

...in the Image” ...in the Image”

The Beginning: Colossians 1:18
“...He is the head of the body; the church...”

OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Donald's Diary

Welcome to the year 2019! It's hard to believe that another year is upon us. For you long time Oak Grovers, you know that each year we do a new calendar for the church. It lists people's birthdays, anniversaries, and church events. It also is built around a theme for the year. Our long time church secretary and my wonderful aunt, Mary Marshall, has for many years put in a yeoman's effort on the development and publication of each calendar and also the monthly newsletter addressing the monthly themes. Well, if you haven't heard, the 2019 calendar is Mary's last as she is retiring from the church secretary position effective January 1 and the January newsletter is also her last.

We will miss Mary, and her right hand man Terry (who for many years has served admirably as our webmaster on the church website), and we wish them nothing but the best. My guess is that they will be spending a little extra time each year in the sunny south! I will say that the 2019 calendar with its annual theme "in the image" is certainly in keeping with the quality efforts of all her work during her tenure as secretary. Thank You Mary and Terry for your ministry over the years here at the Grove.

As you might guess, my diary entry for January church newsletter is in keeping with the calendar theme for January which is built around Colossians 1:18 which reads: **And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**

This verse kicks the year and the yearly theme off very well by giving us a clearer image of Christ. He is the head of the church, not you and not me. We aren't in charge. Any church that is organized only to best serve the people is self-centered, off-track and out-of-line with what the church should be. Jesus should be the President and CEO of the church, with the Eldership of the church striving to please what we know about him. If we are seeking to please Jesus and his expectations, then we are where we should be and heading in the right direction. Our church should be made "in the image" of Christ. It's that simple.

Colossians 1:18 tells that that Christ has been there since the beginning and was also the first to defeat death. Once He completed that task then He went on to be seated at the right hand of the Father, and that is where you see His supreme position at this time while He awaits direction to come back here and get His Church of which He is the head!

That is an exciting thing to think about. When we accept responsibility to please Christ as the Head of the Church, then we will experience the peace and joy that our involvement as members of the body should bring. What a great thought to kick off the new year, 2019. Christ is in charge of the Oak Grove Church. When we forget that, then we are moving away from where we should be. Let's make it a resolution to stay on track in the upcoming year. For you personally, that means you need to be in Church to be a part of the Church. I encourage you to make your involvement with Oak Grove a top priority for the new year.

God Bless You and we hope to see you taking part in our fellowship early and often in 2019.

Jimmy's Journal



Colossians 1:18¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy

And he is the head of the body, the church — The apostle having displayed the greatness of the Son, as Creator of all things, visible and invisible, in the heavens and upon the earth, proceeds, in this clause, to display his glory as head of the church, which is called the body, and his body, to imitate, that as the human body is influenced, directed, and governed by the head, so the church universal, including the whole body of believers, is influenced, directed, and governed by Christ its head. Is Jesus the HEAD of your life?

The students and I often discuss the importance of staying focused on Jesus. When we allow our lives to be led by Jesus, life becomes more vivid and manageable. Letting go is difficult, but necessary to see the plans Jesus has for our lives.

The students have been busy and have placed wreaths on graves this month, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, and placed bags with warm clothes around town for those that need them. We have been focusing on service lately and developing their hearts as servants of Jesus.

As 2018 comes to a close, I want to thank everyone for supporting our student ministry. From the bottom of my heart I want to say thanks for trusting me with the students and Oak Grove's future leaders. The students are a great blessing to Beth and myself. Merry Christmas and Prayers for a great New Year! Love and Prayers! **Jimmy**

What's Happening At The Grove?!

Jan. 4 – Family Fun Friday! 7:00 – 9:00

Jan. 5 – Upward Basketball 5:00 – 6:00

Jan. 6 – Winter Welcome Friend Day

Jan. 12 – Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM, Upward

Jan. 13 – Board Meeting

Jan. 18 – Family Fun Friday! – 7:00 – 9:00

Jan. 19 – Women's Ministry Breakfast 8:00 AM (SH), Upward

Jan 26 – Upward Basketball

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: What Goes In My Shoebox? SOAP AND WASHCLOTHS