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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

The Communicator

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Compelled by
LOVE

Offering envelopes and prayer guides are
available for you on the tables.

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



What lens do you use to interpret and interact with the world around you? That's kind of a big and complicated question, isn't it? I mean, who sits around and thinks about something like that unless they're either a philosopher or bored...or both? But, while we may not give the question much thought on a day-to-day basis, we all have a lens. Another way to put that is that we all have a worldview. We have a set of answers to the big

questions of life that govern how we engage with the rest of it even in ways we don't realize, much less recognize.

For some people, their lens is determined primarily by a past experience. They were wounded long ago, and that wound still shapes the kinds of assumptions they make about the people around them. They operate primarily from a sense of self-protection. Others grew up getting everything they want and so naturally assume the world will always go their way. An increasingly common lens for folks nowadays is politics. For many people, everything is political. Every situation is a chance to score a political victory or else to resist the political machinations of a political enemy. Some had a blissful childhood and thus bring a pretty optimistic countenance to the situations they are facing. Some lenses are more helpful than others, but everybody has a lens.

I want to push you just a bit beyond thinking about the lens you do have, though, to thinking about the lens you should have. What kind of lens should you have to guide your engagements with the world around you? Well, if you would claim the mantle of "Jesus follower," there's not really a question on the matter of should. You may have any one of a number of different lenses to see the world, but the lens you should have is a Gospel one.

But what does it mean to have a Gospel lens? Well, for starters, it means that the Gospel is the thing that defines all our interactions with the world around us. Okay, but what does that mean? It means that the advance of the Gospel into the world around us should be the overriding concern we bring to everything we do. The question we bring to everything we do is this: Is this going to advance the Gospel into the lives of the people around us? If the answer is yes, we proceed. If the answer is no, we can't do it.

It goes even deeper than that, though. Advancing the Gospel becomes not merely the thing which determines what we do, it determines how we do

the things we do. A good thing can be done in a harmful or hurtful way. So we ask: If I do this thing in this way, will the Gospel advance or retract? Only the former gives us leave to move forward.

What does this mean for us? As the culture around us continues to change and become more and more alien as far as the Christian worldview is concerned, our use of a Gospel lens will increasingly become the thing that makes us stand out...just like it did the first church in Acts.

Friends, there is a reason we've been telling this story for the last two months together and why we will continue telling it for the next few weeks. We are more and more living in a first-century world as far as the reception we get when we walk out of the doors of our fellowship building. It was the Gospel lens of the first church that allowed them to continue to rise up and overcome one challenge after another. It will be our consistent application of a Gospel lens that will allow us to thrive as we move forward into this new season together.

This means we have a challenge to face as a church: How can we together make sure that all the things we are doing, we are doing for the sake of the Gospel; for the sake of making sure we have thoroughly embraced it ourselves (for there is no other power or means by which we have a hope of being successful in any venture we pursue), and for the sake of making sure we are advancing its reach into the world around us. This question must drive when we do things like open our building to the community for students to be able to access the internet. It must drive us when we commit to things like mask-wearing even when it is uncomfortable and inconvenient. It drives us when we worship together and commit to finding creative ways to discipling one another in the faith in spite of the challenges that presents to us.

None of this will be easy, but it is our call all the same. We are to be advancing the Gospel by creating a place, defined by a people, with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. That's our call. That's what we are doing. We are together laying the groundwork for a powerful movement of God's Spirit. A consistent Gospel lens will see us get there with the help and direction of His Spirit. I can't wait to see what tomorrow brings!

Pastor Jonathan



In memory of **Ruth Turner**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Ted & Jewell Parker
Trent Morgan
Lynn Lowder
Cathy Furr
Reid & Angelia Love
Tracy & Lisa Lowder

In memory of **Gladys Yow**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Doug & Ann Burgess.

In memory of **Steven Brinson**, contributions were given to the Building Fund by Doug & Ann Burgess and Tracy & Lisa Lowder.

In memory of **Roy Helms**, Ted & Jewell Parker made a donation to the Building Fund.

In memory of **Jesse Baldwin**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks.

