



Welcome Change

by Pastor Scott Boerckel

These are exciting days at the Oak. The Lord has placed it on our hearts as a congregation to renovate our facility.

It was such a blessing to see such unity in our decision to move forward with construction. I would like to share in this article some ways that we can work together so that this project will be an act of worship to Almighty God.

Welcome People

Begin right now to have the eye for welcoming people. From the time you arrive in the parking lot, look around for people to greet and welcome. Pay attention to people and how you might serve them. You might even want to plan to invite someone for Sunday lunch, even though you do not know who it will be until you

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"New" News in Children's Ministry

What you'll see in Children's Ministry this fall (page 4)



Living Stone Communities Ministry Update

A photo summary of recent ministry events in west Bloomington (page 5)

CALENDAR

November 3-18

Missions Conference

December 7

Ladies' Christmas Tea

December 9

Christmas Concert

2:30 & 5:00pm

December 24

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 & 5:30pm





Welcome Change

invite them. Make it your aim to bring not just superficial “hellos” to folks that come to worship. Really seek to grow in your love, compassion, and understanding of others that are worshiping with you. By practicing this now, we can get better and better at it so that when the renovations are complete, we will be so happy to have a facility that contributes to this spirit of welcome. Romans 15:7 *Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*

Giving

While we have the funds in place to be able to do our renovations without additional giving and without borrowing, I have been so overjoyed at the thought of being able to give to this renovation. This kind of opportunity comes along only once every generation or so. Further, any gifts would serve two purposes:

1) The gifts would reduce the amount of undesignated reserves that we would use for the project. This would be most helpful so that we can be prudent and wise in the always uncertain future. 2) With sufficient gifts, we might be able to enhance some of the finishings so that we can have nicer lighting, décor, etc. But mostly, I want urge you to give very generously because of this wonderful opportunity to do so!

We will be distributing “Giving Invitation” cards in the next few weeks. Please, pray about how much you and your family might want to contribute. Include your children in this so that they can be part of this joy. Return the card by December 31 so that we can know how to plan our work.

Grace And Patience In The Dust

We will have to move lots of things during the construction. There will be disruptions and displacements that will be painful. But what would happen if we simply took it with a smile and experienced the joy of the Lord in it all? I think that would be such an amazing testimony for Christ! There will be several weeks where we will have worship services in the gym. The bathrooms will be a difficulty when we have to tear some out without yet having others put in. The offices will get disrupted. There will be dirt and dust. Let’s remind ourselves that the journey is a bit like our journey to heaven. There is a lot of dirt and dust, difficulties, disruptions, but what a great destination awaits us in glory!

Share The Gospel

There will be opportunities for you, if you are at church during construction, to encounter people working on the project. Let’s take every opportunity to share with them what it is that they are building, why they are building it, and what the purpose of our church is. Let’s share with them the love of Jesus Christ. Wouldn’t it be amazing if there are some who come to Christ who learned of Him through working on this project?

Share In The Work

There will be opportunities for us to reduce costs of the project by sharing in the work. If you have skills or supplies that could help us, please contact Andy Wallgren (wallgren3@hotmail.com). We will examine every opportunity to save on costs, while at the same time, trying to stay on a schedule that gets us finished with the project in 6-8 months.

Pray!

It would be such a delight to us all if this project caused our communion with God to grow richer and deeper than ever. Prayer is the most important part that we all can have. Here is a list of items to pray about:

1) Pray for joy and worship in the journey of construction—1 Chronicles 29:16-17, 22

Then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you...And they ate and drank before the Lord on that day with great gladness.

2) Pray that we will all have a kingdom of God focus, not a personal preference focus—1 Chronicles 29:11

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

3) Pray for the genuine recognition of the opportunity to offer our Lord what He already owns. Pray for a generous joy in the hearts of God’s people—1 Chronicles 29:12,14,16

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

Both riches and honor come from you. For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own.

4) Pray for the joyous unity of the Spirit--Ephesians 4:1-3


I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

5) Pray for the continued planning. David did the preparations for the temple. Look at how he describes his planning. We need to pray for those in this project making such preparations for our renovations—1 Chronicles 29:1-2

And David the king said to all the assembly, “Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the Lord God. So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, anti-mony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble.

6) Pray for the opportunity to participate in the work. Ezra describes how various people stepped up to participate in the work. Pray that we will be able to organize this in our project as well. Ezra 3:8-9

Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the Lord. And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the



“Pray for the thriving of ministry throughout the process. There will be dust and disruptions. Pray that we will have total joy all through this process of change.”

house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

7) Pray for the thriving of ministry throughout the process. There will be dust and disruptions. Pray that we will have total joy all through this process of change.

8) Pray for each of us to obey Romans 15:7 no matter what our facility is like. We each need to be aware of how precious every person is and how we can be an encouragement and joy to them in Jesus' name.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

We will have some exciting days ahead! I am so glad to walk this journey with you.

