

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Oakboro NC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 10
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXI No. 8

July 29, 2020

*"Be joyful in hope,
patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer."*

Romans 12:12

PO Box 10
322 N Main Street
Oakboro, NC 28129
www.fbcoakboro.org
firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com

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



Welcome to the new era. Which one? The post-COVID era. Our world has changed. It is still changing. It remains to be seen exactly what things will look like when the dust finally settles, but it won't be like it was before. That world is gone. We can pine for it, but that won't do us much good because no amount of pining will bring it back. And don't let yourself go thinking that once we have a vaccine, things will get back to "normal." There is no normal anymore. A vaccine will allow things to begin moving forward again into our new reality, but this season has changed us irrevocably.

That all goes for the culture at large, but it also goes for the church. After all, what is the church if not a group of people who are shaped by whatever culture they inhabit? As we move forward in this new season together—for that is indeed the only way we can go—there are a couple of ways to which we can respond to all of the changes we have faced.

The first way is to bemoan what we have lost. After all, church just isn't like we are used to it being. Worship is shorter. We can't sing. We have to wear those awful masks. It sometimes feels more like a lecture hall than a sanctuary. We can't hug and shake hands and fill the room as much with the joyful sound of people talking and laughing and catching up on their weeks. The sermon is shorter which is certainly a plus, but one bright spot doesn't undo all the other dark marks. And let's not even get started on the lack of normal Sunday school and Wednesday night activities. We have lost so much!

Not a few church members and even whole churches will take this path. It will be so easy to do. After all, mourning something we have lost is normal. And we have indeed lost a great deal. Yet if we do, what will be the result? What kingdom good will be accomplished by this? We'll gripe and complain and turn inward and begin picking at each other and before you know it, the church will be in total disarray.

There is another way. This second way will take more effort, I'll be honest about that right up front with you. It will put a target on our backs like we have perhaps never experienced before. But it will put us fully in line with the early church and the kind of explosive kingdom growth they saw. So, what is this other way?

What we have before us is an opportunity. It is an opportunity the likes of which we have not seen before in any of our lifetimes. We have an opportunity to remind a confused and hurting world just what the church

is and what we can accomplish when the Spirit is our guide. We have an opportunity to minister the Gospel of grace and hope into the hearts and lives of a people who are disillusioned and running right up along the border of despairing. We have an opportunity to remember together just what worship is—to get back to the heart of worship as the classic song calls us to do. We have an opportunity to take some concrete steps in the direction of becoming more fully the church God created us to be.

What a gift our Lord has given us!

Like so many of His gifts, this is not one that we can simply passively receive. It will take some effort on our part, but the harvest is ripe, and the work will be light indeed. It all starts with prayer. That's my call to you here: Pray. Commit yourself alongside your brothers and sisters in the Lord to faithful, diligent, fervent prayer that the Lord Himself will guide us forward to maximize this opportunity to the fullest degree possible. Pray for His wisdom and direction as we consider how we can expand our ministry and be the church this community, this region, this world needs for us to be—the church God designed us to be. Pray for courage to step out as our faithful God leads into new frontiers and new ways of doing church than we've ever considered.

Friends, the road ahead of us, as we begin picking up the pieces from this mess, won't be an easy one. But it can be a very good one. As we lean together into who God made us to be—a place where people connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom—we will experience together the wonder of His good plans. I'm excited, and I hope you are with me.

Pastor Jonathan

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – July	24,399.72
Budget Receipts – July	25,021.25
Budget Goals – YTD	292,796.64
Budget Receipts – YTD	304,953.01
Budget Variance	+ 12,156.37
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	2,015.00
Missions	100.00



Routine

Our routines provide a steady source of familiarity that gives us direction to walk in our lives. They almost happen on a yearly schedule too, don't they? Now, we're wrapping up summer, probably the season with the least routine—but routine, nevertheless. In the summer for students, part of the routine probably includes one or two vacations, sleeping in, and working for high school students. In the fall, school—and with it, activities and sports make their comeback. Over the winter, we slow down the pace of our routine with family trips during Thanksgiving, or Christmas or maybe even a few hunts in the woods during hunting season. In the spring, students begin school again, the weather warms up, and we can plan outdoor activities with family and friends. This routine just described may relate to your year, or it may look a little different. But the point is, we all have a routine that surpasses our daily routine and affects our year as well. Well this year, families can throw all of that out the window. Routines are shot. High schoolers will be at home 66% of the time, Middle Schoolers 50% of the time and Elementary students in many schools will have to adjust to lunch in the classroom, no recess like they have known it, and other different changes. At the time of this writing, the NC High School Athletic Association has suspended any activities until September 1. The feeling is that that will likely be extended throughout the entire fall. So, what does routine look like when we have our older students home most of the time, there are no Friday Night Lights, and we can't travel to see family anymore for risk exposing our more vulnerable family members?

The answer: routine. We are creatures of habit, and no matter the circumstances, we tend to develop routines. It's human nature—and not a bad human nature either. Routines oftentimes give us structure to get stuff done effectively. They only become problematic when filled with things that aren't the best things. The only question that really is unanswered here is not whether you will adapt and develop a new routine, that's a given. It's what will you fill your new routine with? So, what should we fill our routines with? Well, the church. We see constantly in the book of Acts where people devoted themselves daily to prayer, studying Scripture, hanging out with other Christians, and sharing meals and the Lord's Supper together. In other words, their routines were centered around the church because they understood the value of the church. There was not a single day that went by where a church member did not see another church member. The reason: the church to them was more valuable than any other

organization or activity that they could imagine. Can we say the same? In Baptist culture we tend sometimes to put a lot of emphasis on God reaching the individual with salvation and the church just supporting that mission. This is true that God calls out to individuals, but he does so by using his church (Matt. 5:13-16). In fact, Ephesians hits this point by laying out what it looks like to be a believer in the context of the church. The mission of God is to redeem the church. But what is the Church? You know it. The COLLECTIVE group of INDIVIDUALS who have entered relationship with Christ. God works through his church.

With our routines, how central and valuable is church for you? Is there an organization or activity that you may value over it? Most of us, including myself, can probably answer yes to that question with at least one organization or activity. Fixing that requires the Gospel; however, we won't naturally love the church. Our nature is sinful. We must have God plant that into our hearts, and after it is planted, he still sustains it by growing it, not us. Only when Christ is first in your heart and life can the church be your number one activity or organization. Because, well, it's his church; he and it go together.

In post-COVID-19 society, once we have made Christ our everything, how can we make and include the church into our new routines that will form? Two things: Ask Christ to help you to emulate the Christians in Acts by never wanting to miss what is going on in church life. Also, along those lines, help be the one in the church that serves in creating and running ways for the church to minister in this post-pandemic world. We must be creative in this new world, but if we all are sold out on the value of Christ and his church, there's nothing, not a pandemic, not cancellations, not the gates of hell, that can stop it.

Blessings and Prayers,

Nate



Just a
reminder...

Please text, email or call to sign up for Sunday's service of your choice each week, either 8:30 or 11:00 a.m.

Hymn of Praise

"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Psalm 33:20-22

"Praise must be the top priority in our lives. When Isaiah saw the Lord face to face, he trembled in fear because of his sins. In Isaiah 6, we can only imagine the utter majesty and glory of the Lord, which Isaiah saw. But even this tiny glimpse of God's holiness (Psalm 33) can result in uninhibited praise and worship." ([A Musician Looks at the Psalms](#) – Don Wyrzten)



It has been wonderful all through the month of July being in public worship. It was a very special service when we partook of the Lord's supper in the individual servings set.



Please continue to pray for many of our senior adult-age members in nursing homes. Mrs. Bonnie Richardson was recently transferred to Autumn Care in Marshville. Please make a note in your directory.

*"With a grateful heart,"
Dana B. Jenkins*



"Thank you for the food, love and concern you have shown to our family. May God bless you today and forever."

The Family of Ruth Turner

Thank You!

*"Mother's greatest joy in her life was her church family. She loved the weekly visits from her friends at church. She saved all the cards she received and read them over and over. She also looked forward to Dana and Chip's visits to bring a meal or just stop by to check on her. Please know that we thank God for the love and the prayers for Mom." God bless",
David, Jean & Cindy (The Turner Family)*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards, donations, and Gideon Bibles given in memory of my sister, Gladys Yow."

Love, Joyce Little

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

At the annual church conference on Sunday, **August 9**, we will be voting for 4 deacons. The following (or their spouses) are not eligible because they are currently serving or are rotating off this year (noted by an asterisk). *Chip Alsobrooks, Doug Burgess, *Jim Cameron, Jeff Chance, Cliff Edwards, *Matt Hudson, Tracy Lowder, Thomas Meadors, *Shea Morton, Danny Poplin, and Nick Wadkins.

