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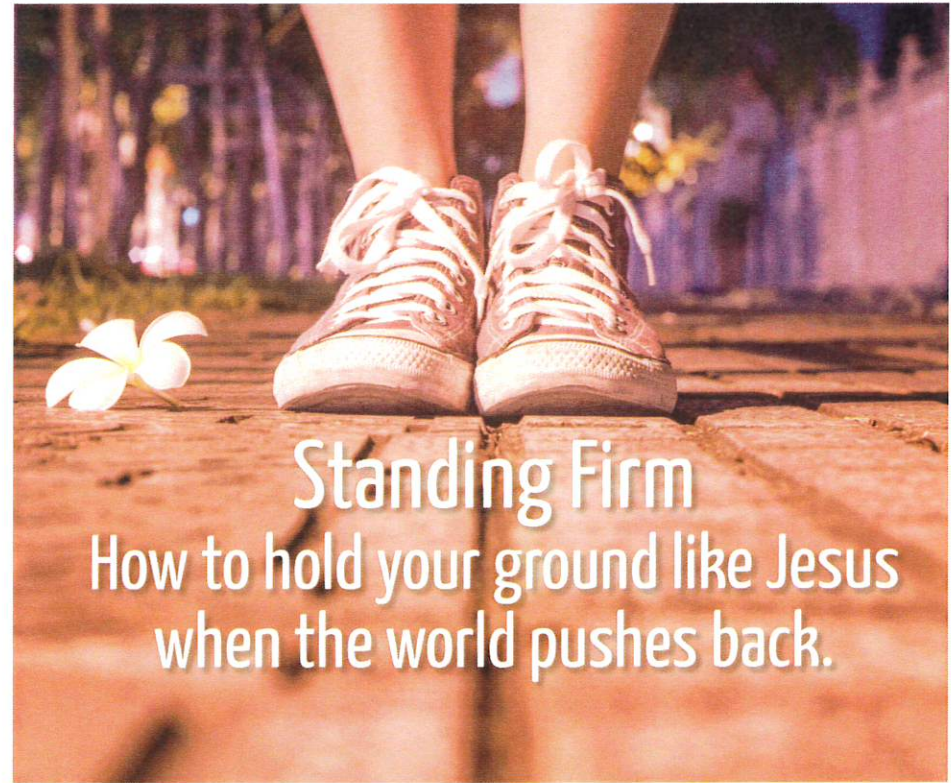


# FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXII No. 8

July 29, 2021



**Standing Firm**  
How to hold your ground like Jesus  
when the world pushes back.

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It's finally here.

This Sunday—maybe tomorrow depending on when this hits your mailbox—we will gather for worship as a single body for the first time since March 8, 2020. If you're keeping count, that's 511 days. That's longer than Noah and his family and all the animals were on the ark. That's more than 12 of Jesus' stint in the wilderness. That's more than 3 Major League Baseball seasons. That's a long time. But we've made it. We really are here. Should our Lord tarry from my writing this a little over a week ago until tomorrow afternoon, it is going to happen.

It's going to be a good day, too. Some of you will be worshipping alongside folks you haven't even seen in all that time. Some of you will see faces you don't recognize. You'll meet new people for the first time. More importantly than even that, we'll all be together. All of us. In one room. At the same time. Giving God the glory He so richly deserves for carrying us through the past 511 days to get to experience this moment once again.

Now, just because we are excited, doesn't mean we can afford to go into tomorrow without an awareness of the dangers our enemy is laying in the path to trip us up. Combining 2 groups of people who have been meeting separately in the same space for as long as we have means everyone will get to find a new seat in the morning. If "your" seat is taken, find another one. We're going to all be worshipping together, and that's what matters most. Let us also not completely forget about the Covid elephant still sitting in the corner. Although we are all excited to be together and generally much more comfortable with the idea than we were not all that long ago, there is a new surge of Covid infections via the Delta variant, and this surge is real. While we have no plans right now to go back to where we were, if we don't move forward with wisdom and care, we could easily end up back there whether we want to be or not. Our collective caution—even when that wasn't our first preference—over the past several months is what allowed us to meet without interruption—something most of our neighbors cannot say. As you are around more people all at once than perhaps you have been in some time, be wise and considerate, so that we can keep right on doing it. And above all else, remember this: the thing that unites us is the Gospel and our God-given call to be a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom and nothing else.

As exciting as this day is going to be, though, allow me to offer a challenge and a way forward from here.

The challenge is this: It would be very easy for us to collectively consider tomorrow an arrival point. We've finally made it back to where we've been trying and waiting with an ever-thinning patience to get for 511 days. Now we can settle in and get back to "normal." Yet while this day will be an arrival point of sorts, if we think of it only in those terms, it will not prove something to celebrate in a few years' time. It will be only the arrival to the beginning of our

end. I don't know about you, but that seems a pretty steep price to pay just to get back to some "normal" from the past.

Instead, while we are going to celebrate this day with all its attendant joy, this day marks a beginning. We are now standing even more firmly as one, united body than we have in some time. When the church stands firm in its God-given mission, no force on earth has a chance of prevailing against it. Let us take this incredible day as the starting point to a whole new world of ministry and missions in this community and beyond. Let us commit together to seeing the kingdom of God advance in even more intentional ways than we have been a part of in the past. What God has in store for us is greater than anything that lies behind us. Let us gratefully stand on the strong shoulders of the giants who have helped us come this far as we confidently look to what lies down the path still ahead of us.

Speaking of things on the path ahead of us, allow me to lay out a couple of them for you. First, tomorrow is not the only "normal" milestone we are reaching this month. At the end of the month, on August 25th, we are going to finally, fully reopen the Gathering Place. That's right: meals are back on Wednesdays. That's exciting in and of itself, but we need you in order to make it happen. We need dinner teams ready to serve once again. If you are willing to help, I need to know about it. Call me, text me, or fill out one of the green cards in the fellowship building in the morning.

Second, as school begins, our closest and easiest outlet for Gospel-advancing missions work is practically in our backyard at the STEM school. This year, we are going to do something a little different. Supplies are nice but can quickly become just stuff. This year, we are going to go deeper. Each month during this next school year, we are going to make an intentional effort to show the love of Jesus to the staff, administrators, and teachers. The efforts will be designed to be low-cost, but high impact, and will be things we can all participate in together. The goal of this is two-fold. First, we'll be supporting one of the foundational institutions in our community. As a church we can't miss an opportunity like that. Second, we'll be building the reputation with the growing number of families moving to town that we are a church who loves their kids. There aren't many better ways to connect to families than to love their kids well. Stay tuned for more information in the weeks ahead and be ready to jump in with both feet as we keep reaching out to expand God's kingdom.

We are moving forward together. We've been doing so throughout the pandemic. In fact, we never stopped in the first place. But as we keep moving out of it, the work we've done over the past several months is going to start coming to fruition in really exciting ways. I can't wait to experience it with you!

*Pastor Jonathan*



**We need to know if you're planning to go!**

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



**August 8, 2021**  
**Following Worship**  
**CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING**  
~ **Vote on:**  
**Stewardship & Nominating Reports**  
~ **Election of Deacons:**

You will be electing 4 deacons this year. The following or their spouses are not eligible because they are currently serving or are \*rotating off: \*Doug Burgess, Jeff Chance, Jimmy Copple, Cliff Edwards, Kevin Floyd, Doug Hinson, \*Tracy Lowder, Mike McClellan, \*Thomas Meadors, Danny Poplin, \*Nick Wadkins.

When you shop Amazon, use this link.  
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The Gathering Place  
Resumes August 25  
At 5:45 p.m.  
Please contact Pastor Jonathan or  
Lisa Waits to volunteer for the  
meal teams.

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – July	26,504.52
Budget Receipts – July	25,091.00
Budget Goals – YTD	305,182.53
Budget Receipts – YTD	318,656.37
Budget Variance	+ 13,473.84
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,765.00
Brotherhood	50.00
Scholarship	50.00



*In loving memory of **Harold Floyd**, a donation was given to First Baptist, Oakboro by the Underwoods: Dennis & Yugonda, Chuck & Tonya, Chad, Becky, Colton & Nathan, Chay, Jamie & Cameron and John, Chera, Lauren & Mason Maske.*

*In memory of **Harold Floyd**. Eddie & Linda Arrowood and Mary Nelms made contributions to the Building Fund.*

*Contributions were given to First Baptist, Oakboro by Judy Everett and Brooks & Jane Barnhardt, in memory of **Martha Rivers**.*

*In memory of **Billy & Martha Rivers**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Eddie & Linda Arrowood.*

*Contributions were given to the Building Fund by Debbie Edwards and Mae Brooks in memory of **Todd Coble**.*



*“Dear FBO,  
Thank you very much for the card as well  
as the Study Bible.  
Love,” Cade*





## On Mission

It's finally here; we finally have dates attached to it. You know, the highly anticipated return of one service and Wednesday meals? We finally have dates attached to them! August 1<sup>st</sup> for one service, and August 25<sup>th</sup> for Wednesday meals. We can almost taste them! (Pun intended) By time you read this, you should also start

to see youth and kids' events planned for our students popping up for the next few months. It's exciting to see dates and times attached to things! As we move forward in a real way, get excited, focus on, and give thanks for what God is doing through the renewal of events. But remember: What is it all for? Why are we doing all these things? Well, we have 3 statements that answer those questions, one for the whole church and one each for our kids' and youth ministries. Every event we do and have on the calendar now in some way accomplishes these statements. If it doesn't, we don't do it.

*Church: FBO is a people with whom you can connect with to grow in Christ Jesus and reach out for his kingdom.*

*Kids: FBO Kids is a fun, safe community where "I" can grow to love and serve like Jesus.*

*Youth: FBO Youth is where relationships are grown, and discipleship happens in order to develop leaders who continue Christ-like lives.*

Do you see the similarities between these 3? It's there. Our student statements flow from the church mission statement. Do you see it?

*Connect=Fun, Safe Community=Relationships are Grown*

*Grow= I can Grow=Discipleship Happens*

*Reach= Love and Serve like Jesus=Develop Leaders who continue Christ-like Lives*

These statements accomplish similar things but in ways that each ministry is best suited to accomplish them. But go deeper. Where do we get the church's mission statement? Well, from Jesus himself.

*The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 18-20*

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

(continued)

Connect=And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age

Grow= Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you

Reach= Go and make disciples of all nations

So, as we get excited about the upcoming events that are finally here, remember that **EVERYTHING** we do is to accomplish our ultimate mission statement, to fulfill the Great Commission Jesus gives us. May he guide us and be with us always as we seek to accomplish it for his glory.

## Blessings, Nate

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



### August

- 4:** Pool Party @ Oakboro Pool  
6:00-8:00pm
- 11:** Bible Study @ FBO  
6:30-7:30 Bible Study
- 18:** Bible Study @ FBO  
6:30-7:30 Bible Study
- 25:** Back to School Bash @ FBO  
5:45-7:30 Dinner & Bible Trivia



**College Addresses Needed**  
If you or someone in your household is attending college, please email or call the church office with their mailing address. They will be featured in the weekly announcements on a rotating basis. This includes those who may be living at home.  
[firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com)  
(704) 485-4313





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CONNECT  
GROW  
REACH

### Happy Birthday!

- August
- 1 Kelli Coley
  - 2 T. J. Smith
  - 13 Pattygene Baggie
  - 14 Meredith Broadway
  - 15 Naley Barringer
  - 16 Vera Robinson
  - 18 Debbie Edwards
  - 20 Claudia Boger
  - 21 Julie Castelleo
  - 22 Bobby Watkins
  - 24 Reagan West
  - Merideth Eudy
  - 26 Carla Smith
  - Nate Barringer
  - 27 Victoria McEachern
  - 28 Brooks Barnhardt
  - Sheila Hinson
  - 29 Helena McClellan

- September
- 2 Aline Tarlton
  - 3 Cameron Stroud
  - 4 Steve Williams

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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	2 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	3 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	4 6:30 p.m. Bible Study	5	6
 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service						
<b>YMCA Camp: EVERYDAY HEROES ~ 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</b>						
11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE Vote on - Deacons - Nominating & - Stewardship Reports	8	9 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	10	11 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	12	13 
6:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Grind Night at Euto Baptist (Leave FBO by 5:40)	15	16 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 7:00 Gideons Meet	17 	18 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages	19	20 8:00 a.m. Prayer Walk at Oakboro STEM School
	22	23 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	24 	25 5:45 p.m. The Gathering Place Resumes Back to School Bash Dinner & Bible Trivia 6:30 Bible Study	26 	27 
	29	30 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	31	<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (live &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Worship</b>		