Pastor Scott

NEW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

by KRIS SEIFERT, Children's Ministry Director

See I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19a

Our God is a God of newness! He reminds me of this in Isaiah 43:19...He had great new things for people in Jesus! And He still does today. He promises us that we are new creatures with new thoughts, new words and new actions...all because of Jesus. God's new things are good!

Children's Ministries is starting a new year and introducing many new people and things in the midst of the new year! It is our prayer that these will be good, new things to better care for our children. Here are a few of the new things you might see in Children's Ministries...

Loving Volunteers —Lots of Volunteers!

If you visit the nursery you will see a new team of 93 people serving. Some have served many years and they love and care for the new babies in our midst. Some are brand new this year! We are very thankful for all who serve in the nursery and provide a safe and loving environment for infants and toddlers allowing parents to participate in ABF and worship each Sunday!

There are 55 teachers and helpers volunteering to show Jesus to kids each Sunday morning. As in the

nursery, some are brand new to serving children. And others have served for many years. We are very blessed to have an incredible group of men and women praying for, teaching, loving and modeling Christ-likeness to our children.

There are 9 teens serving our preschoolers and toddlers and their teachers in the Toddler and Preschool Sunday School classes. These classes are busy places and extra hands are very welcome here! Our teens do a fabulous job of stepping in and playing with, redirecting and assisting our little ones throughout the lesson and activities during a Sunday morning!

Brand new this fall is a team of 12 friendly folks who are assisting with our computerized check-in for children. This team is welcoming our families and helping them to check their children in on a computerized system. The children receive name tags that help us to better know, care for, and protect them.

Along with new people, you will see new procedures being implemented in Children's Ministries this fall. Our prayer is that we take positive steps to make Children's Ministries at the Oak safer for our children.

Computerized Check-in

All children in Nursery – 2nd Grade are being checked into Sunday morning programs on a computerized system. Upon checking into the system, parents and children receive matching name tags and "pick-up tickets." This system helps us to keep track of and provide loving care for each child in



our care on a given Sunday. Although it is a work in progress, we are finding it to be more efficient and effective in signing children in, contacting parents should the need arise, and in safely sending children home.

Children's Ministries Area Entrance/Exit

There is now only one entrance and exit for the Children's Ministries area. All other doors that once provided access to the area have been locked and are to be used as emergency exits only. It was very difficult to monitor all of the access points to areas where children are present. So this step has been taken to provide better protection for our kids.

The goal in all of these new things is to provide God's best for the children who attend the Oak. God has blessed us with a great host of volunteers who are bringing loving care and God's Word to show our children Jesus. And our new procedures are being implemented to help provide a more safe environment in which our children can encounter the Lord Jesus. Thanks to all who serve, attend and are patiently walking through these new things! And thanks to our great God who is making all who trust in Jesus new.



UPDATE IN PICTURES

Open House for Messina Lambert at The Hub September 24



Spence & Larry's Breakfast Sandwich Bonanza (Outreach) September 22



Elder/Deacon Notes

Dave Osenga, Elder Chairman

1. We are so thankful to have Pastor Justin Waples on our staff as Pastor of Outreach and Discipleship. He is already working to get to know our family at The Oak and making plans to help us reach our family and friends. Please pray for him and his family as they adjust to the Midwest and settle into their new Normal!

2. Continue to pray for each other as we journey to our destination of Maturity in Christ. The areas we want to grow in are *Growing in Christ, the Bible and Prayer, Obedience and Christian Living, and Mission and Outreach.*

3. We talked about the importance of the holiness of our lives. We shared ways that we can maintain that holiness through Spirit-led attention to our union with Christ. In an age when it seems many pastors and elders fail morally, we long to serve Christ and to serve as examples to His flock in all purity.

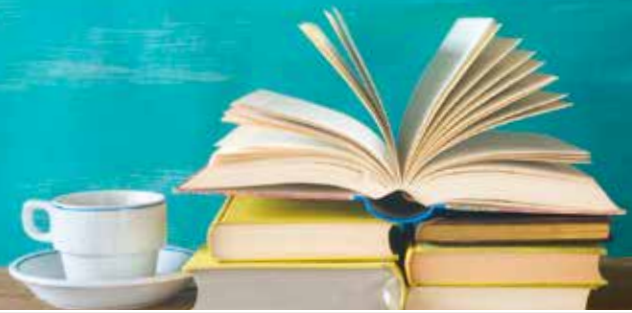
4. We are glad to see Adam Garey back on the elder team. Pray for him as he serves in this role.

5. We are thankful for the positive response to the building renovation project that we are about to begin. We are so thankful for God's provision through your giving so that we can get this done without incurring any debt. Pray for joy and worship in the journey as the work is done. We want to always provide a place where we can "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

6. We agreed to make it a goal for our church to read through the Bible together in 2019. We have a plan that we will be sharing with you all as the time draws near.

7. We are working on how to utilize our new church management software to enable people at the Oak to get to know one another better and to use their interests as a means of outreach. More on this in coming months.

