



The Encourager

Baby Dedication Service

September 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Martin Wright

On Sunday, September 7th, our worship service will include a very special and important time of Baby Dedication. We host this event because we have a sense that God intends faith to be lived in a family context. Parents have the greatest opportunity to shape their child's spiritual development. Likewise, God seems to place a great portion of the responsibility for a child's faith and spirituality on the parents. Understanding the responsibility and the opportunity parents face, Ogilville Christian Church utilizes Baby Dedication Day as an occasion for parents to pledge to God and the congregation that they are serious about the task that is before them. We ask parents to commit themselves to raise their child to

know the Lord Jesus Christ by loving, disciplining, training, and setting a positive Christ-like example for their children to follow. Alongside of our parents, our church family also recommits itself to love and minister to our children and to provide ample opportunities for them to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

While the Baby Dedication Service itself is brief, the commitment parents make to raise their children to know and love the Lord will be lived out over a lifetime. [Because the covenantal promise to God is made by the parents and not the child, we do not include baby baptism as part of the dedication service.](#) It is our sense that baptism is meant

to take place at a time when an individual makes a personal decision to follow Christ and is old enough to repent of sin and confess Jesus publicly.

Parents willing to commit themselves to raising their infant child to know and love the Lord are invited to participate by contacting the church office at 812-342-6907 or by contacting one of our staff members and indicating your desire to participate.



Faith Expressing Itself in Love

Martin Wright

Several years ago, I ministered with an individual who had suffered through a temporary bout of Expressive Aphasia as a result of a stroke. I know that sounds terribly clinical, but Expressive Aphasia, simply put, is the inability of a person to find or formulate the words (or sometimes gestures) to express themselves even though they know what they want to say. My friend recounted the situation after they recovered by saying, "Those were dark days...It was one of the most frustrating things I have ever experienced...I wanted to tell my children I loved them and that God would help keep our family safe...but my mouth and tongue just wouldn't work...I was trying to comfort them, but the sounds I made only scared them more." Thank God my friend was eventually able to regain the ability to communicate! It must have been a horrible trial to have gone through.

As we begin to ponder the question of what "faith expressing

itself in love" actually looks like, I can't help but wonder if some of us might suffer from *Spiritual* Expressive Aphasia. We know God wants us to express our faith in loving ways, but we struggle with how to do that in practical terms. It can be quite frustrating. Worse yet, for many of us we can reflect on times when we tried to express our faith to someone with the result being we seem to frighten them away. Many feel a call to speak the truth, but do not fully grasp the complexity of how to speak the truth "in love." For example, I have read some awfully mean spirited posts from Christians trying to share Biblical truth, which ended up expressing these truths in ways that did not feel Christ like to me. I believe the authors genuinely wanted to offer help and Godly direction, but in the heat of a debate, well...you get the idea.

Fortunately, Jesus not only speaks to the issue, He has given us some excellent and practi-

cal examples that we can follow. In Matthew 25, Jesus extols that faith should be expressed in loving and compassionate action—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the imprisoned, comforting the sick, and being hospitable to strangers. So committed to this notion of faith being accompanied by expressive action was James that he wrote, "faith without works is dead!" In a similar fashion, the apostle Paul gives the impression in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians that if our faith is so strong or so great that it can move mountains, but if it can't express itself in love, then it profits us nothing.

And this, as I am sure you already perceive, is only the very beginning of our discussion of this subject...

...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.
Gal. 5:6

The world is shrinking...but not in size or shape as this thought might have implied. No longer does each country seem as far away as it did in the past. With the help of cars, boats and planes, we can reach other countries in hours instead of months or years. With the help of cell phones, computers, and the internet, we no longer have to travel half way around the world to speak with someone in a different country. This also means the same for others who are on the other side of the spectrum. It is much easier for them to get here just as quickly.

But what happens when our world gets smaller? We eventually begin bumping into people who are not from "our neck of the woods," as some would say. Cultures are intermingling and as growing Christians we must recognize this trend and adapt accordingly. It is to be expected that we have all developed our own cultures. As a consequence of the choices that we make,

the communities we form include some people and exclude others. This pattern stimulates us to become afraid and even reject people that may be different than us, even those whom we have been sent to serve.

As Christians, we are called to a higher purpose and must be willing to become learners of every culture that we encounter. The best part is that we have a perfect example to follow: Jesus. Sherwood Lingenfelter wrote in his book Ministering Cross Culturally, "The implications of Jesus' status as a learner are seldom discussed, let alone understood or applied. God's son studied the language, the culture, and the lifestyle of his people for thirty years before he began his ministry. He knew all about their family lives and problems. He stood at their side as learner and coworker. He learned to read and study the Scriptures in his local synagogue and earned respect to

the point that the people called him Rabbi. He identified totally with those to whom he was sent, calling himself the Son of man."

If we are to become Christ followers and doers of his word, we must be willing to do the same! We must be willing to start, as infants, to study new cultures and learn to understand those around us better. No longer are we in a world where cultures don't collide. We have to be ready to share the gospel of Christ with everyone and understanding their culture is a step forward. This challenge will shape us, trouble us and make us tired but the love of Christ will lift us up in these difficult moments. It was Paul who said in 1st Corinthians 9:22-23, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." God Bless!!

