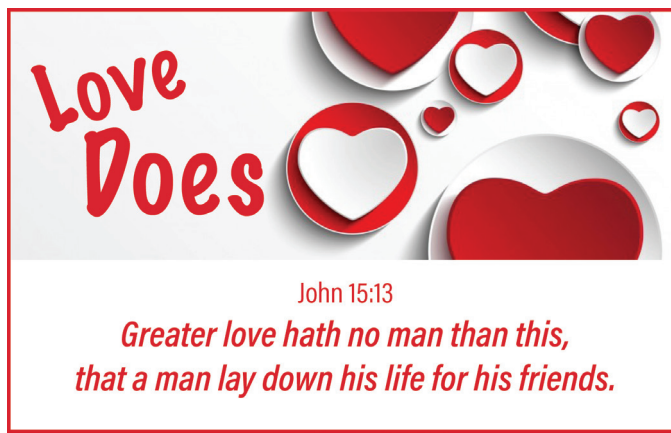




From
Pastor Hal



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Most of you are aware this past Sunday White Oak resumed morning services at the church. There was a spirit of excitement and gratitude. We were excited to be back in God's house to worship and grateful for the opportunity to meet again. The Lord commands us to meet and encourage one another. And it was very encouraging seeing the church body worship collectively. May the Lord continue to provide good health for every member to feel safe in God's house.

February is Black History Month. The month was chosen because it contains the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The month of February is designated to acknowledge the contributions of important people and events in African American history. In this newsletter, I would like to introduce you to George Liele. Rev. Liele was the first African American pastor ordained in the United States. He was a slave who was saved while serving under his owner Henry Sharp (a deacon in a Baptist church). George felt the call to preach and was given his freedom to pursue the call. He preached for two years in the slave quarters in the plantations located in South Carolina. Many came to know Jesus Christ through his powerful preaching. Rev. Liele would even plant the First African American Church in North America (still standing in Savannah). His life and ministry are amazing. Rev. Liele's freedom was revoked temporarily, he was later thrown in jail and then released. The preacher would then take the Gospel to Jamaica in 1782. Many slaves working on the sugar plantations would come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. Over five hundred people were baptized. Afterward, Rev. Liele would be charged with sedition and thrown in jail. But God was not through with this man. He was released and a strong Baptist church was erected in Jamaica. Not only did his ministry have a spiritual impact on the country; but the Gospel would have a social impact. By July 31, 1838 slavery would be completely abolished.

Christ makes the difference!

Author, David Shannon, described Rev. Liele's life and ministry this way: "The Christianity practiced by Liele was not limited to one nation, colony, or ethnic group but was a faith found and spread through interaction with colonists and national leaders in the Americas and England. In turn, this broad vision of Christianity shaped and spread a variety of Christian experience that became widespread and influential in black, white, and integrated congregations in Georgia, South Carolina, Jamaica, Nova Scotia, Sierra Leone, and beyond."

Isn't that what followers of Christ should do? Share the Gospel wherever and with whomever the Lord allows us to influence. We often will say Adoniram Judson was the first Baptist missionary to leave America. But that really isn't the case. Rev. George Liele should have that recognition. He took the gospel to Jamaica in 1773. Adoniram Judson took the Gospel to Burma in 1812. And praise the Lord both men were greatly used of God! May we take the Gospel in 2021 to our mission field.

I am reminded of the lyrics of a song,

"And may all who come behind us find us faithful."

Thank you, church family, for your faithfulness to God's work. This past weekend I was able to share the many ways our church family loved the Lord in word and deed. Attached to this newsletter are the graphs shared this past Sunday. May you find them encouraging and a blessing. For those of you who may be struggling with giving your time, your talent, your treasure to the Lord; please seek His face for increased faith in Him. Even the apostles cried out, "...increase our faith." Luke 17:5 You will be glad you did!

Zoom Meetings in February

February 11 - Leadership Team Meeting.

February 23 - Be the Change Gathering. Mrs. Stacey Wall is your point of contact for this meeting.

It will not be long before Oliver Nicklow makes his appearance to the world. Scott and Bethany will make great parents! We want to show some love and help this young couple prepare for Oliver's arrival. A crib will be placed in the foyer. And the church will host a baby shower on February 21st. Just bring your gift and place it in or by the crib to help this sweet couple. The crib will remain in the foyer the entire week for those who are still in isolation due to the pandemic. Scott and Bethany are registered at Target.

Please don't forget that Sunday is Valentine's Day! The church has a sweet service planned and we hope each of you can attend.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal
Galatians 2:20

Schedule of Services

Sunday

In-Person

Our Sunday Morning Worship will begin at 10:30 AM

On-Line

Our Sunday Morning Online Service will begin at 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Online Service will begin at 6 PM

Wednesday

7 PM - Prayer, Praise & Bible Study - ONLINE

Teens with Moises Online

7 PM - December 9th Prayer, Business Meeting at church

Every WOH Service can be seen on:

Facebook - Hal Jones page

White Oak Hill Facebook page

White Oak Hill YouTube

You're Invited
to a walk-by baby shower
for

Oliver

Parents: Scott & Bethany Nicklow



Sunday, February 21st

at White Oak Hill Church

Crib will be set up in the foyer to receive gifts

Registered at
Target



A Fresh Walk with God

Psalm 51:10