

# OCC CONTINUES STRONG TREND OF GROWTH AND GIVING

BY Martin Wright

*"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord."*  
Acts 9:31



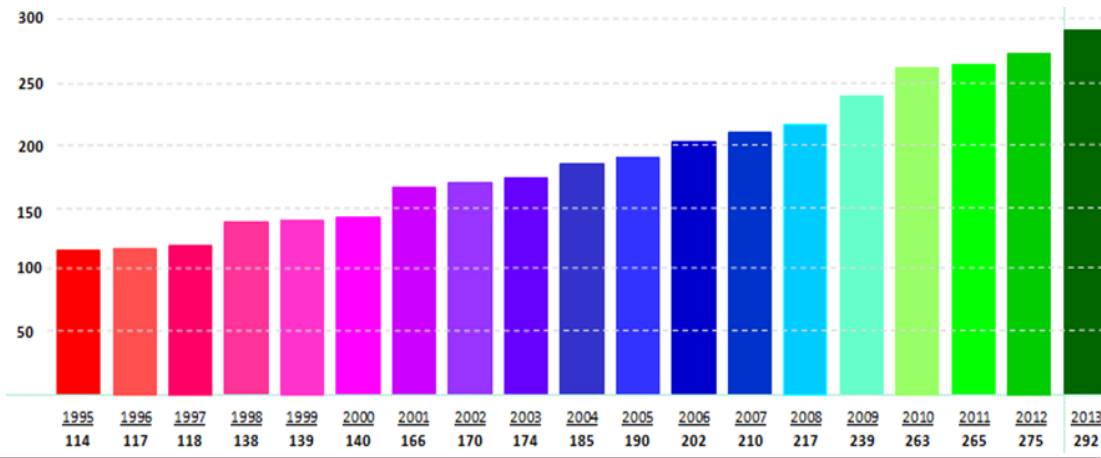
God continues to do an amazing work within Ogilville Christian Church. For the eighteenth consecutive year OCC has increased its attendance average over the preceding year. In fact, this past year shattered the previous all-time high weekly attendance average of 275 set in 2012, with OCC averaging an incredible 292 in our Sunday services in 2013. OCC also witnessed 15 baptisms and 10 transfers of membership in 2013. Weekly giving remained strong averaging above \$6,000 a week for the second

year in a row, with a weekly giving average \$6,376 in 2013.

"What God has done and continues to do here is incredible!" said OCC minister, Martin Wright. "God has blessed us with faithful leaders, committed volunteers, generous members and innovative ministries. Over the past eighteen years God has not only encouraged our spirits, He has restored our church to health and renewed our strength so that we might fully be involved in His mission in our time and place. The past eight-

een years are a testament to the power of prayer and God's faithfulness to His people. The continued growth is a strong indicator people are experiencing God in real and powerful ways here."

In an era when many denominational churches are experiencing significant decline and in a time when many Americans attend church less frequently than they used to, it is no small thing that OCC continues to buck the trends around us and continues to grow.



OGILVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE ENCOURAGER



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# Our Ultimate Valentine

by Zech Riggs

Ahhh February!! One of the biggest sales months of the year for candy, stuffed animals, and especially flowers. As Valentine's Day finally arrives, we see millions of men scramble to order their wonderful wives, girlfriends, or even someone they secretly admire, something special whether it be candy, a bouquet of roses, or maybe a cuddly bear. Let's not forget the women... who are happy with the fact that their husbands, boyfriends, or maybe even secret admirers are finally going to pay a little attention to them...finally.

There are some people on the other end of the spectrum that don't like Valentine's Day for a numerous amount of reasons. They might even feel as if they must boycott the entire holiday or maybe just don't have someone to spend it with.

No matter what the circumstance is this month, almost every single person is guilty of ne-

glecting what should be the most important person in our lives, Jesus. In this busy season of "love," we fail to remember the One who should receive our love the most. Whether we are busy shopping for a special gift, sitting at home hoping to find someone before the day is over, or even spending our time in protest, our focus is pulled in other directions and especially away from Jesus. Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." The Bible does not call us to love the Lord with just a tiny portion of our heart or put Him second to anyone else. We are called to love God with everything and all that we have!! Our lives must be given in total to the One who gave us life.

