

#### **Texas Oaks Baptist Church**

We Fxist to Know Christ Intimately and to Share Christ

Passionately

We are here to serve you.

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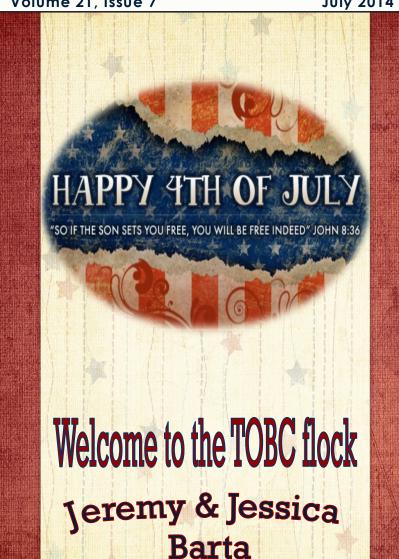


#### The Oak Leaf

a monthly publication of Texas Oaks Baptist Church 9910 Bilbrook Place, Austin, Texas 78748

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## A Word from the Pastor

Church Family,

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This is the final month on the series of Elders. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Scriptures, studying every passage pertaining to Elders, and I hope you have been doing the same.

Additionally, in studying our current church by-laws, I was pleased to find that my conclusions of elders does not differ much from what is currently in place. Article II, Section 2 says,

"The office of Elder is clearly set out in Scripture. Scripture further indicates that there should normally be a plurality of Elders in the local church. These Elders are given to the church, "for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ." Ephesians 4:12.

Folks, I am in complete agreement with this statement. It is encouraging to know the body of TOBC has already voted to incorporate two very important truths: *Elders are clearly set in Scripture, and there should be a plurality*.

The only issue left is, "How much responsibility should the Elders be given?" Should they only minister and build up the body (as stated in our current bylaws), or should they also direct/rule the affairs of the church? (as stated in 1 Timothy 5:17).

Some may ask: What is our current church polity? Who directs and rules the affairs of the church now? In Article III, Section 3, our church by-laws state,

"Texas Oaks Baptist Church is a congregationally led church and shall operate with a democratic polity. Every member of the church is entitled to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in meetings."

Under our current by-laws, every member has an equal vote on the direction of the church. And this is true regardless of the following:

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Attendance (even if a member has not been at TOBC for months or years, he/she is *entitled* to all votes.)

<u>Biblical maturity</u> (even if a member knows little to nothing about Scripture, he/she is *entitled* to all votes)

<u>Lack of spiritual fruit</u> (even if a member is not exhibiting any fruits of the Spirit to indicate God at work in his/her life, he/she is *entitled* to all votes.)

<u>Age</u> (even children, that are members, are *entitled* to all votes, regardless of maturity)

Brothers & Sisters, I truly believe this polity is wrong, both practically and Biblically. However, changing the church polity is not mine to do.

On July 27th, after the morning service, each member will vote on whether TOBC should

- 1) Remain congregational or
- 2) Change to an Elder-led model, in principle.

If the church chooses to be led by Elders, nothing changes immediately. It simply means we start moving toward that model by rewriting the parts of our by-laws that deal with Elders and congregationalism. The final vote, to accept a new polity, will, once again, be brought before the church for a vote. The whole process can take as long as a year.

If the church chooses not to change, I will absolutely respect that decision.

Asking you to join me in continuing to pray fervently for the body of Christ at TOBC, Pastor James

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4

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#### **TOBC Corner**

Upcoming sermons, Q&A and vote.

All messages on Elders are online if you missed any of the previous topics: History, Necessity, Equivalency, Authority, Qualifications, Protection & Removal

Sunday, July 6th (am) ....... Plurality & Selection of Elders

Sunday, July 6th (pm) ....... Elder Q&A

Case for Congregationalism (by anyone in

congregation)

Sunday, July 13th (am) ....... Purpose & Responsibility of Elders

Sunday, July 20th (am) ....... Congregationalism

(common passages used to support this polity)

Sunday, July 20th (pm) ...... Elder Q&A

Case for Congregationalism (by anyone in

congregation)

Sunday, July 27th (am) ....... Special called business meeting after service



We will be moving from justification to sanctification, Christian living.

