

89 E. Hamric Drive
P.O. Box 3071
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www.oxfordchurchofchrist.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:30 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Bible Class

Shepherds:

Charles Dollahite.....256 283 7147
cednjcd@aol.com

Louis Higgins.....256 214 2255

higginslouis@bellsouth.net

Tom McKleroy.....256 239 2312

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Vance Moore.....256 239 2143

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Deacons:

Bruce Dickerson.....256 831 0950

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Clyde Huckeba.....256 591 7747

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Ronnie Nordan.....256 239 9580

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Amustangmom1@bellsouth.net

Evangelists:

Mike Benson.....601 818 0672

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Jason Campbell.....256 453 5733

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Secretary:

Leslie Jewell.....256 452 2621

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Treasurer:

James Jenkins.....256 239 2411

jamesjenkins_2000@yahoo.com

Oxford church of Christ

Living the word, loving the lost and lifting the brokenhearted."

February 22, 2017

Luke 4:18 NKJV

Have You Put Up Your Fence Yet?

By Mike Benson

A RECENT PIECE on the TV news caught my attention. It seems a small boy wandered from his father's watchful eye one morning while the two were visiting an uncle. The uncle kept an exotic cat—a 400-pound Bengal tiger—in his backyard within the confines of a large fence. The youngster, unmindful of the danger, stuck his arm through one of the holes in the enclosure to pet the animal. The tiger bit the child's arm just short of his elbow and severed it from the rest of his body.

The last thing that I heard from the media was that the appendage had been reattached via a nine-hour surgical operation, but that the youngster would never regain full use of it again.

This certainly was a distressing story; it was troubling to hear that this four-year-old had suffered such a severe injury. But the incident reminded me of a vital, Bible truth: relationships—especially marriage relationships—require certain verbal “fences” or boundaries. These fences protect against unnecessary emotional injury; they provide a measure of safety and security to the union.

No normal couple can live in a relationship as complex and challenging as marriage without arousing some strong feelings. These feelings ought to be expressed with the shared conviction that certain words and statements are not acceptable because they can render serious damage to the marriage.

I hear the apostle Paul saying the same thing. *“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth ... let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, will all malice”* (Eph. 4:29a, 31). Marriages need secure boundaries—they need fences. Some things you just don't do or say. You don't stick your arm through a fence to pet a tiger (no matter how tame or domesticated it's supposed to be), and you don't say purposely hurtful things to your spouse. Words can wound, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Prov. 18:21); they can cause permanent harm (Matt. 12:34-37; Prov. 4:23-24; 6:16-19; 15:1; 16:32; 12:22; Jas. 1:19; 3:2ff; Luke 19:22; Rev. 21:27).

An old church hymn states:

“Angry words! O let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart's best impulse ever
Check them ere they soil the lip.
Any words are lightly spoken,
Bitt'rest tho'ts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken
By a single angry word.



Dear friend, have you put the fence up at your house yet? Think about it.

Perfect Patience

On November 6 of last year Erica and I made an addition to our family: a little pup named Bella. As doggy parents we have made some good decisions, but we have also made some bad decisions. I want to share with you a very, **very** bad decision we made: buying Bella tennis balls.

Now before you become concerned, the tennis balls aren't poisonous, and they haven't made her sick. The problem is we have a new entertainment cabinet in our living room, and it has about a one inch gap between the bottom of the cabinet and the floor. Do you want to guess what can be squeezed in that little gap? The tennis balls. Whenever we toss a tennis ball Bella runs to get it, chews it in triumph, and then **immediately** goes to the cabinet and pushes the ball to where it rolls under the cabinet. Bella will spend a few seconds confused, staring at the cabinet. What's her solution? Scratching the cabinet to get the ball out! Eventually Erica or I will come to the dog's (and the cabinet's) rescue to retrieve the ball. We throw it again, she chases it again, and gets the ball stuck again. It really tests my patience.



I wish I had better patience as a dog owner. I know she's only a puppy playing, but it wears me out after 3 or 4 times trying to help her. Moments like these make me appreciate the God I serve. No matter how much Bella tests me, I know I test God many times more; however, God is a much better Master. He is patient, longsuffering, compassionate, gracious, and loving. Paul rejoiced because of the patience God had for him when he was a sinner. 1 Timothy 1:15, "However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show **all longsuffering**, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life." Other translations say Jesus demonstrated His "perfect patience." I want you to think on that phrase. The patience our God has with us is perfect, complete. Paul was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. He was still shown mercy. Our God's patience is perfect. He does not waver, and He does not fail. The most encouraging portion in this verse is the latter part: Paul declares that the patience shown to him is available to all who believe in Christ, and this leads to everlasting life. God's desire is for all to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4), and that requires patience.

A few weeks ago I hurt my back, and I experienced more physical pain than I think I ever have in my entire life. Walking hurt. Standing hurt. Sitting hurt. Even lying the wrong way hurt. I couldn't do anything without causing some pain to shoot down my leg. Even as I write this now, mostly recovered, I still feel the familiar, dull pain creeping down my leg. In moments like these a person is tempted to be angry with God, to ask why He won't heal or bring relief. One of the most difficult truths I had to learn last week is how impatient I can be with the One who has had perfect patience with me. I am like Bella, hopelessly scratching the furniture in vain attempts to get what I want, not realizing I have a loving Master who will rescue me in the end. As a Christian I might not find physical relief, but I have spiritual rejuvenation day by day, with an eternal home waiting for me in heaven.

Do you realize today that you have a Father who loves you? His perfect patience brought about our salvation. Let us trust Him daily, perfecting our patience.

-Jason Campbell

PRAYER REQUESTS : Daniel Jack (son of Patricia Jack); Ellen Claiborne (Lanore's mother)

Please pray for our Shepherds as they lead our Congregation through the Deacon selection process.

Continue to remember:

Ann Coody
Sandra Coffin
Drew Pettus
Mike Randall
Clellon Tims
Vickie Cole
Doris Dickerson
Bobby Coley

Nursing Homes:

May Rene Turner— Autumn Cove
Jack Cofield—Golden Living
Melba Greer—NHC
Phoebe Strickland—NHC Place
Lillian Dollahite—Gadsden Healthcare
Wayne Greer—Franklin, TN

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Buddy Cranmer	2/24
Milton & Vickie Cole	2/24
Clellon Tims	2/26
Gerald Nowland	2/28
Buddy and Dot Starr	2/28

Home:

Clellon Tims	Juanita Meredith
Virginia Moore	Charles Norton
Frances Pugh	Reba Kendrick

Team 3 will be meeting this Sunday between services for fellowship meal and meeting.

Guest Speakers: Speakers from Faulkner University will be here this Sunday. All adult classes will meet in the auditorium.

Oxford Ladies Day: Saturday, March 11th, registration begins at 8:30 AM. Breakfast refreshments and lunch will be served. Sign up sheets are located in the back of the auditorium. Please pick up a flyer and invite a friend!

PTP SPARK: The Jacksonville church of Christ will be hosting a week long "miniature" *Polishing the Pulpit* called Spark March 12-16. See "Upcoming Events" board for further details.

Youth Bulletin Board

Evangelism

Bible Correspondence
Bible Tracts
Campaign For Christ
CD Ministry
Cliff Goodwin, "Preaching the Word"
Curacao Mission Work
Friends & Family Day
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Guyana Preacher Training
House To House
Oxfordfest
Spring & Fall Gospel Meetings

Benevolence

Childhaven
Coat Drive
Golden Age Day
Disaster Relief
Food Pantry
Four Students at MSOP
Nursing Home Fruit Baskets
Rainbow Omega

Edification

Area Wide Youth Devo
Annual Youth Day
Backwoods Christian Camp
Bible Classes
Cancer Care
Exposure Youth Conference
Fill My Cup
GAP Group
Go Forth Class
Golden Living Nursing Home Devo
GOT MILK Class
Ladies' Day
Lads-To-Leaders
NHC Nursing Home Devo
Pew Packers
Teen Discussion Class
Vacation Bible School

Thursday, February 23rd:

* **Teen Discussion Group at 6:00 PM**

Sunday, February 26th:

* **Good Samaritan Project at 12:45 PM (all youth)**

* **Speech Practice (Boys & Girls) at 2:30 PM**

* **Bible Bowl Practice at 3:30 PM**

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS (February 26)

Welcome/Announcements - Bruce Dickerson

Song Leader - Clay Blackwell

Prayer Leaders

Communion

Rodger Burleson (Head)

Steve Hicks

Tyrone Streeter

Ronnie Nordan

Reid Nordan

Andrew Adams

Eric Adams

Alternates:

Milton Cole

Bobby Coley

Back

Drew Pettus

Keith Luker

Night Drew Pettus

Welcome/Announcements

Wednesday Evening (February 22)

Tom McKleroy

Building Lock-up - Drew Pettus

Greeters - Chris and Christy Shomber

Contact Elder - Vance Moore