

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. I No. 14

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

July 7, 2026

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join Us July 24-26, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Vacation Bible School!

Hidden Treasure VBS is a three-day hands on experience to help your child explore what it means to live out their faith. Rising kindergarteners through rising fifth graders will discover that faith is more than reading the Bible or going to church. It is a relationship with God that impacts everything from keeping our bodies strong to how we treat our neighbors.

From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. each day, kids will have the chance to participate in interactive Bible stories, service projects, worship music workouts, and exciting science experiments. And on Sunday, everyone in the family is invited to a back-to-school BBQ and ice cream social at 5:00 p.m. Your child does not need to come every day to attend.

Register online for this free Vacation Bible School camp. <https://firstbaptistvbs.org/>

Drop off will be at First Baptist Church Oak Ridge, 1101 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Families can meet in the upper parking lot to receive their name tags and pick up procedure information.



We are asking that everyone bring their backpack, briefcase or school bag to service Sunday morning July 26 for a special time of prayer during our 11:00 a.m. worship service. This is for all students, teachers, bus drivers, office staff, support staff, and everyone else involved in this coming school year.

Church BBQ & Ice Cream Social

Mark your calendar for our Church BBQ & Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 26. The church will provide barbecue from Buddy's. Everyone is asked to please bring either ice cream (homemade would be great) or a side dish to share. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. Also bring your favorite games or puzzles.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

You got me. I was well aware that my ten year anniversary of accepting the call of senior pastor to FBC Oak Ridge was this month. But I was not aware that I would be recognized on July 5 in worship about it. And I was definitely not expecting the generous gifts that my family received. I'm humbled by the outpouring of gifts as much as I've been honored to be a minister in this church for these ten years.

One of the first people that we met was Wanda Walls who came down the hill to bring us a 4th of July cake if memory serves. We were also invited to her family's spot to watch the fireworks, which we've continued to visit most years since being here. That sort of welcome into family and tradition has been typical of my experience of being here. You've welcomed us and included us.

I remember helping in saying goodbye to Wanda, who was a dear friend and a wonderful neighbor. I can remember baptisms and weddings for your children that I've had a hand in. I cherish each grandbaby I've had the privilege of dedicating (and carting around for a test drive around the sanctuary)! And I even count it as a privilege in helping to remember and honor those of our fellowship who have passed beyond the veil. So many dear friends who have gone before us. I'm honored that you've let me share in these moments and memories.

I was catching up with a friend and a fellow minister recently and we were discussing longer tenures in churches (we were both in double digits). And he shared a bit of wisdom which is that as we continue to serve in the same place, we have to have a theme or a new focus for the next chapter of your ministry for the next 7-10 years. I've been thinking about that this summer, about what it is that I'm being presently, specifically called to.

I think it's what you've shown me these past 10 years. It's welcome and it's sharing. It's widening others to be included to the graces of God that we enjoy. You've done that for my family these past 10 years. This next 10 will be about holding the door open behind me for others to come in.

From a very grateful and fortunate pastor: thank you.

Peace, Rory

Wriston Crowell's July 5, 2026 Offertory Prayer:

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of America, I am reminded of God's everlasting love. He keeps us from going astray and keeps us living an honest life. God will always be set in stone while the world moves and conforms often. We should continue to live with a strong base, for a house set on sand will not last. Our stone can be giving in fellowship and following the path to God. Or it could mean lending a helping hand in a dire time for others. Amen.

Before His Presence with Singing

"Rock of ages, cleft for me ..."

No quiz today. No choosing an obscure line from the hymn and asking you to guess it, hoping you know it (and hymns in general) well enough that the words might conjure up the tune, and more of, if not the rest of the hymn. Nope. I've given it away with by choosing the hymn's title line. It's because for me, there is a phenomenal affirmation and confession in those six words.

Rock of ages. That's God. It's also refuge. It is protection. Hideaway. Asylum. Security. Stronghold.

AND, it is cleft. That means the rock has been hewn out. A place has been carved out of that Rock. Moreover, and the sweetest aspect: it was cleft for ME. Little ol' ME! That's a lot for six words to convey and it is worth a pause for consideration.

And yet, there's more. Much more. Augustus M. Toplady, who was only in his early twenties when he penned this hymn, gave us a prayer: "Let me hide myself in Thee." In that cleft in that Rock. There's a lot there, too. For, it confesses that I will *need* to sometimes take shelter in Christ. Sin, misfortune, doubt, despair, selfishness; these and all their cohorts invade my life. They wish to put misery in the place of Jesus's enviable and all-surpassing peace. Harm was coming for Moses when God was about to pass by – for being *that* close and *that* present with God would be fatal – so, God Himself carved out a place in a nearby rock and gave Moses shelter there. Do that for me, Lord!

