

PEACE

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your “peace” – a 10 being the most peace. What are the barriers to deeper peace for you? What gets in the way? Most of us look outward to our relationships, finances, and circumstances to gauge our peace. This leads us to wonder, at times, if we are missing something because often our inner peace is inconsistent. Deep down in our soul... in our inner conversations, what we really want to know is *what God thinks about us...* We want His confirmation... we long for Him. We resonate with the psalmist:

My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you - Psalm 63:1 (NLT)

Life ebbs and flows, we laugh, we cry, we have victories and defeats. Yet what we really want is peace; a peace from the Holy Spirit in us, assuring us daily that we are loved; that we can truly trust in His love at all times; that we can stop striving and unapologetically rest; that the God of hope has given us everything we need; that we are on the right track. Jesus said,

...the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.
John 14:27 (NLT)

The peace Jesus gives comes from the Holy Spirit within us.

We know that... but we often go there last... why?

We deepen our peace by cultivating a life with the God who *came for us, died for us*, and by His power and choice – is in us. He invites us to stop looking at our circumstances and the people around us and to look to the Life inside us – to turn to Him. Spiritual practices help us turn to Him – to look in the right direction. *Practices* are *fluid* and *helpful* habits to connect our soul to the presence of God. We long for that connection.

May we not look outside for peace. May we look inside – to the *Prince of Peace* – to receive what we deeply long for – His peace.

-Pastor Jim



Pastor Jim, Senior Pastor
jim@oakhills.net

Work: 332-2648

MESSAGE SCHEDULE

November:

Practices

Thanksgiving Eve Service
6:30pm

December:

Christmas Series –

Hope While Waiting

January:

Finding Faith

Dr. Brian Gregg, Dr. John Hiigel and others answer:

-Does Belief Really Matter?

-Can Doubt Help Me?

-How Does Faith Grow?

Who might you invite to church?

A HEART FOR PEOPLE

I continue to see and hear of how the Holy Spirit is deepening our heart for people. There is a growing sense at Oak Hills that God is calling us into fresh expressions of His grace and compassion.

You minister to **your neighbors** on your street on a regular basis. You minister to **families** on your kid's sports teams. Your **Life Group** is deepening in friendship each week as you pray, encourage, admonish, and serve each other.

Our **church campus** is getting busier each week with more and more groups using it. Below is a list of ministries, trips, events and themes on the Oak Hills horizon:

Soles4Souls Christmas Project, **Thomas Club** for Christmas, **Cherub's Closet**, **Refugee Garden**, **Bishop Dudley House** for the homeless, **The Community Outreach**, **Guatemala Mission Trip 2015**, **Global Partners/Missionaries**, **Marriage Ministry Taskforce**

**ADULT
MINISTRIES**



Pastor Paul, Associate Pastor
of Discipleship & Community Life
ppankratz@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648



Please consider joining the ministry team that is getting all the love!

Serving as an usher is much more important than handing out a few worship folders and collecting an offering. Ushering shapes the first impressions people will form about our church. Ushers shape people's experience at Oak Hills. Even though ushering can be a big responsibility, it is very much intended to be fun and a meaningful ministry.

We are looking for additional volunteers to serve as ushers. Please contact Pastor Paul to get more information about this vital ministry.

The ministry is open to men, women, as well as sons and daughters!

DOCTORATE OF MINISTRY (AKA DMIN)

Officially, a Doctor of Ministry degree is "a practical, professional degree program that enables individuals to reflect critically upon their vocations, engage in rigorous theological reflection and advanced learning experiences, and grow in ministry competence." This degree is most often pursued by pastors who are mid-career and eager for another academic challenge to prepare them for a deeper ministry.

For me personally, this program provides a focused structure to continue developing as a pastor and leader. All of the writing and course projects will challenge me to reflect more deeply upon the ministry of Oak Hills.

I've begun the DMin at Sioux Falls Seminary. I personally asked the Seminary to set up the partnership with Forge Canada so I could get a significant portion of my

training by going through their Ethos Program, which has been mentoring pastors in a variety of disciplines.

Since this is an in-ministry degree program, I don't attend classes on a weekly basis. Instead, I attend a few seminars each year. In between the seminars, I read stacks of books and write papers. Additionally, I spend time with a mentor who provides guidance and feedback in preparation for a final project.

I'm deeply grateful for Oak Hills and my family for supporting me in this effort. Both are giving me the freedom to spend time attending these seminars and doing course work. I have been overwhelmed by the many from Oak Hills who have celebrated with me and have prayed for my growth in this program. Thank you!

