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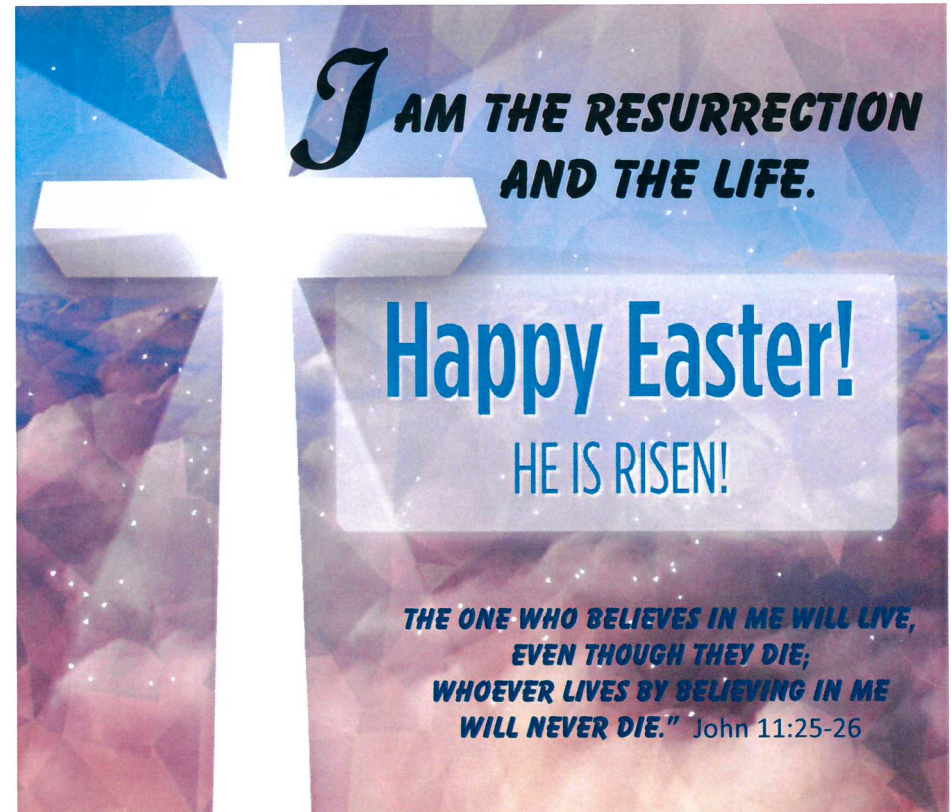


FIRST BAPTIST
O A K B O R O

The Communicator

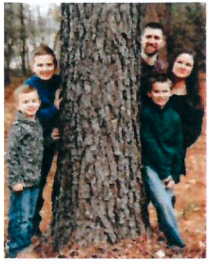
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Oakboro is changing. Have you noticed? There's nothing glaringly obvious that points me to this conclusion. All the buildings downtown are still right where they've been standing for most of the last 100 years. But there's just something in the air.

I had the chance recently to ride along with one of our great police officers, and for two hours we drove all over town. I mean, all over town. Oakboro isn't very big, and I've been

living here almost four years. We went up and down roads I didn't even know existed. And do you know what stood out to me more than just about anything else? The number of new houses and even whole new neighborhoods popping into existence.

Think about the neighborhood just up the road from us, The Oaks at St. Martin's. When my family moved to town in 2017, there were only a handful of houses in the whole neighborhood—maybe five or six. Now there's not an empty lot to be found; all the houses are full, and they are getting started on the next phase. Just across the street from there is Ruby Ridge. The same thing was true there. A few years ago, there were just a few houses anchoring the place and now nearly every lot is full or filling. My own neighborhood is seeing the same phenomenon as well.

At the same time, downtown is just busier. Sure, it has its dead moments, but there aren't as many as there used to be. Restaurants and our awesome coffee and ice cream shop are seeing more traffic. Three different real estate offices have opened in the last couple of years. And we haven't even started talking about the massive building project happening out on Silver Road and the changes it will bring to our community.

Oakboro is changing.

Do you know what this means? It means we have an opportunity before us. We have an incredible opportunity before us. As you travel throughout the southeast of our country, you would be hard pressed to find a town without a First Baptist Church somewhere near the center of things. The vast majority of these towns and churches, however, are dying. My friends, that's not the case here. We are walking into a situation in which the exact opposite is taking place. Our community is thriving, and we have it within our power (fueled by the Holy Spirit) to thrive right along with it.

How?

By being the welcoming, loving, friendly church God has designed us to be.

