

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 08

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

April 15, 2025



Church Office Closed
Friday, April 18th

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 18, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise Service
April 20, 7:00 AM, RM. 105

Easter Sunday Service
April 20, 11:00 AM



Spaghetti dinner and dessert auction Sunday, April 27, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This special event that helps our youth and children go to camp is back! Please bring a dessert to auction to benefit our students ages 3rd through 12th grade who are participating in summer activities such as camps/retreats. Everyone come out and support our youth and enjoy some good food, fun and fellowship.

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"

One time, in college, me and two friends stayed up all night. I don't even think we meant to; we just kind of did. It was South Florida, so when the sky started its slow radiance toward the dawn, we went to the beach. It was kind of a rotten morning for it – big puffy clouds on the horizon blocking where the sun would eventually rise out of the water. We were standing there, watching, waiting for the moment. One of my friends said, "I wonder when the sun's supposed to come up." In all of my youthful wisdom, I said, "Well, the sky will actually get a bit darker just before the sun rises." I was wrong in the way that only 19-year-old men can be wrong. The other friend chimed in, "Actually... Rory's right. It will get darker before the sun comes up." He was just as wrong as me. It didn't get darker before the sun came up and it wasn't for the clouds or anything else. It was because all of us had a faulty understanding of the same phrase: it's always darkest before the dawn.

We didn't know what that actually meant. We *thought* we did, but we were incredibly, undeniably, exactly wrong. Once the sky starts brightening, it just gets lighter and brighter until that blinding sun crests the horizon. The phrase is meant to be metaphorical in communicating hope, not in predicting the lumens in the immediate predawn. It doesn't get darker and darker and darker until BAM! *THE SUN!!!* The light fades from the world in the evening and then at some point, the light begins to grow again. So don't lose hope in the dark. Look for the beginning of the light.

It's Holy Week. There are prescribed stories for each day of the week. It begins at the Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday, but each successive day, there's less light than the day before. The gathering clouds of betrayal and denial are gathering in the story, foreshadowing the full gloom that will descend on Friday. And the story ends in actual, literal darkness as Jesus breathes his last on the cross. The light is gone and it is buried in a borrowed tomb.

I expect most of us to think of Easter as that kind of BAM! *THE SUN!!!* moment. It gets darker and darker and darker until a switch flips and Easter morning breaks it all open. Shoot, I've probably preached it that way. But I'll tell you friends, there are glimmers of the coming dawn even in the Scriptures.

...continued

- Right after he dies, a Roman soldier declares that Jesus was innocent.
- Some of his followers, mostly the women, did NOT abandon him, but watched it all from a distance.
- A good and righteous man who's on the religious council that voted to execute Jesus, gives Jesus the honor of a proper burial in his own property.
- The chapter ends with the women preparing spices to treat his body later.

Do you see it? There's just a bit of light growing on the horizon.

Many of us might think we know how the world is supposed to go. It's supposed to get darker and darker and darker until some cataclysmic end when God suddenly blows history up and brings light eternal to overcome the darkness. And maybe that will happen. Only God knows. Literally.

But my best reading of the Scriptures tells me that though this world may be dark, though it may be darker now than it was when I was a "wise" 19-year-old who couldn't read a sunrise, it doesn't mean it will constantly get darker. More importantly, you and I shouldn't *expect* it to get darker. Especially not when we see glimmers of the dawn.

As we walk the pageant of Holy Week that will lead us to the darkness of Good Friday, do not lose your hope, my friends. Because the light is not gone. It's coming, slowly and haltingly. But it is coming. It can only get so dark before the dawn.

Peace, Rory

RUMMAGE SALE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

There will be an organizational meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m. in room 105 to discuss plans for the upcoming Church rummage sale. Volunteers are encouraged to attend. Questions: contact Jan Stoutland.



Discussion Group

Movie: Quiz Show (1994) directed by Robert Redford.

Viewing: Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for - \$4.

Time & Place: Friday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home - [109 Downing Drive, Oak Ridge](#)

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

Before His Presence with Singing

And He walks with me and He talks with me ...

