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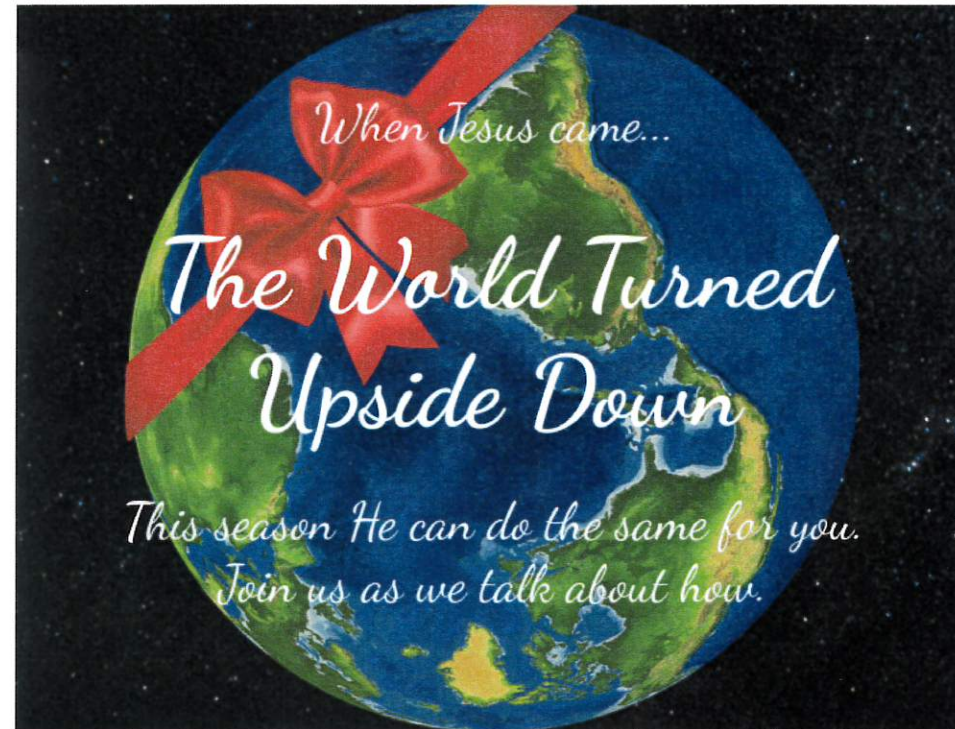


FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

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Do you remember trying to stand on your head when you were a kid? Maybe that's just me. I remember trying to see just how long I could hold a headstand. My arms were always too scrawny to manage much of a handstand, but handstands weren't outside the realm of possibility for me. Of course, I didn't have the balance to be able to do one just anywhere. I would get so my back was completely up against a wall for balance and

then I would flip over on my head and see just how long I could hold myself there.

Give me a break! This was before cell phones, the internet was in its infancy, and I was between video game systems. I had to find some way to entertain myself!

The thing about standing on your head, though, is that we weren't made to be like that. After a while, the blood starts to run to your brain, your vision gets blurry, your face turns red, and your head starts to hurt. If you stay that way long enough, you'll eventually black out. Plus, when you stand like that, everything is upside down and our brains aren't so good at processing information when it's coming to us in ways we aren't accustomed to receiving it. Someone who is standing on their head is eventually going to need to flip around and see the world properly once again.

When God created the world, He made it perfect. Everything was just right. Nothing was out of place. It was all just as He intended it to be. Then sin entered the picture, and everything was turned on its head. God's perfect picture was blasted into a thousand pieces and all the pieces were scattered randomly in the wind.

But then something happened. While we were all turned over on our heads, with the blood rushing to places it was never intended to be, we started to get used to the view. We were seeing the world through a fly's eyes instead of clearly as God designed us to take it in, but we found ourselves starting to like it. Sure, it made things harder than they had been before, but the variety seemed so fun. Now we felt free to make our own interpretations of the world instead of having to rely on God to tell us what is right and wrong.

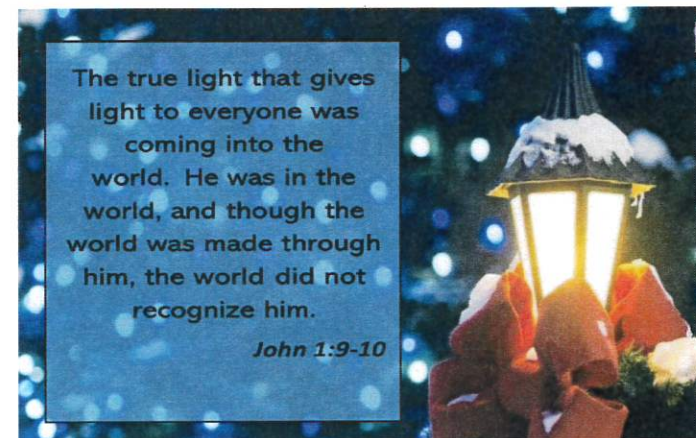
The trouble was our interpretations were always wrong. They tended to cause far more harm than any good they might seem to accomplish. And the brokenness was spreading. This was not the world as God created it

to be, but we had grown accustomed to the backward view we had. If He came along and simply kicked us back around, we weren't going to like what we saw. We had been seeing the world upside down for so long, right side up was going to seem upside down to us.

But He wasn't willing to leave us that way forever. We were missing out on the sweetest parts of the life He designed us to enjoy. So, at the fullness of time, God put His carefully drawn up plans into action. He had been telling us they were coming for a very long time, but it was finally time to pull the trigger. It all unfolded this way: *"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."*

Jesus came into the world and turned the world upside down. Or perhaps, to see it the proper way, He turned the world right side up again. This month as we celebrate His coming together, we are going to be talking about how and participating in that righting of the ship together. I can't wait to join with you in being a part of God's great work. Let's be the church He made us to be: a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom.

Pastor Jonathan





REST

The holidays are here! We've had a great past month in student ministry here at FBO Students. From kids' events like movie nights and fall festivals, to youth events like lock-ins and Caswell retreats. But it's also been busy. In the life of church events, I'm looking forward to the intimate time we get to spend together at Christmas parties, Advent worship services, and Christmas Eve. Those events, coupled with having a few Wednesdays off to spend time with family, and we get to slow down and experience this season together at a more lackadaisical speed. There will finally be time for rest. Or so it seems.....

While church events may be slowing down, how many of you are like my family with family events ramping up? By the time of delivery for this newsletter, Marisa & I will be 700 miles away visiting family in Mississippi. We just hosted family in town the days before that for the baby shower that you all hosted for us (THANK YOU so much for that). Then, once we return, it's crunch time to get everything ready for baby Ben's arrival. Doesn't sound much like a restful time. I'm also sure you and your families have countless similar stories of busyness that you'll be involved in this holiday season. It just seems like there's no time for rest during this restful season; the irony is strong here. What do we do?

Matthew 11: 28-30 gives us a little insight.

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Recently I read a book called **Gentle and Lowly**; if you'd like to borrow it, please don't hesitate to ask. In this book, the author emotionally and powerfully outlined so many ways that Jesus is our comfort, our rest, our gentle and lowly savior. It brought me to tears so many times when reading it. Why? Because I need rest, and we rarely get it on our own. Our schedules simply don't give it to us except on rare occasions. But Jesus, he is our rest, his burden is light. This doesn't mean he's going to take away all our work or things to do, but rather, the things that he gives us, they come also with a supernatural rest that is only possible through him. His burden is light, and his yoke is easy. And he gives rest to us in a way that only makes sense or works when he provides it.

So, this holiday season as we rest up but not really, find your rest for you and your family in Christ. Be involved in prayer, your time in the Word, and our corporate praise to God for sending a savior for gently and lowly that will never leave us and always give us rest.

Nate

Christmas Parties

Saturday, December 11
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth at the Barringers' House

Wednesday, December 15
6:30 p.m.
Kids' Christmas Party
At Church

Simple Think

Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use one of the sign-up sheets on the bulletin boards. If you prefer, you may call or email the church office to place your order. They are \$20 each, with paper and bow, and the order will need to be in by Sunday, **December 12**. Your money may be turned in through the offering plate by marking "poinsettia" on the envelope, by online giving or by stopping by the church office.





