

THE OLD IS NEW NEWS

KEEPING OUR CHURCH FAMILY CONNECTED AND INFORMED.

A Word from our Pastor

*"But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people."
(2 Timothy 3:1-5)*

I am happy to report that contrary to an excess of naysayers and end-times prophet wannabe's declaring the end of the world is at hand, and despite the fact that the world actually looks a lot like what Paul describes in the above excerpt from 2 Timothy, as of this writing the world is still around and Armageddon has not begun. As an aside and just in case my hallelujahs end up being premature, I'll note that because this 2,000 year old prophecy does seem to be an eerily accurate depiction of today's world, I highly recommend that believers heed Paul's advice and avoid like your life depends on it (because your eternal soul just might) people who fall into those categories.

All kidding aside, these are dangerous times for the human race and most of us are fairly impotent to do anything about it. I think I can safely say that no one reading this newsletter article has any sway over world events or influence on diplomatic negotiations that are taking place in the many hotspots across the globe. There is one bright spot that came to light just this week among some of the more serious conflicts dominating the news. It has been reported that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), having experienced extremely bloody internal conflict for the past few years, has reached a negotiated peace. That's good news for the continent of Africa and the world.

Having said all that, I will somewhat contradict myself and say that there actually is something very powerful we can do. We can repent and seek forgiveness of our sins "in the name of Jesus Christ," for which the Bible tells us we "will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." (Acts 2:37-39) That's the crux of our faith, isn't it? It's how we are made righteous in God's eyes. And that's important because the Bible tells us that as we confess our sins and "pray for one another to be healed," the prayers of the righteous have "great power..." (James 5:16)

The bottom line is that even while it can be said that there is plenty of reason for a person without faith to worry and fret over world events and things they have no control over, we who have faith have even more reason to be encouraged and at peace in our hearts. The truth is, I don't have a clue whether Jesus is returning today, tomorrow, or millennia from now, and anyone who says otherwise is a false prophet. How do I know that? Because the Bible tells us that "Concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." (Matthew 24:36) I do know He's coming, and when He does it will represent a major fork in the road for all the peoples of the earth, and the direction we head will depend solely and entirely on our faith in Jesus Christ.

As the days proceed through these admittedly scary times, I'm not going to tell you not to think about world events or ponder their meaning. What I will say is that anxiety will add nothing to your span of life (Matthew 6:27) and remind you of your call to cast "all your anxieties on Him (Jesus Christ), because He cares for you [and your eternal soul]." (1 Peter 5:7) Be encouraged in the Lord, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7)



Welcome
KayCee Schielder
Children's Minister

ALL MEN'S CHOIR

On Sunday, July 6, we will have an All Men's Choir for Worship. All men are invited to just show up and sing...no rehearsal necessary. We will sing a familiar hymn. So men, let's fill the choir loft!

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club will not meet in July. Next meeting is Monday, August 4.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsal will resume Wednesday, July 9 at 6 pm.

CANCER COMPANIONS

Cancer Companions (CC) is a support group at OGC tailored specifically for cancer patients and their caregivers. CC will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 10:30 am. In July we will meet July 11 and 25. If you know someone suffering from this awful disease, be sure and pass the word to join us.

SECOND SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Men's Club is cooking breakfast on July 13 for Second Sunday Breakfast. Come to the FLC from 8—9:45 am for a delicious breakfast and some great fellowship before Sunday School and Worship.

SUMMER FIESTA NIGHT

Join us on Wednesday, July 16 at 5:30 pm for a fun night of delicious Mexican Food and Entertainment. All proceeds from the meal will go to debt reduction. Adults \$7, Children \$3, Max for Family \$20

NURSING HOME VISITATION

Congregational Care will be visiting the area nursing homes on Saturday, July 19. They invite you to join them at the church at 9:30 am to go.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council will meet Sunday, July 20 immediately following worship.

MES CIRCLE

MES Circle will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be Monday, August 25 at 6 pm.

SENIOR ADULT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Heritage Church invites you to their Senior Adult VBS July 22-24 from 8:30 am until noon. If you want to feel like a kid again, join them! Brochures with all of the information and registration form are available in the media resource centers by the FLC and Sanctuary.