Making A Difference!

Virgil Clotfelter

In my initial interviews about joining the OCC staff, I asked the elders and Marty if there was a commonly held mission or purpose statement for OCC. "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" was the quick, decisive and enthusiastic answer of the brothers present. In my three months here at OCC, I have found their answer to be more than mere words that sound good. I thank God for bringing me to a place where I see this "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" mindset at work in the lives and ministries of both leaders and members.

In the months to come, we will make "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" a major focus of the church calendar and programs. The marquis event will come on Sunday, Octo-

ber 19. The theme of this special day will, coincidentally, be "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" Sunday. On this day, we will ask that every OCC member and friend commit to one or more specific ways in which we all can live and serve so that a major difference in our lives and the lives of others can be known. We will be suggesting numerous options as possibilities, but we want everyone to begin a personal prayer campaign soon asking God to point out the way or ways He wants each of us to help "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!" I await our every response with eager anticipation.

God would certainly love our commitment to such a holy passion and drive. It is my conviction that He would greatly honor and

bless such an effort. Since God has done this very thing for all of us, now is the time for 100% support and participation. You can assist us with your suggestions (phone, e-mail, notes, etc.) as we build our list of potential ways that OCC can and will "MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

Like me, I hope you are smiling as we imagine the positive impact in us, our church, our community and our world. Remember the words of Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Watch out world, here we come!

New Small Group and Bible Studies Begin

A new 8 week small group will start on Sept. 10th from 7:00-8:30pm. It will be led by Norman Love and will be held at Norman & Marijane Love's home (2303 Gilmore Street). The topic will be "Current Events & Bible Prophecy – How Do They Relate?" Sign up in the Life Center if you are interested.

Tuesday women's Bible study will begin a new 7 week study on 'Life Principles for Spiritual Warfare' by Eddie Rasnake on September 9th at 9am in the OCC café. *It seems spiritual warfare is being discussed and taught more now than at any time in recent history...The fruit of much modern teaching is actually spiritual instability instead of maturity.* Join us as we search out the scriptures and determine what the Word really teaches about Satan and the believer's response to him.

DATA DEN update

Many of you have completed your forms for the new data system. We thank you for your promptness! Yet there are still a great number that need to help us with this task. As we launch the "Servant Keeper" church management computer software system, we can know for sure that we have the latest and correct information in our records. The forms are located in the Life Center for your convenience. Please stop by, pick them up, complete and return to the office. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsals Begin

Betsy Hundley



We're dishing up an unforgettable Christmas for your kids this year with our children's musical, *The Night Shift Before Christmas*. Join the other "night-owls" at Bethlehem's only 24-hour roadside restaurant, the Falafel House! Owner Mo's complaint that "nothing ever happens at night in this sleepy little town" goes down the drain with the dirty dishwasher when a brilliant light splits the darkness over the fields outside of town, and surprised shepherds burst through the doors with a stunning tale of angels and an amazing birth announcement.

complaint that "nothing ever happens at night in this sleepy little town" goes down the drain with the dirty dishwasher when a brilliant light splits the darkness over the fields outside of town, and surprised shepherds burst through the doors with a stunning tale of angels and an amazing birth announcement.

Auditions for speaking parts will be held on Sunday, September 21 from 2:00–3:30 p.m. (or immediately following the Chili Cook-off/Dessert Auction) for anyone in grades 4–8. Audition packets may be picked up on or after September 7, from Hannah McCord or Betsy Hundley. You may also email your request for a packet to jeepinmom40@gmail.com.

If you'd like your child/grandchild to participate in this year's Christmas musical, here's what you need to know:

- 1st – 8th graders may participate
- Attendance at rehearsals is required for participation

- The performance date is Sunday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. AND 6:30 p.m.
- Rehearsals begin Sunday, September 28 and are each Sunday afternoon
 - Cast rehearsals (speaking parts only) begin at 4:15 p.m.
 - Choir rehearsals (for both speaking and non-speaking parts) begin at 5:15 p.m.
 - Rehearsals end at 6:15 p.m.

OCC Coming Events...



The senior group will have an outing to

Metamora on Saturday, October 4. We will be traveling by van, leave the church at 10:00 a.m., have lunch when we get there and leave Metamora at 4:00 p.m. We should be back at the church around 5:30 p.m. Please sign-up at the Life Center if you wish to attend. We need a minimum of 8 people for the outing. The deadline for sign-up is Sept. 21st.



Pump up the tires on that bicycle

collecting dust in the garage, mark **Sept. 20th** on your calendar and sign up for the Hope Ride under the team name "OCCCC". It stands for Ogilville Christian Church Cycling Club. If OCCCC or OC4 has 20 people sign up for any distance from 13-100 miles then \$200 dollars will go to the Salvation Army Food Bank. How cool is that?! You pedaling a bike can feed people in Columbus. If our team has more than any other team, then \$2,000 will go to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Check out <http://www.hoperide.org/> and start getting some miles in before Sept. 20. For more info call Mark Yeaton at 812-764-2968.



Dessert Auction & Chili Cook-off

...time is near. Mark your calendars for this annual event September 21st immediately following morning services. This is an occasion you don't want to miss! Please sign up at the information desk if you would like to enter chili in the contest or bring a dessert. The mission team is not traveling this year, but we are already saving for next year's trip! Come join us for a really fun afternoon of fellowship and bidding wars!



Child Protection Class in September

A child protection class will be offered September 20th from 9am-1pm in the OCC Café led by Norm Love. The class' purpose is to educate our childcare providers, leaders and church members about the reality of child sexual abuse in our world and offer training toward the practical steps we have taken for prevention at OCC. This class is the crucial first step of our comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Protection Policy & Procedures and it leads towards our goal of individual 'certification' which is a require-

ment for all who will supervise youth from infant through teen ages. Certified oversight is required for all programs, teaching, etc. at OCC.



Sunday School

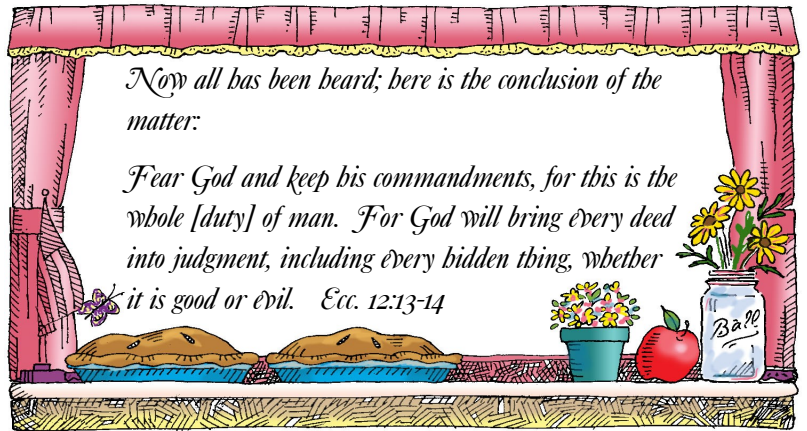
volunteers needed

There is a need for Sunday School teachers and helpers for the 2 & 3 year old children. A list is being formed of those who would be willing to help on a rotating basis. Two people (at least one certified) will need to be present at all times. A sign-up sheet is available at the Life Center. Class will start September 7th at 9 a.m. Contacts for information: Marijane Love, 812-552-1302 or Virgil Clotfelter, 812-342-6907.



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 Email: occcsecretary@comcast.net
 Website & Electronic Giving: www.occtoday.org

Martin Wright, Minister 812-374-7528
 Virgil Clotfelter Asst. Intm. Min. 812-376-3766
 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




september



EVENTS

Communion preparers are needed the months of September thru December. This may be for the whole month or may be shared. Please prayerfully consider serving in this area. You may sign-up at the Life Center, contact the office, or Kay Cobb.

birthdays and anniversaries...

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 Molean King | 18 Ben Wagner |
| 3 Brandon Maynard | Evan Barnett |
| 4 Rick & Michelle Hatchett* | 20 Mattie Whitis |
| Mary & Joe Clipp* | Lara Allman |
| Sherry Yeaton | Isaiah Smallwood |
| Bob Casey | Dave Weaver |
| Gene Murphy | Michael Horne |
| Jr Clubb | Derek Ramp |
| 5 Dean Murphy | Joe Clipp |
| 6 Andy Helwig | 22 Brenda Blackwood |
| 8 Ronnie Pruitt | Lauren Moffett |
| 9 Robbin Hundley | Olivia Shewmake |
| 10 Crystal Brooks | 23 Natalie Perry |
| Troy & Tina Peters* | Lillie Wells |
| Christopher & Beth Mohr* | 24 Shelby Hundley |
| 11 Roger & Nellie Thomson* | Mae Allen |
| 14 Sam Wilcoxon | Kevin Day |
| Faye & John Michael | 25 Rhonda Schwein |
| Sue Olmstead | Danny & Courtney Fisher* |
| 15 Mickey & Amy Brown | 26 Ryder Meek |
| Justin Moss | Will Helwig |
| John & Faye Michael | Bill & Wilma Johnson* |
| 16 Casey Wright | 27 Chad Stadler |
| Eric Brown | Logan Debord |
| Patrick Peterson | Judy & Jerry Reeves* |
| Brandon Miller | 28 Karrick Hutchinson |
| 17 Jearldine Eickleberry | 29 Abigail Fredericksen |
| Mary Ellen Thomas | 30 Randy Moss |

on the calendar...

- ◆ 9.1.14 Labor Day, Office Closed
- ◆ 9.7.14 Donut Sunday
- ◆ 9.20.14 Men's Fellowship Breakfast



welcome new members...

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Baptized: | Carrie O'Sullivan |
| | Haley Cook |
| | Robert Holt |
| Transferred: | Doris Johnson |