Oakboro Christmas Festivities

Thursday, December 2

6:30 p.m. Tree Lighting

7:00 p.m. Parade

December 12

Handbells Play During 10:00 a.m. Worship

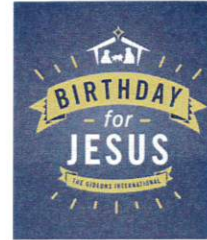
December 19

The Worship Choir Presents Christmas Music

During 10:00 a.m. Worship



*Join Us for
Christmas Eve Worship
At 5:00 p.m.*



As believers in Jesus Christ, you and I have the greatest story to tell—the story of a Savior who came to earth to save mankind. This time of year, the world can tempt us to get caught up in all the commercial aspects of this holiday. But you and I know the real reason for Christmas. We are pleased to announce that our church is partnering with The Gideons International this Christmas to share the story of Jesus. It's called BIRTHDAY FOR JESUS, an opportunity our church offers you to celebrate Christ's birth by donating Bibles around the world in His honor. To participate in this opportunity to touch lives with the Gospel, please take one of the donation envelopes, fill it out, and include the amount you wish to donate in honor of Jesus' birth. Your donation will help the placement and distribution of Scriptures in some 200 countries and territories around the world. Inside each envelope you'll find a decorative card that is yours to keep. You can hang it on your tree at home or the tree at church as a reminder to be in prayer for those who will encounter the Scriptures you are providing. Isaiah 55:11 tells us God's Word does not return void. You can pray knowing that somewhere in the world, a man, woman, boy or girl will receive a Bible you helped provide. Pray also for lives to be changed as they read the story of Jesus Christ and receive Him as Lord and Savior. Please fill out the envelope, enclose your donation and place the envelope in the church collection basket, or you can mail it to our local address, The Gideons, PO Box 182, Albemarle, NC 28002-0182. You may also donate online, at BirthdayForJesus.org. Thank you and may God bless you and your family this Christmas season.

Doug Hinson, Gideons International

Offering Envelopes



Over the next few weeks, the Stewardship Committee will distribute the numbered offering envelope sets. Those of you who give online will not be given a set UNLESS you email or call the office to request one. Also, contribution statements will be ready mid-January.



In Memory and In Honor

In memory of **Margaret Burgess**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Geneva Beachum.

A donation was given to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks in memory of **Anabel Speight and Gwen Barbee**.

In memory of **Logan Broome**, Tommy & Tina Ross's grandson, Jim & Cheryl Cameron made a donation to the Building Fund.

In honor of **Deborah Tucker's birthday**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Ted & Jewell Parker.

Oakboro STEM's 3rd Annual 3D Ornament Sale

***Ornaments will be printed in the order they are received

***Colors may vary

***Prices are based on weight and include online fees

All Orders are due by Dec. 10th



ORDER ONLINE ON SCHOOL CASH!!!!	
ORNAMENT	PRICE
Ashby	\$11.00
Deese	\$4.00
Hinson	\$12.00
Twyman	\$3.00
Waits (Vinyl sticker)	\$5.00
Waits (Magnet)	\$4.00

Support your local STEM School by ordering these ornaments.

***Please submit community orders to lisa.waits@stanlycountyschools.org and include name of ornament and quantity.

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – November	19,306.83
Budget Receipts – November (through 11/25)	17,544.50
Budget Goals – YTD	70,791.71
Budget Receipts – YTD	66,155.35
Budget Variance	-4,636.36
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	970.00
Brotherhood -- BBQ	1,678.00
Meals on a Mission	50.00
Youth Donation	20.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes (Total \$640)	540.00
Shoebox Postage (Total \$418)	373.00
Pastor Appreciation (Total \$1,400)	515.00



"Dear First Baptist Oakboro Family -

Thank you does not even begin to cover our gratitude for you. Your generosity with us is beyond measure. You have shared abundantly of your treasures, but much more than that, you have given us your hearts in loving fellowship and friendship. You have been so faithful in expressing your appreciation of us in a tangible way these past couple of months. Know well that our appreciation for you and for the privilege of serving in such an incredible community of believers as First Baptist Oakboro goes beyond what words can properly express. Thank you for your gift. Thank you more for giving yourselves first to the Lord so that together we can see His kingdom expand throughout Oakboro and beyond. We look forward to many more years of doing God's work alongside you.

*Blessings,"
The Waits Family*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- December**
- 1 Butch Poplin
 - 2 Harry Foster
 - 3 Kristen Beatty
 - 5 Jeff Chance
 - Presley Poplin
 - 10 Ted Parker
 - 15 Heather Copple
 - 18 Georgia Harvey
 - Barry Beatty
 - 25 Joyce Little
 - Rebekah Crisco
 - 28 Iris Mooney
 - 29 Betty Huneycutt
 - Shannon Chaney
 - 30 Case Smith
 - 31 Teresa Smith
 - Stephen Obie

- January**
- 2 Julie Poplin
 - Ann Burgess
 - 4 Jean Little

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

December

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>			<p>1 6:30 p.m. Missions Night for ALL (Brotherhood, WMU, Kids) 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>2 6:30 p.m. Oakboro Tree Lighting 7:00 p.m. Christmas Parade</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 5:00 p.m. West Stanly Football Banquet in Fellowship Building</p>	<p>6 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>7 6:30 p.m. Deacons</p>	<p>8 6:30 p.m. Business Meeting 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party at Barringers' House</p>
<p>12 10:00 a.m. Handbells Play During Worship</p>	<p>13 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 6:30 p.m. Bible Study KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:30 Adult Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Prayer Breakfast</p>
<p>19 10:00 a.m. Adult Choir Presents Christmas Music During Worship</p>	<p>20 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 NO SERVICES OR CHURCH ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25 WE wish YOU A Merry CHRISTMAS</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 NO SERVICES OR CHURCH ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Christmas Eve</p>	