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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
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**OAKBORO NC 28129-0010**

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**FIRST BAPTIST**  
**OAKBORO**

The Communicator

VOL. XXXII No. 5

April 30, 2021

Charm is deceptive, and beauty  
is fleeting; but a woman  
who fears the Lord  
is to be praised.

PROVERBS 31:30 NIV

Wishing you God's unending  
favor, kindness and love this

*Mother's Day*  
and always.



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We live in the midst of a culture in transition. The world is changing around us. It is changing in ways that are clear and obvious. But it is also changing in ways that don't always stand out quite as much.

The obvious ways are...well...obvious. Our culture is becoming not only less Christian in its foundational assumptions, but increasingly intolerant of even weak expressions of orthodox Christian fidelity. For example, the police department of Seattle, Washington recently rescinded an invitation that had been extended to Samaritan's Purse to host an appreciation meal for its officers when word began to leak out that Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organization.

We can see those kinds of changes. We shake our heads in frustration at them. Talking heads on cable news programs yell back and forth at each other about them. We who would count ourselves in this increasingly disadvantaged and hated group are sometimes told we need to get angry and strike back using the same tactics as our ideological opponents. We don't, of course. That's not what Jesus ever did. But the temptation is there all the same.

Still, while the flashy changes get the attention, it's the ones we don't always notice that may prove to have the most significant long-term impact. Here's one that could potentially mean a whole lot for us: The day of the megachurch is waning.

Now, perhaps you're wondering what a "megachurch" even is. Technically defined, a megachurch is a congregation whose average Sunday worship is in excess of 2,000 people. Nearly all of the current megachurches were established after 1955. From 1955 through the mid-1980s there was a cultural explosion of megachurches. Today there are more than 500 in the United States, the largest of which boasts an average weekend attendance of 38,000. (By the way, by comparison, there is a church in South Korea with an average weekend attendance of more than 100,000.)

Opinions on megachurches range from love to hate and back again. They have no doubt caused the death of many smaller churches that had been around a long time before the megachurch exploded up the street. At the same time, they are baptizing a whole lot more new believers than established churches are and are investing their resources in helping to revitalize many struggling churches within their sphere of influence.

Whatever your feelings about megachurches may be, though, the megachurch phenomenon is generally a feature of the Boomer generation. Now, many of them thrive on attracting a much younger crowd than that, but the average committed member of a megachurch is a Boomer, not a Millennial.

Fine, but where is the church heading if not in the direction of megachurches? Well, to be frank, it's heading in our direction. The church of the future is going to be the neighborhood church. It will be the church that is located in a particular community from which it draws most of its members. It will be the church, though, that is not merely located in a particular community, but which has a heart for its community and is actively involved in serving its community. The neighborhood church won't likely ever reach megachurch status (unless, for instance, it happens to be located in a very large community), but it will serve to change a lot of lives, advance the Gospel in powerful ways, and minister to people in ways that are entirely more practical and personal than they'll be able to find from a big church...or a big government.

So, what does all this mean for us? Well, it means we need to keep doing what we are doing. We need to keep moving in the direction we are heading of loving our community in the name of Jesus. It means we need to keep building community ministry partners because we can't do it all on our own. It means we need to keep reaching out to our growing community so they know we are here for them not because we want something from them, but because we want something for them. It means we need to keep embracing our God-given identity as a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. We keep doing all of this, sowing seeds everywhere we can, because a harvest is coming. A culture disconnected from, yet hungry for, truth is looking for an anchor when the storms of life begin to blow. God has positioned us where we are on purpose so that we can help our neighbors discover the anchor of the Gospel that will hold them steady when the winds howl and the waves crash.

This journey won't always be easy, but keep at it, church, the best is yet to come.

*Pastor Jonathan*





## Roaring Lion

I feel like for every post-Covid-19 newsletter I write I could rejoice in all the wins that God is bringing in the lives of our students and families each month. I'll do that for a bit, then switch over to a more sobering thought, then reference Scripture on how we react to that sobering thought.

Things feel as if they're building each month on top of each other in the lives of our students and church, right? The kids have a mission statement that will guide the ministry long after every current kid graduates to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our youth camp is building with excitement, and pieces are falling into place each week. We have a Wednesday Bible study routine, and it is strong. Kids have Service Night every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and Prayer and Game Night every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Youth have Prayer and Game night every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Students are feeling the Spirit's presence during these prayer times and putting their service into action. On top of it all, there is anticipation in the air. The staff is actively looking for ways we may be able to resume children's church and Wednesday meals. Even still, God has introduced our church family to several new families with students that have all had overwhelmingly positive interactions with our family. The anticipation for growth in that area is high as well.

