

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 01

Website: www.fbcoakridge.org • Email: fbcoffice@fbcoakrige.org

January 7, 2025



& SOUP SUPPER

Don't miss our upcoming Trivia Night and Soup Supper, Sunday, February 2, at 5:00 p.m. Come for an evening of great fun, food and fellowship. Bring your favorite soup to share. The church will provide drinks and bread.

FIRST LIGHT (008286) is published weekly except Christmas and July 4 by First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, TN. **Periodicals Postage Paid**, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **FIRST LIGHT**, 1101 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Phone: (865) 483-4615/4657

REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

As I'm writing this article, it is the day of Epiphany (January 6). It's the day where we celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men to visit the young Jesus, whose star they noted in the skies and followed to his home. "Epiphany" is a word that means revelation or "the reveal of light" more specifically. Think of the cartoon light blub over your head. Perhaps the most famous story of an epiphany is Archimedes who is said to have climbed into his overfull bathtub when the water level rises too high and spills over. He then has this sudden realization about displacement, measuring the volume of an object, and all sorts of mathematical capabilities because of it. In his joy of discovery, he jumps out of the bathtub and is said to have run through the streets of his town in the buff shouting, "Eureka!"

I'll thank you to keep your epiphanies a bit more discrete this season, thank you very much.

The epiphany that came to me as I put together the shape of the sermons for this season was something that had been right there all along, but I just hadn't seen before. And it's the idea of the psalm that we heard on January 5. Being in relationship with God means that we're held to a higher expectation. It means if we take the act of following Christ seriously, then our lives require more than others might. The Bible is filled with this idea: "To whom much is given, much is required." "We must die to ourselves." "Take up your cross and follow me." It's not "Take up your Yeti cooler and meet me at the tailgate." That kind of life is just fine for others, but not for those who are relationship with God. Something is required of us.

I know we want more out of our lives than the shallow existence of consuming content and products that our society is based on. I know we believe that there's more to life than projecting and pretending for those who happen to pass by our physical or digital doorsteps. I know that we yearn for something that matters in this life that God has given us. And by the grace of God, there is more! So much more.

The only problem is this question: "Are you willing do what is required to live it?"

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing

That phrase is quite sufficient. If we were to somehow find ourselves in some sort of stop-frame, where we simply sang the first 6 words, the first 8 syllables of this hymn, and were, for some bizarre reason, unable to sing any more, and if – just if, we could focus our minds on those words and what they are saying, it would be enough to fuel an hour of worship.

Come. An invitation. Join us. Come be a part of this event. Share it with us.

Thou Fount of every blessing. Who are we inviting? The root source of ANYTHING good that has come or will come our way. Inviting him into our midst while we express our love for him and meditate on his goodness to us would be quite enough for one gathering.

Did you know you had an Ebenezer? You knew about your gall bladder, your eardrum and your duodenum, but did you know about your Ebenezer? It's a stone you set up to show you've been helped. That Fount of every blessing we invited earlier has helped you get this far, and you need to erect a monument to that. You didn't get here on your own.

And as you go on, you should be in tune. Specifically, your heart should be tuned to the key of grace.

I tuned pianos to have money to live on while in seminary. It's tedious, arduous work. If you've ever been within earshot of a piano tuner while they're working, you know what I mean.

As we sing this hymn this coming Sunday, we'll use the WARRENTON tune. It's the one that ends with the refrain, "I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me? Hallelujah, praise the Lord." It's interesting for, the hymn talks about praising God, and then it does it. This tune also truncates the hymn, using only half of each stanza. Here below, I have included the complete stanzas. Read them as a devotion and tune your heart.

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

I am bound for the kingdom, will you go to glory with me?
Hallelujah, praise the Lord.

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

In Christ, **Tim**



The next Fellowship Table is this **Friday, January 10**, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each. The main entrée will be Tomato Basil Chicken. Come as early as 11:30 a.m. and enjoy fellowship around hors d'oeuvres, although serving of the meal will not begin until 12 Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Stoutland.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, AT 2:00 PM, RM. 105.

DEACONS' DINNER
SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 5 PM, AT THE TURNERS' HOME.



Discussion Group

Movie: Casablanca (1942) starring Humphrey Bogart.
Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for free.
Time & Place: Friday, Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)
Questions: Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP

When: June 30 - July 4th
Where: Berea College, Berea, KY
Your Cost: \$150
 Total cost to the church is \$478 for this reason there is a large fundraising need to keep the student price at \$100. Due to this we are requiring 2 things for student registration:

- 5 hrs of fundraising or missions - Opportunities including pumpkin patch (Oct) and Spaghetti dinner (Apr) as well as missions opportunities through the youth group.
- 5 church attendances - These include Sunday School, Sunday Service, and Feast



We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of: *Frank Janous*, who passed away January 4, 2025. No services are planned at this time.

IMMEDIATE: David Holland & family. Jim Walls. Roscoe Shipley. Diane Williams. Spencer O'Neil & Shawn Strickland (friends of Tedi Newman). Ray & Gretta Lloyd. Dwayne & Hilda Geske (Lois Scott's nephew & niece.) Debbie Hoesel (Lois & Gerald Scott's daughter). Lynn Satterfield (Gary Giles' sister). Bobby Bowers and family. Jim Younkin. Becky & Eric (friends of Jonathan & Sarah Ray). Ricky Phelps (Tim Bounds' nephew). Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Jack Burgan (Jeff Burgan's dad). Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Mark Ebeler (friend of Carol O'Shaughnessy). Tammy Lee (Kay Smith's sister). Adrian Flory. Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Frances Darnell (Diane Qualls' mother). Richard Evans. Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew).

LONG TERM: Mary Jane Williams. Darla Sutton. Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Bobby Cline (Mark Belvin's brother-in-law). Larry Fields. Scott Ethridge. Rick Nation. Jo Ann Tunstall. Theresa Bowers.



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE
Katie Landis, RM. 217.

CANTERFIELD OF OAK RIDGE
Jean Webster, RM. 303.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING
Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE CENTER OF BLOUNT COUNTY
Norval Ziegler, RM. 141.

NHC OAK RIDGE
Jim Walls, RM. 103-D.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE
Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	2 1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORC Band /FH] 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	3 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]	4 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
5 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship & Communion 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Finance Mtg./RM.105 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd Floor Communion	6 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:00 PM FBC/FBC/Library 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] 7:00 PM Trustee Mtg./RM. 105 FIRST LIGHT	7 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]	8 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9 1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORC Band /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	10 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:00 PM Fellowship Table	11 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
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