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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 10  
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

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# FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXI No. 3

February 28, 2020



ANNIE  
ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

It's all  
about the  
**gospel**

North American  
Mission Board

PO Box 10  
322 N Main Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
[www.fbcoakboro.org](http://www.fbcoakboro.org)  
[firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com)

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor  
Office (704) 485-4313  
[pastorjwaits@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjwaits@gmail.com)  
(804) 896-4520  
[www.the-nexus.blog](http://www.the-nexus.blog)





Can you feel it? There's a buzz in the air. And, no, that's not yet the sound of the bees returning to their important work. God is moving. He is moving in our midst in powerful ways that are harder and harder to ignore. Sometimes, though, it's hard to see this from on the inside.

You've experienced this kind of thing before. It's the difference between watching your own kids grow up and seeing someone else's kids grow up who you don't see all that often. When it comes to your own kids, you hardly notice them growing because you see them every single day and the difference in them from one day to the next isn't all that striking. You get a shock when they need new pants or shoes for the fourth time in two months, but the day to day growth is all but invisible. But when you see someone else's kids every so often, it's like they're getting Miracle Grow in between the times you see them.

It's the same kind of thing with the church. When God is moving in our midst, building and growing a foundation for great work happening both now and in the future, we don't always see it from day to day. We see mostly the same people week in and week out. The new people coming transition in at a pace that allows the people already here to easily get to know them and start to feel like they've been here for ages as they become part of the family. The noise level increase from kids running amok at the Gathering Place is fairly slow and steady so that it doesn't shock us all at once. If we're not careful, it's easy to let ourselves think that things are on pretty level ground. Things certainly aren't bad, but not much is happening.

If you've thought at all along those lines lately, let me shed some light for you: Things aren't as they appear. God is moving in our midst. He is building a place where people can call home. The work right now may be more akin to site prep than wall framing, but rest assured, there is work happening.

For the people of Israel climbing Mount Zion to worship at the temple in Jerusalem, they pictured a very different kind of building. Remember looking at Psalm 127 last month? *"Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain."* They envisioned God building a nation. He was building a people dedicated to His Law. They were a nation that was to shine like a city on a hill, drawing all the world to see the glories of the Lord of Kings by that light. For them, to build a nation without His involvement in every part of the process down to the tiniest detail was to work in vain. Such was the futility that Solomon would later bemoan through Ecclesiastes. God is building something here at First Baptist, but not like the Israelites envisioned. We'll talk more about what this verse means for us next month. You won't want to miss that.

This building process is an exciting thing, but sometimes, like with our kids, it's easier to see from the outside looking in. I was just talking with someone this past week who has a rich history with this church, but has moved away and is now active with a church closer to home. The enthusiasm in the conversation was palpable. In fact, that's one of the words that was used to describe the current state of things here. I was told this: *From the outside looking in, the things God is doing at First Baptist Oakboro are noticeable. They are palpable and exciting.*

As a pastor, there are few conversations more encouraging than that. Personally, it was a great reminder that the energy and buzz I've been feeling—and I hope you have too—as I look around at our events isn't just a feeling. It's the movement of God in our midst. He is building a place where people can call home.

We are in the process of laying a foundation of kingdom advancement, built on the ground cleared and made ready by the great souls who have come before us, and which will provide a launchpad for incredible ministry in the days ahead of us. God is moving in our midst. Can you feel it? It's going to take everything we have to be a part of it, but the end result will be beyond anything we can even imagine. I don't know about you, but I'm excited.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## Our Record of Giving

<b>Budget Goals – February</b>	<b>24,399.72</b>
<b>Budget Receipts – February</b>	<b>21,017.62</b>
<b>Budget Goals – YTD</b>	<b>158,598.18</b>
<b>Budget Receipts – YTD</b>	<b>170,411.90</b>
<b>Budget Variance</b>	<b>+ 11,813.72</b>
<b>Special Offerings</b>	
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>
<b>Wednesday Meals</b>	<b>107.55</b>
<b>Poor Man's Supper</b>	<b>1,713.40</b>
<b>Youth Camp Deposits</b>	<b>800.00</b>
<b>Children's Camp Deposits/Donations</b>	<b>855.00</b>
<b>Heck-Jones Offering</b>	<b>575.00</b>

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**  
**The annual beach trip will be November 16-18, 2020**





## Plans

Don't you love it when a plan comes together? All of that work, doing preparation activities, thinking of new things to try, and all the other activities are so invigorating. Like planning a family vacation, or a work schedule, or even meal prepping, these things bring us satisfaction. But when the plan doesn't come together, or when the last thing needed doesn't fall into place, frustration and confusion start to set in. All of our work feels like it is for nothing, and we feel defeated. The hotel loses your reservation, or you show up to the wrong hotel. The concert or festival you want to go to is now sold out. The package you've been waiting on gets lost in the mail. All these things have such a potential to ruin someone's day.

Psalm 46 gives us a picture of how to respond in times like these. It begins by describing God as a refuge and strength in times of trouble. It tells us not to fear in the middle of natural disasters or political turmoil. It describes God as a warrior and conqueror. But the chapter climaxes in verse 10: *"Be Still and Know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."*

What is the response from trying to fix our issues? What do we do when we need to scramble and fix things? STOP, BE STILL. This verse tells us to do the exact opposite of what is natural. Take a breath and let God be exalted. Give glory to Him for how things turned out because it's in THIS situation that He is now glorified.

So next time life gets hard, and we think we can fix it by trying harder. Take a breath. Recognize what you can't control and give the rest of it to glorifying God. Because no matter what happens, God gets the glory. Be ready to give it.

## Warmly, Nate



**CentriKid Camp**  
for 3rd-5th grades  
July 6-10  
Gardner-Webb University

**Centrifuge Camp for grades 6-12**  
June 18-22  
Ridgecrest, NC



Deposit Deadline: March 29, \$100

Only 30 student spots available (First Come, First Serve)



Our fifth verse that gives us reason to sing is *"Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."* Ephesians 5:19

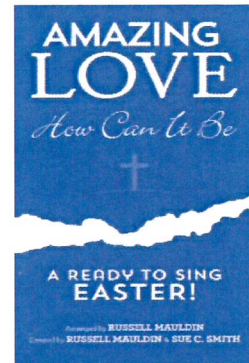
I was reading "The Dialogue of Worship" by Gary A. Furr and Milburn Price recently. This is a paragraph from the book: *"Worship leaders sense both the importance and the privilege of leading worship and that worshipers recognize the extraordinary opportunity that we have to assemble as a community in the presence of God. Matters of great consequence are at great stake whenever a community of faith gathers to meet God. Christian worship is alive and well."*

*Dana B. Jenkins*

On Sunday, **March 1**, following Worship, we'll have chicken salad sandwiches & ice cream sundaes for lunch. We then are traveling to Trinity Place to be with Mae Brooks. ALL Blessed Assurance Sunday School class members are invited.

**March 1** – 5:00 p.m., there will be children's choir.

**March 8** – 1:30 p.m., all children's choir members meet at the church to go to Trinity Place to present a music program along with fellowship time. We will return at 5:00 p.m.



*Presented by*  
*First Baptist, Oakboro*  
*Worship Choir*  
*Sunday evening, April 5, 2020*  
*6:00 p.m.*  
*Church-wide reception will follow.*

**Attention, high school seniors:** Scholarship applications are available in the fellowship building entrance or through your high school guidance counselor. The deadline for these to be submitted is **April 15**.







Please reach out to **Dale Blackwelder**, our newest church member and continue to make him feel at home.

We also welcome **Abel Hawk Esposito**, newborn son of Matthew & Jordan Esposito, and grandson of Tracy & Lisa Lowder. He was born February 23, weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long. Congratulations to the whole family!!



## CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

	Greeters	Nursery/Children's Church
Mar 1	Sue Greene – Sunday School Mickey & Vera Robinson - Worship	Renée Watkins & Deborah Tucker Lisa W. Waits, Angelina Smith
8	Doug & Sheila Hinson – Sunday School Harold & Louise Floyd – Worship	Angelina Smith April Tucker, Meredith Broadway
15	Jeff Chance – Sunday School Doris Hatley – Worship	Ashlea Mooney/Julie Poplin April & Sophie Tucker, Renée Watkins/Sandra Chance
22	Danny & Julie Poplin – Sunday School Thomas & Ellen Meadors – Worship	Lisa & Tracy Lowder
29	Bobby & Renée Watkins – Sunday School Ted Parker – Worship	Danny & Julie Poplin
Apr 5	Eddie & Linda Arrowood – Sunday School Butch Poplin - Worship	Lisa Waits & Ashlea Mooney

Date	Deacon of the Week	Stewardship
Mar 1	Thomas Meadors	Betty Huneycutt
8	Shea Morton	Kevin Floyd
15	Danny Poplin	
22	Nick Wadkins	Usher
29	Chip Alsobrooks	Joe Watkins
Apr 5	Doug Burgess	



*In honor of Mae Brooks, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by the Blessed Assurance Sunday School class.*

*The Worship Choir and Earl & Sue Greene made donations to the Heck-Jones WMU Offering in honor of Mae Brooks.*

*In memory of Charles Osborne, Jr., Chip Osborne's dad, donations were given to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron and Kevin Floyd & Erica Tucker.*



*A contribution was made to the Building Fund in memory of Annie Hartsell by James & Dianne Hudson and Clyde & Mary Hudson.*



## 1-DAY EVENT MAY 2, 2020

- It is community-focused.
- It is targeted in Stanly & Montgomery counties.
- It is hands-on serving.
- It offers something for everyone - all skill levels and ages welcome
- It facilitates church unity - multiple churches working together.
- It gets your people outside of the church to be the church.