This month should be an even greater reason for us to make sure that we show our love and thankfulness for Christ's undying affection for us. So how do

we do this? How do we show God our love for Him? The following verses after Deuteronomy 6 says, "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." God promises that "If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors." (Deuteronomy 7:12)

So I encourage each person as you go throughout this month let the hearts and candy become a constant reminder that Christ is and always should be our ultimate Valentine!



## Jesus Jam Update... *from Mark & Sherry*

Jesus Jam has been full of activity! Twenty one of us traveled to Tennessee for the Christian Teen Convention. All of us were so encouraged and convicted to live out our faith in a bold new way.

through our Legacy Of Faith!

We all learned so much about ourselves, God's Truth and the lies of this world through Transformed brought to us by the Columbus Pregnancy Care Center last month. We are looking forward to our Transformed Celebration on February 6th.

Once again Jesus Jam will be selling fresh, homemade pizza. Orders will be taken on Sunday, February 23rd and March 2nd. Pizzas will be made and will be available for pick-up on Sunday, March 9th after morning service. Check your bulletin for order forms.

Both Jr. High and Sr. High School students attended the Hilltop Winter Youth Retreat In January where we were

able to investigate what it means to LIVE, LEAVE and LEAD others

**7th - 12th grade students, Come join us on Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm in the OCC café...we'd love to have you!**

## Pre School News *from Sherry*

Silly chilly winter weather has delayed or made us miss class but we are continuing to learn and grow! Class Valentine parties will be Feb. 13th and 14th. More info coming soon in the class newsletter.

Fall enrollments will be sent out the 1st week of February. We are currently full for Fall, however, a waiting list is kept in case spots become available.



## *New Policies: Calendar, Building, Equipment Reservation, & Announcements*

As OCC has grown, its ministries have multiplied and expanded. As much as this is a blessing, it also brings about certain complexities as ministries now find themselves requesting the same calendar dates, building space usage and announcement placements. Because of this developing circumstance, it has become necessary for us to adopt the following procedures for requesting dates, scheduling rooms and submitting announcements.

In order for us to coordinate and communicate effectively, we ask our ministry leaders to follow the new guidelines listed below:

Please secure and confirm your dates and room reservation for all OCC related events

through our official calendar-coordinator and church secretary, Benita Wagner. You may either stop by the OCC office, call Benita at 812-342-6907 or email [occsecretary@comcast.net](mailto:occsecretary@comcast.net).

After confirming your date and location, should you wish to publicize your event, we ask that any and all publication and announcement requests for the bulletin be submitted by 10:30 a.m. on the Wednesday prior to the weekend service. The bulletin will be processed and published by office secretary Benita Wagner. The newsletter will be processed and published by Mona Peterson (edited by Kathleen Schwein). Information for the newsletter should be sent to Mona's email address: [monapeterson@earthlink.net](mailto:monapeterson@earthlink.net) or phone 812-

342-2962 on or before the 22nd of each month. We remind you that our publication team is available to support your ministry and would be happy to help create your publications/ads if needed.

When church supplies (i.e. tables, chairs, etc.) are needed during a public or private off-campus event, please reserve items in advance and coordinate a pick-up and return time with our church secretary to ensure supplies are readily available for all simultaneous events.

Our intention is to give our ministries what they need to professionally and efficiently launch their events and activities in a coordinated fashion that minimizes ministry frustration and encourages congregational participation.



### *Polar Plunge Rescheduled*

The polar plunge at Hilltop has been postponed until February 16<sup>th</sup> due to the forecast of extreme weather. This gives you a few more weeks to sponsor Mark Yeaton or Eric Carlson. All proceeds will go toward updating the floor in the kitchen at Hilltop. Please contact each future human popsicle personally or send contributions in their name to: Hilltop Christian Camp, Polar Plunge, 6014 Hamilton Creek Rd., Columbus IN 47201.

### *Baby Bottles*

OCC is participating in the Pregnancy Care Center's Baby Bottle Campaign. The

funds collected will be donated to the center for life saving and life changing programming. Please fill the baby bottle that you received in January with change or bills and return them to the table outside the nursery by Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Let's fill the entire table with bottles filled with donations for PCC! Questions, please contact PCC ambassador, Sherry Yeaton