If you had to write something about this hymn, this very familiar, often favorite hymn, what would it be? I don't need to know, but I'd like you to think about it. This hymn touches the heart in a special way and that touch is worth a long moment's thought.

For me, it's the conversation. The picture of walking and talking with Jesus transports me Christside. I converse with Christ through prayer on a regular basis and singing this phrase makes me grateful for that essential element of faith.

Also, as a musician, that line, "and the melody that He gave to me, within my heart is ringing," evokes an image of Christ giving me song. I love song. I am constantly thinking some tune, and 95% of the time it's a hymn or sacred anthem tune. I love this hymn's reminder that He gave that tune (those tunes) to me. Perhaps while on that walk with him, he turned and handed me a melody, much as one might turn and give a walking-along friend a flashlight, or a candy bar. Something to light the path. Something to keep my going. As if He's saying, "Here, carry this awhile, it might be useful." In my mind, it's a casual gift, common enough that the gesture might be repeated again and again. And yet, it's a very purposeful gift, carefully chosen and thoughtfully given, as if He secretly KNOWS it will be useful, and knows exactly what situation that is coming up, or that is past, it will minister to.

If you're blessed enough to actually experience this exchange, the walking and talking and the gift of the melody, there will be a strong desire to stay here. "I'd stay in the garden with him ..." I find it encouraging and somehow emboldening that He "bids me go through the voice of woe." As if He's saying, "come on, let's go. We got this." Whatever it is, he's alongside. Not necessarily to spare me a bad experience, but to see me through it safely, better on the other side.

I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.
He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me

Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]
I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known. *by C. Austin Miles*

In Christ, **Tim**

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Attention all church members! We are currently accepting donations of gently used clothing, furniture, household items, and more to raise funds to replace our church windows. Donations can be dropped off at the church.

Ecumenical Storehouse

May will be our month for service at Ecumenical Storehouse. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to noon every Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers are also needed from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 10, for pickup of donated items. Signup sheets will be available in the foyers and church office. If you have questions please contact Linda Williamson at (865) 805-5949 or Jim Williamson at (865) 719-6409.



BABY SHOWER

You are invited to a diaper and gift cards baby shower for Bethany and Brady Hutson at the Turner's home, 110 Caldwell Drive, Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m. It's a girl! Bethany is registered on Amazon.com. Please RSVP to Melody.

May FBCFBC

At noon on Monday, May 5, Dianne May will lead our book club in a discussion of *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. The book centers on Ruthie, a young Mi'kmaq girl who goes missing in Maine. The book depicts the event's lifelong effects on both Ruthie and her birth family, as she grows up as the adopted child of a white family. Questions? Dianne May / (865) 414-9766).

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, APRIL 20 - EASTER

NO NURSERY OR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Nursery 11:00 a.m. ... Jackie Laney & Sandra Davidson
Children's Church ... Jodie Johnson & Debbie Johnson

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Karry Garcia & Susan Williams
Children's Church Lela Moore & Karen McCall

SUNDAY, MAY 11

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Tedi Newman & Angie Walls
Children's Church First Christian & Hannah Simic

Prayer Requests

SYMPATHY: To Charlotte Bounds and family at the passing of her aunt, Margaret Stewart.

IMMEDIATE: Jack Cowen. Karen McCall. Vicki Heidle. Lois Love (Peggy Geldmeier's niece & Mark & Diane's cousin). Alice Peterson (Chris Peterson's wife). Miriam Griffin. Ulrika Leander (Charlott Bounds' friend). Paul May (Robert May's brother). Bobby Bowers. Linda Bunton. Mary Judith White (Glenn Northcutt's sister). Roscoe Shipley. Jim Walls. Becky & Eric (friends of Jonathan & Sarah Ray). Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Jack Borgan (Jeff Borgan'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). 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.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

Our Ministry Continues Throughout the Week

Church Office: 483-4615 / 483-4657

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rory Naeve
Minister of Music: Rev. Tim Bounds
Minister of Children: Hannah Simic
Minister of Youth: Rev. Shawn Simic
Church Secretary: Lola Murray
Facilities Manager: Chris Peterson

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study
7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship
5:30 p.m. Feast (Youth)



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Oak Ridge**

Loving God, Loving Others

Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming