

89 E. Hamric Drive
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www.oxfordchurchofchrist.com

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Bible Class

Shepherds:

Charles Dollahite.....256 283 7147
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Brother's Keeper:

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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 truth, loving the lost and lifting the brokenhearted."

August 16, 2017

Luke 4:18 NKJV



Special Guest Speaker This Evening:

Brandon Baggett

Topic:

Being a Servant in a Self-Centered World (Phil. 2:25-30)

Brandon is originally from Montgomery, AL, and in the year 2013 he graduated from the Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies in Pensacola, Florida.

He has been happily married to his wife Caitlin since January of 2012, and they are the proud parents of their son, Morgan.

The Great Race

By Jason Campbell

It must be such an amazing feeling when the mentioning of your name conjures up a positive superlative. Michael Jordan is the **greatest** basketball player of all time (I don't want to hear otherwise from you LeBron fans). Michael Phelps is the **most successful** Olympian with an earth shattering 28 Olympic medals (23 of them being gold medals). These athletes redefined the sport in which they competed, and they inspire future athletes for generations to come.

Usain Bolt is one of these trailblazers. From humble beginnings to Olympic gold medalist, Bolt is considered the world's fastest man. He has won 8 Olympic gold medals, is a triple world record holder, and an 11 time world champion. These accomplishments and titles make it all the more difficult to look at the picture to the right. Bolt decided to end his career with one last race: a 4x100 meter relay race. Running the last leg of the race, Jamaica was third when Bolt took the baton and took off; however, he did not make it far before a sharp pain seized his left leg and the Fastest Man in the World came tumbling down like the walls of Jericho. Although he refused to be taken off the track in a wheelchair, he ended his career hobbling across the finish line in dead last. His doctor later issued a statement saying that it was nothing more than a cramp. Now when you type in his name on Google or YouTube, you will most likely see his collapse rather than his numerous championships. It goes to show that, for many athletes, the only race that is remembered is the last race.



A similar principle can be found in Christianity. No matter how faithful or evangelistic you might be, the only race that matters is the last race. Granted, we are not running numerous sprints; rather, we are competing in one great race. Paul said in 1 Cor. 9:24-26, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air." We are all running this race, and we need to run with **purpose** and **determination** for every single leg of it! Sadly, many followers of God started strong in this race, but came up short in the end. Moses was one such runner. Although his start was a little bumpy (Ex. 3, 4), Moses soon became a power runner. He was the voice of God, he was the leader of his people, and he was vessel of God's law to mankind on Mount Sinai. He was so uniquely gifted the Lord spoke to him face to face, as a man speaks to his friend (Ex. 33:11). Sadly, Moses took a tumble in Kadesh. In Numbers 20:10-12 Moses failed to uphold God as holy in the eyes of Israel, and he was sentenced to die outside of the Promised Land. Even though Moses was able to see the Promised Land, he never entered it (Deut. 34:1-7).

We have several New Testament examples of individuals who failed to finish the race, but I'd like to focus on a man named Demas. In Colossians 4:11 we first encounter Demas as one who traveled with Paul and greeted the church at Colossae. We also read in Philemon 1:24 that Demas was considered a fellow worker of Paul. Imagine receiving praise from Paul! I wouldn't want the temptation of pride to overwhelm me, but I sure would feel special if I was notable enough to enter in Paul's writings to a congregation or to a brother and was mentioned in a positive way.

Then we reach 2nd Timothy, which was written about 5 years later. A passage we all know and love was written by Paul, "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." Despite his current state Paul was declared a victor by the Holy Spirit as one who had **finished the race**. Don't stop with verse 8, continue reading. "Be diligent to come to me quickly." Wait, why does Timothy need to do his best to reach Paul as quickly as possible? Prepare yourself for the next verse, "for Demas **has forsaken** me, having loved this present world..." Demas left Paul in Paul's darkest hour. He not only stumbled and fell, but he walked off the track and went home.

Although Usain hobbled across the finish line, I don't know if Demas ever did. What a shame it is for Christians, who fully know the prize waiting for them, to give up on the last leg of the race. We all stumble from time to time; we might even shipwreck our faith (1 Tim. 1:19). What we **cannot** do, however, is fail to cross the finish line. Run with certainty this week. Run with purpose, determination, and with the goal of obtaining the imperishable crown. Don't end up seeing the Promised Land from afar; finish the race.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Keith Luker; Bobby Nordan; Virginia Batey; Amanda Bass (niece of Rita Ward) has been battling cancer since 2016

Continue to Remember:

Sharon Nowland
Ann Coody
Sandra Coffin
Drew Pettus
Mike Randall
Vickie Cole
Doris Dickerson
Bobby Coley

Home:

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

Nursing Homes:

May Rene Turner— Autumn Cove
Phoebe Strickland—NHC Place
Lillian Dollahite—Gadsden Healthcare
Wayne Greer—Franklin, TN

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Vance & Laura Moore	8/16
Nan Jenkins	8/17
Charlene Huckeba	8/18
Betty Haynes	8/19
Jenny Adams	8/20
Joe Nowland	8/20
Vivian Harbin	8/23
Eva Pettus	8/26
Billy & Norma Helms	8/26



Sunday, August 20th will be Oxford's special contribution to Rainbow Omega, so please be praying and planning for this.



Team 3 - Saturday, August 19th at 4 PM

Team 3 will be having a "Game Night" and social time this Saturday at the building. Please bring your favorite finger foods, homemade ice creams, desserts and drinks. Bring your favorite board and card games too!

Upcoming Events:

8/19 - Team 3 Meets 4:00 - 7:00 PM
8/20 - Rainbow Omega Special Contribution
8/20 - Team 2 Meets
8/20 - L2L Coordinators' Meeting 4 PM
8/22 - Diversicare Devotional 10 AM
8/27 - L2L Kick-Off Meeting 4 PM
8/30 - Wednesday Night Singing

Lads to Leaders:

*Coordinators' Meeting:
*Sunday, August 20th at 4 PM

*Kick-Off Meeting:
* Sunday, August 27th at 4 PM

Area Events:

Munford church of Christ:
Georgia School of Preaching:
Instructor: Ronnie Hayes
Each Monday Night
August 21st - November 13th

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

Youth Bulletin Board

**Sunday, August 20th - Lads to Leaders Coordinators Meeting 4 PM
in the Ladies' Classroom.**

**Sunday, August 27th - Lads to Leaders Kickoff for 2017-2018 4 PM
in the all-purpose room.**

***All youth and parents participating in any event this
upcoming year need to attend this meeting.**

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS August 20th

Welcome/Announcements: Ronnie Nordan

Song Leader: Clay Blackwell - AM

Clyde Huckeba - PM

Prayer Leaders: Opening Prayer: Marty Hill - AM

Dexter Bland - PM

Closing Prayer: Joe Frank Walters - AM

Chris Shomber - PM

Communion:

James Jenkins (Head)

Chris Shomber

Blake Shomber

Dexter Bland

Taylor Ward

Keith Snell

Marty Hill

Alternates:

Glenn Fulmer

Josh Moorey

Back: Mark Nowland

Gerald Nowland

PM Service: Rodger Burleson

Wednesday Announcements: James Jenkins

Building Lock-up: Glenn Fulmer

Greeters: Rodger and Pam Burleson

Communion Preparation: Anthony and Carla Pettus

Contact Elder: Tom McKleroy