In memory of **Ted Hinson**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron.

Contributions were given to the Building Fund in memory of **Tom Rogers** by:
Ted & Jewell Parker
Tracy & Lisa Lowder
Doris Hatley
Brooks & Jane Barnhardt
Sue Greene
and First Baptist, Oakboro.

In memory of **Tom Rogers**, donations were made to the Scholarship Fund by:
Tom & Cherry Arvin
Bill & Rebecca Jackson
George & Doris Reynolds
Jim & Cheryl Cameron
James & Dianne Hudson
and Chip & Dot Alsobrooks.

In memory of **Joe Huneycutt**, donations were given to the Building Fund by
The Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class
Janet Little
Bill & Beverly Johnson
Jim & Cheryl Cameron
Nancy Haywood
Mae Brooks

Doug & Ann Burgess
First Baptist Church, Oakboro
Yugonda, Dennis, Chuck, Tonya, Chad, Becky, Colton, Nathan, Chay, Jamie, and Cameron Underwood
Chera, John, Lauren, and Mason Maske

Kay Barbee
Ted & Jewell Parker
Brooks & Jane Barnhardt
Sherrill & Sandra Jordan
Chip & Dot Alsobrooks
The Brotherhood
Marilyn Huneycutt
Doris Hatley
Tracy & Lisa Lowder
Carolyn & Mark Hinson
Cliff & Lynn Edwards
Sue Greene

Doug & Ellen Little
Terry & Bernadette Smith and Family
Gloria, Tony & Teresa Smith
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
and The Worship Choir.



In honor of **Catherine Thomas**, the Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class and The Worship Choir made donations to the Building Fund.

In honor of **Harold Floyd**, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by Ted & Jewell Parker.

The Worship Choir gave a donation to the Building Fund in honor of **Bill Yandle**.

Sing! Global 2020

I am excited to have the opportunity to be a registered participant in Sing! Global 2020. This will be a 4-day immersive digital conference for leaders, families and churches around the world to encourage deeper worship.

This conference was held in Nashville, TN in recent years, but because of Covid-19, it was moved to online. I will hear from over 100 speakers and artists from around the world. Some of these include Keith & Kristyn Getty, John Piper, Joni Eareckson Tada, J. I. Packer, Steven Curtis Chapman, Alistair Begg, Travis Cottrell, Bill Gaither, and many more.

There will be an evening of prayer led by David Platt and singing from vibrant virtual choirs. There will be many new hymns sung. Speaking of hymns, the Gettys have been very instrumental in the “Resurgence of Hymnody” (the singing or composition of hymns). In their book “Sing” (a book I presented The Worship Choir with 2 years ago), there is a chapter that talks about Families Singing the Hymns Together. Hymns include “Power in the Blood,” “Jesus Paid It All,” How Great Thou Art,” and even more modern hymns like “In Christ Alone,” “Speak, O Lord,” and “The Power of the Cross.”

When the Children’s Choir was meeting, we were enjoying singing several of these hymns with the Getty-published arrangements. Some scripture focus as I prepare for this upcoming conference include:

“To taste and see that the Lord is good.” Psalm 34:8

“I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.”

Psalm 119:131

“I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from old – things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” Psalm 78:2-4

“I covet your prayers as I continue in The Worship Class and attend this online worship setting to help strengthen ‘my’ personal worship so that it may increase leadership in corporate worship.”

*“Singing as I go,”
Dana B. Jenkins*



One Year

As I write this, we are currently three days away from August 28th. When you receive this newsletter, August 28th has passed. August 28th makes one year of Marisa and I being a part of the FBC Oakboro family. (Can you believe it’s already been a year?) What a year it’s already been! Remember that first night we all chugged cokes in the fellowship hall? (Yes, students still talk about that.) Or remember the Sunday we baptized 7 people!? What a day! Remember the fall festival where we crammed who knows how many people into our fellowship hall? Covid-19 makes that seem unreal now. Or maybe you remember how you may have been a part of the older student Lock-In, where very few students slept and most danced on stage at 4 a.m. Maybe it was too early in the morning to want to remember stuff like that, or anything earlier for that matter? And who can forget the countless Wednesday nights where it seemed like there were more students: elementary and middle and high school, just running around everywhere. Then we all remember when we had to shut down services. When church was Facebook live and Zoom calls. And now, resuming in-person meetings, with our students meeting regularly as well. My point to all this is that there has been a lot in the past year that we can celebrate, a lot to learn from, a lot to grow off of, but in everything the past year, a lot to give thanks for. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to give thanks in everything. I thank God beyond measure for the past year and cannot wait for what we can give him thanks for in the future. Here’s to many more thankful years.

With thanks and a happy anniversary,

Nate



At the annual church conference on Sunday, **August 9**, both the Nominating and Stewardship committee reports were approved, and the following deacons were elected: Jimmy Copple, Kevin Floyd, Doug Hinson, and Mike McClellan. Copies of the reports are available by calling the church office.



“Dear Pastor Jonathan and Church Family,

Thank you for the donation made to the Building Fund in memory of Joe. It has been a long, hard journey, but you have been there for us every step of the way. We could never adequately thank you for all the acts of kindness you have shown to us.

You have visited, sent cards, called to check on us, brought food, loved us and prayed for us. What a loving church family you are. God is so good, and we are blessed. Thank you again for everything.

With love,
Betty Huneycutt and Family



Just a reminder...

Please text, email or call to sign up for Sunday's service of your choice each week, either 9:00 or 11:00 a.m.

Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip



We are in the final planning phase of our annual trip to Myrtle Beach, which will be **November 16-18**. This year we will be going to the Alabama Theatre Christmas show and one other. The shows are being held with social distancing and other guidelines being implemented. Discussions are being held with the trip coordinators, the hotel and other people involved. Our group may cancel the arrangements up to one month in advance (depending on how things look at that time). Individuals may cancel up to 2 weeks before, which is November 2. Many have already contacted Delinda and Betty about their desire to go on the trip. If you haven't done so, please let them know **if you are interested**. Pricing should be in the neighborhood of past trips. More information will be available next week, but please call and reserve your spot.

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – August	24,399.72
Budget Receipts – August	22,015.94
Budget Goals – YTD	317,196.36
Budget Receipts – YTD	326,968.95
Budget Variance	+ 9,772.59
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	2,210.00
Scholarship	345.00
Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Meals on a Mission	100.00
Brotherhood	25.00

September's Emphasis is the NC Missions Offering. The money received through this fund Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, Mission Camps, Associational Projects and Mobilization Ministry Project within our state. Envelopes and prayer guides for your use are located on the entranceway tables.









- September 2 Aline Tarlton
Maddy Efrid
3 Cameron Stroud
4 Steve Williams
6 Telia Baucom
Doris Hatley
7 Wil Kippes
9 Renée Watkins
Justin Barringer
13 Lennon Henry
Chris Kiker
14 Ellen Meadors
Gale Medlin
16 Laney Castelloe
19 Tina Ross
20 Sue Greene
Trevor McClellan
22 Wes Tucker
24 Catherine Thomas
25 Harrison Montgomery
27 Marilyn Huneycutt
Ashlea Mooney
28 Andy Castelloe
Jill Turner
29 Shea Morton
30 Noah Waits

- October 2 Hope Gaston
Sandra Chance

Please email or call the church office to make any changes to the birthday list.

	Wed	Thu	Fri			
	1 2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:00 Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students	2 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	3	4	5	
6 10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom (College/Career, Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)	7 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	8 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	9 2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:00 Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students	10 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	11  12  Middle & High School Students Volunteer at Mint Hill Lions ClubsK Run at Oakboro Park then Carolina Treetop Challenge	
13 10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom	14 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	15 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	16 2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:00 Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students	17 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	18 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Elementary Students  19	
20 10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom	21 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 	22 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	23 2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:00 Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students	24 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	25	26 6:00 p.m. Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students
27 10:00 a.m. Sunday School via Zoom Children's Committee Meeting 5:30-6:30 p.m. Elementary Students	28 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	29 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	30 2:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live 6:00 Middle School Students 7:15 High School Students	<p>Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship</p>		