New Members

Robert and Teresa
Viehweg



**Jesus loves the
little children...**



Margaret Anne "Margot" Jones

June 4, 2025

Daughter of Frankie and Elizabeth Jones
Granddaughter of Alan and Melinda Lucas



Wade Chapman

June 10, 2025

Great Grandson of Lynda Arban

Thank You

Dear OGC Family,
Thank you so much for your prayers and support during our time of the loss of our son-in-law, Jeff Vaughn. To have the thoughts and prayers from friends is the comfort we needed. Also, thank you for the contribution to the First Baptist Church of Florence in memory of Jeff! May God Bless All of you and May God bless OGC.
Love,
Jim and Eva Ratliff

Children



What a great week of VBS we had! Saying Thank You doesn't seem adequate in letting you know just how much I appreciate each and every one of you who prayed for us, cooked for us, decorated for us, loaned us cool western stuff, and led and taught the children. We shared the Good News with 48 children this week. It is my prayer that we planted seeds in the hearts



of all the children that will sprout and grow and help them develop into people who will love and serve the Lord. We may never see the fruits of our labor here on earth, but I know God has a plan for these children and you all have played a small part in His plan. So, THANK YOU!!!

What a blessing and pleasure it has been walking along side you these past years as we have shared God's Word and Love with the children of Oak Grove. Because of all your prayers and generosity, my job has never felt like a job. It has been pure joy serving God in this capacity. There are not enough



words to express how grateful I am to be a part of this church. It warms my heart to think back over all the Christmas programs, Children's Sabbaths, trips to Camp

Wesley Pines and Vacation Bible Schools and see how our kids grew from preschoolers to school agers to tweeners to teenagers and young adults. There is nothing better than to know that we did our part in helping give them a firm



foundation to stand on when times get tough. Thank you for always supporting me, our children and children's ministry. Your love and generosity continue to amaze me. And thank you for supporting and helping me with all my crazy, but always fun, ideas over the past years. Truly, I am so blessed and a better person for doing this job. I am not saying goodbye but just passing the torch, so don't worry, I am sure I will still "be thinking" of new ideas for you to help me with!



Continue to keep our children and our children's ministry in your prayers as we welcome KayCee as the new director. I know she will do a great job with all your love and support!

With Much Love and In His Service,
Kaycee



Youth

July 6th Youth 5:30-7
July 12-15 Youth Trip
July 20th Backpack Blessings
July 20th Youth 5:30-7
July 26 9-3 in FLC Confirmation Retreat
July 27 Confirmation during the morning worship
July 27 Youth 5:30-7

August 1-31 The beach house raffle will start.

August 3 6:30-8:00 Back to School Bash with 2nd annual Ice Cream Churn off.
Please sign up with April for the churn off!



ALL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND EDUCATORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING YOUR BACKPACKS AND COME TO BE BLESSED FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Anthem



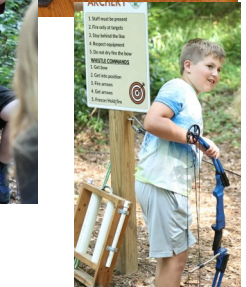
Kentucky Mountain Bible College
Sunday, July 20

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL AND ACTIVITIES RESUME AUGUST 13!

Dessert Auction



Camp Wesley Pines



A Night with Elvis



July Anniversaries and Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Brian & Heather Richardson
- 7 Josh & Christian Hammond
- 13 Bill & Betty Entrekin
- 17 Chris & Christy Dickerson
- 21 Jason & Kathryn Phillips
- 29 Barry & Grace Dickerson
- 31 Rich & Dawn Nuss

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Candace McDonald
- 1 Harley Grace Sterling
- 2 Carol Standland
- 5 John Fisher
- 5 River Langham
- 9 Alyssa Bell
- 9 Zachary Lishman
- 10 Gabe Entrekin

- 11 Woody Gammel
- 12 Cline Ladner
- 13 Jamie Shelton
- 16 Cindy Pace
- 18 Susannah Hansson
- 18 Kimberly Shelton
- 18 Frank Woodruff
- 20 Larry Johnson
- 22 Joe Shearer

- 23 Neil Powe
- 25 Rodger Banes
- 26 Clara Dickerson
- 26 Cindy Smith
- 28 Judy Parker
- 29 Barry Dickerson
- 31 Bill Entrekin

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