FALL ADULT FORUM OPTIONS

Starting Nov. 2, we begin a new quarter in the Adult Forum ministry. Two of our Forums switch times to give everyone at both services the chance to attend the course. The Intergenerational Adult Forum will change topics but stay at the same time. Here the schedule:

Discipleship: *Who is Jesus?* A True U video series with Joel Dykstra @ 9:30am

For over 2,000 years, people everywhere have continued to grapple with this all-important question: Who is Jesus? Dr. Del Tackett, host of Focus on the Family's The Truth Project, is assisted by guest experts Lee Strobel, Gary Habermas, and others. Together they intelligently explore Jesus's ancestry and prophetic mission; His words, works, and character; His death and resurrection; whether Jesus is the only way to God; and more.

Intergenerational: *"Gospel in Life"* with Pastor Dave & Craig Dewey @ 9:30am

Timothy Keller's Gospel in Life is a course on the gospel and how it is lived out in all of life— first in our hearts, then in community, and out into the world. The class consists of a video clip followed by group discussion. Week 1 opens the course with the theme of the city: our home now, the world that is. Week 8 closes the course with the theme of the eternal city: our heavenly home, the world that is to come. In between we will look at how the gospel changes our hearts (weeks 2 and 3), changes our community (weeks 4 and 5), and changes how we live in the world (weeks 6 and 7).

Bible: *The Parables of Jesus*, with Brian Gregg @ 11am

The Gospel of Mark tells us that Jesus spoke in parables in order to confuse, enlighten, and engage. Together we will explore the messages and enigmas of these famous stories, studying a selection of parables found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke in their original context and discerning how they continue to speak truth to us today.

**ADULT
MINISTRIES**

OUTREACH TEAM

The Outreach Team of Oak Hills helps organize and mobilize the church in reaching out in the Sioux Falls community. As a team, we work to deepen our outreach commitment and focus our efforts. If you want to be involved, just let us know. The Outreach Team consists of: Randell Beck, Ryan Friez, Brian Kolling, Josh & Sara Lewis, Matt Peterson, Mark Terveen, & Sara VandeKamp

**GLOBAL PARTNERS
TEAM**

The Global Partners Team helps Oak Hills engage with our missionaries and be involved in what God is doing outside our community and culture. As a team, we work to deepen our relationships with missionaries and mobilize our church. If you want to be involved, just let us know. The Global Partners Team consists of: Ryan Friez, Ben Liscano, Josh & Sara Lewis, & Sara VandeKamp

GINGERBREAD JAMBOREE



December 6th from 1-3pm
Cost \$15 per house
Register by November 30th

WINGS is hosting an afternoon of gingerbread house decorating with your friends and family at Oak Hills!

Please bring additional small candies that you might want on your house (in addition to what we will already provide) and a plate of homemade cookies to donate to **The Banquet**.

Drinks and snacks provided. Fun, Decorating, and Fellowship!

LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups have been the most effective way for people to get connected at Oak Hills and be challenged in meaningful Bible study. This past Fall we had 16 different Life Groups that met at various times throughout the week. With most groups averaging more than 10 people, we had about 180 adults involved in a Life Group this Fall! This is a central part of our discipleship strategy at Oak Hills. Fall Life Groups are wrapping up in November. Most will resume in January or February. Most of our Life Groups fill up quickly. So, if you are interested, please contact Paul Pankratz.

Cherub's Closet continues to give boxes away, little by little. We are working on getting more widely known in the community. So far, most of the boxes we have given away have gone to Avera McKennan and to referrals from The Community Outreach.



The last two boxes went to a mother of twins. She was quite grateful to receive the boxes. She was a 34 year old mother of 4 children. As you can imagine, diapers were her greatest need.

Currently, we have begun the process of connecting with a major organization in town. The Executive Director of this organization told us of the horrors of some young

mothers drying out and reusing disposable diapers. I found this hard to imagine. Desperate situations call for desperate measures, I guess!

We hope to be put in touch with ministries in which give-aways are made on a regular basis. I believe if we connect with these give-aways, it will be a challenge to keep up with the demand. If we make the connection, we will need the help of many of you.

As far as supplies, size 1 diapers continue to be our greatest need.

Thank you to those who continue to bring in clothing and diapers.



the Christmas shoe tree

Who knew the
Good News of
Jesus
could be shared
through shoes!!

Can't Stop These Shoes from Spreading the Good News!

The kids of Oak Hills invite you to join us as we present a message of service, salvation and...shoes on December 14th.

The kids will be singing in church during the 11:00am service.

The program is at 6:30 in the evening.

Fellowship with us afterward!

But wait...There's more!..



Not only is it a Christmas program, it's a service project and you are invited to take part. Soles4Souls is a global organization that aims to eliminate poverty by collecting and distributing shoes to the people of poor and impoverished countries.