The annual Church Budget prepared by the Stewardship Committee and the Nominating Committee report also will be voted upon during the conference.

Due to our having 2 services, there will be a conference held after each of the services. The votes will be combined after the 11:00 Worship.

Join us for FBCO Students Ministries' pool party on Wednesday, August 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It will be at the Oakboro Swim Club on Pecan Drive. Please go online at www.fbcoakboro.org or our Facebook page and click to register if you plan to attend. Social distancing guidelines will be followed. Please contact Nate or the office for more information.



New Grandson

Delinda and Donnie Huneycutt welcome new grandson, **Josiah Allen Huneycutt**. Born July 14, 2020, he weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 20¼ inches long. Wesley and Kayla (Teeter) Huneycutt are his proud parents, and he joins big sisters Emma, Jamie & Addie. Joe & Betty Huneycutt are thrilled to be his great-grandparents, and Uncle Chris Huneycutt is ready to spoil him. Congratulations to the entire family!





*In honor of **Harold Floyd**, a contribution was given by Jeff & Sandra Chance to the Building Fund.*

*The Blessed Assurance Sunday school class made donations to the Building Fund in honor of **Harold Floyd, Margie Helms, Lorrie Hatley & Bea Goodman.***

*In memory of **Ruth Turner**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class*

- Eddie & Linda Arrowood*
- Doug & Ann Burgess*
- Jim & Cheryl Cameron*
- Dennis & Debbie Chaney*
- Mike & Ann Eudy*
- Vera Eudy*
- Terry & Suzanne Huneycutt*
- Tim & Betsy Tysinger*
- Doris Hatley*
- Brooks & Jane Barnhardt*
- First Baptist Church, Oakboro*

*A contribution was made by Mae Brooks to Missions in memory of **Ruth Turner.***

*In memory of **Jackie Mayo**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by the Ladies' Care Ring.*

*In memory of **Gladys Yow**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Jeff & Sandra Chance
The Worship Choir.*

*In memory of **Earl Greene**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Jeff & Sandra Chance
Doug & Ann Burgess.*

*In memory of **Roy Helms**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Jeff & Sandra Chance
Doug & Ann Burgess.*

*In memory of **Bonda Whitley**, donations was given to the Building Fund by
Doug & Ann Burgess
Mae Brooks
Geneva Beachum.*



Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA



FOOD DRIVE

COLLECTING AUGUST 10TH-20TH

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the April Food Round-Up was cancelled, but the needs remain the same!

Donations can be dropped off at the SMBA office Monday—Thursday, 8:00am—4:00pm. If this timeframe doesn't work, please put your donations in our Cargo Van that will be parked in front of the building.



STANLY-MONTGOMERY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

A list of items is available on the glass table in the fellowship building entranceway. Please help these children in need by picking up a few extra things while shopping. Monetary donations also are welcome.



Happy Birthday!

- August 1 Kelli Coley
- 2 T. J. Smith
- 13 Pattygene Baggie
- 14 Meredith Broadway
- 15 Naley Barringer
- 16 Vera Robinson
- 18 Debbie Edwards
- 20 Claudia Boger
- 21 Julie Castelloe
- 22 Bobby Watkins
- 24 Reagan West
- Merideth Eudy
- 26 Tom Rogers
- Carla Smith
- Nate Barringer
- 27 Victoria McEachern
- 28 Brooks Barnhardt
- Sheila Hinson
- 29 Helena McClellan

- September 2 Aline Tarlton
- 3 Cameron Stroud
- 4 Steve Williams

Please contact the church office with any revisions that need to be made to the birthday calendar.



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

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

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				 FOOD DRIVE COLLECTING AUGUST 10TH-20TH		
	10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom (College/Career, Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance) 5:30-6:30 p.m. Middle School Students 7:00-8:00 High School Students	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. SCHOOL	
Annual Church Conference (after each Worship service)	10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom 5:30-6:30 p.m. Elementary Students	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:30 - 8:30 Student Ministries'  Oakboro Swim Club		
10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom 5:30-6:30 p.m. Middle School Students 7:00-8:00 High School Students	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live			
10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom 5:30-6:30 p.m. Elementary Students	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live			
10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer			Weekly Sunday Schedule 8:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship		