

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLIX No. 21

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

October 21, 2025



THE 4TH ANNUAL JIM MCCALL PICKLEBALL BENEFIT EVENT

The 4th Annual Jim McCall Pickleball Benefit Event will be held Sunday, October 26, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., at Jackson Square tennis courts.

Hamburgers and hot dogs provided. Donations accepted for the Agape Help Center at First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge in Jim's honor. For more information on this event, contact Jodie Johnson.



PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sign-up sheets will be in the foyer each Sunday.

PATCH HOURS:

Wed.-Fri.: 1 PM-6 PM

Sat.: 10 AM-6 PM

Sun.: 1 PM-5 PM

Closed Mon. & Tues.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

This past Sunday, we did something that we don't do nearly often enough as a church. We celebrated the completion of good work. It's not just us; *most churches* I've been in have done a lackluster job of reflecting, reveling, and ruminating on what we have brought to be. I have found that far more often, we complete something – an event, a meeting, a ministry, a project – and before the decorations are even put up, we're already talking about the next thing. In fact, if we do any reflection on something, it's almost always in service of how we might improve on what we just did!

A visiting professor jumps to my mind. I don't remember his name, but he was a short, bearded man, old enough to start thinking about retirement. He was my Hebrew professor's Hebrew professor when she was in school! Anyway, I remember him giving a lecture and he's explaining some fun tidbits of the creation account in Genesis 1. You know the one. God speaks and there's light on the first day. Second day is sky and sea. So on and so forth for six days, right? That one. Do you know what God does at the end of each day of creation? The Scriptures say that God looked and saw that it was good.

That word "good" is *tov* in Hebrew. Day and night is *tov*. Then the sky and seas are *tov*. Then the earth and the trees. Then the sun, moon, and stars. Then the fish and the birds. Then, on the sixth day, all the land beasts of the field and the crawling bugs. *Tov*, all of them. Each of them on their day.

And then, explained this little visiting professor, God creates us, humanity. And then God doesn't just say *tov*. God looks at the whole thing all together and says, "*tov m'od*." We translate that as very good, which this professor called a horrible translation. He says, that what it means is God jumping on the table in front of you, grabbing you by your ears and shouting with a grin splitting his face in two, "LOOK! GOOOOOOD!" We all giggled in the class at the thought.

It was a good thing to go down and witness the work that was done for the benefit of our young people. It took longer than 6 days, but it was good work all the same. It was good to be there, to see, to be in it. We celebrated a good work and rightly so.

I wonder, my friend, and the hypocrisy of it doesn't escape me, but I wonder... when might we do that again? When might we sit and be and celebrate the good work God is doing through us again? I hope it's not so long.

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing *"Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way..."*

Pilgrim: [pil-grim, -gruh m]

1. a person who journeys, especially a long distance, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion: pilgrims to the Holy Land.
2. a traveler or wanderer, especially in a foreign place.
3. an original settler in a region.

Recognize that hymn line? The word Pilgrim (capital "P") refers to the people who first settled the American colonies. Those Pilgrims, once they landed, were in a foreign place. They were not at home. They were of and from another place. Like them, we are citizens of someplace else: the Kingdom of God. That is a comforting reminder when this world is so hard to understand and so hard to navigate, like when young people die, like when dedication and devotion to the things of God seem to make life more difficult and complicated instead of easier and simpler.

Come to think of it, what was Elisha Hoffman thinking? "*What a joy divine*" "*Safe and secure from all alarms*"? He must have lived in some sort of fleece-lined cocoon, right? He lived during the Civil War. Being an ordained, seminary educated Presbyterian minister, he must have been protected from the harsh realities of life, right? His wife died suddenly when he was a young pastor, leaving him to raise their three sons alone. "*I have blessed peace with my Lord so near*." What was he thinking?

The thread that runs through Hoffman's testimonial hymn is this: "*Leaning on the everlasting arms*." He's not on this pilgrimage by himself. He's constantly leaning on God's tireless, everlasting arms. And so are we.

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, ...

Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way...
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day...

What have I to dread, what have I to fear...
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near...

Leaning on Jesus, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Elisha A. Hoffman*

In Christ, **Tim**

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, October 22, 6:00PM

SEWER & DRAIN ISSUES

The Trustees bring the following motions:

1. Approve \$14,000 to
 - a. totally replace broken clay tile sewer line between the sewer manhole west of rear gym door and the manhole on the city sewer line with about 110 linear ft of new 4" PVC line to code (bedded in gravel and with a 2 way clean out); this includes excavation up to 9 ft deep, removal of asphalt and debris. Grassed areas backfilled and seeded
 - b. remove asphalt and remove and replace about 8 linear ft of broken sewer line near the new Gym door with 4" PVC sewer line, and backfill the area with gravel
2. Approve \$3600 to excavate and replace broken clay storm drain tiles from edge of asphalt by rear of gym with about 80 ft of 6" PVC to enter existing 10" metal culvert that goes under the sidewalk towards the Turnpike

NOVEMBER FBCFBC

On Monday, November 3, our book club will meet at noon in the library as Linda Williamson leads a discussion of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. This award-winning book was made into a movie in 2017. And who was Henrietta Lacks? She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became a very important tool in medicine. Even though Henrietta died nearly three-quarters of a century ago, her “immortal” human cells grown in culture are still alive today. The “HeLa” cells, as they are known, have been vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovering secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; and many other areas of science.

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Jackie Laney & Hannah Simic
Children's Church Linda Bunton & Amber Slessinger

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Nursery 11:00 a.m. Hannah Simic & Angie Walls
Children's Church Jackie Laney & Polly Smith

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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



Discussion Group

Movie: Baby Boom (1987) starring Diane Keaton.

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

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

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

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Darla Sutton. Jimmy Breeden (Joy Arehart's nephew). Jason Byrd (Anna King's husband). Gigi Naeve. Robert May. Gerhart (Gary) Krogfuss. Mickey Moss. Karen McCall. Dayton King (Diane Williams' brother). Callie Walls Foster (Jim Walls' granddaughter). Ray Roach (Tim Bounds' brother-in-law). Abbie Crowell. Carol O'Shaughnessy. Donna Packwood's family. Ray Lloyd. Sandra Davidson. Becky Seiber (Diana Giles' mother). Mary Jane Williams. Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Jan Stoutland. Anna King. Roscoe Shipley. Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Adrian Flory.

LONG TERM: Ulrika Leander (Charlotte Bounds' friend). Vicki Heidle. Andrew Bobbett (son of Diane Ray's friend, Nan). Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Luke Newman. Beth Ingle. Jim Walls. Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Megan Elliott (friend of the Turners). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Larry Fields. 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. 102-103.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING: Dot Senn, RM. 105.

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

NHC OAK RIDGE: Mary Jane Williams, RM. 103.

NHC OAK FARRAGUT: Lynn Edd Story, RM. 223.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE: Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

WELLINGTON MANOR: Darla Sutton.

NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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