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July 2024: Verse of the Month

Blessed are
the humble,
for they will
inherit the
earth.
Matthew 5:5



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES
AT OAKLAND

- Sunday

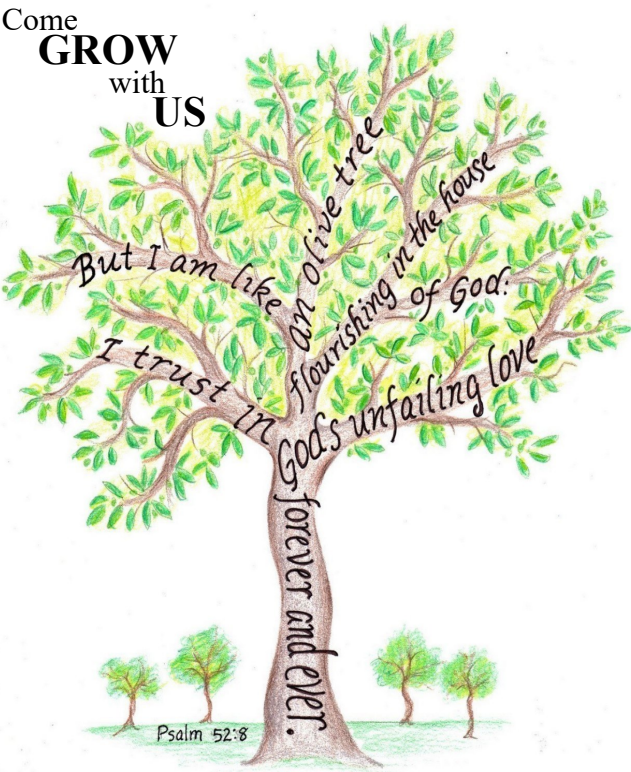
9:00 AM Sunday School

10:00 AM Indoor Service
(Sanctuary)

10:00 AM Worship Service
Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday

6:30 PM Wednesday Youth
(Fellowship Hall)

6:30 PM Wednesday Worship
Online (Facebook)



CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER

Pastor David's Corner

July 2024

Life Tax or Life Tuition

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor David's Corner	1	Have you ever felt that dealing with people is like a slow death from a thousand paper cuts? Giovanni Della Casa, the Italian Renaissance author of Il Galateo, put it well. He states, "Even light blows, if they are many, can kill." Life can be taxing, taking its toll on each of us. The levy of daily interactions, both great and small, can effectively wear us down and extract their daily erosion on any of us. Do you agree?
Prayer Requests	2	If simply getting up and out there is guaranteed to chisel away at our strength and sense of self, perhaps we should just embrace the concept of a life tax, a tariff of time, energy, and even money that we should simply resign ourselves to as inherent to living life with fallen humanity. April 15 meet Groundhog Day!
Summer Break		
Deacon's Meeting		
Bulletin Blurbs		
Choir Rehearsal		
June Attendance		
July Calendar	3	It's been a long day. The traffic is bad, but you ultimately make it to the cafe. You wait an eternity in line and are finally seated. The wait staff is slow and not overly friendly. You place your order and in perpetuity, you languish in mood and patience. The food unceremoniously and unapologetically arrives, and it's cold! What?! Life tax.
Prayer Requests	4	I'm sure you can think of many examples where an injustice happened, vast or trivial, that you had to make a decision concerning: "Am I going to fight this, or let it go?" Personally, I'm someone who doesn't take injustice lightly. I often feel the obligation to rectify all injustices I see, imposing or slight, whether they happen to me or others. But that's simply not reasonable. There's not enough time in the day, and I don't have the energy or ability to take on all the injustices I encounter. Do you?
Upcoming Sermon Series		
BSFL Summary		
Shoes for Pastor Abhishek	5	I've found the concept of a life tax helpful, as it prepares me mentally for the reality that injustices will happen in life. Whether and when to do something about it is a decision that should be made on a case-by-case basis by each of us personally. Too frequently, the right thing to do may be to take a deep breath and move on to more productive uses of our time and energy. This is often better than chasing after a lost hope of recouping <i>sunk costs</i> , a term economists use for losses that can never be regained. You can't win every battle or right every injustice. Life tax.
Budget & Offerings	6	But is there a better way to frame this? Instead of just shrugging, gritting our teeth, and enduring the inevitable injustices in life with people, what if we embrace each of these disturbances as learning opportunities instead? Instead of a life tax, what if we embrace them as life tuition; the cost of learning and wisdom gained from the challenges we endure? What does/did this exchange teach me?
Grief Share Group		
Haley's Prayer Requests	7	How can we make this confrontation worthwhile? Can we reframe these losses of time, money, or emotional energy, and choose to see them as an investment in our growth, a learning opportunity that is worth the price of admission? My hope is that in choosing to see adverse circumstances, which are bound to happen in our coexistence with others, as opportunities to learn and grow, this can help us approach the turbulence, and those involved, with more grace.
Prayer Ministry		
Youth Activities		
Wellspring Preparatory School	8	What are some examples of a life tax you've encountered? Can that be reimaged into a life tuition instead? Where is the silver lining, the lesson learned, the evolution that exists there, that can help us redeem the situation (in our hearts, minds, and actions) as God's Holy Nation, to put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and love? Perhaps it's time to matriculate to this school of thought! Are you ready to enter the transfer portal?
Monthly Bible Verse		
Weekly Opportunities		