Let me give you an example. The other day a woman posted on the What's Up Greater Oakboro page that she and her family have recently moved to town from Maine and are looking for a church home. She got dozens of responses, of course, but do you know which church was promoted in her comment feed more than any other? Ours.

People are more open and receptive to the idea of starting or restarting a connection with a local church in moments of high stress and transition in life than just about any other. Moving to a new community is one of those moments. Well, guess what is happening in the lives of a quickly-growing segment of Oakboro's population? The question for us must become this: How can we harness this opportunity to reach out in meaningful ways into the lives of our growing number of new neighbors?

Here are three things you can do:

1. Pray. Be actively praying for the folks who are moving to this community. Pray their transition happens smoothly. Pray parents are able to get their kids easily connected with their new schools. Pray the new home doesn't give them any trouble. Pray they are able to quickly build relationships with neighbors that will make their adjustment period that much shorter. Pray their hearts are open to a friendly invitation to an excellent, local church. You can do this sitting where you are. You can do this while you walk through the community. You can do this when you go out for a drive on occasion and drive through these new communities. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, be praying for these folks.
2. Engage. Find ways to engage with new folks in the community. If they are your own neighbors, be as neighborly as you possibly can. When you see new folks downtown or at community-wide events, engage them in conversation. Be genuinely interested in them. Find ways to show love to their kids. To the extent you are able, serve as an ambassador for them to get more adjusted to our wonderful town.
3. Invite. Take the opportunity whenever you get it, to invite them to church. Most people today are not going to wander into a new church on their own. Most people today, however, are willing to go to a church when invited by a member. When you engage with someone new to the community in whatever format that engagement happens to take, look for the chance to extend a friendly invitation. When you do, make sure to let them know when you'll be there and that you will be looking for them with seats saved. Then, be there and on the lookout for them with seats saved. You may get politely rejected a lot in these efforts, but you won't all the time. Some folks are feeling a hunger for God, but don't know where to get started. Your invitation could be the spark that starts a brand-new journey of faith. It won't happen, though, unless you invite.

The opportunities before us as a church right now in the center of Oakboro, NC are simply astounding. Even coming out of the year we have seen, we have a core here that is strengthened and focused and ready to explode with Spirit-driven Gospel activity. Let's get started together!

Pastor Jonathan

Moving Ahead



Have you noticed an upswing in things around First Baptist Oakboro? Events are being planned, services are feeling more Spirit-filled and energetic, there are visions being cast for our ministries, and Bible studies are developing consistency. It's almost like things might be returning to a sense of normalcy. We're moving ahead slowly but surely. It's exciting! As we move forward, there are changes that we'll see last a while. From two services to middle and high school Bible studies, to our facilities being used more often by the community, there are a lot of things that we know simply won't return to the way they were. But isn't that an exciting thing in itself? As we look to, one year later, establish new and exciting things that will stick around, I'm reminded of Matthew 10:38. It states that "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me." We, of course, want to follow Jesus in all the steps we take moving forward, and that is essential. But Jesus says that as we follow him, we must take up our cross. That means sacrifice, that means dying to ourselves, that means admitting we are guilty in lot of sins. The point in this context is, moving forward in the life of FBO will be hard. We will want to see our own direction happen, our own priorities made essential, etc. The point we must remember is that Jesus points us to a way where we can connect with, reach, and reach others for his Kingdom. And that is through his grace he gives us. 1 Corinthians states explicitly that his grace is sufficient for us and that his power is enough for us. Our job? Rest in that and tell others about it. We don't have all the ability to move forward FBO, but Jesus does, any I'm so thankful it's like that and no other. Rest in his grace.

Blessings, Nate



"We had an amazing event selling Boston Butts to help reach our goal of going to our summer retreat! A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our youth by purchasing a Boston Butt!"

Pastor Nate and Youth Ministry

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

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**.



In Loving Memory

*In memory of **Penny Tucker**,
the following made contributions to the Building Fund:
Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Harold & Louise Floyd
Jeff & Sandra Chance
Ted & Jewell Parker*

*Donations were given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by
Mae Brooks and James & Dianne Hudson in memory of **Penny Tucker**.*

*In memory of **George Baggie**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Jeff & Sandra Chance
Ted & Jewell Parker*

*A contribution was made to the Meals on a Mission program by
Harold & Louise Floyd in memory of **George Baggie**.*

*In memory of **George Baggie**, Carolyn & Mark Hinson and Felix Hinson
made a donation to the Brotherhood.*

*In memory of **Teri Bowers**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
Ted & Jewell Parker
Jim & Cheryl Cameron
Doug & Ann Burgess
Jeff & Sandra Chance
First Baptist Church, Oakboro*

*A contribution was given to the Scholarship Fund by James & Dianne Hudson
in memory of **Teri Bowers**.*

*In memory of **Teri Bowers**, Mae Brooks made a donation to the
Annie Armstrong Offering.*

November 15-17, 2021 is the date for our annual Myrtle Beach Christmas Show trip! You may contact Betty or Delinda Huneycutt if you are interested.



OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – March	26,504.52
Budget Receipts – March	25,084.00
Budget Goals – YTD	192,538.32
Budget Receipts – YTD	209,038.52
Budget Variance	+ 16,500.20
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	730.00
Meals on a Mission	25.00
Youth Ministry	50.00
Youth Camp: Deposits	200.00
Youth Camp: BBQ Fundraiser	4,605.00
Heck-Jones WMU Offering	305.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	617.00



“Dear Church Family, Words cannot express the way you have loved and supported my family during the passing of my mama. Prayers, calls, texts, cards, food, visits and a gift to the Building Fund in memory have been so encouraging. Thank you for being so caring and kind during difficult times. You are the ‘hands and feet’ of Jesus, thank you. We are blessed beyond measure to be a part of FBC.

Love”

Lisa Lowder and Family of Penny Tucker

Welcome Emma Grace Beatty!

Congratulations, Andy & Kristen Beatty on the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace. She was born March 18, 2021, weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21 inches long.



Proud grandparents are Barry & Myra Beatty and great-grandmother Frances Beatty.

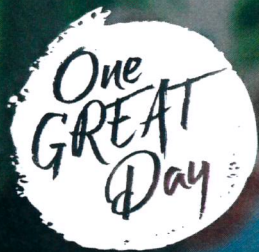
In Honor of . . .

In honor of Kevin & Erica Floyd’s marriage and Erica’s birthday on Valentine’s Day, a donation was made to the Youth Department by Harold & Louise Floyd.

In honor of the birth of their new granddaughter Emma Grace, Barry & Myra Beatty made a contribution to the NC Baptist Children’s Homes.

In honor of Vickie Yandle, a donation was given to the Heck-Jones WMU Offering by Sue Greene.

A contribution was made to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in honor of Mae Brooks by Sue Greene.



1-DAY EVENT MAY 1st, 2021

**THINK OF THE IMPACT 80+ CHURCHES CAN HAVE
FOR CHRIST IF THEY ALL WORKED TOGETHER**

LOCATION: Project sites across Stanly and Montgomery counties

REGISTRATION: www.stanlymontgomery.com



*Box Lunches and T-Shirts will be provided.

STANLY-MONTGOMERY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

FBCO volunteers will be serving our community by working at Oakboro STEM School as part of this event. Please go online or contact Pastor Jonathan to register, as you will receive a t-shirt and Chick-Fil-A® boxed lunch IF you register. We will do yard work, landscaping and light construction. Everyone is invited to participate.



April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Worship			Monday-Thursday 8:15-10:30 a.m. 1:00-3:00 p.m. Fellowship Building Open for Students-- Internet Access	12:30 a.m. SCCM Mobile Food Pantry at Oakboro Park <i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Good Friday Services 6:00 p.m. Or 7:30 p.m.	
10:00 a.m. 4 Sunday School for ALL Students, College/Career, & Mixed Adults Sunday School via Zoom (Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance) Easter	8:30 a.m. 5 Two or More Prayer	6	7 No Services or Activities	8	9	10
7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Daily: YMCA - Fellowship Building Use						
10:00 a.m. 11 Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	8:30 a.m. 12 Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. 12 Deacons' Meeting	13	14 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	15	16 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	17
10:00 a.m. 18 Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	8:30 a.m. 19 Two or More Prayer 7:00 p.m. 19 Gideons Meeting in Fellowship Building	20	21 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	22	23 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	24
10:00 a.m. 25 Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	8:30 a.m. 26 Two or More Prayer	27	28 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	29	30 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA - Fellowship Building Use	30

- April**
- 2 Kay Smith
 - 6 Rita Crisco
 - 8 Alyssa Pope
 - Jimmy Cople
 - 11 Beverly Parr
 - 12 Noah Young
 - Shaler Henry
 - 16 Thomas Meadors
 - Lillianne Crisco
 - 17 Barbara Drye
 - Amy Honeycutt
 - 19 Bryson Efird
 - 20 Chip Alsbrooks
 - Ella West
 - 21 Cooper Smith
 - Cartney Henry
 - 22 Lisa Waits
 - 25 Jane Baucom
 - 28 April Tucker

- May**
- 3 Seth Morton
 - 4 Ellen Little
 - Bill Thomas

If changes need to be made to this list, please contact the church office.

