

HAPPY
New Year

2025

January 2025

Dear church family,

Last year in my January newsletter I said, “For many, 2023 was a difficult year.” I must confess, 2024 was no easier. However, I can say throughout the challenges, God remains faithful, and we can rest on the promises of God that He is ALWAYS faithful! With God’s help and the strength He provides, you get back up again, and once again do your best to follow God’s leading in your life.

You look back on the year, and you realize the faithfulness of God in the good, the bad, the happy and the sad. There were so many blessings in the year, regardless of the struggles.

Don’t spend too much time looking back on 2024. The year 2025 promises to be a year of wonderful and exciting things for Towering Oaks. I trust you will join us in 2025 by acts of intentionality to study our Bibles more, Pray more, and Reach out to others more. So, it is we are not just going to survive in 25, we are going to THRIVE!

January 5, I will begin a series of expository messages from First John. It is one of the books I studied in a Greek intensive back in seminary days. It has long been a favorite of mine. In First John, the Beloved Apostle gives four keys that unlock the book all identified by the phrase, “These things I write. . .”

The first key provides assurance for the child of God. Are you sure of your salvation? 1 John 5:13 (NASB) ¹³ *These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.*

The second key is to protect Christians against those who would lead them astray. 1 John 2:26 (NASB) ²⁶ *These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.*

The third key is found in 1 John 2:1 (NASB) ¹ *My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;*

And the fourth key is in 1 John 1:4 (NASB) ⁴ *And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

I look forward to this sermon series from the Epistle of Joy.

Your faithfulness to God does not go unnoted. Jesus said God notes every sparrow that falls (Matt 10.29). God sees, and God knows. That is why He says to bring all your problems to Him (Matt 11.28).

While we have opportunity, let us go hard together after God. I join the apostle Paul in his prayer of Ephesians 1:16, that I ¹⁶ *do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;*

I am sincerely His and yours,

Bro. Jimmy

Words from Shelley

Oh, my!

I give God glory and say thank you for all the ways He shows His love. I'm thankful He allowed the KidsMin to lead worship Dec 15. This was a wonderful opportunity for our kids to serve. I appreciate the contributions of the grown ups—Pam, Teresa, Mark, Jaida, Greg, Scott, and a crew of people who made sure Mo's tent was always ready to roll. The idea of the tent for the set came from Tommy as he drew from his trips to Israel over the years. There a bunch of kids and parents who will forever sing Fa-la-la-la-la Falafel House!

YIPPEE!

Write this down ... You'll hear more info soon!

4-6 Grade Kids Camp at The Oaks Wednesday May 21-Friday May 23

K-3 Grade Day Camp Monday June 2–Friday June 6 9:00-3:00

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 21-25 9:00-12:30

Believe it or not, preparation for these ministries began as soon as they wrapped up last year. Let's make sure your background check is up to date and let's get busy!

Ah, YES!

Let's just be up front—2024 was not a very easy year for many of us.

And now, here we are—2025! **God is faithful** and He alone sustains us through every challenge, heartache and break, disappointment and confused moment. He is the giver of every good thing and in return for our selfish thoughts and ways He lavishes us with His love. I've never had a second where I felt I *deserved* God's love but I've experienced His forgiveness and presence in spite of myself. **He is so good.**

We can choose to lean in and **give God all we are** in 2025. I'm truly excited about the “extra” ministry opportunities like those listed above. I'm also thrilled about our weekly opportunities to teach God's word and love to boys and girls. **God has blessed us incredibly with wonderful people** who lead faithfully each Sunday and Wednesday. That said, **we need more help.** Don't be afraid to step out of your comfy adult class and join us in reaching and teaching children. Our goal is to grow every which way in 2025—spiritually as we teach and numerically as we reach.

I'm asking **God to tell you it's time to say “Here am I, send me.”** I'm easy to find. Come on, let's talk about the most rewarding place of service in church ministry—Kidsmin.

As we enter a year of changes allow me to remind you of what you already know—God's plan for each of us is to remain faithful when we have all the answers and we are waiting for what's next. Towering Oaks is HIS church and we will glorify Him as He works His will in and through us. What do you do when you don't know what to do? You do what you DO know to do...pray, give, be present, forgive, love, trust, and wait. You have nothing to fear when pleasing Jesus is at your core. I'm trusting Him. How 'bout you?

I love you all,

Shelley

Words from Greg

- Forward perspective -

The New Year is upon us.

As we consider personal new year's resolutions and how we may best invest that with which we have been so blessed, let us not be overly weighed down with the past.

Let this passage be your guide -

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philipians 3:13-14

Happy New Year,

Brother Greg



Words from Mark

Happy New Year!

2025 is here! The beginning of a new year tends to bring one of two mindsets: excitement and hesitation. The beginning of a new year brings an excitement of new things, new opportunities, a clean slate, and a freshness in walking into a new set of months. However, the hesitation that comes is the uncertainty of tomorrow or the thought of "if this year is anything like last year . . ." And if we're honest with ourselves, we fight the two perspectives and can become frozen especially when we look back at what we've lost, who we've lost, and the struggles that we walked through. These reflections make looking ahead difficult and tough and, yes, sometimes fearful. Yet, if we were to pause just a little bit longer and reflect on what God has done in us and through us, I think we would find more hope than fear, more anticipation than regret. The writer of Hebrews says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). We can and should look forward to what God has in store in 2025 for us individually and as a faith family. I am excited to see what He is wanting to show us about Himself.

Speaking of looking forward, be on the lookout for information about the following items:

- Ladies Night Out, Tuesday, January 7. The night's topic: Couponing and money saving tips. More details will be coming over text and also on the Ladies' Ministry Facebook Page: Towering Oaks Women's Ministry.
- GriefShare will be starting back February 5.

Men's Saturday Prayer Breakfasts will be starting again soon.

2025 is going to be an exciting year to grow in our relationship with God.

It is an honor to serve,

Mark

Youth Group News

Merry Christmas TOBC! For the past eight weeks my wife Krystal and I, along with the wonderful help of Greg and Randa, have been leading the youth group on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. It has been a blessing to our lives to share this time with the youth and we look forward to what 2025 has in store for us!

Sunday mornings we meet in the Underground with refreshments waiting and a message from the Bible for us to dig through. We meet at 9am for fellowship time and usually start class at 9:15.

Wednesday nights are food, fun, and devotions! We feed the youth starting at 6pm and from there we get in as much activity as possible before we dismiss at 7pm.

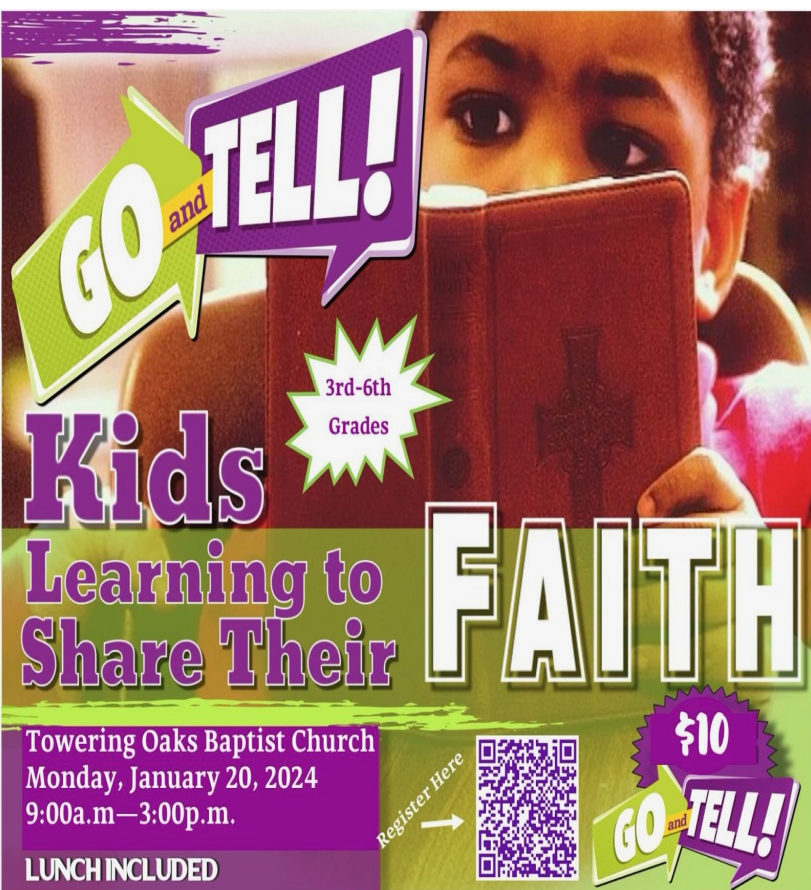
Over the last eight weeks we did a four part series from Genesis on Jacob, Esau, Joseph, his brothers, and ending with Joshua finishing what was started so many years before. We just wrapped up (no pun intended) a four week series on "The Christmas Story" diving into prophecies, all the characters from the first Christmas, Mary and Joseph, and concluding with Mary and Child.

We also had a Christmas party for the youth with food from Texas Roadhouse and games; it was a wonderful time together. We spent a great evening together and had fun with a White Elephant gift exchange. We look forward to more activities coming up!

Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue this journey.

2025

VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 21-25
9:00-12:30




GO and TELL!

3rd-6th
Grades

Kids

Learning to
Share Their **FAITH**

Towering Oaks Baptist Church
Monday, January 20, 2024
9:00a.m—3:00p.m.
LUNCH INCLUDED

Register Here → 

\$10

GO and TELL!



PaceSetters

CHILI
COOK-OFF

Monday, January 6th @ 11:30

In the Chapel. Bring chili or dessert.

Ladies Night Out
Tuesday, January 7 @
6:00

The night's topic:
Coupons and money
saving tips



January 1, 2025
Church Office
Closed



Staff and Support Staff

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