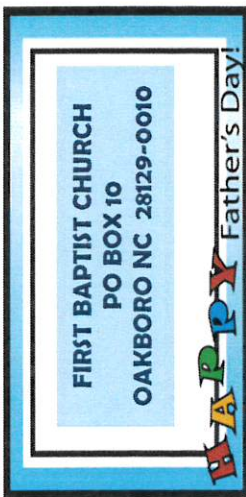


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The Communicator

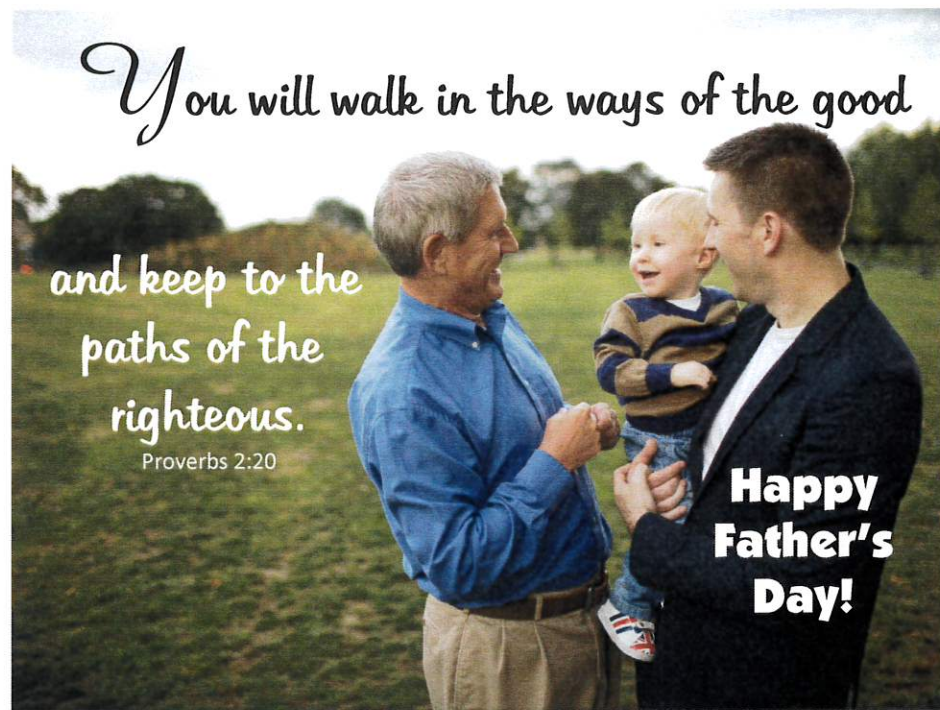
VOL. XXXII No. 6

May 28, 2021

*You will walk in the ways of the good*

*and keep to the  
paths of the  
righteous.*

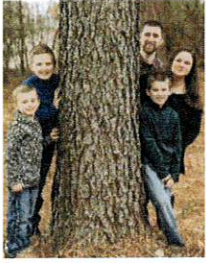
Proverbs 2:20



**Happy  
Father's  
Day!**

**PO Box 10  
322 N Main Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
www.fbcoakboro.org**

**Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor  
Office (704) 485-4313  
pastorjwaits@gmail.com  
(804) 896-4520**



About eleven months ago, I wrote this:

“We cannot let differences of opinion divide us. Listen: We don’t all agree on where the line between normal functioning and safe physical distancing is. We just don’t. And that’s okay. We don’t have to agree on that. We don’t have to agree on that in order to still be a church that brings glory to God together. That may be a thing that could potentially divide us, but we are united by something bigger and stronger than that. We cannot let differences of opinion divide us. Our faith doesn’t hang on whether or not someone is wearing a mask or won’t shake our hand. It hangs on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. We belong to Him and He is our Lord. He has created and called us as a church to reflect His glory and to be a people with whom a searching world can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. If we are going to see that happen, we cannot let differences of opinion divide us. There’s just too much at stake.”

That was the last full paragraph of the first of two messages I preached on the last two weeks of June before we opened back up for in-person, indoor worship services on July 5th. The world was in a different place then. Covid cases were rising at what seemed like a breakneck pace. Hospitals were overrun. People were dying in what seemed like droves. Meanwhile, medical experts were predicting that things would get worse come winter. My how they were right.

But we had been meeting solely online for far longer than any of us expected or wanted, and it was time to cautiously move back to in-person gatherings. So we did. We moved back in spite of a plethora of opinions on just how serious Covid was and needed to be taken. Many folks were openly fearful that this thing would divide us and rend us asunder as a church. The only path to take, though, was forward, and so we went.

And in the months since, something remarkable has happened. We started meeting...and just kept meeting. Week after week we opened our doors, and you came. You joined online. We started with just worship. Then we added live student gatherings during the week. Then we added some in-person Sunday school options. Then we added live adult Bible study during the week. And you gave. Generously. And visitors started coming. And then they started staying. And we’ve grown. Covid got some of us,

but we haven’t lost a single one. We watched as nearly every single church around us either had to shut back down or still hasn’t gone back to in-person, indoor worship gatherings. All the while, we kept moving forward together. Never back. Always forward. And then the Sunday before last we sang again. And it was wonderful. And while we don’t quite have a date yet, we are close to moving back to one worship service when we can all be together once again. We are close to reopening the Gathering Place at full operation.

Who would have imagined we’d be here a year ago?

More than that, can you imagine where we’ll be in another year’s time? But here’s the thing: What I said last June still applies. Now you can add vaccines to the list of things that could potentially divide us. When we all get back together in one worship service, we are going to have folks whose opinions on the best way to move forward out of the pandemic are all over the map. Most of us have become inclined to think the people who don’t agree with us are not merely wrong, but crazy. Go back and read Romans 14. Go back and read my messages from June 21 and 28 on my blog ([www.the-nexus.blog](http://www.the-nexus.blog)). If we don’t heed Paul’s counsel, and if we lean into our own opinions of what’s right rather than leaning into loving one another after Jesus’ own pattern of love for us, we won’t make it. But that’s not the church our God designed us to be.

We are a church where anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. That’s who we are. That’s who we are as a body. If God has called you here, you are a part of that. And when we together lean in to who God made us to be, there’s nothing we can’t overcome together. If the gates of Hell will not overcome Christ’s church, nothing related to Covid stands a chance. So let us move forward together. Let us move forward with grace and graciousness. Let us move forward with love in our hearts and the Gospel on our lips. Let us move forward to the exciting future our God has planned for us. There’s a community to see transformed. Let’s get to work.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## Expectation



There's a lot of expectation in the air in our student ministries. Talk to any volunteer in our youth ministry, and they'll tell you how excited the youth are for camp. Talk to any elementary student, they'll tell you how excited they get for the new monthly prayer and game nights. Most of them can recite to you perfectly our mission statement: *FBO Kids is a fun, safe community where I can grow to love and serve like Jesus.* There are so many other things we could list on the things that are happening, but there are other things in expectation now, too. Talks of Wednesday meals and mission nights returning, one service on Sundays, and schools in our community returning to full classrooms. But with these expectations can come a danger—a danger of not being content in whatever God brings our way. We can become sold on having things a certain way and then be sorely disappointed when things don't work out how we intended.

Remember the point that Paul conveys in Philippians 4: 10-13. In one of his prison epistles, Paul speaks here of being content in whatever situation he is in. A low or high situation, he points to the secret of being content here in verse 12. But in his famous verse 13, he is actually revealing the secret to being able to do all things, doing them through the one who strengthens me. The verse we so commonly misinterpret as a sports reference or a verse to overcome adversity and be the champion, is actually giving away the secret to contentment in high and low times. Hunger or abundance of food, plenty or nothing at all. We made it through those times and doing all things only by the strength of Jesus.

When we look at the expectations, our expectations are not the thing to really put stock in, but rather simply relying on the strength of Christ to carry us through even if all those expectations vanish through. As we move forward, I pray that would be our cry and that all of the things we do in our lives, our church, and our student ministries are done solely through the strength of Christ.

