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First Chronicle of First Baptist Church, Oakboro

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SO MANY REASONS...WHY DO YOU BELIEVE?

*Ask yourself this question and make plans to join us
each Sunday to explore the reasons we believe.*

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Happy New Year! In recent decades, our culture has taught us to make this time of year one that is more reflective and introspective than others. We are encouraged to make resolutions of self-improvement. If you haven't noticed it already, you will soon see a great increase in the number of advertisers taking advantage of this. They will work very diligently to plant in our hearts and minds a spirit of disease over the current state of our lives—a discontent immediately reconcilable by the purchase and application of their product. Whether it really works or not is another matter entirely.

Playing into the spirit of the age a bit then, what are some of your resolutions for this new year? What areas of life are you going to seek to intentionally improve? What model or standard are you using as a measuring stick for the pace and direction of this improvement? For a long time, I rather cynically refused to make New Year's resolutions because I knew I probably wouldn't stick to them anyway; so why bother. As I've grown a bit older and—hopefully—a bit wiser, I've come to see that there is some worth to the whole exercise. Even if some resolutions ultimately don't come to full fruition, still, at the very least, the practice of regular self-evaluation is one worth encouraging.

If you'll indulge me, I'd like to set before you a couple of opportunities for us as a community to move together with intentionality in the direction God has for us to go; one more personal, one more corporate. First the personal. Beginning this coming Sunday, we are going to kick off a new teaching series called "Reasons to Believe." For the next few weeks, we are going to talk about some reasons people reject the faith and why, to the contrary, they are actually reasons to embrace it. This process will also give those of us who do believe more confidence in our own confessions. This will be a great time to invite friends who haven't yet connected with Jesus or His church to learn why that's something worthy of their consideration.

Now the corporate: Over the past several months the deacons and I have been working through a process of examining the church to get our hearts and minds around who we are, who God made us to be, and who He is leading us to become as a people. The goal of this

YOUTH LEAVE TO GO TO WINTERJAM 2018 AT 1:30 ON JANUARY 21!

ADULT CHAPERONES ARE NEEDED, SO PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

ALSO, A PARENT/YOUTH MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE.

\$75 Deposit for February Ski Retreat is due NOW.



THANK YOU!

To **EVERYONE** who helped with the Breakfast with Santa, whether you planned, decorated, cooked, attended and invited others, we say **BIG THANKS!** Over \$400 will be given to Stanly County Relay for Life®.

Tithes & Offerings

Budget Goals – December	\$ 29,256.75
Budget Receipts – December	29,611.53
Budget Goals – YTD	105,324.30
Budget Receipts – YTD	100,726.44
Budget Variance	- 4,597.86
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	12,474.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	4,588.12
Choir Fund	75.00
Relay for Life	160.00
Youth Ministry	420.00
Brotherhood	100.00

Once again, it's time to help our local Pregnancy Resource Center in Albemarle. On **January 21**, "Sanctity of Life" Sunday, baby bottles will be placed in the Sunday school classes. Please bring your loose change and paper money and place them into the bottles. Money will be collected through **February 11**.



SCM

Canned or dried beans, canned tomatoes and rice are the items Stanly Community Christian Ministries is requesting for January. Please continue to support our local missions by picking up these items while shopping and dropping them off into the basement kitchen area.

Boxed Envelopes & Contribution Statements

If you would like to receive a set of weekly envelopes and haven't received them for the 2018 year, please call the office to request a box. Also, contribution statements will be available within the next few weeks.

process has been clarifying who we are as a body of believers, of giving us a clear sense of identity.

Ultimately, when people (including us!) think about the First Baptist Church of Oakboro, we want a very clear idea to pop into their minds. This idea, this identity won't come out of nowhere, but will be a distillation of the various smaller ideas and themes that make us who we are. I am firmly of the mind that until a church understands and grasps who God made them to be, they cannot become effective at advancing His kingdom. This is our goal. In the coming months, as the deacons further clarify these themes, I will share them with you. In the meantime, be praying for us that God will give us great discernment and unity of heart and mind as we together seek to become fully the church—and the church members—we were created to be. This will be an exciting journey.

Pastor Jonathan

Karen Peck &
New River
And
The Isaacs



**February 24,
at 6:00 p.m.**

Stanly County Agri-Civic Center

Tickets: \$22 for Orchestra; \$17 for General Admission
(Group pricing for 10+) – See Delinda for tickets
Relay for Life Benefit Concert
(The date on the Church Council calendar is incorrect)

Proverbs 31

Wannabes:

January 14

Ashley Morton's

She
is clothed in
Strength
&
Dignity,
and she
Laughs
without fear of the future.
-Proverbs 31:25



In Memory

Donations were given to the Relay for Life team in memory of Miky Huneycutt by Amy Whitley and Robert & Beth Swain.

In memory of Claudette Love and Miky Huneycutt, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Deborah Tucker.

Contributions were made to the Youth ministry by Hilton & Sheila Barbee and Tony & Andria Coble in memory of Miky Huneycutt.

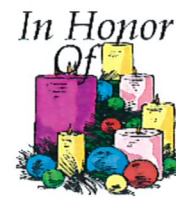
A donation was given to the Choir Fund by Doug & Ann Burgess in memory of Amy Boger and her December 19 birthday.

In memory of Maurice Drye, contributions were given to the Building Fund by Doris Hatley and First Baptist, Oakboro.

A donation was given to the Lottie Moon Offering by Harold & Louise Floyd in memory of Maurice Drye.

Brooks & Jane Barnhardt made a contribution to First Baptist, Oakboro, in memory of Maurice Drye.

In memory of J. Craig and Gladys Huneycutt, Brenda Huneycutt donated to the Building Fund.



In honor of the Ladies I Sunday School class, donations were given to the Lottie Moon Offering and to the Building Fund by Harold & Louise Floyd.

A contribution was made to the Lottie Moon Offering by Mae Brooks in honor of Mary Helen Gaddy.

In honor of Ted Parker, a donation was made to the Building Fund by the Adult Choir.

In honor of Pastor Jonathan, Lisa and sons, Harold & Louise Floyd made a contribution to the Lottie Moon Offering.

In honor of Edna Bolin's 90th birthday, a donation was made by Mae Brooks to the Lottie Moon Offering.

A contribution was given to the Lottie Moon Offering in honor of Dianne Hudson by Debbie Edwards.

In honor of Mike and Ann Eudy, Deb Tucker made a donation to the Building Fund.

The Adult Choir contributed to the Building Fund in honor of Lorrie Hatley.

In honor of the Men who cooked the BBQ dinner, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks.

A donation was made to FBCO in honor of all who visit, love and support Aline Tarlton by her daughter, Pam Wellons.

In honor of Chip Alsobrooks, Mae Brooks made a contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Mae Brooks made a donation to the Lottie Moon offering in honor of Proverbs 31 Wannabes.

In honor of her mom, Mac Brooks, Linnie Wright contributed to the Lottie Moon Offering.

In honor of Mae Brooks, the Blessed Assurance Class made a donation to the Building Fund.

JoAnn Whitley made a contribution to the Lottie Moon Offering in honor of Harold & Louise Floyd.

Baptist Men's Day



GIDEONS
INTERNATIONAL

Mark your calendars and join us on Sunday, **January 28**, as we recognize the men of our church and host a Gideon speaker during the 11:00 a.m. Worship service.

Our men also will have Men's Breakfast on Saturday, **January 13**, at 8:00 a.m. in the fellowship building. Men of all ages are invited to attend.

WMU Sewing Day is scheduled for Saturday, **January 20**, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon in the Youth Center. Even if you're not a seasoned pro at sewing, there will be some way you can help.

