

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 03

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

February 4, 2025



The next Fellowship Table is Friday, February 14, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased immediately before and after Worship Service February 9th. The main entrée will be Italian Baked Ziti (vegetarian). 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.

NightLife Hosts and Leaders Wanted

In the coming months, we're going to NightLife, small groups that meet in member homes once a week for 6 weeks. We would like to form multiple groups that can meet on different nights of the week to allow more members to attend a NightLife group. All groups will be studying *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon. If you would like to *host* a group or *lead* the discussion, please contact Pastor Rory rory@fbcoakridge.org.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

We awoke to the powerful scent of skunk. Fortunately, no one in our household (including the near senseless dog in our care) have been sprayed here recently. There's just a skunk who lives in our neighborhood and you know exactly when it's around. If you know, you know. That stench is powerful and lasting.

I had errands to run this morning and when I went into the store and got back in my car, I smelled it on the car. No skunk, but the stink is so powerful that it can tell you that a skunk has been there at some point that day. I drove home with the windows down. I finished my shopping and opened the garage door to unload my haul of groceries when I smelled it again. The stink got trapped in the garage so I had to open the door and let it out. That skunk went to bed hours ago, but it's powerful smell remained.

Can you smell the world? I have a good nose. It smells like fear and suspicion. It reeks of rage and disgust. The stench is powerful and somehow you can never quite acclimate to it. You catch echoes of it again and again. A flutter of prejudice, a whiff of hate, the nostalgic scent of overripe pride and greed. It's awful and it seems inescapable.

The apostle Paul talks about those of us who truly follow in the way of Jesus as "...the aroma of Christ... to those who are being saved and those who are perishing." Following Christ has about it an air of humility, a wafting warmth of justice, a delightful aroma of love in Jesus Christ. I know that smell! It reminds me of a good teacher and an incomparable devotee of Jesus. It brings me back to campfires with patient mentors and lunches with generous friends. I know that aroma and God knows that I miss it!

I think the skunk smell is mostly gone from the house (for today), but I'm going to do something anyway. I'm going to preheat the oven and spray down a pan. I'm going to mix up the batter and bake it until those brownies are just barely not done. When my family walks in the door, I want them to smell something good. I can't do anything really about the skunk out there, but I can do something. So I will. And maybe, if enough of us make a better aroma, just maybe, this world won't stink so bad.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you.

Wouldn't it be something if some of the words or phrases that come from you or me, from our own thoughts and experiences, were to become words or phrases used hundreds of years from now? Imagine your thoughts, your words, handed down for generations in the very distant future.

Antique stores are fun. The fragrance of the past. Things that people long ago used. Stuff they actually needed to get through their day efficiently. It's fun handling stuff that was handled generations ago, worn a little smooth from frequent use. Shined by the familiarity with hands.

What was the world like when those other people handled these ancient things? What were the streets like they traveled on? What did they wear? What did they eat?

These are the kinds of thoughts that accompany my singing this modern day hymn. Singing about the ancient words we cherish and live by sends my thoughts to people in sandals and flowing robe-like garments. It has a way of erasing the time between our worlds and making it seem as if I could shake hands with people who lived thousands of years ago.

I also love the phrase, "handed down" when applied to these ancient words. We don't always look favorably on things handed down. Though it never bothered me personally, for some, wearing "hand me downs" is disgraceful and second rate. But the image of handling ancient words that have been handed down from one generation to another over literally thousands of years is a treasured one. Words long-preserved for our walk in this world. That's another thing. Handed down FOR us. They're not just left over words. They've been long preserved for us.

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart;
O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope Give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where're we roam
God's ancient words will guide us home.

Holy words of our faith Handed down to this age,
came to us through sacrifice;
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved For our walk in this world,
they resound with God's own heart,
O let the ancient words impart.

Ancient words ever true, changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart

In Christ, **Tim**



We are in need of workers for
Nursery & Children's Church!
Sign up to be a nursery or children's
church volunteer this February!
Sign up sheets are in the Narthex.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir will have a special rehearsal on Sunday, February 16 at 2:00 p.m. to read through our Easter cantata. YOU are invited.



Discussion Group

Movie: On a Wing and a Prayer (2023) starring Dennis Quaid.

Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for free.

Time & Place: Friday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)

Questions: Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.



Meetings: Council & Committee

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
Sunday, February 9, 2:00 p.m./RM. 105

DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, February 9, 3:00 p.m./RM. 105

PERSONNEL MEETING
Sunday, February 9, 4:00 p.m.

Agape News

In 2024 Agape helped:

977 families (235 of these being new families)
Total of 2598 people

OAK RIDGE COMMUNITY BAND WINTER SHOWCASE CONCERT

Sunday, February 23, 3 p.m.
at First Baptist Church.

Cost: FREE. Info: www.orcb.org

MARCH FBCFBC

A Woman of No Importance by Sonia Purnell is the book for March's book club. This "woman of no importance" was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive (SOE), the spy organization, during World War II. She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it. Join us at noon on Monday, March 3, as Linda Williamson leads the discussion of this book. Questions? Dianne May—(865) 414-9766. And remember that you are welcome to bring your lunch.

Prayer Requests

SYMPATHY: *We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of Lindsey Barker and Jim Younkin. Lindsey passed away Monday, February 3, 2025. Jim passed away Monday, February 3, 2025. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.*

IMMEDIATE: Jody Walker. Duane Bounds (Tim Bounds' brother). The Barker family. Randy Glass (Paula sister). Bobby Bowers and family. 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).

Nursing Homes & Health Care Centers

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE: Katie Landis, RM. 217.
Jim Walls, RM. 105.

CANTERFIELD OF OAK RIDGE: Jean Webster, RM. 303
COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING: Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE OF BLOUNT COUNTY: Norval Ziegler.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE: Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
<p>2</p> <p>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 5:00 PM Trivia Night & Soup Supper 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd Floor</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:30 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</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>5</p> <p>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</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM -7:00 PM [Band Rehearsal] 5:30 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]</p>
<p>9</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Church Council Mtg./RM.105 3:00 PM Deacons Mtg./RM.105 4:00 PM Personnel Mtg./RM. 105 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd Floor</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>12</p> <p>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</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM -7:00 PM [Band Rehearsal] 5:30 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:00 PM Fellowship Table</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball] 4:00 PM [ORPh Orchestra Fundraiser & Concert/FH]</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Chancel Choir Easter Cantata Read-through 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd Floor</p> <p>Deacon Ordination</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Library Team Mtg. 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>19</p> <p>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</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM -7:00 PM [Band Rehearsal] 5:30 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM Movie Discussion Group @ J. Reedy's</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd Floor 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Band Winter Concert-sanct.] 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd Floor</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>26</p> <p>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</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 5:30 PM -7:30 PM Parents' Night Out/FH</p>	