



February 2025

Dear church family,

February is the month when I begin to anticipate Spring. The transition quite often begins with damp cold days, but by the end of the month we have had a foretaste of warmer days, refreshing breezes and the promise of the first budding trees.

Our hearts turn to love. February 14 is a day we set aside to express our love for those closest to us. That causes me to ask the question, "Where are my affections?" How is my love demonstrated? Hopefully every day is a day to express our love for God. After all, Jesus said the greatest command is ^{37...} "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." [Matthew 22:37 (NASB)]

I am thankful for your prayers and words of encouragement while I navigate several weeks with a broken wrist. Surgery went well and I am on the road to recovery. I thank God for gifted surgeons. I so appreciate you and every encouragement.

If your first full month of 2025 has welcomed health and happiness my prayer for you is that you are living each day giving God glory and lending a hand to those around you who are struggling. If 2025 is offering up difficulties, my prayer for you is that you are giving God glory for His presence, strength and faithfulness.

We have so much for which we are thankful. God's faithfulness is real and His plans for this church body are exciting as we all trust Him further. Thank you for allowing God to use you both with the investment of your time, and finances, and most of all your prayers. Our ministry as God's people at Towering Oaks should be a sacrifice of praise and a sweet smelling offering to God. You are very valuable to the continued ministry of Towering Oaks. Pray about how God would have you participate and strengthen our mission to "know Him, and make Him known." You are very much appreciated and loved.

Bro. Jimmy

To [serve](#) and [strengthen](#).



Let's talk about us, Towering Oaks. What a beautiful mix of new to the family and longtime faithful we are. God has placed us together, with all our likes and differences, to fulfill the Great Commission to go and tell.

God has given me the weighty and wonderful call to [serve](#) parents and children, to [strengthen](#) through recruiting and walking alongside the right volunteer leadership to exemplify Jesus for babies – 6th grades. If you have children in any of our Bible classes, I do hope you recognize how blessed we are with the folks God has provided. Oh, how they love the boys and girls they lead!

I hope you've discovered your place of [serving](#) within the local church ... us ... Towering Oaks ... and are using your gifts to grow and [strengthen](#) this family. You see, when you or anyone speaks of Towering Oaks, the reference is not to our beautiful facility. No, the reference is YOU. YOU are Towering Oaks. What a joy it is to be available for God's use in the everyday life of the people around you. What a privilege to be a part of what happens when we are obedient to the scripture, and we experience together the working of God's plan.

If you need help finding your place to serve and strengthen, come see me. I promise to talk about more than kidsmin ... even tho I believe kidsmin is where the best action is ;).

As we gear up for summer (that is always packed with ways to make a difference) I have a few dates to ask you to write down and plan to be a part. Awesome opportunities to [serve](#) and [strengthen](#). These dates all center around Magnified Vacation Bible School ("I'm shocked!" said no one ever)

February 16 VBS Lunch and Launch Thinktank Lunch-2:30 [Strengthen](#)

March 16 Magnified Decorating Fellowship Palooza 3:30-5:30 [Serve](#)

April 20 Magnified Focused Prayer 4:30-5:30 [Strengthen](#)

May 18 4:00-5:30 Leading a Child to Christ [Serve](#)

June 20 4:00-5:30 Magnified Helps—Making the Most of Our Time [Serve](#)

July 20 4:30-5:30 Magnify the Lord with Me [Strengthen](#)

JULY 21-25 MAGNIFY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00-12:30 [Serve and Strengthen](#)

August 17 VBS Team Appreciation Lunch and Lasting Impressions [Strengthen](#)

You can find more information by joining the private Facebook page for TOBC VBS volunteers or give me a call. Oh, by the way, you can join in on any one of these dates even if you are unable to help the actual week of VBS.

Being a part of Towering Oaks is as exciting as you make it. I hope when you speak of Towering Oaks that you remember you are speaking of yourself. You will want to talk a lot about it when you are both [serving](#) and [strengthening](#). If someone speaks kindly or negatively about this family may your first thought be—hey, that's *me*. YOU ARE TOWERING OAKS.

I hope you are praying for your pastor, staff, and family. Pray and ask God to show you your place to [serve](#) and [strengthen](#) this body. I hope trusting God to continue His work among us when we lean in and remember who we are and Whose we are!

I'm excited about God's faithfulness, not just what's next but what is now! I don't want to miss a thing!

Serving &

Strengthening

Shelley



Other dates to remember: 4th-6th Kids Camp at The Oaks May 28-30 K-3rd Day Camp June 9-13

Words from Mark

Colossians 3:14 – Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

1 Peter 4:8 – Above all, maintain constant love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins.

Psalms 33:5 – He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the Lord's unfailing love.

1 Peter 1:15-17 – But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy. If you appeal to the Father who judges impartially according to each one's work, you are to conduct yourselves in reverence during your time living as strangers.

Ephesians 5:1-2 – Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

1 John 4:8 – The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

These are but a small number of verses that discuss the importance and call to love one another and God has loved us. February is when many focus on loving one another because of Valentine's Day. Loving one another is important but we need to remember it is about loving others as God loves us and that Jesus gave Himself for us. As we encounter others, may we all be reminded that the greatest showing of love we can express is sharing Jesus in word and in action.

As quick reminder if you want to go to the Holston Baptist Association's Men's & Women's Conference, February 21-22, please let me know by February 16. \$25 per adult. Teens 12-17 are free. Childcare is free at the conference and needs to be RSVP'd. Contact me with any questions.

It is an honor to serve,

Mark



Ladies' Night Out

A NIGHT OF CRAFTS,
FELLOWSHIP, AND DEVOTIONS.
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

FEBRUARY 4TH AT 6:00PM
CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED

**LAYERING OUR
LOVE FOR CHRIST
WITH LASAGNA
AND CAMP**

A LASAGNA FUNDRAISER TO RAISE MONEY FOR KIDS CAMP
FOR OUR 4TH-6TH GRADERS AND FUGE FOR THE STUDENT
MINISTRY!



MARCH 7TH, 2025 | 06:00PM

CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED
SPECIAL POWERPOINTS ABOUT THE MEANING
OF THESE CAMPS

Words from Greg

-The Love Test-

The Bible has much to say about "Love."

It is said that there are 267 verses in the scripture dealing with love. As a matter of fact, 1-Corinthians 13 is famous for being "The Love Chapter," and verses 4-8 can certainly help one define the nature of love.

Today, as society attempts to twist the meaning of love, we should more thoroughly explore the source & person of true love.

1-John 4 establishes a charge that we examine the source ("*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...*"), and goes on to warn of false prophets. As you proceed through the passage, you'll find that one must confess Jesus as The Christ, from God (4:2); any other spirit is unequivocally declared "the spirit of antichrist" (4:3).

This truth is foundational to defining, possessing, and applying biblical love. One must accept God's love, before they are able to share it.

The world often uses the term "love," but, as Inigo Montoya once said, "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means." True love begins with a relationship with Jesus, and the result is a genuine love for others. "*Beloved, let us love one another; for love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*" (4:7&8)

Love Y'all!

Brother Greg

LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS

CUT THIS OUT AND STICK IT TO YOUR FRIDGE!

DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT DATES

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Samaritan Purse Boxes

went to:

Panama, Honduras, & Madagascar



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25



♥ HAPPY Valentine's DAY ♥



Sign Up in Foyer or at Family Porch

IN CHRIST

The True Identity of the Believer

FEB 21-22 2025

*Conferences for Men & Women
Southwestern Baptist, Johnson City*

Contact Mark for Details

\$25

Childcare available upon request

Kids 12-17 Free



with Hershael & Tanya York

