

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612

NEWS & EVENTS – November 2025

Phone... (919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mabc.org
Web Page: www.mabc.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

What does a cat know about time change? The question invaded my waking mind as I heard the cat calling. The sound of frequent, and increasingly louder, meows intruded into my slumber on Sunday morning. *Fall back time* marks the day I like more than *spring forward time*. The time in the spring to set our clocks forward reminds me I'm not a spring chicken and it takes a while to adjust my stride in the schedule of life. Setting our clocks back an hour in this fall season gives me the gift of getting another hour of sleep. At least it's supposed to work that way. When I was younger, some minds devised this plan of adjusting time schedules in the fall and the spring. The selling point was that it would give farmers more daylight to farm and school kids more daylight to ride the bus going to school. The plan was called *Daylight Savings Time*. It doesn't seem to me that it saved much time at all. Back to Sunday morning. It was the morning that the time schedules (our clocks) were set back to adjust to standard, or *normal*, time. You know, time that is regulated by sunrise and sunset. I don't think the cat got the memo. And my body will tell me weeks after my schedule is adjusted in the fall, as well as the spring, that I'm not getting it either. Why can't we just let the One who set evening and morning in order have the last first and last say? On Saturday, the day before fall back day, the early morning cat call came around 4 a.m. according to cat time. Sunday morning meows started at 3. One might think he was a bit confused and a little out of sync in his adjustment. But what does a cat know about such things? As I hear the cat calling, I begin my adjustment by looking at the cell phone close by. It was automatically adjusted for me by a system designed to help me...so the selling point goes. It was not so long ago that the burden to adjust the clock was shouldered by human effort before we went to sleep, so we would awaken to the right time, right on time. Now it's done for us. By some human design and artificial intelligence. A cultural change making change easy. That seems to be the selling point. I wonder what these cultural changes mean to a cat.

In another season of my life, I served in the military. I had the opportunity to train dogs for security and law enforcement purposes. I learned that these creatures were trained by a human handler whose job relied on how well he, or she, could build a relationship with the animal. It was amazing to see the potential of an untrained dog come to fruition through time and discipline. The team could become proficient in building up the creature's strengths and overcoming its weaknesses. An instructor who was training us trainers would tell us almost every day that the power of the working dog team ran up and down the leash.

It was all about the connection. What was at the bottom was connected to what was at the top. A good dog would be connected to a good handler. The goal was to pass the test of performance when the dog was off leash. A good dog, off leash, never took his eye off the handler. But cats are different. It's hard to train a cat. But cats seem to have an uncanny sense of reality. Like really what time it is.

It is the habit of my wife and I to pray together early in the day. Usually it's before I leave to go to a workaday world where schedules rule. More often than not, our cat comes to us as we hold hands and talk to God. He stretches out his paw and places it on our hands. I don't hear him praying. But I wonder what he knows. Does he know he's a cat? As we pray does he encounter the presence of the Lord? Does he know we humans are a different kind of creature? Does he know there is a God? Does he know this God is worthy of worship? What does a cat know about time...and God...and worship? What do humans know about these things? That we are created in the image and likeness of the Living God? That when we're connected to Christ, we are wired to worship Him...never taking our eyes off him as we follow and serve Him.

In the end of living in this earth in the land of the dying, humans who know God, and are connected to Him, can potentially be perfect and well and whole as we follow Jesus. Good people get their goodness from a good God...there is no one good but God, said Jesus of Nazareth, King of kings and Lord of lords. The Bible teaches us about creatures and creation that encounter God and obey Him at His word. Donkeys and ravens and fish and locusts and fig trees and worms. Yet, we humans design systems to control time and other humans, when the only Authority over time abides outside of time's domain. We've even ordained a day we call Thanksgiving. It's a cultural decision...turkeys and football are significant. But the One who is worthy of thanksgiving is worthy every day! The cat in our house knows what time it is. It's time for all creatures to praise the Creator. Let us worship Him...let us praise Him...let us listen to what God thinks.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord! Ps 150:6

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam

****Congratulations to Pastor Sam & Mrs. Sharon Gore on their 18th anniversary in their service at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. We appreciate the impact your family has had in our lives!***