We have already started collecting shoes and you can help. We've set a lofty goal of collecting 300 pairs of shoes.. Shoes can be new or slightly used, mens and womens, kids and adults, fancy or functional. The cool part about it is that we will bring the shoes to Village NW Unlimited in Sheldon, IA for processing before shipping. Village NW provides job opportunities and live skills training for mentally handicapped and traumatic brain injury individuals.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Shelly Haan
Director of Children's Ministries
shaan@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648



VBS 2014 seems like a long time ago, but we recently received these pictures of kids that got wheelchairs through VBS donations.

You may remember we collected just over \$900.00.

This translated into 9 wheelchairs.

Smiles Speak Volumes!

faith, friends & fun



**STUDENT
MINISTRIES**



Dave Campbell
Assoc. Pastor of Student Ministries
dcampbell@oakhills.net
Work: 332-2648

YOUTH STAFF

- John Gross
- Jeff Ballard
- Ashley Maturan
- Emily Erickson
- Courtney Ballard
- Joy Karges
- Rachel Dewey
- Brad Hartzler
- Joey Bosch
- Janna Thorson
- Kate Friesen
- Mark Schmidt
- Carrie Schmidt
- Tammy McDowell
- Joel McDowell
- Colleen Thompson
- Laura Kunz
- Holly Kelly
- Steven Ballard

INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP 2015: ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA



Guatemala 2010 Mission Team

In June of 2010, our church sent 32 students and 10 student ministries staff members to Antigua, Guatemala to serve for a week with an organization called Team Effort. It was an amazing opportunity to see the hearts and eyes of students opened to the God of the nations. We connected with a dynamic multi-ethnic church in Antigua, spent time with children in a nearby village, learned how to wash clothes by hand, make tortillas, and we also we able to build a staircase in a small village that was under resourced.



Guatemala 2010 Mission Team Staff

And...we are going back June 27, 2015!

We'll have an informational meeting Sunday morning November 23rd during the 9:30 worship hour in the chapel. We have a limited number of spots for this trip, so make sure to grab an application from me and turn it in promptly with your \$100.00 deposit.

Registration is open November 5th-December 3rd.

-Dave

OPERATION CHILDREN'S INN: THIS NOVEMBER



On November 19th middle school & high school students are going to be making fleece tie blankets for kids at Children's Inn here in Sioux Falls. Children's Inn is a domestic violence shelter that provides love, hope & safety for women and children in our state. A few months ago we had the opportunity to install a play-set for the children who stay at Children's Inn, and this month we are taking things a step further. Most children come to Children's Inn with nothing.

Maybe they have a backpack with a favorite toy and a blanket, and perhaps a few articles of clothing. When they leave Children's Inn though, one of the many things they leave with are these fleece blankets that we'll be making. If you are interested in helping us serve Children's Inn, we'd be so grateful! We are in need of fleece blanket material measuring 44X60 inches for the blankets we'll be making. You can drop off the fleece material in my office anytime between now and November 19th. I'm thankful to be a part of a community who is learning to live out Matthew 25. [You should read it.] -Dave

**OAK HILLS
MINISTRIES**

**WORSHIP
MINISTRY**



David Aesoph
Worship Leader
daesoph@oakhills.net
Cell: 351-5176

One body ... many parts! All designed to uniquely glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Is God calling you to play a part in the music ministry at Oak Hills? If so, we could use your talents in any of the areas below!

- Soundboard
- MediaShout / PowerPoint
- Drums & Percussion
- Bass Guitar
- Acoustic Guitar
- Electric Guitar
- Keyboard
- Vocals

Contact Dave Aesoph at daesoph@oakhills.net or 605-351-5176.

DOOR HANGERS

Last week, Oak Hills distributed another 1200 door hangers in the neighborhoods surrounding our campus. This was our fourth distribution in 2014. The first one highlighted the ministry of Cherub's Closet (March). Next we invited the neighborhood to our Easter Week services (April). Third, we called attention to our fall ministry kickoff (August). Finally, we invited the neighborhood to the Fall Festival (October).

The first time we placed the door hangers, we received a variety of responses. A couple people gave us a polite "no thank you." One person made a donation to Cherub's Closet (even though the door hanger didn't suggest making a donation). People have visited Oak Hills because of our invitations. People have often stopped to talk to us about the event we are promoting with the door hanger. People seem to genuinely appreciate and respect our invitations. Previous to these door hangers, people may not have noticed the church they drive by. Now, Oak Hills is forming a reputation of being inclusive of the neighborhood. At the very least, we are earning the right to be heard.

Life Groups, families, and youth have all contributed to this effort. THANK YOU!!! You share in the fruit of this outreach effort. Next year, we are planning on four more door hangers, and we are hoping that many more people from Oak Hills get involved. Walking through the neighborhood is enjoyable, meaningful, and having an impact.



Thanksgiving Eve WORSHIP & BAPTISM SERVICE

Join Us!
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
NOVEMBER 26TH
6:30PM

Christmas Eve
— SERVICE —
WED. DEC. 24 @ 5:00pm