Point being, we could make this newsletter post each month simply a list of wins each time and could fill pages with personal, community, and church-wide wins. However, these wins are something that gathers attention, and not just the human kind. Yes, the spiritual side of things comes into play here, you see the enemy, Satan, has no pleasure in all the wins that have been happening and has tried to attack them and will continue to attack them. He wants this church to plateau and become an organization that has no force to connect, grow, and reach for the Kingdom. Look at 1 Peter 5:6-9 that proves this:

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world."*

You see the analogy made about the devil here. He's hungry, he wants someone to devour, and church it will be FBO if we are not careful. All it takes is a little

division caused by the devil, and it all can unravel. Game and Prayer Nights can become nothing but arguments about what game we play and not about the intentional time in prayer. The hopeful return of children's church and meals can turn into nothing but our personal ambitions to see what we want to see in those ministries. The Kids' Mission Statement can become subject to multiple errant interpretations that seek only to serve the interpreter's mindset, not the Kingdom of God. The Summer Camp for our youth can become an experience that students want to forget instead of cherish. Remember, **THIS IS WHAT THE DEVIL WANTS—TO DEVOUR**. So, the question becomes what do we do to prevent it? Well, 1 Peter 5 gives the answer alongside the warning. It gives us four main things to do to fight the devil.

1. Be Humble
2. Cast all your anxieties on God
3. Be Sober-Minded and Watchful
4. Resist the Devil by being firm in your faith.

So, the question is right there, isn't it? Are we being humble; not wanting our way but the one God desires? Are we going to God with our concerns, instead of going to each other, gossiping about them, and starting division? Are we being on the lookout, not distracted, but looking out for these things? And are we firm in our faith to know how to resist the devil?

Student, are you praying now that God would grow you? Parent, are you praying that God moves in the way He would want in the life of your child, not necessarily the dreams you have for them? Senior adult, are you making an impact in the life of someone younger than you who needs to be taught how to be firm in the faith? The devil WILL attack, but with the power of God alone, we can resist, and praise God for it. As we continue to celebrate wins here at FBO, we can be humble, anxiety-free, watchful, and resistant of the devil in all that God does through us.



**FBO KIDS**  
 A fun, safe community  
 where I can grow  
 to love and serve like Jesus!

**10:00 a.m. Sundays**  
**6:30 p.m. Wednesdays**

### Blessings and Prayers, Nate

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth





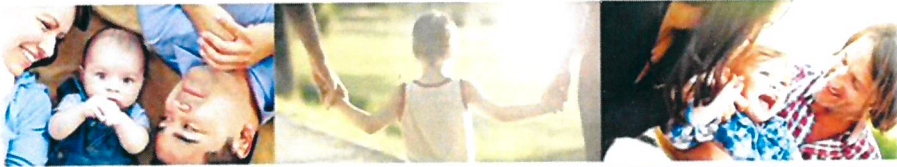
## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – April	26,504.52
Budget Receipts – April	25,891.00
Budget Goals – YTD	219,042.84
Budget Receipts – YTD	234,929.52
Budget Variance	+ 15,886.68
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	2,595
Meals on a Mission	120.00
Youth Camp: Donations	45.00
Heck-Jones WMU Offering	25.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	290.00
Scholarships	1,025.00

# Parent & Child

## DEDICATION

*Mother's Day ~ May 9*



Contact Pastor Jonathan for more info

*Children are a gift from God.*

PSALM 127:3

You shine the **LIGHT** into his darkness

**food roundup**  
April 2021

Collecting Gift Cards Through May 16

Instead of collecting Food for NC Baptist Children's Homes, we are asking for Food Lion, Walmart & similar gift cards. Please drop into the offering plate or bring by the office.



**WELCOME!**

**TIMOTHY RHETT WEBB**

Born March 24, 2021

6 pounds, 14 ounces

19 inches long

Proud Mom Caitlin and

Grandma Rita Crisco

are doing great!



On Sunday, **June 6**, we will honor all graduates and present the scholarships to the recipients. Come and support those reaching this milestone and celebrate their academic accomplishments, as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

## Youth Camp Food Donations

A master list of items needed for the youth camp trip is posted on the kitchen cabinets. Copies of the list are located on the entranceway table in the fellowship building.

If you wish to donate any of these items, please check the master list to see what has already been donated and marked.

Next, place your donation in the designated space in the fellowship hall kitchen.

Then, please mark off what items you donated on the list that can be found in the kitchen.

Please refrain from bringing any refrigerated items until **June 7**.





Needed to deliver meals in the Oakboro area, especially the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month. Please call Barbara at the Nutrition Site at (704) 485-8211 for more information.

