

**“Oak Grove’s Oracle”**  
**A monthly newsletter of the**  
**Oak Grove Church of Christ**



**March 2019**

# Donald's Diary

March Madness is soon upon us! You know how that goes if you are a sports fan. Basketball tournament championships are up for grabs in all levels of play. While that may not be such a big deal in many places, you surely can't say that is the case in Kentucky. If you don't get excited about March Madness in the Commonwealth then you are the exception and not the rule.

It is called March Madness for several reasons. The sheer number of games and teams playing is certainly maddening to keep up with. There is a great deal of madness when your team loses. And also, like the way the term madness is used in the scripture, many fans literally lose their minds with the excitement of it all.

In speaking of "madness" from the scriptures...here are my top five scriptural examples of people who actually went mad, acted like they had gone mad, or were accused of going mad.

5. King David acted like he lost his mind. He bought into the notion that if you will only act like you are 'crazier than a loon' then even the mean people will leave you alone. You can read about his actions in the land of Gath in I Samuel 21:12-15.

4. John the Baptist was thought to have been insane. Check out how he was described him in Matthew 11.

3. The Apostle Paul, while appearing before Governor Festus, was accused of being "out of his mind!" and that his "great learning has driven him mad!" See this account in Acts 26.

2. King Nebuchadnezzar went temporarily insane for a period of time due to his pride. He actually moved out into the fields to live and eat with the wildlife! Don't believe me? Look it up in Daniel 4.

1. Jesus! Yes Jesus! On more than one occasion, was thought to have lost his mind by family and foe alike. Check out Mark 3 and John 10.

In keeping with my theme of Madness in March and the scriptures, I want to close with a famous quote that mentions Jesus and madness. This is taken from CS Lewis' Mere Christianity:

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

The next time your are tempted to "lose your mind" or your self-control over something as trivial as a basketball game, I would hope to draw your attention to serving the One who you will find to be the most sane, sensible, and safe choice you ever make.

Oh, by the way, GO CATS!

## Cotten's Corner

As many of you know, I am a dad. I make no bones about that. One of my fellow football coaches joked and called me a dad's dad, like a play on words of being a man's man. God in his wisdom, knew that a young Bradley Cotten wouldn't be an ideal person to raise children in a full time status so he gave me lots of practice over the years as the Youth Minister here and as a football, baseball and upward basketball director and coach. But none of those things really could ever tell me what I would experience like hearing the ultra sound with Jackson's heartbeat for the first time or cutting Harrison's chord, and there is nothing in the world that beats the sound of little feet running to you when you get home shouting "Dada" "dada." I tell both of them on a daily basis that I love them and that I am so proud to be their daddy.

With telling you this, I want to share what God has been putting on my heart over the past few months. Unfortunately, in my role as a minister and sometimes even as a friend, I have been called upon to make a visit to local jails to visit with folks who aren't going through their best of times. Sadly, there are times that children are involved. And routinely I hear things like "I will never be able to get back the time I am losing with my kids," "I would do anything to start over with my kids" or "my kids deserve so much better than what I have given them." And often times I shake my head, agree with them and tell them I will pray for them.

But over the past few months lately God has been telling me, "you can do more for these men than pray." And I have been stirred up about this and have decided to start the process of ministering to men at the Carter County Detention Center... focusing on first helping them see that they have hope in this life and that hope is Jesus, and secondly that there is hope for their families when they get out. I need 10-12 other men that would be willing to join me on this journey and help make an eternal difference for the men at CCDC. This month, I asked the staff to share "ministry wins" and you will read some great stuff in this newsletter... but one thing I hope is that we will experience wins, the win of seeing absentee dads leading their families in the way of God, to see lost men become saved... lets go enjoy some wins together.

***"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my father; take your inheritance ... For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"***(Matthew 25:34-40)

***"Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."***  
(Hebrews 13:1-3)

Women's Ministry  
w/ Tammy Doyle

Hello Ladies! Let's just say I am well pleased with attendance -of our Prayer Breakfasts. Everyone I've spoken with has had a good time and enjoyed the fellowship. Hopefully I'll be able to attend the one in March.

Bradley asked that we talk about a "win" we have had in our ministry. After some pondering over past events and many meetings here are some "wins" that come to mind.

1. Heartfelt prayer times where tears of happiness, sorrow and repentance have flowed down cheeks and been wiped by caring hands and hearts that felt your joy, pain or dedication.
2. Watching a young Christian being gently mentored by someone farther along on this journey of life. Then years later watching the mentee mentoring someone else.
3. Seeing ladies step out of their comfort zone and speaking from the heart about God and their relationship with him. Encouraging the listener to develop a relationship with him as well.
4. It has been fun to see ladies who didn't know each other and who have different interests become friends as well. Supporting each on a daily basis.

My list could go on and on and while this list might not seem very impressive, I have learned the small stuff is the big stuff. Each one of you have taught me something that has helped me become the woman I am today. Thank you!! Love you!! And let's have many more wins until we get the big WIN of spending eternity together.