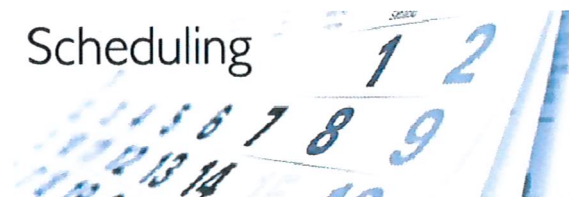


February 2-4 - Youth Ski Trip

February 13 - Region 6 Mission Rally at Highland Baptist Church in New London

February 18 - WMU Focus Day with Guest Speaker: Phyllis Foy

Scheduling



If you wish to use the Youth Center for any reason, please contact one of the youth leaders first, as they may already have something scheduled for the day you request. Also, please call the church office if you wish to reserve the van, the church or fellowship building for an event **BEFORE** writing it on the calendar outside the secretary's office.



I want to say Merry Christmas and thank you to everyone in my childhood church for their continued support of my family through their prayers, visits to my mom, and all the small gifts they bring her. The love she feels and being able to remain connected through the home visits to "her" church has strengthened her and given her peace. Merry Christmas. We love all of you,"
Pam Wellons (Aline Tarlton's daughter)

"To the people at First Baptist, words can never express all the kindness that you have shown us. We appreciate all of the phone calls, food, visits and most of all your prayers. Thank you for the ramps, fixing the bathroom, it just goes on and on. We are so blessed to have friends like you all. We pray that First Baptist will grow and that you continue to show to others the love you have shown to us. We love each and every one of you. May God richly bless you,"
Dwight & Norma Mabry

Church Workers

Date	Greeters	Nursery - Worship
Jan 7	Shea & Ashley Morton - Sunday School Gerald & Bonnie Lee - Worship	Renee Watkins Deborah Tucker
14	Bobby & Renee Watkins - Sunday School Mary Nelms - Worship	Danny & Julie Poplin
21	Eddie & Linda Arrowood - Sunday School Jim & Cheryl Cameron - Worship	Kay Smith Jane Baucom
28	Matt & Melanie Hudson - Sunday School Harold & Louise Floyd - Worship	Andy & Julie Castelloe
Feb 4	Mandy Smith - Sunday School Doris Hatley - Worship	Tracy & Lisa Lowder

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Jan 7	Cliff Edwards	Eddie Arrowood
14	Kevin Floyd	Betty Huneycutt
21	Buddy Gaddy	Usher Hank Fowler
28	Doug Hinson	
Feb 4	Matt Hudson	

Happy Birthday!








January	1	Abigail Funderburk Buddy Gaddy
	2	Julie Poplin Wendy Phillips Ann Burgess
	4	Jean Little Pat Eudy
	5	Jessica Colquitt Mary Frances Burgess
	7	Ryan Efird Sonja Linthicum
	9	Carol Kiker Jane Barnhardt
	10	James Hudson Melodie Marcus
	13	Sarah Hartsell Teri Bowers
	14	Miss Cody Smith Carolyn Hinson
	15	Janet Jackson Eleanor Brooks
	17	Suzanne Marsicano Robbie Taylor
	18	Lana Lambert Sam Keeney
	19	Dana Jenkins Thomas Kirby
	20	Ashley Morton Chris Johnson
	23	Josiah Waits Nicole Kirby
	26	Hannah Privett Vivian Williams
	27	Brittany Hartsell Adam Trancoso
	28	Lori Efird David Efird
February	2	Gavin Phillips

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JANUARY

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Mission Groups for ALL Ages 7:45 Adult Choir			
4:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir	5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKids, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir			8:00 a.m. 
11:00 a.m. Communion 12:00 p.m. Youth & Parents' Meeting 5:00 Proverbs 31 Wannabes at Ashley Morton's	NO SCHOOL or Children's Choir  Martin Luther King Jr. Day		5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKids, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir			8:30 a.m. WMU Sewing Day 
1:30 p.m. Youth Leave for 	NO SCHOOL or Children's Choir 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 9:30 Senior Adult Committee		5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKids, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir			
11:00 a.m. Gideon Speaker Baptist Men's Day	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir		5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKids, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir	Weekly Sunday Services 9:45 a.m. ~ Sunday School 11:00 a.m. ~ Worship		