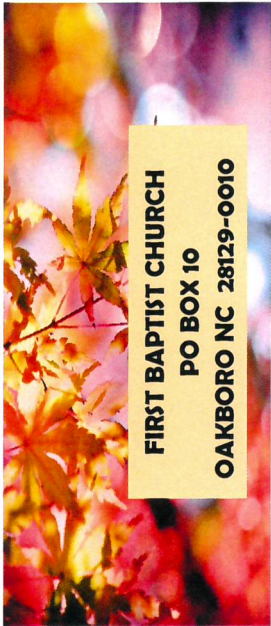


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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**PO BOX 10**  
**OAKBORO NC 28129-0010**

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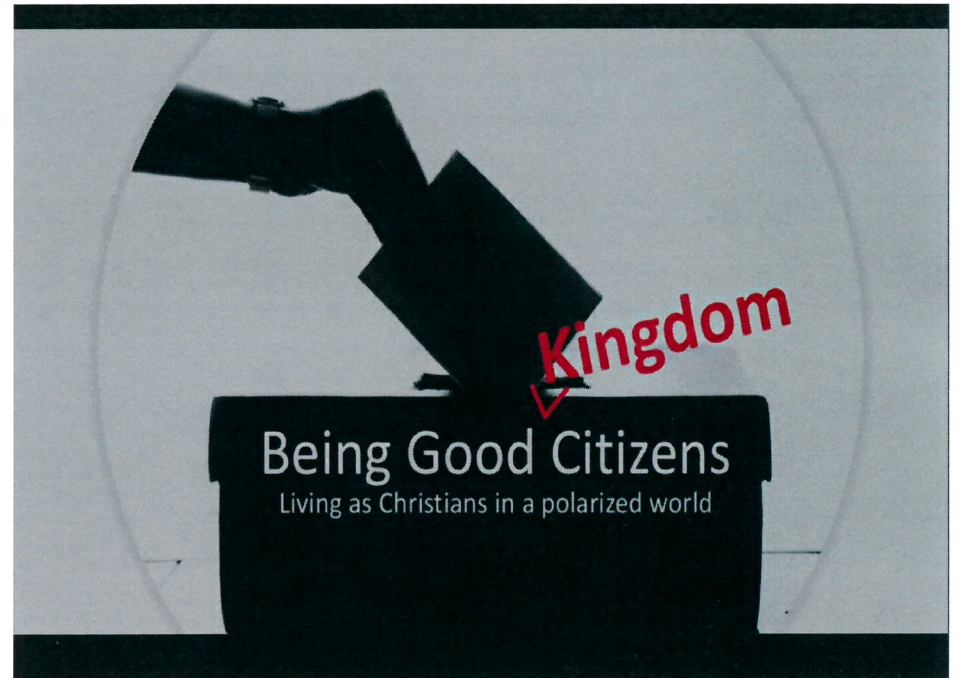


**FIRST BAPTIST**  
O A K B O R O

## The Communicator

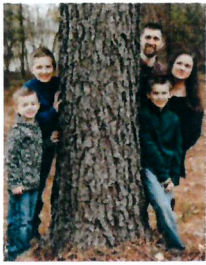
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God is moving in our midst. Can you feel Him?

As we enter formally into the fall season and things still don't feel quite like we want them to feel, it might be a little tricky for you to tell. Not to mention, our fellowship together—which was and will be one of our greatest strengths—is still suffering a bit under the weight of COVID, which means the normal flow of news isn't happening quite like it normally does.

With that in mind, let me pull back the curtain a bit for you. One of the challenges that any church faces these days is getting people to know who they are and what they are doing. An unexpected blessing of COVID for many churches is the fact that their digital footprint has radically increased the number of folks who are at least aware of their presence. Many churches are reporting online engagements that far outstrip their pre-COVID in person engagements. We've benefitted from this too, but in a way we could not have imagined.

As school began this year, we opened our doors to virtual students who didn't have access to reliable, high speed internet. Like we would have done with any new ministry venture, we created a post about this on Facebook. It hit 1,000 views faster than any post we've ever created. Then 3,000. Then 5,000. Then 10,000. It finally stopped showing up in newsfeeds at about the 15,000 views mark. Then the Stanly News and Press published an article online about it. Then WCNC out of Charlotte reached out to do an interview about it. And then Spectrum News out of Charlotte, whose reporter saw the WCNC story, reached out to do an interview about it. In short, more people have now heard of First Baptist Oakboro than have ever known about us before.

God is moving. Can you feel Him?

Or how about our worshipping together? Like many churches, our post-quarantine attendance is not nearly to where it was pre-quarantine, but you have been faithful in ways many churches have not experienced. I heard about a church the other day with a pre-quarantine average attendance of 2,500. They're currently running about 800. Our attendance and offerings both have held strong in a season when many churches are struggling mightily. That's because of you. Your faithfulness itself is a sign of God moving in our midst.

Then there's the aspect of ministering to our community. I got an email out of the blue last week from the YMCA in Albemarle. They noticed us because of all that attention I just mentioned. We are currently in talks exploring the possibility of our partnering with them to serve students learning virtually in an even more impactful way than we've been able to do thus far.

We're also gearing up for a bit of normalcy with our partnership with Operation Christmas Child and our annual Trunk or Treat event. Now, that latter one will look a bit differently from before for obvious reasons, but we are gearing up for it to be a big event all the same. In other words, we are still moving intentionally in the direction of living out the identity our God has given us to be a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom.

God is moving. Can you feel Him?

The real question for you is this: How are you playing a part of what God is doing in and through First Baptist Oakboro right now? How are you here, connected, invested, serving, and growing? The simple truth is: What we've seen so far hasn't happened without you and what comes next won't either. But when we all stand together as the church God created us to be, we'll get the joy of experiencing together God's great plans for us.

*Pastor Jonathan*

### OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – September	25,368.96
Budget Receipts – September	23,120.00
Budget Variance	- 2,248.96
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,345.00
Scholarship	365.00
NC Missions Offering	315.00



Do you remember the Zoom days for our students? They were great at first, but slowly we all got zoomed out. Zoom was a great tool, but eventually we all craved in-person gatherings; and rightfully so. We are meant to be a social people, meant for community. Most of our small groups have been back in person now for about two months, and praise God for that. Two months of being together, uninterrupted by COVID, and we've been adding things to being back in person slowly but surely." Things still feel incomplete at times, don't they? I personally miss the meals on Wednesdays, not having to enforce social distancing among students, being able to play games where it didn't matter how close students were together, and even being able to fit our entire church into one service.

We long for the normal to come back, but unfortunately it isn't, at least not in the next few years. As we've talked about in the past, that can be a good thing. A good thing where God can use us as a blank slate to reimagine our ministry focus. A place where God can burst down the doors of the church, grow the number of salvations, baptisms, and disciple-making in our midst. He can do that through adding new families. If you read the ethnographic research on our town of Oakboro, 75% of all multi-person homes here consist of a married couple with school-aged children. These are the families in Oakboro READY to be reached. The fields are ready to be toiled with these families, seeds ready to be planted, sprouts ready to be nurtured, and harvests ready to be gathered. John 4:34-38 tells us of this concept when Jesus says that they fields are "white with the harvest." FBC Oakboro should be exploding with new families.

But it doesn't feel like that all the time in our church, does it? We reach out to families, invite them to church, tell them what we believe in our conversations with them, and maybe even ask them if they had given any thought to believing in this faith themselves. More times than not it feels like we fail and then wonder, "what harvest, Jesus?." This is because we fail to emphasize the entire passage of John 4. If you read it, you find that Jesus goes on to make another point to his disciples—that they are going to get to reap what others have sown. Somebody did the hard work of tilling the soil, aka building a simple friendship relationship with that person. Someone sowed the first seeds, aka told them about the Gospel for the first time. Someone watered the sprout, aka walked with them, and answered their hard questions and doubts as their journey toward Christ

moved further along. Then finally, someone harvested, aka led them to a salvation response and began to disciple them.

The point is this, in the people around us and the families in Oakboro that need to be reached, it's a process. Someday God will kick down the doors and so many families will join the church, be saved, be baptized and begin serving and being disciplined themselves. It'll seem we won't be able to keep up, but right now, in a weird time for our church, we're doing good work to prepare for that. Tilling the soil, planting seeds, and watering sprouts. All the activity around here is in preparation for that. So, the question is: what are you doing in the life of a student or family to prepare for the harvest?

Big things are coming from God; in His timing. He'll kick down the doors and have an awesome harvest; but until then, will we be faithful in tilling, in planting seeds, and watering sprouts? Even if it is hard and weird at times, faithfulness will carry us through.

**Nate**

**DRIVE THROUGH  
TRUNK OR TREAT  
EXPERIENCE**

**Oakboro Park  
October 31, 2020  
6:30 - 7:30 pm**

**Candy & Prizes**  
\*as long as supplies last\*

**Visitors must stay inside their  
vehicle at all times**

Please bring canned items to donate  
to West Stanly Christian Ministry



*In memory of **Gladys Yow**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Eddie & Linda Arrowood.*

*In memory of **Roy Helms**, donations were given to the Building Fund by Harold & Louise Floyd and Kevin Floyd & Erica Tucker.*

*Contributions were given to the Building Fund in memory of **Tom Rogers** by:  
Jeff & Sandra Chance  
Harold & Louise Floyd  
Kevin Floyd & Erica Tucker.*

*In memory of **Tom Rogers**, donations were made to the Scholarship Fund by:  
Doug & Ann Burgess  
Eddie & Linda Arrowood  
Bud & Teresa Smith  
Josephine Allen  
Ellen Parker  
Judy Everett  
Barbara & Cornelius Waksmunski.*



*In memory of **Earl Greene**, a donation was given to the Building Fund By the Joy Sunday School class.*

*In memory of **Joe Huneycutt**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:  
Jeff & Sandra Chance  
Harold & Louise Floyd  
Eddie & Linda Arrowood  
Kevin Floyd & Erica Tucker  
Glenn & Naomi Hatley.*



*In honor of **Marlene Barbee**, the Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class made a donation to the Building Fund.*

## A Definition of Worship

*“Worship is our response to God’s revelation.”*  
Mike Harland (formerly with Lifeway Worship; now First Baptist Church, Jackson MS)

This is based on two scriptures:

- 1) Paul’s definition of worship in Romans 12:1 NASB: *“Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”*
- 2) The greatest of all commandments is found in Mark 12:30 NIV: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”*

The Psalms, our biblical guidebook to worship, continually invites us into various physical expressions of worship.

- Kneel before the Lord
  - Bow down
  - Prostrate before God
  - Stand in awe and wonder
  - Be still
  - Shout
  - Clap your hands
  - Lift your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord
  - Raise a banner
  - Dance before the Lord
- (Material taken from **Renewing Worship Class** – NC Baptist State Convention)



I am learning so much in this online worship class. I look forward to seeing you Sunday!

*Dana B. Jenkins*



On Sunday, **October 18**, we will kick off this year’s Operation Christmas Child shoe box event. Boxes and other related items are here. Start praying for and thinking of what you would like to place in your box. More than toys, OCC impacts lives for God’s kingdom!



- October**
- 2 Hope Gaston
  - Sandra Chance
  - 7 Scott Broadway
  - Ann Eudy
  - 12 Gavin Hudson
  - Marisa Sisson
  - 15 David Love
  - Linda Arrowood
  - Jonathan Waits
  - Arabella Smith
  - 16 Graham Tucker
  - 17 Cheryl Cameron
  - 18 Gerald Lee
  - 19 Matthew Thompson
  - 21 Lorrie Hatley
  - 22 Wiley Little
  - 23 Bea Goodman
  - 25 Jewell Parker
  - Missy Wadkins
  - Angelina Smith
  - 26 Terrell Watts
  - 28 Eddie Arrowood
  - Zach Broadway
  - 31 Drew Williams
- November**
- 1 Bud Smith
  - Michael Thompson
  - Robbie Foxx
  - 3 Cooper Hudson
  - Gray Crisco

Please call or email the office with any changes to the birthday calendar.



		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun					
					1	2					
						3					
<b>Monday-Thursday</b> <b>8:15-10:30 a.m.</b> <b>1:00-3:00 p.m.</b> Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access		<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> <i>9:00 a.m. Worship</i> <i>11:00 a.m. Worship</i>									
4	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> Sunday School via Zoom (College/Career, Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)	5	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Two or More Prayer	6	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live <b>6:00</b> Middle School Students <b>7:15</b> High School Students	7	<b>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</b> YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	8			
11	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> Sunday School via Zoom <b>2:00 p.m.</b> Deacons' Meeting <b>5:30-6:30 p.m.</b> Elementary Students	12	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Two or More Prayer	13		14	<b>2:00 p.m.</b> Weekly Bible Study via Facebook Live <b>6:00</b> Middle School Students <b>7:15</b> High School Students	15	<b>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</b> YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	16	
18	<b>HOMECOMING</b> <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Sunday School via Zoom <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Elementary, Middle & High School Teachers' Meeting	19	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Two or More Prayer	20		21	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Bible Study for All            Age Groups Resume</b>	22	<b>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</b> YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	23	
25	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> Elementary Students Sunday School Resumes Sunday School via Zoom (College/Career, Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)	26	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Two or More Prayer	27		28	<b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Bible Study for All            Age Groups</b>	29	<b>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</b> YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	30	