**Blessings, Nate**

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – May	26,504.52
Budget Receipts – May (through 5/27)	27,440.00
Budget Goals – YTD	245,547.36
Budget Receipts – YTD	260,427.37
Budget Variance	+ 14,880.01
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,555.00
Youth Camp: Donation	50.00
Scholarships	1,250.00
One Great Day	500.00
Oakboro Kids' Club	500.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes Food Roundup	100.00
Collected \$290 in Gift Cards	

November 15-17, 2021 is the date for our annual Myrtle Beach Christmas Show trip! A bulletin board sign-up sheet and an informational handout will be available on the glass table in the fellowship building entranceway outlining what is included. You may contact Betty or Delinda Huneycutt if you are interested.



Are you receiving phone messages from the church? If not, and you would like to, please email your name and phone number you wish to use [firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com) or call the office at (704) 485-4313.

# 2021 Oakboro 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration

63<sup>rd</sup> Annual

**Sunday, June 27, 2021** ~ 6:30 PM - Community Worship Service on Stage at Oakboro Fire Department (Everyone Welcome)

## **Tuesday, June 29, 2021**

- 6:00 PM - **B & K Carnival** on the Midway **\*\*Armband Night\*\***
- 6:00 PM - Little Miss 4th of July Pageant (Sponsored by Oakboro Tractor)
- 8:30 PM - **Darrell Harwood** (free on the **Union Power Stage**)

## **Wednesday, June 30, 2021**

- 6:00 PM - **B & K Carnival** on the Midway **\*\*Armband Night\*\***
- 7:00 - 9:00 PM Talent Show Sign-Up at Oakboro Fire Department
- 8:30 PM - **Blackwater Rhythm and Blues** (free on **Union Power Stage**)

## **Thursday, July 1, 2021**

- 6:00 PM - B & K Carnival on the Midway **\*\*Armband Night\*\***
- 6:00 PM - Local Talent Showcase
- 8:30 PM - **Tim Clark** (free concert on the **Union Power Stage**)

## **Friday, July 2, 2021**

- 6:00 PM - **B & K Carnival** on the Midway **\*\*Armband Night\*\***
- 9:00 PM - **The Entertainers** (free on the **Union Power Stage**)

## **Saturday, July 3, 2021**

- 9:00 AM - 63rd Annual 4th of July Parade
- 11:00 AM - **B & K Carnival** on Midway  
Opening Ceremonies  
Miss Stanly County Fire Queen Pageant  
BBQ Lunch @ Fire Department (Dine In or Carry Out)
- 2:00 PM - Midway Closes--5:00 PM - Midway Re-Opens
- 8:30 PM - **\*\*The Tonz\*\*** (free concert on the **Union Power Stage**)
- 10:30 PM - Raffle Drawing
- TBA - Fireworks

**Sunday, July 4: NO EVENTS**



## *In Loving Memory*

In memory of **Ron Nelms** and **Karen Blakely**, a donation was given by Mary Nelms to the Building Fund.

In memory of **Pauline Everett**, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron.

A donation was given by Rick Baucom in loving memory of his mom, **Margaret Tyson**.

## *In Honor*

In honor of **Kevin Floyd**, an anonymous donation was given to the Building Fund.



*"Dear First Baptist Oakboro,  
Thank you so much for spoiling our teachers and staff for teacher appreciation week. The snacks and drinks were a wonderful surprise. We appreciate your continued support of Oakboro Choice STEM School and look forward to partnering with you in the future.*

*Sincerely,"  
Kelly A. Dombrowski*





Please join us in congratulating and honoring this year's FBCO scholarship recipients. Special recognition of all the graduates and these recipients will be during the worship services on Sunday, **June 6**.

**Grace Ann Dombrowski** is graduating from Stanly Early College and is the daughter of Jason & Kelly Dombrowski. She is awarded the *Amy Boger Memorial Scholarship* and will pursue a bachelor's degree in Musical Theater at Western Carolina University.

Receiving the *Jeff & Sandra Chance Scholarship* is **Tiana Renea Driver**, daughter of Shelly Bowling. She will graduate from West Stanly High School and continue her education in Nursing at Queens University in Charlotte.

Another scholarship recipient is **Chloe G. Edwards**, daughter of Tracy & Jennifer Edwards. She will graduate from West Stanly and plans to attend Central Piedmont Community College in its Dentistry/Orthodontics program.

**Morgan Marie Edwards** is receiving one of the *Tom & Bertha Rogers Memorial Scholarships*. Daughter of John & Stephanie Edwards, and granddaughter of Debbie Edwards, she will graduate from West Stanly. Her education will continue at the University of NC at Wilmington, majoring in Finance.

Also graduating from West Stanly, **Deacon Wyatt Greene** receives the *Alan Smith Memorial Scholarship*. He will attend NC State University and major in Civil Engineering. Deacon is the son of James & Lori Greene.

**Lennon Alexandria Henry**, daughter of Eddie & Shannon Henry, will graduate from Gray Stone Day School and receives the *Tom & Bertha Rogers Memorial Scholarship*. After graduation, she plans to attend NC State University and major in Biology.

**Madison Elizabeth Kee**, daughter of Amy Kee and Sandy Kee, also receives a *Tom & Bertha Rogers Memorial Scholarship*. She will continue her education in Exercise Science at High Point University after graduating from West Stanly.

A *Tom & Bertha Rogers Memorial Scholarship* is presented to **Mykel Laney**, a senior at North Stanly. The son of Dusty & Stacey Laney plans to major in Civil Engineering at NC State University.

**Sheridan Alysse Meadors** graduates from West Stanly and plans to attend Stanly Community College studying Graphic Arts. She is the daughter of Thomas & Ellen Meadors and granddaughter of Marlene Barbee and is awarded the *Terrell & Janice Watts Scholarship*.



On Sunday, **June 6**, we will honor all graduates and present the scholarships to the recipients. Graduates, would you please record a short video with your phone (in landscape orientation) featuring you, in your cap and gown the school from which you are graduating, the school you will be attending in the fall, and your intended major. If you would like to mention any special awards or recognitions you have received, you are welcomed to do that as well. These videos can be texted (804-896-4520) or emailed (pastorjwaits@gmail.com) to Pastor Jonathan.

Come and support those reaching this milestone and celebrate their academic accomplishments, as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

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**STILL NEEDED!**  
**Youth Camp Food Donations**



A BIG THANK YOU for the items already donated and delivered for our trip. An updated list of items needed is posted on the kitchen cabinet and fellowship building bulletin board. Copies of the list are located on the entranceway table in the fellowship building. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please mark your envelope "Youth Camp" and drop into the offering plate.

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**.



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO  
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- June
- 1 Gretchen Castelloe  
Jeff Bowers
  - 3 Matt Hudson
  - 4 Ethan Flowers
  - 9 Sylvia Poplin  
Jason Crisco
  - 12 Pat Hammack
  - 18 Brody Hudson
  - 23 Harold Floyd
  - 24 Darla Morton  
Matthew Hinson
  - 26 Joey Coley
  - 27 Cliff Edwards  
Doug Hinson
  - 29 Mae Brooks
  - 30 Bonnie Richardson  
Mike Boger

- July
- 1 Doug Burgess
  - 2 Brennan Broadway  
Tracy Lowder

Please contact the church office with any additions or changes to the birthday list.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>YMCA presents</b> <b>EVERYDAY HEROES</b> Summer Enrichment Camp ~ FBCO Fellowship Building 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. June 7-11 ~ June 14-18 ~ June 21-25		6:30 p.m. Business Meeting	6:00-7:00 p.m. YMCA Camp Open House		
10:00 a.m. Sunday School for ALL Students, College/Career, & Mixed Adults Sunday School via Zoom (Joy, Life, Genesis, Blessed Assurance)	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee' Meeting	6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 6:30 p.m. <b>Youth Camp Meeting</b> Parents, Students, Chaperones			
<b>Graduate Sunday</b>						
10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above)	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 7:00 p.m. Gideons Meeting <b>FLAG DAY</b>		6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	<b>Office Closed</b>		
<b>Youth Camp</b>						
10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (see above) Sunday School via Zoom (see above) <b>Father's Day</b>	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  		6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages		<b>Oakboro Cruise-In</b>	
10:00 a.m. Live Sunday School (above) Sunday School via Zoom <b>Youth Camp Sunday</b>	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		No Bible Study or Other Activities	<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>11:00 a.m. Worship</b>		
 6:30 p.m. <b>Community July 4th Service</b>	 <b>Oakboro 4th of July Rides, Concerts &amp; Activities</b>					