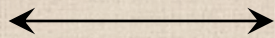


Texas Oaks Baptist Church

We Exist to
Know Christ
Intimately
and to
Share Christ
Passionately



We are here to
serve you.

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Merry Christmas



and
suddenly
there was with
the **angel**
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth,
peace, goodwill towards

men
Luke 2
13-14

TOBC's Weekly Schedule

Sunday

- 8:30 am Praise Team Practice
- 9:00 am Prayer with Pastor (in Room 18)
- 9:30 am Bible Study for All Ages
- 10:45 am Worship Service

Wednesday

- 6:15 pm Healthy Living Group
- 6:45 pm Coffee House
- 7:00 pm Road Warriors
- 7:00 pm Mid-Week Refuel Service

Look inside for a calendar of this month's full
list of events!

*Nursery provided for all
Sunday & Wednesday
Activities.*



Pastor's Corner

First, I want to take this opportunity to formally thank all of you for the generous love offering presented to me and Cathy at family night. That, plus other individual gifts & cards, have blessed us beyond what you all will ever know, especially after this challenging year of transition. While

God asked us to make some choices that caused much pain and loss, for those who call Him Lord, there is no other option than to trust and obey. And that is what we did. I cannot fully express how thankful I am for those who endured and said, "we are ready to follow the Lord and His Word, regardless of the cost." The *fruit* from the tough time of pruning has been a joy to watch, and our God has been glorified as we dug deep into His Word looking for direction and comfort. I heard statements like, "Boy, I realize how little I know about the Bible" and "I wish I had started learning sooner." These weren't statements from new believers, either; these were statements from some of our veterans in the faith.

This led me to think about something we need to start as a church in the new year. To be clear, this is not a New Year's Resolution (since most of those never make it past January). Instead, I am asking you to prayerfully consider joining me in continuing to be obedient to the commandments of God's word, and let's begin on January 1st.

As we look to 2015, I want us to take our spiritual walk to the next level. Jesus said in Matthew 28, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Folks, it is not enough to be saved. It's not even enough to live a good, godly life, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' command & expectation is that every justified person will be teaching others *everything* that's been commanded to them. Wow. If that doesn't overwhelm you, it may be that you don't fully understand the magnitude of the responsibility.

TOBC Family, in 2015, I want to focus on growing as followers who are able to teach others everything He has taught and commanded us. For some, this is going to be a brand new thing. For others, this is going to be a continuation of what they are already doing. For everyone, it starts with ourselves, spreads to our families, then to the "nations." There is always another level of maturity to reach for.

Now, this can be an overwhelming endeavor to start alone, so I'm going to suggest a few things we can do, as a church body, to "spur one another on to good works," Hebrews 10:24.

1. Commit to read through the Bible in 2015. Folks, this is the basic building block of the spiritual life. There is no way you can teach what's been commanded if you don't know what's been commanded, or if you've only heard bits & pieces from others. I will be offering many suggested reading plans in the upcoming weeks. While I know you can start reading through the Bible anytime, many plans are set up to start on January 1st, so it makes it hard to start any other time. If the Lord is, in any way, prompting you to do this, please pray about what you (& perhaps your whole family) would want to use to start off your year through the Word.

2. Memorize Bible verses and Learn Doctrinal questions, or catechisms, to ensure you are always "prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have," 1 Peter 3:15. I know many folks are uncomfortable with the word catechism, but I love how John Piper, a fellow Baptist pastor, explains it,

What is a catechism? In 1 Corinthians 14:19 Paul says, "In the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue." In Galatians 6:6 he says, "Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches." Acts 18:25 says that Apollos "has been instructed in the way of the Lord."

In each of these verses the Greek word for "instruct" or "teach" is katecheo. From this word we get our English word "catechize". It simply means to teach Biblical truth in an orderly way. Generally this is done with questions and answers accompanied by Biblical support and explanation.

Our children's department has been doing this for a while; it's time the rest of us caught up to them. At our January Family Night, I will share the catechism questions I will suggest we learn as a church, and for me, I truly hope they become part of consistent family worship time in my home.

So, even though it's only December, January 1st, 2015, will be here before we know it. And I'm asking every member to pray about being ready to start discipleship, not in a '12 wk, watch a video and answer questions' type of discipleship. While those can provide great resources, our focus needs to be bigger. I'm challenging us all to be ready to participate in a '52 wk, lead your family and live it in your home' type of discipleship that truly prepare us to fulfill His command.

Merry Christmas & see you on the Trail!

The Road Warriors will be hosting a different delivery system for Christmas cards for IOBC members. Get your cards ready!



December Family Night

5pm - Business Meeting, hear the final reading of the 2015 budget.

6pm - Family Night, Plan on a joyous evening as Pastor Sneed's congregation blesses us with baptisms.

7pm—Potluck Fellowship, Enjoy delicious foods brought by all of us.



Sunday School Christmas Parties

YOUTH CLASS

Dec 12th @6:30pm

Meet at Pastor James and Cathy's house. Each youth is to bring a White Elephant gift that costs about \$10...Santa hats and food will be provided for everyone :)

FRANCO/SAN LUIS CLASS

TYSON CLASS

Dec. 12th @ 7pm

Meet at Bob & Shary Evan's house for a White elephant



JOY CLASS

Dec. 13th @ 10am

Meet at Luray Hall's house



Trail of Life Dates

- Dec 13th - Ready/mow the grass
- Dec 14th - Set up - provided lunch
- Dec 17th - Dress Rehearsal

The Presentation

December 19th—21st
Friday, Saturday, Sunday
7pm—9pm each night

Nightly meals at 5:30 pm for all TOL volunteers.

TRAIL of LIFE:
More than just the Christmas story



Texas Oaks Baptist Church presents a Live Nativity and much more. Visitors follow a tour guide through a beautifully lit, outdoor trail where they will see and hear actors "living" out 5 important scenes from the life of Christ:

His Birth, Death, and Resurrection.

- When: December 19th, 20th, 21st
- Time: 7:00pm—9:00pm
with tours starting every 20 minutes
- Where: Texas Oaks Baptist Church
9910 Bilbrook Place, Austin
- Cost: Free with ample parking in a well-lit, secure, paved parking lot.

♻️Golf cart provided for individuals with limited mobility

All ages, genders, denominations and nationalities are invited. Tour Guides will present in English however, this is a very visual program.

Road Warriors



Coming January 11th- Children's Camp BBQ Boogie Fundraiser. Mark your calendars and plan to stay after service for fantastic BBQ, country music and fellowship with friends and family! Flyers with more information will be coming soon. Contact Dave Grizzle or Kristen Vannoy with any questions.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Another friendly challenge faces you & this one can earn you a prize! We welcome you to a

Holiday Door Decorating Competition!

Each class is responsible for their own door and it must be completed by December 14th. The winning class will receive their choice of kolaches or donuts the morning of the 28th.

COOKIES

(for the Trail of Life Presentation)



It's hard to believe that December is already here. The dates for the Trail of Life are fast approaching. You may be wondering what you can do to help. Can you bake? Good, because we are going to need lots and lots of cookies for the refreshment table during that time. As you start your holiday baking, make some extra cookies to share with our guests, and as you bake (or buy), pray for the guests attending the Trail of Life.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you all for your participation in Operation Christmas Child this year. We collected 75 shoebox gifts.

Thank you also for those who prayed over and helped load up the boxes. Please continue to pray:

- for every child who receives a shoebox to be open to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- for the volunteers who process, transport, and deliver the boxes, especially for safety of volunteers in areas of the world that may be hostile to Christians.

Lottie Moon Christmas

The Lottie Moon silent auction was a success and brought in close to \$700 for the Christmas Offering! This is already almost twice as much as last year. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated items, made baskets, hand-crafted items, and BID on items.

This Year's 2014 RENAISSANCE FALL FESTIVAL



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th
6:00pm



Celebrate December Birthdays



12/6
Tammy Pessoa

12/12
Omar Howard

12/16
Maureen Lingerfelt

12/10
Betty Hall

12/13
Charlie Fisher

12/17
Jeremy Barta

12/11
Dave Grizzle

12/16
Gagle Barron

12/31
Jimmy San Luis



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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1 <u>9:00am</u> Sr Men's Breakfast & Wives' Coffee	2	3 	4	5	6
7 <u>4:30pm</u> Business Meeting <u>6:00pm</u> Family Night Fellowship Potluck	8	9 	10	11 	12 <u>6:30pm</u> Youth Christmas Party <u>7:00PM</u> San Luis/Franco & Tyson Classes Christmas Party
14 <u>12:30pm</u> TOL Set up	15 	16 <u>9:30am</u> Soup Kitchen	17 <u>7:00pm</u> TOL Dress Rehearsal	18	19 7pm Trail of Life Presentation
21 No Sunday School TOL Continued	22	23	24 <u>6:00pm</u> Candlelight Service <i>(no Wednesday)</i>	25 Christmas	26 Office Closed
28	29 	30	31 Happy Anniversary!! Bob and Bertha Esparza		



Sunday

	Preschool Helper	Nursery Workers	Power Point	Tellers	Visitor's Center
7th	Ashley Fisher	Kristen Vannoy	Matthew Vannoy	Jim Vannoy Chris Kimbrell	Askew/Vannoy Class
14th	Elisabeth Maddox	Wanda White	Caleb Shrader	Debbie Shirley Denise San Luis	Joy Class
21st	Ruby Franco	Shary Evans	Youth Volunteer	Kristen Bertha Bertha Esparza	Tyson Class
28th	Lisa Watson	Joanna Vannoy	Ryan Askew	Ramon San Luis Chris Kimbrell	Youth Class

Wednesday

Preschool Helper				
3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Mary Wild				