### *Financial Freedom*

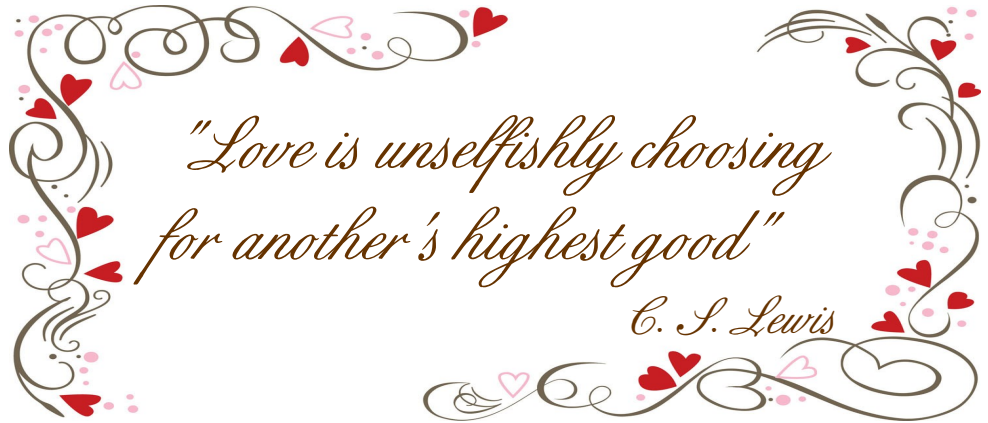
We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

Lead by Tony and Kelly Strahl, FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks starting Sunday, February 16 at 6pm in the OCC basement. Cost is \$100 per family, scholarships available, a great family Valentine's Day gift. For more information contact Tony Strahl at 812-276-2246.





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Martin Wright, Minister 812-374-7528  
Martin Peterson, Elder 812-371-7679  
John Hundley, Elder 812-552-5067  
Lucky Jenkins, Elder 812-374-2832  
Norman Love, Elder 812-552-1807  
Don Bradley, Elder 812-445-3611



**We Exist to**

- ...celebrate God's Presence through Worship. (Jn 4:23-24)
- ...communicate God's Word through Evangelism. (Rom 10:13)
- ...demonstrate God's Love through Ministry. (Jn 13:35)
- ...educate God's People through Discipleship. (Eph 4:11-13)
- ...unite God's People through Fellowship. (1 Jn 1:3)

anniversaries & birthdays  
**february**

**FEBRUARY**  
EVENTS

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Faye Michael              | 16 John & Susie Hundley* |
| Jerry Hall                  | 17 Susan G. Hundley      |
| Bonnie Purnell              | 18 Mark Yeaton           |
| 3 Sydney Lewis              | Les Roettgen             |
| Bobby & Elizabeth Lockherd* | Sidney Wilcoxon          |
| Isaac David Kerkhof         | 20 Ruthanna Montgomery   |
| 5 Rick Hatchett             | Josh & Jessy Meek*       |
| 6 Lucky Jenkins             | 22 Caylee Brown          |
| Dominic Piper               | 23 Caleb Wright          |
| 8 Nathan & Jeannie Long*    | 24 Jaleigh Buck          |
| 7 Harold Hutchinson         | Mia Kirsten Petro        |
| Morris Bolin                | 25 Christopher Mohr      |
| 9 Cheryl Jenkins            | 26 David Foust           |
| Bill Allen                  | Tony Strahl              |
| 10 Fred King                | Brian & Cathy Wichman    |
| 11 Janie Faulkner           | 27 Kathleen Schwein      |
| Scarlett Pruitt             | Tonya Shewmake           |
| 12 Myra Hurt                | Wilma Johnson            |
| 13 Judy Kirby               | 28 Floyd Hale            |
| Julie Petro                 | Gregg Surenkamp          |
| Charlotte Moss              | Kim Hamblen              |
| 14 Jerry Bruner             | Isaac Carlson            |
| Eric Carlson                | Kay Cobb                 |
| 15 Emma Ramp                |                          |
| 16 Garrett Long             |                          |

- 2-2 Donut Sunday 9:30—9:50 am
- Weds. 7-8 pm, gods @ war
- 2-14 Valentine's Day
- 2-16 Polar Plunge @ Hilltop  
Camp 3:30 pm
- 2-16 Financial Peace University  
6 pm OCC basement
- 2-23 Jesus Jam pizza orders
- 2-28 — 3-1 B.L.A.S.T. Lock-In  
7:30 pm to 8:30 am
- Softball sign-ups coming soon!



**Schuyler, Tracy\* & Maddie\* Marks**  
**Lillie Wells\***  
**Brian, Janet & Stephanie Lewis**  
**Brandon Maynard\***  
**Samantha Helwig\***

\*Baptized