It all begins with our "coffee house" at 6:45pm! Sign up to bring a dessert, and see you there!

If you can help with the children once a month,

please contact Cathy Torrey.
We could use a few more volunteers
Sunday mornings (during the sermon)
and Wednesday nights.



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# Texas Oaks Baptist Church

presents a 9 week camp for children ages 5-12!

There will be a focus on strengthening character and strengthening self defense skills!

Each week, children will be challenged to improve their character while learning to protect their bodies.

A new self defense technique will be taught each week by Mr. Frank Maddox, a Master 6th degree TKD black belt.

Registration begins Wednesday, July 2nd @ 6:30pm.



Mr. Maddox is a Senior 6th Degree Black Belt, ITA Certified Instructor and owner of Tiger-Rock Martial Arts International in Oak Hill.

Mr. Maddox has studied TaeKwonDo and other martial arts for over 20 years and has been ranked as an internationally recognized Top Ten Competitor since 1996.

He and his family are members of Texas Oaks Baptist Church.

### Hope to see you soon!

Camp will meet **every** Wednesday through July & August 7:00pm - 8:00pm

9910 Bilbrook Place \* Austin, Texas \* www.tobc.org



Meeting

5:00pm Fellowship at theTorrey's House

#### It's A Baby Shower Jessica Barta

Ladies, You are invited to a diaper shower > July 20th ≪

12:30pm in the Fellowship Hall to help welcome baby "MICHAEL JAMES"



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Sonskine Fellowskip

(A fellowship for all senior adults 60 yrs. old or older)

Monday, July 14th 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Come Join us for "A Glimpse of Hawaii."

**Andrea Northcutt from** Woodlawn Baptist Church will do a Christian Hula and give her testimony.

There is no charge however. donations are accepted.

Menu

Waikiki chicken. Hawaiian rolls, rice, slaw. Pina Colada punch and dessert.

Road Warriors Plans are underway to make this years

Fall Festival, "Reformation Celebration", an event for the whole church! All silent auction donations will be displayed that night, with all proceeds going to the Christmas Mission Offering. You have plenty of time to think of how you would like to be involved. Talk to Kristen Vannoy or Charlotte Melder for more information. Lots of great info coming soon!!

Pool Party! Kids in grades K-6, mark July 13th on your calendar. We'll head to the Torrey's house after church service for fun in the sun, hot dogs and much more!! See Kristen Vannoy or Dave Grizzle for more information.

7/2 7/11 7/19 Carolyn McCarty **Pauline Gamble Pastor James** 7/2 7/12 7/21 Corban Melder **Eric Fisher Pepper Shirley** 7/9 7/16 7/21 Elijah Howard **Charlotte Melder** Eva Rios 7/10 7/16 7/22 Ryan Pessoa **Caleb Crowley** Hannah Grizzle 7/10 7/18 7/22 **Harper Fisher** Johnnie Johnson Jacob Tyson

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# Sunday

	Preschool Helper	Nursery Workers	Power Point	Tellers	Vi;itor'; Center
6th	Julie Howard	Kristen Vannoy	Matthew Vannoy	Bertha Esparza Debbie Shirley	Tyson Class
13th	Ruby Franco	Wanda White	Chris Walsh	Bob Newman John Loyd	Youth Class
20th	Ashley Fisher	Shary Evans	Ryan Askew	Ramon San Luis Jim Vannoy	Joy Class
27th	Sylvia Reyes	Sydney Loyd	Caleb Torrey	Kristen Vannoy Denise San Luis	Askew/Vannoy Class

#### Wednesday

#### Preschool Helper

2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
Cathy Torrey	Mary Wild	Cathy Torrey	Denise San Luis	Angelica Tyson