colossians 2:13; 1 John 2:12).
- Through Christ, I am declared righteous (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Through Christ, I am God's possession (Titus 2:14).
- Through Christ, I am an heir of God (Romans 8:17).
- Through Christ, I am blessed with all spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3).
- Through Christ, I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- Through Christ, I am free from the law (Romans 8:2).
- Through Christ, I am crucified with him (Galatians 2:20).
- Through Christ, I am free from the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:24).
- Through Christ, I am declared blameless and innocent (Philippians 2:15).
- Through Christ, I am a light in the world (Matthew 5:14-15; Philippians 2:15).
- Through Christ, I am victorious over Satan (Luke 10:19).
- Through Christ, I am cleansed from sin (1 John 1:7).
- Through Christ, I am set free in Christ from the power of sin (Colossians 2:11-15).
- Through Christ, I am secure in him (1 Peter 1:3-5).
- Through Christ, I am at peace with God (Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:6-9).
- Through Christ, I am loved by God (1 John 4:10).

(List from *Gospel Coach* pgs. 71-72)

Recommended Resource— *Trusting God* by Jerry Bridges

Life is hard. But even in that difficulty God remains trustworthy. This book helps us to think through why God is trustworthy and why we should run to Him in our trials and sufferings instead of anything else. Because God is in control of this world and is intimately involved in the workings of our lives we can believe that even when answers may escape us we can trust God who is working everything together for our good.



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,

Happy Fall Y'all! Let me tell you, I love fall. The leaves turn beautiful vibrant colors, the air is cool, crisp and fresh. You can open the windows and air out the house and curl up in your favorite chair with your favorite blanket and read a good book or devotional, listen to soft music or write in your journal. It's a time that I feel I can "Be still" and take in all of God's many blessings and meditate on them.

I'm not sure if you feel the same way about fall as I do but I pray you are able to find a time to "Be still" and take in all of God's blessings. Being in the children's ministry I feel I have an advantage that many don't. I see so many sweet, innocent, joyful, loving children on a daily basis. Whether it's in our weekday daycare or during our children's ministry times on Sundays or Wednesdays. I get hugs, laughter's, jokes and encouragement from our children. This makes my heart sing praises to our Lord for giving me opportunities to see His face through our children and to have wonderful blessings to remember as I'm being still.

If you are in a place where you feel as if you can't slow down, relax, feel joy, see God's blessings or even feel His presence, I want to urge you to **change what you are doing quickly**. God made us to be joyful. The bible tells us "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) We were not created to be worrisome, weary, complacent, to have "worldly busyness and to lack joy. We were created to "Be still" and know that he is Lord. Parents, if we don't change our ways and stop the worldly busyness or running our children from point A to point B and even to point C... we will lose our joy and be so busy to remember our purpose as Christian parents.

Change now, don't wait till next year or assume you are too far involved that you don't want to disappoint your child or the PTA. Make the change to invest more into yours' and your children's spiritual walk and less busyness towards worldly desires. Don't get me wrong I have raised athletes and watching them play their sport brings me great joy but it's only temporary. I have to have another game to fill my cup for their love of the sport. But to have a child that you have invested into their spiritual walk, knowing they will go into their adulthood knowing Christ Jesus and living for Him, you will never be left wanting more for your child. You will never be left thinking you should have done things differently.

So open the windows, take a seat, find a blanket, breathe in, and "Be still". Our Lord wants you to be the parent He has made you to be. Show your children what priorities look like when you follow a loving God that wants us to never be too busy for Him and His people.

Thank you for allowing me to love on your kiddos.

April Sharp

"Family Thankfulness"
Have each family member
add something they are
thankful for daily until
Thanksgiving.



November 2017 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 and Bible Study Luncheon 6:00 pm Student Gathering & AWANA 7:30 pm Worship Team Practice Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm		1 Regular Wednesday Schedule Deacon's Meeting 6:00 pm	2 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Christmas Worship Choir Rehearsal 6 - 7:30 pm	3 The Art of Marriage Weekend	4
5 Regular Sunday Schedule Daylight Savings Ends	6 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 pm	7	8 Regular Wednesday Schedule M3 Meeting 6:00 pm	9 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Christmas Worship Choir Rehearsal 6 - 7:30 pm	10 Student DNow Weekend	11 Food Pantry 9:00 am State Hospital Engage Event 9:45 am	
12 Regular Sunday Schedule Student DNow Weekend	13 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 pm Women on Mission 6:00 pm	14 Upward Coaches Meeting 6:00 pm	15 Regular Wednesday Schedule M3 Meeting 6:00 pm	16 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am	17	18 Food Pantry 9:00 am	
19 Regular Sunday Schedule Thanksgiving Banquet 5:00 pm	20 Open Gym Basketball 6:30 - 8:30 pm	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day Office & Daycare Closed	24 Office & Daycare Closed	25	
26 Regular Sunday Schedule Church Decorating 6:00 pm	27 Upward Practice	28 Upward Practice	29 Regular Wednesday Schedule IMB Missions Study 12:00 pm	30 Upward Practice			

Serving Others at Oakhill

November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Deacon of the Week Jeff Thornton (812) 746-8739 Scott Hellmer (812) 842-0197	Deacon of the Week Alan Simpson (812) 477-7204 Chris Fischer (812) 630-9443	Deacon of the Week Dale Potts (812) 444-9092 Robert Jackson (812) 491-6803	Deacon of the Week Brad Lamar (812) 480-9663 Mark Schmitz (812) 454-2377
Chair Set-Up Team Gotcher Team	Chair Set-Up Team Deckman Team	Chair Set-Up Team Simpson Team	Chair Set-Up Team Townsend Team
8:00 AM Service			
Nursery Shaun & Robin Hudson	Nursery Shannon Wild & Kalyn	Nursery Larry & Bonnie Beckham	Nursery Doris & Maci Rutledge
Greeters Jerry & Shirley Guinn	Greeters David & Sharon Harmes, Bonnie Beckham	Greeters Marge Pontious, Bob Williams	Greeters Jenny Campbell, April Helm
Welcome Center Amanda Washburn	Welcome Center Mary Gamblin	Welcome Center Shirlene Kilgore	Welcome Center Jacob Townsend
9:30 AM Service			
Nursery Josh & Melissa Owen	Nursery Isaac & Jessica Principe	Nursery Dave & Kristie Swenson	Nursery Heather Ntewo & Lauren Phelps
Greeters Tom & Fong Stofleth	Greeters April Helm, Emily McGeorge	Greeters Jon & Heidi Hart	Greeters Sandy Dierlam, April Helm
Welcome Center Sondra Schloss	Welcome Center Robert Jackson	Welcome Center April Helm	Welcome Center John & Pam Schultz
11:00 AM Service			
Nursery Amy Olsen & Cheri Koberstein	Nursery Kathy Masterson & Ella Thornton	Nursery Toni Gillespie & Emily McGeorge	Nursery Sean & Audrey McDonald
Toddlers Adam & Jamie Ice	Toddlers Lucus & Leigha Pettigrew	Toddlers Michele & Lia Fuller	Toddlers Melissa & Emma Lear
Greeters Curtis Cronch, Carolyn Wilkinson	Greeters Ralph Rode, Shirley Williams	Greeters Jim & Barb Burns	Greeters Curtis Cronch, Dawna Fischer
Welcome Center Kathleen Qualkenbush	Welcome Center Darrell Ommart	Welcome Center Gina Townsend	Welcome Center Deann Moss
Van Driver Lucus Pettigrew	Van Driver Steve Comer	Van Driver Jacob Townsend	Van Driver Duke Dockery