## Join Us

**National Day of Prayer**  
**Thursday, May 6**  
**12:00 noon**  
**Oakboro Memorial Park**

LORD POUR OUT YOUR  
 LOVE, LIFE, AND  
*Liberty*



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.

Please email or call the church office with your college student's address for "Student of the Week."



## *In Loving Memory*

*In memory of Teri Bowers, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Brooks & Jane Barnhardt.*

*In memory of Teri Bowers, a donation was given by Tracy & Lisa Lowder to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.*

*Deborah Tucker made a contribution to the Meals on a Mission program in memory of Teri Bowers.*

*In memory of Penny Tucker, Teri Bowers, and George Baggie, donations were given to the Meals on a Mission program by Deborah Tucker.*

*In memory of Karen Blakely, donations were given to the Building Fund by:  
 Ted & Jewell Parker  
 First Baptist Church, Oakboro*

*In memory of Karen Blakely and Teri Bowers, a donation was given by Tracy & Lisa Lowder to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.*

*In memory of Billie Parker, Missy Wadkins's mom, contributions were given to the Building Fund by:  
 Jeff & Sandra Chance  
 Jim & Cheryl Cameron  
 First Baptist, Oakboro*



## *In Honor*

*In honor of Rita Crisco, and all her work on the meal preparation, Harold & Louise Floyd made a donation to the Meals on a Mission program.*

*In honor of Tracy & Lisa Lowder for all the work they do for the church, an anonymous donation was given to the Building Fund.*

*In honor of her mom, Aline Tarlton, for Mother's Day, Pamela Wellons made a donation to First Baptist, Oakboro.*





- May
- 3 Seth Morton
  - 4 Ellen Little  
Bill Thomas
  - 7 Peggy Carey
  - 10 Elijah Morton  
Shaphan Morton
  - 11 Nancy Haywood  
Danny Poplin
  - 12 Doyle Hatley  
Frances VanHorn
  - 13 Mandy Smith
  - 14 Shelbie Davis
  - 16 Andrew Smith
  - 17 Janice Watts
  - 19 Brayden Meadors  
Jessica Jenkins
  - 20 D. J. Poplin  
Joe Copple
  - 21 Judy Tucker  
Everett Hatley  
Jax Mabry
  - 24 Mark Hinson  
Nate Sisson

- June
- 1 Gretchen Castelloe  
Jeff Bowers
  - 3 Matt Hudson

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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p><i>Weekly Sunday Schedule</i>  <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b>  <b>11:00 a.m. Worship</b></p>					
	<p>10:00 a.m. <sup>2</sup>            Sunday School for ALL Students, College/Career, &amp; Mixed Adults            Sunday School via Zoom (Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. <sup>3</sup>            Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. <sup>4</sup>            Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. <sup>5</sup>            National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. <sup>6</sup>            YMCA - Fellowship Building Use</p>	<p><sup>7</sup>  </p>
	<p>10:00 a.m. <sup>9</sup>            Live Sunday School            Sunday School via Zoom (see above)            11:00 a.m. <sup>10</sup>  <i>Parent-Child Dedication</i>  <i>Mother's Day</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. <sup>11</sup>            Two or More Prayer</p> <p>6:30 p.m. <sup>12</sup>            Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. <sup>13</sup>            Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. <sup>14</sup>            YMCA - Fellowship Building Use</p>	<p><sup>15</sup>  </p>	
	<p>10:00 a.m. <sup>16</sup>            Live Sunday School (see above)            Sunday School via Zoom (see above)</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. <sup>17</sup>            Two or More Prayer</p> <p>7:00 p.m. <sup>18</sup>            Gideons Meeting in Church Sanctuary</p> <p>7:00 p.m. <sup>19</sup>            Oakboro Kids Club Graduation - Fellowship Building</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. <sup>20</sup>            Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>7:00 p.m. <sup>21</sup>            Kids' Club Graduation</p>	<p>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. <sup>22</sup>            YMCA - Fellowship Building Use</p>	
	<p>10:00 a.m. <sup>23</sup>            Live Sunday School (see above)            Sunday School via Zoom (see above)</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. <sup>24</sup>            Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. <sup>25</sup>            Bible Study for All Ages</p>	<p>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. <sup>26</sup>            YMCA - Fellowship Building Use</p>		
	<p>10:00 a.m. <sup>30</sup>            Live Sunday School (see above)            Sunday School via Zoom (see above)</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. <sup>31</sup>            Two or More Prayer</p> <p></p>	<p>            Bring in Gift Cards by May 16</p>	<p>June 2 Quarterly Business Meeting</p> <p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p>June 9 Youth Camp Meeting Parents, Students, &amp; Chaperones</p>		