PRAY

PRAYER
REQUESTS

Eddie & Candy
Anderson
Jerry & Brenda Carnes
Gary Clontz
Andy Cook
Marlene Crider
Lela Crump
John Efird
Cindy French
Sam Goodwin
Ray Greene
Doris Hannah

Prayer requests
continued on page 4.

Wednesday Worship Summer Break

Pastor David will be redirecting his focus & time from preparing Wednesday messages to visiting shut-ins during the month of July.

JULY



Deacon's Meeting

Sunday, July 7th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.

Bulletin/Newsletter Blurbs

Do you have a small business that offers services that our church members may be interested in? Send your business/contact info and service details to the church office to be 'advertised' in the bulletin.



Choir Rehearsal

The next choir rehearsal will be
Wednesday, July 17th at 7:45 PM.

Choir Interest

Interested in joining the choir?
Come on out to the upcoming choir rehearsal!



June Attendance

Sunday, June 2 (48 Indoor + 337 Online)

Wednesday, June 5 (125 Online)

Sunday, June 9 (58 Indoor + 76 Online)

Wednesday, June 12 (51 Online)

Sunday, June 16 (62 Indoor + 85 Online)

Wednesday, June 19 (74 Online)

Sunday, June 23 (53 Indoor + 123 Online)

Wednesday, June 26 (70 Online)

Sunday, June 30 (48 Indoor + 105 Online)



Slushies Night

Wednesday, July 3 6:30 PM

Grind Week

August 18-20 6-9 PM

Euto Baptist Church in Marshville, NC

Grind Week is a 3 night conference with the purpose of starting the academic grind on the right foot. A meal, large group games, worship and gospel preaching make up the evening and ensure this is the right way to start the Fall semester.

This year's theme is JESUS over EVERYTHING.

GRINDWEEK 2024: AUGUST 18-20
6PM-9PM

JESUS

OVER

EVERYTHING



Wellspring Preparatory School

Wellspring Prep will be renting a couple of children's classrooms at Oakland during the week.
This rental will start with a trial period which may turn into a year-long partnership.

Here is an introduction to Wellspring Prep from their website:

Wellspring Prep was created out of love for the children of our great country. We aspire to do only what is best for them academically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. We stand united and prepared to fill a desperate need in our community as many parents seek alternative ways to educate their children due to major fundamental shifts in many public and private schools. We believe that private micro-schools are the schools of the future. The good news is that we are here for you right now. We aim to provide a rigorous curriculum program encased in a nurturing classroom setting. In my (Stephanie Van Horn) experience overwhelmingly, the result has been students who end up with a strong love of learning.