## HOPE Fellowship Happenings

March's outing will be on **March 19** to Lexington, NC. We'll have a delicious BBQ lunch then on to Bob Timberlake Gallery. We'd love to have you with us.

On Thursday, **April 9**, leaving the church at 10:00 a.m., we return to the Classic Restaurant in Denton for lunch. Mark your calendars.

In May we plan to stay in Oakboro. We'll start out by meeting at Luna's Pizza at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, **May 6**, followed by dessert at Main Street Cup and Cone.

A picnic is planned at the Oakboro District Park at 12:00 noon on Wednesday, **June 3**. Bring your own bag lunch and join us for fellowship.



Soup Luncheon

### 8th Annual Benefit Concert

*Karen Peck and New River*



**March 28, 2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
 Stanly County  
 Agri-Civic Center  
 Albemarle, NC



See or contact Delinda  
 for tickets.  
 FBCO price is \$15



**Saturday, March 21**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Hot Dog Supper & Bake Auction**

Sign up on the bulletin board and indicate what you are willing to bring for the auction.

Invite family, friend and neighbors to join the fun!

Proceeds go toward camp expenses

## YOUTH SUNDAY

Our youth group is growing—in many ways! Come and support its efforts as they take over leadership roles at the church on Sunday, **March 22**. Invite others to join you and see what God is doing here!

## Irresistible

Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World

This new Andy Stanley Bible study begins Wednesday, **March 18**, at 6:45 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship building entrance if you would like a book and study guide.





- March**
- 1 Vickie Yandle
  - 2 Katie Broadway
  - 4 Sheridan Meadors
  - Lynn Edwards
  - Nick Wadkins
  - 7 Mike Eudy
  - 8 Billy Taylor
  - 10 Lydia Crisco
  - 11 Bill Yandle
  - Brett Smith
  - 15 Mary Ellen Nelms
  - 16 Louise Floyd
  - 18 Jenni Foxx
  - 20 Hunter Floyd
  - Emily Williams
  - 26 Devin Floyd
  - Kevin Floyd
  - 29 Frances Beatty
  - Chance Boger
  - 30 Felix Hinson
  - 31 Rachel Young

Please contact the office to report any changes that need to be made to the birthday calendar.

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG**  
EASTER OFFERING  
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MARCH 2020



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>8:15 a.m. Deacons' Meeting 12:00 p.m. Blessed Assurance Class Lunch &amp; Trip to Trinity Place 3:00 Church Council Meeting 5:00 Children's Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>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</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. GOBA Meeting FBCO Fellowship Building</p>		<p>8:00 a.m. MEN'S Breakfast</p>
<b>Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering</b>						
<p>1:30 p.m. Children's Choir Leaves for Trinity Place 2:00-4:00 Birthday Celebration for Billy Taylor 5:00 Proverbs 31 Wannabes</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>12:00 p.m. Prayer at Oakboro Fire Dept 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:45 TEAMKid, Youth, Adult Business Meeting 7:45 Worship Choir</p>			<p>10:30 a.m. EALS MISSION</p>
<p>11:00 a.m. Children's Choir Sings in Morning Worship 5:00 p.m. Children's Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring</p>		<p>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</p>	<p>9:00 a.m. HOPE Fellowship to Bob Timberlake Gallery in Lexington</p>		<p>5:00 p.m. Youth Ministry Hot Dog Supper Bake Auction</p>
<p>5:00 p.m. Children's Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 9:30 Senior Adult Committee</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Senior Aging Well Conference at South Albemarle Baptist</p>	<p>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</p>			<p>NC Baptist Missions Conference Calvary Baptist, Winston-Salem</p>
<b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b>						
<p>11:00 a.m. FAMILY WORSHIP 3:00 p.m. Student Volunteer Meeting 5:00 Dress Rehearsal Children's Choir</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p><b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>			

**Bereavement Ministry Opportunity:** Please be sure to sign up on the sheet in the fellowship building if you are willing to help provide a meal to grieving families during the loss of their loved ones.