## Jimmy's Journal

When Bradley sent the email asking for a newsletter on “the big win” many different things came to mind. I could go on and on about the amazing ways I seen our students grow over the past three years.....or seeing Oak Grove grow at the rate it has recently. Oh...don't forget about the blessings of our new building additions. What about our awesome praise leaders and our worship band? How about Donald and Bradley that bring our messages each week? Can't forget about our children's ministry and the outstanding job Janie is doing with our little people....Oh man, our awesome Upward program that Jon and Tashanda and a host others make such a uplifting experience. Two words....Tonda Yates...(insert mic drop)...Tonda teaching our babies about God's word and loving them in a way that only Tonda can. Our awesome Sunday School teachers and their diligence to those duties. Our Elders and Deacons for the time they take to sit down and make important decisions for Oak Grove. Hope you are keeping track...(insert mic drop #2)...Jack Cotton! Jack's love and devotion to numerous responsibilities and willingness to help with anything the church or members need.(I love his smile and hugs also when I arrive at church) Roni Thomas and all the ladies that keep us fed and make all our dinners so delicious and enjoyable. All the people that make Remnant on Wednesday nights such an inviting and faith building experience. Our wonderful Ladies Ministry and Tammy Doyle that arranges so many exciting events for our OG ladies. Donald Franklin and Sarah who stepped up to run our Outdoor Ministry group and are planning to take anyone that desires on some great adventures. I love going down to the office on Sundays and talking to Amon Yates and the guys while having a cup of coffee. I love game nights and other events that I get to sit and talk with different Groveinites(members). I love the smiles and the love that our congregation shows to one another.....So if you ask me for what I consider “the big win?” All of it!!! I am so very thankful for my church family and thankful for God leading my family to Oak Grove...

Love and Prayers

Jimmy

Children's Ministry Update  
w/ Janie Messer

Spring is just around the corner! It's hard to believe how quickly time passes. With Spring come thoughts of renewal, everything comes to life again. It is that way with our Spiritual Lives as well.

We all have those times when we're closer to the Lord than others. Our children are no different. There is an ebb and flow to children's ministry. One of our past wins this year that was a major success was our VBS and now is the time we start to plan and prepare for our next go round.

We have seen a great many things come out of our VBS. We had several baptisms and families start attending our church through the outreach organized chaos that is Vacation Bible School. If you think this is an area where you would like to help we would love to have.

Another area we are trying to be proactive with is scripture. We are presenting new babies with Bibles and children that are baptized so they can continue to grow in the Word.

We have much to celebrate here at The Grove- may the Lord continue to bless us!

## What's Happening at the Grove?

### March

- 1 Family Fun Friday
- 2 Upward Basketball Week 8
- 9 Men's Ministry Breakfast 9 am Shelter House
- 10 Church Board Meeting
- 16 Women's Ministry Breakfast 9 am Shelter House
- 17 Relay for Life Fundraising Dinner
- 17 Ben Brand Fundraising Concert 6 pm FLC
- 18 KYOVA Men's Meeting (dinner 6 pm/ Worship service 7 pm)
- 24 Church Staff Meeting 4:00 pm
- 31 Baby Dedication Sunday
- 31 5th Sunday Rally at Olive Hill FCC

### Sanctuary Communion Meditation

- 3 David Flatt
- 10 Tim Ratcliff
- 17 Jimmy Kozee
- 24 Jeff Moudy

### Oasis Communion Meditation

- 3 Mike Harper
- 10 Trey Cline
- 17 Tim Ratcliff
- 24 Daniel Barker
- 31 Jack Cotten

### Home Communion

- 3 Dan Duncan
- 10 Garrett Kitchen
- 17 John Seagraves
- 24 Brian Bayes
- 31 Jimmy Kozee

## Church Leadership

### Elders

- Patrick Bowling- 606-922-8260
- Tom Burbrink- 606-474-5939
- John Brooks- 606-474-4195
- Bradley Cotten (Associate Minister/Men's Ministry) 606-315-0332
- Donald Damron (Senior Minister) 606-474-4109
- Bruce Dixon 606-316-1421
- Ron Lindeman- 606-474-7448
- Bob Thomas- 606-465-5341

### Deacons

- Brian Bayes 606-922-2516
- Jack Cotten 606-316-4758
- Dan Duncan- 606-315-1293
- Jason Greer 606-315-1084
- Garrett Kitchen 606-474-8157
- Jimmy Kozee (Youth Minister) 606-316-4214
- Jeff Moudy- 606-315-5526
- John Seagraves 606-316-0399

### Staff

- Amy Greer- Worship 606-315-1086
- Tammy Doyle- Women - 606-315-5210
- Janie Messer-Children- 606-475-9252
- Jon and Tashanda Johnson- Upward Basketball Directors 606-316-8700/606 316-8701
- Donald Franklin and Sarah Damron Outdoor Adventure Ministry 606-316-0733