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# FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

## The Communicator

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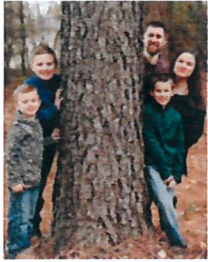
October 29, 2020



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Is it over yet?

Could we just go ahead and make that the official theme of 2020? This year has been one potent challenge after another, hasn't it? As soon as one thing begins to let up, there is another waiting in the wings to come in and take its place. And usually the next act doesn't even bother waiting for the previous act to leave the stage before running out to get started. And to think, the year seemed so normal for the first three months. Feels like that was another decade ago.

The truth for most of us is that we're just tired. We're tired. We're tired of dealing with the garbage of the day when the garbage of yesterday still hasn't been taken up. We're tired of having our routines interrupted. We're tired of having to do things differently. We're tired of worrying about ourselves and our families and the people around us. We're tired of hearing about people dying in droves. We're tired of warnings about how bad things are going to get. We want to just reset things to how they were. This load is heavy beyond what we want to continue bearing.

But it just keeps coming.

How do we manage to hold up in a season like this one? How do we keep moving forward? How do we own up to the fact that we're not fine regardless of what we tell one another on Sunday mornings or when we meet around town without collapsing into a disheveled mess on the floor?

I can give you two answers to those questions today. The first is this: Don't lose sight of what matters most. Jesus is still on His throne. Not a single thing that has happened this year has surprised Him. None of it. He's still got a plan to bless the world through the church, and that means we have a role to play. Challenges and trials will come. He guaranteed it. But we're moving toward something entirely larger than any one challenge we may be facing in a given season. God is making us more and more into a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. That still includes a new worship and discipleship space in our future. Our timeline has been upset, but His hasn't. Instead, He's positioning us such that when we take that step together a few months from now, we are poised to have an even bigger impact on this community than we could imagine. When we keep this

kind of big picture stuff fully in view, the immediate woes and worries we are facing shrink a bit back to the size they really are.

The second answer is this: Don't miss a single Sunday morning this month. This coming Sunday we are kicking off a brand-new teaching series called, "I'm Fine." For the next three weeks we are going to be talking about the fact that if we're honest, we're not fine more often than we are. But rather than having to merely sit and wallow in our misery, the Gospel offers us a hope in Christ that we won't find anywhere else. So would you join me for some hope in this hard season? I can't wait to share it with you.

*Pastor Jonathan*

### OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – October	25,368.96
Budget Receipts – October	21,432.00
Budget Goals -- YTD	50,737.92
Budget Receipts -- YTD	44,552.00
Budget Variance	- 6,185.92
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,830.00
NC Missions Offering	10.00
Trunk or Treat	300.00
Ministry Appreciation	905.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	40.00
Youth Center Donation	50.00



Samaritan's Purse  
OPERATION  
Christmas Child

**Boxes are Due  
November 8**

**Good News!  
Great Joy!**

*Pack a box. Impact a life.*





## For the Sake of Others

The topic of studies we've been going through at FBC Oakboro has made for a few fun weeks here, particularly on Sunday mornings with Jonathan and our Wednesday nights with our High Schoolers. Both series have focused on the importance of how Christians should be good Kingdom citizens and relate to politics over the course of this election season. I for one have learned and been challenged on Sundays and in the preparation of Wednesday's lessons. I also have been extremely impressed with our students in how they have discussed this issue so well and in such a respectful matter. If you've sat in or taught a lesson during a Wednesday night, I'm sure you'd agree.

During these studies, both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, we've consistently hit on the idea that before we are Republican or Democrat, or even before we are an American, we are citizens of the Kingdom of God. Kingdom Citizens are marked for their love for God, and other people. But in this political environment in which we live in, can you sense in the air something different? As I write this, I have seen at least 30 political advertisements, watched the final presidential debate, and received 5 political flyers in the mail, all within the last 24 hours. Our focus as Kingdom citizens is on serving others and their families. I can't help noticing that a lot of political advertisements focus on electing a candidate that will bring change that will be helpful for you and your family. While our families are obviously important, when is the last time you heard a political advertisement that encouraged you to use your vote to elect a candidate who will make someone else's life better and not your own? I'm not sure I've seen one yet. Even advertisements that champion social justice or equality still petition you that this is the right thing for you to do and that in the long run it'll benefit you and society, but it still will ultimately benefit you in their eyes. There haven't been many advertisements where someone in need of help is interviewed and then you are challenged to vote for this candidate so they can solely help the person that was interviewed. In some fashion, the advertisement always ends with the focus on how this election will affect you. But the truth is, whichever way you vote next Tuesday or even if you aren't old enough to vote yet, we as Kingdom citizens are explicitly called to focus on the well-being of others and see others as more significant than ourselves. Philippians 2:3 says this clearly: *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."* (ESV)

Or how about our worshiping 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.

Going back to how well our students have been engaged in this conversation about politics, I just want to brag on them a little bit. In the 5 weeks of this study so far, the atmosphere at the end of each lesson was that of "how can I live, or what can I do that challenges me to give up my rights to serve others?". As Kingdom citizens, both student and adult continue to think on how to live out this idea throughout our lives, ask yourself, how can I think of others as more significant than myself, just like Christ did? What ways can I take action to do this? Maybe it's with a vote for a certain candidate, maybe it's with a kind word, maybe it's with food, maybe it's with an intentional friendship that needs to be built. It'll be unique for everyone. But the challenge remains, how can our lives be used for not just our well-being, but for the well-being of others?