IS THAT BOOK WORTH READING?



Do you ever wish you had a good reference list of worthwhile classic and current literature that promotes Christian values for you and your family?

Well, look no further! The EWO Bible Church Library has published a pamphlet called *Worth Reading*, available to you free of charge. It was compiled using a recommended reading list from Rosalie de Rosset, a professor at Moody Bible Institute. It lists books that are not in the church library but are *Worth Reading*! It can be found in a display on top of the book drop cabinet in the church library.

Also available in the Church Library: DVDs • Magazines • Biographies • Fiction • Reference Materials

SENIOR SAINTS

Thanksgiving Gathering

Tuesday, November 13 | 11:30am
East White Oak Bible Church Banquet Room
Turkey Meal (\$8)



SPECIAL GUEST Anthony Bowman
McLean County Museum of History

R.S.V.P.
by November 8
(309) 454-3833



Christmas

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Send joy, hope and God's love to a boy or girl in another part of the world this Christmas! Return filled shoeboxes to The Oak by November 18.

ADVENT

Advent resource ideas for your family will be available for you to view in the hallway in November. Advent devotion books will be available November 25.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 9 at 2:30 and 5:00pm. Join the East White Oak Bible Christmas Choir and Orchestra to celebrate the coming of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Family services on December 24 at 4:00 and 5:30pm.

reflect

matthew 5:16

2018 MISSIONS CONFERENCE | NOVEMBER 3-18

...let your light SHINE before others, so that they may see your good works
and give GLORY to your FATHER who is in heaven.

11/3 COFFEE HOUSE WITH THE BENTLEYS

Saturday, November 3, 6-8pm in the Banquet Room. Join us for coffee and conversation with Chuck and Ann Bentley, who serve with Crown Financial Ministries. See how stewardship connects to missions. Children's program and nursery provided.

11/10 GAME NIGHT WITH MISSIONARIES

Saturday, November 10, 6:30 - 8:00pm in the Banquet Room. Join us for games and activities for all ages as we get to know our missionaries on a more personal level. All generations are invited!

11/11 MISSIONS FAIR

Sunday, November 11, 9:00am - noon in the Banquet Room. Travel around the world and learn how our ministry partners near and far are reflecting the Gospel. Pick up a "Passport" and get it stamped as you visit with missionaries and hear about God's work around the globe.

11/17 INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Saturday, November 17, 5:30 - 8:00pm in the Banquet Room. Taste and see foods from around the world with our international potluck supper. (Food provided by ABFs.) Enjoy food and fellowship as we explore how transformation in Christ leads to fruitful mission work. Children's program and nursery provided.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Ladies Dessert with Julie Reeser

Tuesday, November 6, 7:00pm in the Banquet Room. Ladies, connect with one another and our missionary partner, Julie Reeser, as she shares her testimony. Savor sweet fellowship, dive into God's Word, and enjoy some delicious refreshments. Chad and Julie Reeser serve in Spain with a focus on evangelism, encouragement, and theological education.

Women's Prayer Retreat

Thursday, November 8, 8:00-11:30 AM at Carol Boerckel's house. Refreshments will be provided, just bring a Bible, notebook and pen.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 10, 8:00 - 10:00am in the Banquet Room. Bring your appetite for our famous missions conference men's breakfast, as well as your spiritual appetite for fellowship and encouragement. Connect with missionaries we support in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

SIGN UP ONLINE ewo.org

Under "Events",
click "Missions Conference 2018"



Click here
to sign up
for events



Fill out
the sign-
up form

A screenshot of the sign-up form for the 'reflect' event. The form includes fields for 'Name', 'Email', 'Phone', and 'Address'. There is also a section for 'Missions Conference 2018 Event Sign Up' with a 'SIGN UP' button.



THURSDAY EVENINGS

thrive!

Connect, Grow, Flourish Together

An evening of Bible Study & Community

6:15pm | Room 172

No commitment—Come anytime.

Questions? Want someone to meet you and walk through the evening with you? Contact Lisa (lljackson44@gmail.com).

LADIES
Christmas
TEA



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

6:30-8:15 p.m.

*Bring a friend and discover
The ADVENTure of Christmas:
Preparing our Hearts for Christ's Coming*

moms offering moms support

m.o.m.s.



CALLING MOMS OF ALL AGES:

*Meet new friends,
Draw closer to God,
Relax with a yummy breakfast...
Your kids are in good hands!*

m.o.m.s. Come Join us!

M.O.M.S. (Moms Offering Moms Support) meets the first and third Fridays of the month (September - April) from 9:30-11:30am in Room 172.

Moms of all ages and stages, come be recharged and encouraged! Childcare is \$2/per child (max of \$8/per family). Contact Amberly for more information: ahmama06070913@gmail.com.

2018/2019 Dates:

November 2
November 16
December 7
January 18
February 1
February 15
March 1
March 15
April 5