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FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXI No. 1

January 1, 2020

Behold,
I make
all things new.
Revelation 21:5 KJV

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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I believe I've said before how much I like the turning of the calendar from one year to the next. There's just something that feels clean and fresh and new on the morning of January 1. This year the feeling is even more powerful because we aren't just kicking off a new year, but an entirely new decade. We are officially 20% of the way to the 22nd century. I'll just let that one sit on you for a minute.

Every single new year has promise—every single day has promise for that matter—but I am particularly excited about the promise of what lies ahead of us. We've talked several times recently about the sense that the Spirit is moving in our midst, preparing us even as He works in and through us, for the next great adventure our heavenly Father is leading us to experience. And while every detail of this is something only He knows, what we can say with assurance is that it is going to involve seeing more people connect with His church and through that Him. It is going to involve more people growing more fully into the image of Christ that God the Father designed them to bear with the help of the Holy Spirit working through this church. It is going to involve more people being unleashed to reach out into the world around us in Jesus' name in order to advance His kingdom.

Still, though, that's pretty abstract, so let me be a bit more concrete. The continued movement of God in our midst is going to involve more intentional efforts to bring the good news of the Gospel into our local schools and especially our neighbor, the Oakboro STEM School. This will happen as we continue to have greeters out front every single morning, but also in more intentional ways as we take opportunities to get involved in the lives of the students and the staff to shine the light of the Gospel where it is lacking.

It is going to involve continuing to give energy and attention to our students and capitalizing on every single opportunity we have to disciple them and train them up in the Christian worldview, starting as early as we possibly can. Our goal in this is not only to see our own students develop as powerful disciples of Christ, but to see them unleashed as disciple-makers in their own contexts—places to which most of us adults will never gain access on our own.

It will involve intentionally connecting poor people to Sunday school where the kinds of relationships are built that provide the love, encouragement, and accountability we need to grow as disciples of Jesus in our own lives.


And, before the year is out, it is going to involve making a commitment together to invest in a big way in the mission our faithful God has set before us to transform the Oakboro community and beyond with the Gospel. A significant part of this mission will take the form of a new sanctuary and discipleship space that will position us to have a growing impact on our community and beyond.

I'm as excited as I can be about what God is doing in our midst and I hope you are too. This is going to be a good year, marking the start of a good decade. Let's go together and experience what our Lord has in store for us. Happy New Year!

Pastor Jonathan

Boxed Offering Envelopes

If you did not receive a set of boxed offering envelopes for the year and would like to, please call or email the church office. Contribution statements will be handed out in January. Reminder: only the envelopes are forwarded to Delinda in the office, so they should be completed with your name and/or envelope number AND the amount enclosed. If this information isn't present, then your contribution statement will be incomplete.

A number of people are participating in our online giving, which you may reach by going to our website at www.fbcoakboro.org, clicking on this link  and following the prompts.

Our Record of Giving

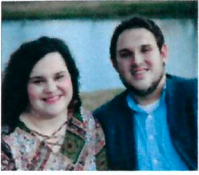
Budget Goals – December	30,499.65
Budget Receipts – December	29,417.30
Budget Goals – YTD	109,798.74
Budget Receipts - YTD	124,799.23
Budget Variance	+15,000.49
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	52,795.00
Wednesday Meals	375.00
Kids' Camp	151.00
Lottie Moon Offering	2,935.00
Brotherhood	75.00
Worship Choir	50.00



Donnie & Delinda Huneycutt welcome new granddaughter, **Rheliana Adeleen Clontz**, born November 25, 2019. She is the daughter of Richard & Halee Clontz and great-granddaughter of Joe &



Betty Huneycutt. Rheliana joins the other granddaughters whose adoptions were finalized the week before Christmas: Emma, Jamie and Addie Huneycutt, daughters of Wesley & Kayla Huneycutt. God has since blessed them with a special surprise: they now are expecting (due July 2020).



A Long Wait for Christmas

This past week of Christmas, Marisa and I did what many others across the country did—traveled for Christmas. With both of our families in Mississippi, we made the 12-hour trek to see our families. During this traveling time, the car was loaded down with presents, the dog and all her things, luggage, and a snack bag. We come prepared for these trips, but the wait to celebrate the holiday with family still was long. But as I think about this long wait we and many other families endured, my mind goes back to another group in Scripture that had to wait for Christmas as well.

Matthew 2:1-12 tells us the story of wise men who made the inaugural Christmas trip so many thousands of years ago. Most scholars place these men coming from the area where the ancient Babylonian kingdom existed (modern day eastern Iraq or western Iran). Even making this journey from there to Israel couldn't be done by taking a straight road into Israel. No, in between was hot, unforgiving desert that was almost impossible to pass easily. So rather, these men and their entourage made a curve northward into the fertile Mesopotamian crescent that allowed for easier passage.

Once arriving at their destination, something happened that also can happen today when we arrive at a family member's home: drama. King Herod also was wanting to find the child born, but for different reasons. The wise men, being wise and getting help from God, picked up on this, found another way back home, and didn't tell the king of their discovery.

But verse 11 is the fun part. After up to two years of searching, through all this wait and travel to see the newborn king, when they finally found the babe, they were still so excited that they fell down and worshipped the king.

Aren't you glad that this isn't required to worship Christ? We don't have to travel to a place in the Middle East at least once in our lives to follow our faith. God did the sacrificing and searching first for us instead of our searching for him. We can worship this king right where we are today. All of this is true because of this great love God has for us.

As we enjoyed Christmas and some of us waited in a car or airplane or even asleep on a couch, remember that we don't have to wait to worship Christ. That's available right now, right here, for all. Go and keep pursuing it. You won't be found lacking.

A Blessed New Year to You All! **Note**



We welcome a new member into our church family:

Erica Tucker

150 Ray Kennedy Drive, Apt. Q

Locust, NC 28097

(704) 322-0229

ericatucker1234@gmail.com

Why Sing?

Our third scripture focus on “Why Sing?” comes from the New Testament. When we sing, we are strengthened for trials. *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.”* Acts 16:25

A special word of thankfulness for all the beautiful music every Sunday, but especially during the Christmas season by the Children's Choir, the Handbell Choir and The Worship Choir and congregation. As we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, we are promised that the word of Christ will dwell in us richly! I look forward to singing with you in this new year.

Joyful Praise! Dana B. Jenkins



“The outpouring of love for our mother over the years and especially for our family during the past week has been tremendous. We thank you for the calls, visits, and words of encouragement. Thank you to Group 4 for the delicious food – we all gained a few pounds. A very special thank you to Pastor Jonathan who ministered to our family spiritually and as a dear friend. Many of you have been part of our lives for all our lives. You helped raise us and you are family to us. Please continue to lift us up in prayer as we adjust to our life without Mother.”
Vicky, Christy, Rodney and the Entire Family of Annie Hartsell

“Thank you for the fruit basket. Mother would have loved it as much as we have enjoyed it. She was always blessed when the youth would visit.”
Vicky King, Christy Crisco, Rodney Hartsell

“During this Christmas season, I would like to take a moment to thank the congregation of First Baptist of Oakboro for the love and support that you have provided our scholars, our school and staff. The selfless acts that you do to make our school special and to ensure our scholars have an extraordinary experience is second to none! Thank you for all you do each day from hosting concerts, lunches, spaghetti dinners and standing in the cold to welcome scholars with a smile. These are the efforts that help our STEM school shine! I wish each of you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.”
Kelly Dombrowski, Principal
Oakboro Choice STEM



In honor of **Lorrie Hatley** and **Harold Floyd**, The Worship Choir made a donation to the Building Fund.

In honor of **Pastor Jonathan and family**, a donation was given by Harold & Louise Floyd to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Harold & Louise Floyd made a donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in honor of **their children**.

In honor of **Mae Brooks** for her love and lasting inspiration on us, Harold & Louise Floyd gave a contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

A contribution was given to the Building Fund in honor of **Randy Parker** by The Worship Choir.

In honor of **Jeff Chance's** and **Ted Parker's** birthdays, a donation was made to the Building Fund by Deborah Tucker.

A donation was made in honor of **Dana Jenkins** for her endless energy and loving commitment to our Lord to the Lottie Moon Offering by Harold & Louise Floyd.

Betty Huneycutt made a contribution to Building Fund in honor of **Jean Little**.



A donation was made to the Building Fund by Pam Tarlton in memory of her dad, **Wilson Tarlton and his birthday**.

In loving memory of **Lum & Ruby Hinson**, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by Doug & Sheila Hinson.

In memory of **Annie Hartsell**, contributions were given to the Building Fund by:

The Oakboro Class of 1953

Bob & Karen Gray

Robert Cotton, Jr.

Doris Hatley

Tracy & Lisa Lowder

Jim & Cheryl Cameron

Barbara Drye



A donation was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by Mae Brooks in memory of **Annie Hartsell**.

A donation was given by Tracy & Lisa Lowder in memory of **Jerry Paige**.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

	Greeters	Nursery/Children's Church
Jan 5	Eddie & Linda Arrowood - Sunday School Thomas & Ellen Meadors - Worship	April & Sophie Tucker Meredith Broadway, April Tucker
12	Matt & Melanie Hudson - Sunday School Ted Parker - Worship	Renée Watkins, Deborah Tucker CELEBRATE SUNDAY
19	Shea & Ashley Morton - Sunday School Butch Poplin - Worship	Danny & Julie Poplin Lisa Waits, Missy Wadkins
26	Mandy Smith - Sunday School Jimmy & Angel Copple - Worship	Lisa Waits, Ashlea Mooney BAPTIST MEN'S DAY
Feb 2	Bonnie Lee - Sunday School April Tucker - Worship	Tracy & Lisa Lowder Renée Watkins, Ashlea Mooney

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Jan 5	Nick Wadkins	Eddie Arrowood
12	Chip Alsobrooks	Doug Burgess
19	Doug Burgess	
26	Jim Cameron	Usher
Feb 2	Jeff Chance	Mark Hinson

Biblical Recorder Subscriptions

If you would like to subscribe to the monthly newsletter covering Baptist happenings in North Carolina, please contact the church office by **January 15**. Current cost is \$19.99; however, if we have a few more subscribers, your cost would be \$14.99 per person.

HOPE Fellowship Happenings



On **January 14**, meet us at Outfitters in Locust at 11:30 a.m. for lunch. Anyone who is available is welcome to join us. On **February 14**, we plan to do the soup luncheon in our fellowship building, inviting those in the community to fellowship with us.



January 2020

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- January**
- 2 Julie Poplin
 - Ann Burgess
 - 4 Jean Little
 - 7 Sonja Linthicum
 - Taryn Barringer
 - 9 Carol Kiker
 - Jordan Hunt
 - 10 Jane Barnhardt
 - 11 James Hudson
 - 13 Teri Bowers
 - 14 Carolyn Hinson
 - 15 Janet Jackson
 - 18 Lana Lambert
 - 19 Dana Jenkins
 - 23 Ashley Morton
 - Chris Johnson
 - 24 Josiah Waits
 - 26 Vivian Williams
 - 29 Lori Efird

February 3 Eddie Henry

Please email or call the church office with additions to or deletions from the calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Weekly Sunday Schedule Sunday School - 9:45 a.m. Worship - 11:00 a.m.			1 No Services New Year's Day	2 12:00 p.m. GOBA Meeting	3 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
5 8:15 a.m. Deacons' Meeting 5:00 Children's Choir	6 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	7 1:00 p.m. History Committee Meeting	8 12:00 p.m. Prayer at Oakboro Fire Dept 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 Mission Night for All Ages 7:45 Worship Choir	9	10 5:00 p.m.  for Elementary Students
12  5:00 p.m. Proverbs 31 Wannabes War Room Bible Study Children's Choir	13 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	14 11:30 a.m. HOPE Fellowship to Outfitters in Locust	15 12:00 p.m. Prayer at Oakboro Fire Dept 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 TEAMKid, Youth, Adult Bible Study 7:45 Worship Choir	16	17
19	20 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring Martin Luther King Day	21	22 12:00 p.m. Prayer at Oakboro Fire Dept 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 TEAMKid, Youth, Adult Bible Study No Choir	23	24
26  5:00 Children's Choir	27 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	28	29 12:00 p.m. Prayer at Oakboro Fire Dept 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 TEAMKid, Youth, Adult Bible Study 7:45 Worship Choir	30	31 January 31 February 2 