And while we're at it, sin. You and only You can cure it, Lord. And the cure must be twofold. I need saving from the wrath sin has sentenced me to, and I need cleansing. Make me pure.

And that's only the FIRST stanza! There's more. So much more in this amazingly rich text. There's even a stanza about death. I encourage and invite you: mine the rest of Toplady's phrases for the gold therein. You'll be richer for it!

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; save from wrath and make me pure.
Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone,
In my hand no price I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

By Augustus M. Toplady, 1763

In Christ, *Tim*

TAX SAVINGS

First Baptist Church is spending less than budgeted, but slightly more than we receive in undesignated offerings. Due to recent tax law changes, every taxpayer is entitled to a charitable contribution deduction of \$1,000 in cash (not clothing or supplies) in addition to their standard deduction. That would be a deduction of \$2,000 for those filing married. Also, for those of the age to be taking RMDs from an IRA (required minimum distributions), it can save you taxes by directing a portion of your RMD directly to the church rather than paying taxes on the entire distribution. Note that RMDs can be taken at any time during the calendar year, even on a monthly basis.



The Next Fellowship Luncheon will be July 10 at noon. Come at 11:30 for appetizers. The planned menu is barbecued ribs, roasted potatoes, baked beans, slaw and dessert. Entertainment will be our men's quartet.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
CANCELLED FOR THE MONTH OF JULY!**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, July 12, 3:00 p.m./ RM 105

PERSONNEL MEETING
Sunday, July 12, 4:00 p.m./ RM 105



Discussion Group

Movie: Places in the Heart (1984)
starring Sally Field.

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

Time & Place: Friday, July 17, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home.

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

BUNCO GAME DAY

Join us for a fun afternoon of Bunco! We play every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 1-4PM, RM. 105. Our next game day is Tuesday, July 21st. Questions, please contact Sandy Davidson or Joy Arehart.

Women's Retreat

Save the Date! Women's Retreat "Bloom Where You Are Called" Saturday, November 7th · 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Ladies, mark your calendars for a refreshing and inspiring morning together. Our upcoming Women's Retreat, Bloom Where You Are Called, will be a time of fellowship, encouragement, and spiritual growth. Whether you're in a season of planting, waiting, or blossoming, this retreat will help you nurture the calling God has placed on your life. More details to come — but for now, be sure to save the date and plan to join us.

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, July 12

11am NurseryTedi Newman & Jodie Johnson
Children's Church Linda Bunton & Lela Moore

SUNDAY, July 19

11am NurserySusan Williams & Karry Garcia
Children's Church Jackie Laney & Hannah Simic

VBS July 26

11am NurseryBev Burgan & Jodie Johnson
Children's ChurchDebbie Johnson & Polly Smith

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Melissa May Lee. Ellin Ward. Michelle, friend of Diane Ray. Darlene Moran, Dianne May's friend. Miriam Griffin. Elaine Pike, Carol O'Shaunessy's cousin. Hughie Thomas. Josh Smith. Curtis Pickwell. Mark & Debra Belvin's friends, Pat & Mary Ann. Dave Bunton's friend, Jane. Jim Gibson. Greg Helton. Jennifer Merkel, John & Eva Leone's daughter. Nancy Denton. Ray Seiber, Diana Giles' father. Susan Alderson, friend of Mickey Moss. Junell Brock, Peggy Geldmeier's niece. Beth Ingle. Harold Matelski, Lee Howell's father-in-law. Mark Bunton, Linda & Dave Bunton's son. Ronnie Scates, Julie Keeth's friend. Jason Byrd & Anna King. Dayton King, Diane Williams' brother. Becky Seiber, Diana Giles' mother. Katie Emmerson, Ellin Ward's daughter. Robert Darnell, Diane Qualls' brother. Larry Carter. Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Adrian Flory.

LONG TERM: Julie Ann, friend of Diane Ray. Leon Cole, Melody Turner's brother-in-law. Jo Ann Tunstall. Ulrika Leander, Charlotte Bounds' friend. Vicki Heidle. Andrew Bobbett, son of Diane Ray's friend, Nan. Jim Walls. 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. Theresa Bowers.



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING

Lynn Edd Story, RM. 107.

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

THE GLEN AT OAK RIDGE

Jean Webster, RM. 102-103.

THE GROVES

Ray Irminger, RM. 119.

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)



Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming