



**“... and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths ...” Isaiah 2:3**

## Spiritual Stewardship Groups are Up and Active!

In this issue, we are featuring photos and articles about our Spiritual Stewardship Groups at Oak Grove. There are five active groups of families, loosely organized geographically. Each of the groups has two elders in charge, and meets regularly once a month, and may meet more often for special activities. The regular meetings include the second Wednesday of one month for a group prayer service, then the second Sunday evening of the following month for an activity of the group’s choice.

In addition, each group rotates in providing ministry to Butler each month as needed.

Anyone attending Oak Grove is welcome to contact any of the group leaders (or the Pastor-ate) if you would like to become part of one of the groups.

(Please see the insert, plus pages 4 and 5 for more photos and articles about our Spiritual Stewardship Groups.)



Group #2/3

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## Is My Own House in Order?

--- by Elder Hal Chadwick, Associate Pastor

Here we are in March already, with Spring just around the corner. We know that spring brings new growth and that is the time for planting new seeds. But before we plant we have to clear the leaves, weeds (and their roots), and debris from last year.

**Our theme for March is, “Do I Have Aught with Anyone?”** We want to grow spiritually as a congregation as well as individuals. That means we want to replace old bad habits with new good habits, and make changes in our lives that will bring us closer to Jesus Christ. But can we do that and still have issues that need to be dealt with? In Matthew 5:25-26, Jesus says, *“Therefore, if ye shall come unto me, or shall desire to come unto me, or if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, Leave thou thy gift before the altar, and go thy way unto thy brother, and first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”*

Gardeners know that the longer you leave weeds growing the deeper their roots and the harder they are to remove. The same goes for relationships with others. If there are misunderstandings or hard feelings we need to make them right quickly. In any disagreement that escalates beyond normal conversation, we need to stop and agree to disagree, stick to the issue and not condemn the other person personally. If there are hard feelings between two saints the Lord is not pleased. He expects us to repent, forgive and ask forgiveness.

While I was at an eye appointment, one of the assistants mentioned that she had recently married. I shared that I had been married for over 52 years. She asked me what advice I would give her about marriage. I told her to go to church as a family and let not the sun go down upon your wrath (the latter found in Ephesians 4:26). Sometimes, the “aught”

against a person can be toward someone in our own household.

**This thought brings us to April’s theme, which is “Is My Own House in Order?”** Are we doing those things that bring peace and harmony in our own home? Do we attend church as a family? Do we have family worship? Do the adults in the home practice what they preach; are we good examples for our children? I am sure there are some things that I did when my children were young that I would not want to see them doing.

One way to know if your house is in order is to humbly go to the Lord and ask Him what might need to be changed or improved. Because we are not perfect, the Lord will reveal something—maybe many things. Then if you are like me you need to ask for the strength to make those changes. It may take the form of removing the debris and old weeds as mentioned earlier.

Some of the bad habits may have been around a long time and the roots will be deep. It may even be very difficult and even painful to remove those things that are not conducive to setting your house in order, but God didn’t promise us a rose garden in this life. Going before the Lord humbly is like a child submitting to a father’s chastisement. The scriptures tell us that the Lord chastens us because he loves us, just as we chasten our children because we love them. So we see in Hebrews 12:11, *“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”*

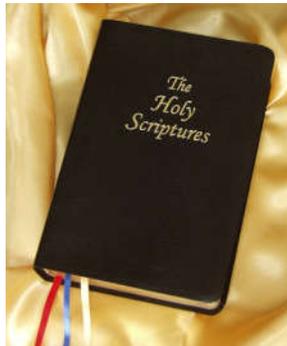
By setting our house in order we do our part as members of the body of Christ to fulfill the 2016-2017 yearly theme, “SPIRITUAL PREPARATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.”

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### **OGRB Pastorate**

Presiding Elder: Ed Story

Counselors: Elder Don Cutshall  
Elder Mike Lidberg  
Elder Mark Griffin  
Elder Bill Jones  
Elder Karl Anderson  
Elder Hal Chadwick

# Christmas Program

The annual Christmas Program was presented by the Bell Choir and Adult Choir on January 1st this year due to bad weather in December.

The Bell Choir was directed by Sarah Norman. The Adult Choir was led by Debbie Mulheron, with piano accompaniment by Rachel Horn.



## Upcoming Events

- Mar 3-5** Junior High Spring Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 5** Elders Class—7:00am
- Mar 8** Spiritual Stewardship Groups meet 7:00pm
- Mar 9** Senior Adult Potluck 12:30pm
- Mar 10-12** Senior High Spring Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 11** Work Day at Church—Light Fixture Cleaning and bulb replacement 9:00am—1:00pm
- Mar 18** Ladies Work Day at Church—9:00 to Noon
- Mar 16** Elders Class—7:00pm

- Mar 18-19** Junior Spring Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Mar 19** Spiritual Stewardship Groups #2 & 3 at Butler
- Mar 24-26** Older Youth Spring Retreat at Odessa Hills
- Apr 2** Combined Communion Service at Waldo (no morning services at Oak Grove)
- Apr 8** RWC Women's Retreat at Oak Grove
- Apr 9** Spiritual Stewardship Groups meet pm
- Apr 22** Wedding Shower for Katelyn Mercer 9:00am
- Apr 22** Work Day at Odessa Hills Campground

## Spiritual Stewardship Group #5

Group #5 – by Delores Champ

We meet for prayers and testimonies on the second Wednesday of every other month, and on the second Sunday evenings of the remaining months for more of a fun and fellowship night. Even on the fun and fellowship evenings we share our prayer requests and have some prayers centered on those requests.

As with other groups, we are a small, close-knit group whose members care very deeply for one another. Hal Chadwick is our small group leader and Mark Griffin is his assistant.

On fun and fellowship nights, Mark usually has some game or 'challenge' in which we all participate. Sharing our answers and skills (or lack of skill) sometimes invokes laughter. We also indulge in a potluck of appetizing snack foods and enjoy visiting with one another. Our small groups really help us to know one another better, and our bonds of Christian friendship and family ties are strengthened even more so than they would be otherwise.

In December we met at the home of Tom and Synthia DeBarthe. There we enjoyed singing Christmas carols and trying to figure out the answers to a Christmas Carol puzzle and some Christmas riddles Hal had for us. For our February evening, we did a Valentine word search and a fill-in-the-blank answers of sayings relating to the heart.



## Spiritual Stewardship Group #6

Group # 6—by Lori Smith

When our group meets on Wednesday evenings at the church, we make our concerns known to the group and fervently pray for one another. When we meet on Sunday evenings, we share our funny stories to make one another laugh and to share our journey with the Lord. We also testify to one another of the Lord's goodness in our lives. We enjoy food and fellowship on these nights and have drawn closer together.

We have also looked for ways to help others out when we know of their needs. Our group has cleaned the church a couple of times to help the Normans with this special service to the church. A couple of the men came over to Joe and Lori Smith's house to help with shoring up their fence that badly needed it. We have been able to help with needs of others who have been brought to our attention. We are learning to bear one another's burdens in the joy of the Lord.



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## Women's Department News -- by Pat Chadwick

In January the Women's Department hosted a luncheon to honor the seniors in our congregation. There were over 40 people in attendance. Besides delicious food, we were entertained by The Blue Grass Gospel Singers.

Our Women's prayer service was called off due to ice but it will be rescheduled, so watch for that announcement in the bulletin.

I hope all of you have received your 2017 calendars and are using them. Remember the calendar page ties into the Bulletin Inserts you are receiving on Communion Sunday. They work together to focus us on our goal of "Establishing Our Hearts." We hope that these will aid you in your spiritual growth. If you would like an extra calendar to share with someone let Connie Spivey or myself know; we have a few left.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> we have been invited to join with our sisters at Colbern Road for a History Event to celebrate the organization of the church. Watch for more information.

April 8<sup>th</sup> we are hosting the Women's Council Retreat for all the Restoration Women. I hope you will mark it on your calendars and plan to attend. It is half-day retreat.

By the way, on March 18<sup>th</sup> we will do spring cleaning at the church, so please plan to come and let's get our church shining.

Speaking of shining, may we all shine as bright lights. Paul reminds us:

**I Thess 5:5: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."**

Karl Anderson recently told us in a sermon that we are in a time of vigil, and the parable of the ten virgins will soon be fulfilled. It is time for us to trim our wicks and make sure we have plenty of oil in our lamps. We need to be ready for the return of the Bridegroom. Last year our theme was to prepare ourselves and be ready

for the Bridegroom. That theme continues in our new theme for 2017, as we attempt to fully "Establish Our Hearts in Christ."



Establishing our hearts means soaking ourselves in God's presence; it means reading His words, praying, fasting and discerning the lies that Satan speaks to our hearts. Sometimes Satan tells us we can't do it, we can never be good enough, so why even try. He tells us it is impossible to keep a daily prayer time and study time and we are far too tired to go to church on Wednesday nights etc. etc.

So don't listen to his lies. Stay centered in God and His words and send up arrow prayers as you go through the day, constantly talking to God about all you do and are involved in. Cry out to God to help you overcome whatever it is that holds you back. Keep pressing upward and onward, for with God's help we can build His Kingdom and be the light to the world He has called us to be. It is time for us to keep the vigil and get our lamps trimmed and burning. It is time to establish our hearts in Christ.

*"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light . . ."*  
(Romans 13:11-12)

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## The Freeze Point -- Susan Freeze

When our van recently died, I was so sad. That van was like a part of our family. It had taken our family to California twice, Florida, Yellowstone, the Kirtland Temple, Niagara Falls, San Antonio and multiple trips to Branson. It carried us to church and school for over 10 years in addition to multiple volleyball tournaments. It was the transportation that we had taken to my brother-in-law's funeral, Milana and Brian's wedding, and to the hospital to meet Alexis for the first time. It had over 350,000 miles on it. Abby and I had traded vehicles so we could get her car some needed repairs. Abby was driving the van to college the night the timing belt went out. Instead of being on the interstate between here and Maryville, she was only five miles from her dorm. In my mind that van fulfilled the measure of its creation!

About seven years ago, Flip really wanted a homemade ice cream maker for our anniversary. We ended up with an indoor tabletop version. We use it most Sundays and every time all the kids come over. It obvious we use it often because when we start it, Alexis walks over and says "yummy, yummy!" We liked our ice cream maker so much that as our family has grown, we bought a double ice cream maker to go with it. If our ice cream makers broke tomorrow, we'd replace them because they have fulfilled the measure of their creation.

In my house, just like yours, there are multiple things that fulfill the measure of their creation. There is one item that I have kept just in case I want to use it for a chapel. It is an item call Eggstractor. The idea is that it will easily peel your boiled egg. You put your egg in the chamber and push it out the bottom. Except . . . every time I tried it, all it did was push out the yolk and left the egg with shell on it inside the chamber. I looked it up on the internet and several people have videos showing the same thing, eggs with the yolks pushed out. This is not very helpful when you are making deviled eggs. This invention does NOT fulfill the measure of its creation.

During one of my favorite chapels at CPRS,

John Larson asked the students why they thought Michael Jordan was created. Of course, the answer they came up with was that he was created to play basketball. Certainly, that might be what the world would say, but what would God say? The point John made with the students was that Michael Jordon was created to build the kingdom of God—that all of us were created to build the kingdom of God.

I have pondered this for some time. Two extreme cases would be Adolph Hitler and Mother Teresa. It is interesting to contemplate that they were both created for the same purpose and then consider the very different paths they chose in life.

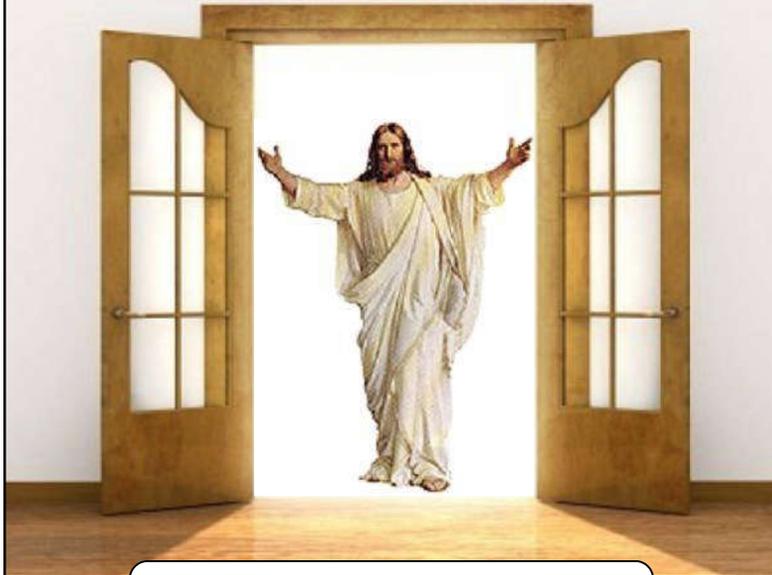
I have a craft disability, and always told my students that God gave me no artistic talent so that they would always know they could draw better then Mrs. Freeze. This is sometimes hard when your Mom is a craft guru, one sister paints and the other cooks like Bobby Flay. It's easy to overlook your own talents. Once after watching Connie Smith put up one of her bulletin boards, I said to her, "I wish I could do that. I don't have any talents." She turned around and looked so shocked and said, "Why would you say that? You have lots of talents." She then listed several for me. I realized I had been ungrateful for what the Lord had given me.

What about each of us? If we do some self-evaluation about building the kingdom of God, would we be like the ice cream maker or the Eggstractor? All of us are created to help build the kingdom of God, but what are we doing about it? If you don't know what your talent is, pray about it.

I would challenge all of us to ask God what He would have us to do to help build His kingdom. If you ask, He will answer, so be prepared to WORK—and be prepared for some ice cream, not egg yolks!

*“. . . for after it hath filled the measure of its creation, it shall be crowned with glory, even with the presence of God the Father” (D&C 85:4)*

*Church of Jesus Christ - Oak Grove Restoration Branch*



*"I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord."  
(Psalm 122:1)*

Church Phone: (816) 690-6996

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| Worship Times   |         | Sacrament Service (1st Sunday)    |
|---|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Sunday Early Worship                                  | 9:00 am | Priesthood Prayer Service 9:00 am |
| Sunday Church School                                  | 9:15 am |                                   |
| Sacrament Sunday Prayer Service and Sacrament Service |         | 10:00 am                          |
| Sunday eve Worship                                    | 6:30 pm | 6:30 pm                           |
| Wednesday eve Prayer and Testimony                    | 7:00 pm |                                   |

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