Teaching is not my job or career...it is my calling. Leading precious young hearts and minds fills me with great joy. I am grateful to have the opportunity to do it again. At our school faith does hold significant power in the classroom because it provides strength, produces moral and ethical development, a sense of belonging, resilience, personal growth, self-reflection, compassion for others, and far too many other blessings to list here.

Our mission is to authentically partner with parents about the needs of their children by focusing on traditional family values. We will also have a strong STEM focus to prepare our students to thrive!



JULY 2024

Finding Hope in Jesus

COMFORT for LOSS

*Stages of Grief
Five Myths about Grief
Finding Meaning in Loss
Heaven, Our Final Home*

ROSE
PUBLISHING

The group is working through the *Comfort for Loss* pamphlet which offers comfort to those grieving the loss of a loved one by offering wisdom from the Bible, the stages of grief and finding meaning in loss.

· From Haley's June Update: "A few months ago, I took a walk with my sweet friend Zahra*, who I have mentioned in my prayer letters before. We talked about my wedding planning activities and how American weddings differ from the weddings of Zahra's home country in the middle east. Eventually, as we discussed the things that are important to us, we naturally came to the topic of faith. I was able to ask Zahra several questions about her religion, what faith means to her, and what she thinks about God. She in turn asked me what Christians believe about life, death, and who Jesus is. Even though our thoughts on this differ significantly, I cherish being able to have these conversations with her, and pray that there will be continued opportunities like this one. I love that living in Dallas has allowed me to make friends from all around the world!"

· Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and abundant provision in all areas of life.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:30 PM Youth No Online Worship in July	4 Office Closed Jail Ministry	5 Office Closed	6 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
7 Session 5: God's Promise of a King 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	8	9	10 6:30 PM Youth No Online Worship in July	11 10 AM Grief Share Meeting Jail Ministry	12	13
14 Session 6: God's Promise of a New Covenant 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	15	16	17 6:30 PM Youth No Online Worship in July 7:45 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 Jail Ministry	19	20
21 Session 1: Aaron and Hur 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	22	23	24 6:30 PM Youth No Online Worship in July	25 Jail Ministry	26	27
28 Session 2: Barak 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	29	30	31 6:30 PM Youth No Online Worship in July			



PRAYER REQUESTS

Nan Helms
Grady & Judy Hill
Christine Hinson
Rodney Johnson
(Renee Helms' Son)
Joni Keith
Lillian Lewis
Tammy Lovingood
Richard Lovingood's
Sister
Mike Lunsford
Louise Parker
Richie Raines
Irene Welch

Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

PRAYING FOR OUR NATION

June 30: Special Focus: Praying for Our Nation

PROMISES WE CAN COUNT ON

July 7: God's Promise of a King

July 14: God's Promise of a New Covenant

MORE THAN A SIDEKICK: SERVING ALONGSIDE OTHERS

July 21: Aaron and Hur

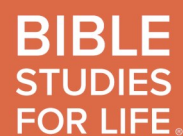
July 28: Barak

August 4: David

August 11: Jonathan

August 18: Haman

August 25: Baruch



Bible Studies For Life Summary

Special Focus: Praying for Our Nation

"Blessed are the humble, for they will inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). Humility is an attribute of Christ, and it's an attribute that He wants us to have. But for many believers, acquisition of humility is not easy.

We live in a world that is controlled by strong attitudes of pride and where the ambitions of many people are to take what they want without regard for others. This is the world's definition of "inherit the earth," but it's not what Jesus meant. This prideful cultural attitude is driven by a "me" generation of people that look out for themselves. Unfortunately, this attitude sometimes seeps into the church and into the hearts of Christians.

The upside-down, prideful attitudes of the world have no place in our hearts and our lives. Through King Solomon, God gave this same message to the Israelites. Prideful attitudes had caused them to choose the waywardness of the world. This led to suffering and distress. God's solution was for the people to return to Him in repentance and humility, so that He could extend His blessings. This is a lesson that we can learn too.



**Shoes for
Pastor
Abhishek**



Our mission partners in Southern India are collecting funds to purchase shoes to distribute as part of their ministry. Our fundraising goal is \$1,000 which will allow Pastor Abhishek to purchase ~300 shoes!

