

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE? What are your reasons? We are in the middle of a series exploring what I think are some very good reasons to believe which fly in the face of what are normally taken to be arguments against the Christian faith. We've talked about the knowability of truth, the trustworthiness of the Scriptures, and the justice of our God (specifically as understood in light of the difficult doctrine of Hell). After taking a break this past Sunday to celebrate our men, we will look in the next couple of weeks at the church's supposed dark past, and how we can respond to the problem of evil in the world in light of the good God we claim to serve. After one more break in a couple of weeks to celebrate our faithful women, we will land this whole series on what is perhaps the most important reason to believe we can offer: a relationship with Jesus. These final three parts of the series in particular will be great opportunities to invite friends, family, and neighbors who have struggled with the reasonableness of the faith to be presented with powerful reasons to believe.

Here's another question for you: **WHY ARE YOU A PART OF FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO?** That may not be a more significant question than why you believe, but in terms of your involvement here, it's right up there. So again: Why are you a part of First Baptist Oakboro? What are your reasons? Is it simply because your family has always come here? Is it because you've been given a role to play? Is there even more than that?

In the earliest church, the identity of the believers was wrapped up in the identity of the church itself such that they didn't see much in the way of separation between the two. Too often today, believers construct their identities apart from the church. The church isn't someone they are, it's a place they go. I submit to you that this is not things as they should be.

While I do not think people need to necessarily spend more time at the church than they already do, when a church body is clear about its own God-given identity, the individual members can begin to see themselves through that lens. The identity of the church begins to inform their own identity such that instead of individuals who go to a

church, they begin to see themselves as parts of a body. When this happens, the group begins to move together in pursuit of the kingdom of God in ways far more powerful than merely a group of individuals heading in somewhat the same direction can achieve. And when this happens, the church begins to grow in the ways God designed it to grow. This is the sweet spot.

Starting next month, we are going to have a conversation about who God made us to be and how we can become more fully that church. This will be an important first step in the direction of our sweet spot. You will not want to miss a single part of this conversation.

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)



Extreme Fun: Skiing in West Virginia, February 2-4

Do you need a
Parents' Night Out?

GREAT! The Youth are baby/kid-sitting on **February 16**. We need to know how many are interested, so please sign up or see Julie Castelloe or Ashley Morton.



Make Plans to Attend: **Youth
Hot Dog Supper
Bake Auction
Talent Show
March 3 at 5:00 p.m.**



Youth Sunday will be Sunday, March 4,
for Sunday School & Worship



Confirmed: June 18 - 23



Soup Luncheon: Make plans to meet in the fellowship building on Thursday, **February 15**, at 11:30 a.m. as HOPE

Fellowship will have a variety of soups, bread and desserts to enjoy. Please sign up on one of the bulletin boards if you would like to make any of these items. Anyone who is in the area is invited to join the fun!



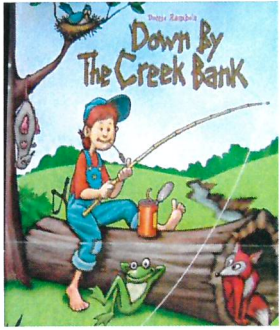
Tentatively for March, a venture to JAARS in Waxhaw, NC is scheduled for Thursday, **March 15**. Here's an excerpt from their website. **"Who we are:** JAARS is a multidisciplinary team of problem-solvers who are committed to the belief—and the vision—that people's lives and communities are transformed as they experience God's Word in their own language.

We are a community of full-time missionaries, dedicated volunteers and even a few employees who work together to accomplish the Great Commission goal of providing Scripture to every people group on earth in the language they understand best – their heart language. We do that by supporting Bible translation and language development partners globally, and by working with prayer and financial partners in the United States to help make a range of unique on-the-field solutions possible.

S. O.A.P. for the Soul

All WMU ladies are encouraged to sign up for the Brunch to be on **February 17** at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Center. We will enjoy food, fellowship, prayer, and a short program based on the theme.





I was blessed by the children's choir presentation of "Follow the Star" on the night of *December 3*. Every song was so special, and every choir member did so well in singing out and using their talents and gifts to praise the Lord. We have another opportunity on Sunday evening, *April 22*, at 6:00 p.m. with the musical presentation of "Down by the Creek Bank." I remember back when we

celebrated the year-long Centennial, and the committee prepared a music exhibit of all the music presented by First Baptist, Oakboro in the last 100 years. "Down by the Creek Bank" was one of the musicals on the DVD that was shown. Claudette Love and Catherine Thomas were leaders, and Jane Barnhardt helped create all the stage set. Some of the parents of the present children's choir were in the presentation over 20 years ago. It will be exciting to be able to present "Down by the Creek Bank" again and re-visit some of those special memories, along with making new ones!

Please pray for us as we rehearse and prepare for April 22. If you have a child in K-5th grades that would like to join us on Mondays after school 'til 5:00, we would love to have them participate.

Blessings! *Dana B. Jenkins*

POOR MAN'S SUPPER
MARCH 10, 2018
5:00 P.M. UNTIL ___
 FELLOWSHIP BUILDING OF
 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OAKBORO

Menu: Streaked meat, potatoes,
 cabbage, pintos, cornbread

Donations Accepted

Sponsored by the Brotherhood of
 First Baptist Church of Oakboro

Proceeds benefit West Stanly Christian Ministries



In memory of Fred Efird, a donation was made by Mae Brooks to the Building Fund.

In memory of Maurice Drye, donations were given by:

Heath & Kathleen Hahn

Jeff and Jill Bureson

Geneva Beachum

Jerry & Margaret Poplin

First Baptist Church, Oakboro

Jim & Cheryl Cameron

The Brotherhood of FBCO

A donation was given to the Building Fund in memory of Amy Edwards Boger by Scott & Melodie Marcus.



In honor of Susan Gwyn, the Adult Choir made a contribution to the Building Fund.

THANK YOU

"To my church family, I want to thank everyone who have helped me during Mitchell's time in the hospital and other times. I'm not sure when he will be out of the hospital and rehab. Please keep praying for us. We need all we can get. Thanks for the visits, too. Love you all, thanks again." Gale & Mitch Medlin

"There's a Chinese proverb that says, 'To get through the hardest journey we need take only one step at a time, but we must keep on stepping.' We keep on stepping, sometimes backward, many times forward. Through all of it you, our church family, have been there. Thank you so much for all the prayers, first and foremost. Thanks also for the visits, food, cards, calls, texts and all the support you've given to us. Hopefully, this part of our journey will soon end, and we'll be back at home and in church."

Joe & Betty Huneycutt

Proverbs 31
Wannabes:
February 11
Lisa Waits'
House

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



Church Workers

Date	Greeters	Nursery - Worship
Feb 4	Mandy Smith – Sunday School Doris Hatley - Worship	Tracy & Lisa Lowder
11	Gerald & Bonnie Lee – Sunday School Thomas & Ellen Meadors - Worship	Cheryl Cameron Sheila Hinson
18	Mike McClellan – Sunday School Ted Parker - Worship	Marilyn Huneycutt, Matt & Melanie Hudson
25	Buddy & Mary Helen Gaddy – Sunday Sch. Butch Poplin - Worship	Hank & Jessica Fowler
Mar 4	Rita Crisco – Sunday School Tracy & Lisa Lowder - Worship	Ashley Morton Sandra Chance

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Feb 4	Matt Hudson	Jim Cameron
11	Shea Morton	Lynn Edwards
18	Danny Poplin	Usher Jeff Bowers
25	Chip Alsobrooks	
Mar 4	Jim Cameron	

Tithes & Offerings

Budget Goals – January	\$ 23,405.40
Budget Receipts – January	20,502.20
Budget Goals – YTD	128,729.70
Budget Receipts – YTD	121,228.64
Budget Variance	- 7,501.06
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,420.00
Youth Ministry: Ski & Winterjam	1,090.50
Youth Ministry: Donation	75.00



Once again, it's time to help our local Pregnancy Resource Center in Albemarle. On **January 21**, "Sanctity of Life" Sunday, baby bottles were 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**.

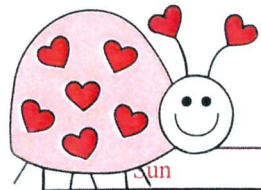
SCM Toiletries and household are the items requested by Stanly Community Christian Ministries for February. This includes shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, detergent, bar soap, and feminine hygiene products. Thank you for continuing to support our local missions by picking up these items while shopping and dropping them off in the basement kitchen area.



FOCUS DAY ~ February 18, 2018
Guest Speaker: Danielle Brady
of CRU

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.



FEBRUARY 2018

First Baptist Church
322 N Main Street
PO Box 10
Oakboro, NC 28129
www.fbcoakboro.org

- February 2 Gavin Phillips
- 3 Eddie Henry
- 4 Stacey Teeter
- 5 Jordan (Lowder) Esposito
- 6 Jonathan Teeter
- 8 Brad Love
- Misty Lambert
- 9 Mike Garrison
- 10 Ryan Morton
- 11 Gracyn Kirby
- Micah Waits
- 12 David Love II
- Joe Watkins
- 13 Kerrie Hill
- 14 Margie Helms
- 15 Jim Davis
- 17 Lynda Whitley
- Daniel Smith
- Scott Gwyn
- 18 Brent Miller
- 20 Debbie Love
- Hagen Lawhon
- 21 Gail Morton
- Kathy Coble-Peek
- Alyssa Queen
- 22 Mark Smith
- 23 Sophie Tucker
- 24 Bill Young
- 25 Melanie Hudson
- Rick Baucom
- 26 Kim Goodman
- 27 Maddie Miller
- 28 Daniel Jenkins
- Taylor Morton (29th)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Weekly Sunday Services</i> 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Worship</p>				1	2 GROUNDHOG DAY YOUTH LEAVE FOR SKIING	3
4 4:00 Deacons' Meeting YOUTH RETURN FROM SKIING	5 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir	6	7 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Mission Groups for ALL Ages 7:45 Adult Choir	8 	9	10 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
11 4:00 p.m. Handbells 5:00 Proverbs 31 Wannabes	12 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir	13 5:45 p.m. Meal, then Region 6 Mission Rally at Highland Baptist	14 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir <i>Feb Wednesday Valentine's Day</i>	15 11:30 a.m. HOPE Fellowship Soup Luncheon in Fellowship Building 	16 Do you need a Parents' Night Out? Youth are baby/kid sitting tonight! Please sign up! 	17 J.O.A.P. for the Soul 9:00 a.m. WMU Brunch in Youth Center
18 WMU Focus Day CRU Speaker: Danielle Brady 4:00 p.m. Handbells	19 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir Presidents Day	20 	21 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir	22	23 	24 6:00 p.m. Karen Peck & New River and The Isaacs Relay for Life Concert at Stanly Agri-Civic Center
25 11:00 a.m. Worship HOLY COMMUNION 4:00 p.m. Handbells	26 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 9:30 Senior Adult Committee 2:30 p.m. Children's Choir	27	28 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 p.m. Preschool Choir, TeamKid, Youth & Adult Bible Study 7:45 Adult Choir	 Week of Prayer for Heck-Jones Offering February 11-18		

March 1 Vickie Yandle