Blessings and Prayers,

**Nate**



During November, we will be receiving the annual Thanksgiving Offering for NC Baptist Children's Homes. Prayer guides and envelopes are available on the entranceway tables. Your generosity is needed to continue this vital ministry to children in crisis situations throughout North Carolina. Prayerfully consider giving to this great cause.



## Worship First

*“If God comes first in our lives and first in our churches, then worship must come ahead of everything else we do. Worship is that process in which we make God first in our lives.”* Bruce Leafblad

I invite you to start meditating in your personal worship and family worship on the song, “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord),” written by Matt Redman and Jonas Myrin. It is based on Psalm 30:12: *“To the end that my glory may sing praise to Thee, and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to Thee forever.”* We will worship with this song all through November.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: *“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

God’s purpose of building character in us is for us to learn to be thankful in all situations and circumstances of life. If you think about it, God does His greater work in us through times of difficulties and hardships. God is more interested in building our character than He is in sustaining our comfort. Meditate on Psalm 149.

Last June and October, Hope Fellowship visited two wonderful places: Mrs. Hanes Moravian Cookies and Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory. I will be getting together an order and/or going to these locations to purchase Christmas gifts. They both have delicious gift baskets and cookies. See or contact me personally, and I will be glad to get an order together for you and deliver it to you before Thanksgiving. Order form and catalogs are on glass table in fellowship hall breezeway. (704) 985-6075, or danajenkins@mac.com

*“Be thankful,”  
Dana B. Jenkins*

## Matt Redman – 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) Lyrics

[Chorus]

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul  
Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name.

[Verse 1]

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

[Repeat Chorus]

[Verse 2]

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger;  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

[Repeat Chorus]

[Verse 3]

And on that day when my strength is failing,  
The end draws near and my time has come,  
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore,  
Forevermore.

[Repeat Chorus]



*“Dear Church Family, My brother, Darrell, is now healed and resting in the arms of Jesus. Although we are saddened and miss his presence with us, we take comfort in the fact that his suffering has ceased. Your thoughts and prayers for us during this time were felt and appreciated. Thank you, may God richly bless each of you.*

*With thanks and prayers for all,”*  
Jean Little and the Burgess Family

A HUGE THANK YOU also to everyone who decorated a vehicle, donated money, brought candy and other treats – or helped in any way for our Drive-Through Trunk or Treat. It takes all of us to have a successful community outreach event!

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*In memory of **Darrell Burgess**, Jean Little and Judy Hinson’s brother, a donation was given to the Building Fund by:*  
*Jim & Cheryl Cameron*  
*Mae Brooks*  
*Carolyn & Mark Hinson.*



*In honor of **Larry & Philip Burgess**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Edward & Pat Hill.*

WHILE WE WILL MISS BEING TOGETHER THIS YEAR, WE MAINTAIN GRATEFUL HEARTS AND CHOOSE TO...

*Give thanks to the Lord in all circumstances...*

FBCO's Family Thanksgiving Meal just a little bit different...

**MEAL PICK-UP**  
**NOVEMBER 22 • SUNDAY**  
**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**  
**FELLOWSHIP HALL DRIVE THROUGH**

Pick up your family's dinner to go and send us pictures as you celebrate together. If delivery is needed, please let us know.

**Please sign-up for meals by placing a reservation form in the Offering Plate**

**We are thankful for you...**  
**FBCO Staff & Families**





# November 2020

- November**
- 1 Bud Smith
  - Michael Thompson
  - Robbie Foxx
  - 3 Cooper Hudson
  - Gray Crisco
  - Zoey Williams
  - Dale Blackwelder
  - 4 Shannon Baucom
  - 5 Kennedy Foxx
  - 7 Shannon Henry
  - 9 Sheila Rich
  - 10 Lisa Lowder
  - Tracey Russell
  - Riley Wadkins
  - 11 Deborah Tucker
  - 13 Bug Kippes
  - Rachel Lewis
  - 15 Starla Thompson
  - 18 Andy Beatty
  - 19 Denise Ross
  - 22 Jonathan Copple
  - 24 Tommy Ross
  - 26 Angel Copple
  - Billy Hazelwood
  - 27 Alyssa Smith
- December**
- 1 Butch Poplin
  - 2 Harry Foster
  - 3 Kristen Beatty

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for ALL Students, College/Career, & Mixed Adults Sunday School via Zoom (Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)	2 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	3  7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	4	5 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	6 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	7
	8  10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	9 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	10	11 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages  VETERANS DAY WE RESPECT ALL WHO SERVED	12	13 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use 	14
	15 10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	16 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee Meeting 7:00 Gideons Meeting in Fellowship Building	17	18 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Age Groups	19	20 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	21
	22 10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above) 4:30-5:30 p.m. Drive-Through Thanksgiving Meal 	23 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	24	25 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Age Groups	26  Happy Thanksgiving! Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
	29 10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	30 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	31 Monday-Thursday 8:15-10:30 a.m. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship			
	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>						

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