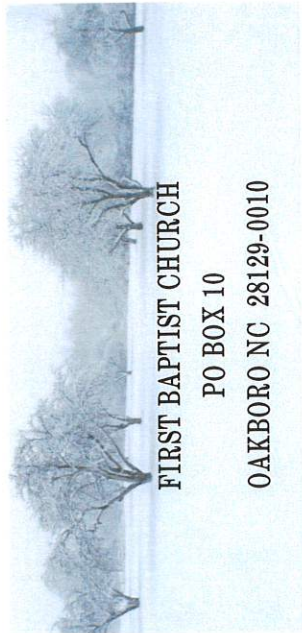


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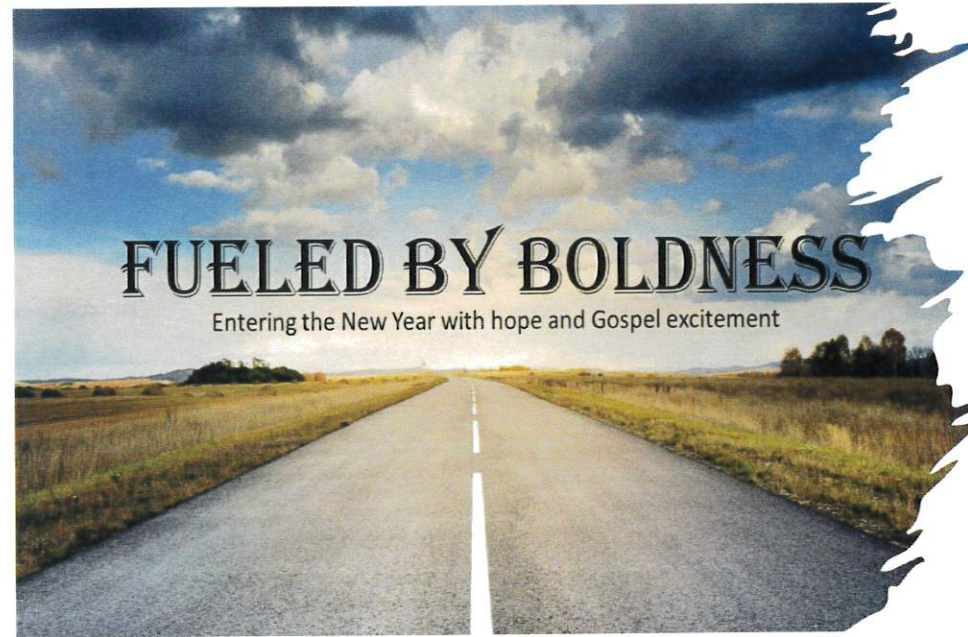


FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXIII No. 1

December 28, 2021



FUELED BY BOLDNESS

Entering the New Year with hope and Gospel excitement

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Our nation has produced two major purveyors of proverbial wisdom in our history. One was Benjamin Franklin. This Founding Father was a renaissance man who dabbled a bit in all sorts of different genres and tended to do pretty well in all of them. Some of his more memorable proverbs are, “*A penny saved, is a penny earned;*” “*Honesty is the best policy;*” and one that may have been relevant in your life over the last couple of weeks, “*Guests, like fish, begin to smell after three days.*”

The other is much more recent, and he was only ever really good at one thing: baseball. Yogi Berra was well-known for saying things that sounded really silly at first hearing, but then spoke to a deeper truth the longer you considered them. For instance, “*Nobody goes there anymore, it’s too crowded;*” “*It ain’t over ‘til it’s over;*” and “*When you come to a fork in the road, take it.*” As I sit this morning thinking about the year ahead of us, though, another of his witticisms has come to mind: “*It’s tough to make predictions, especially about the future.*”

The simple matter is that we don’t know what the future holds. Of course, as followers of Jesus, we do in a limited sense. We know that in the end Christ will return, creation will be restored, and we will spend eternity enjoying life as it was always meant to be. But in a much broader sense—what tomorrow will bring—we are fairly well clueless. This doesn’t stop us from guessing, but if we are being truly honest with ourselves, guessing is the best we can do.

For instance, no one could have predicted in late 2019 that a lab leak in China would set off the worst global pandemic since the Spanish Flu, and one that would totally upend everything about how we do life going on two full years now.

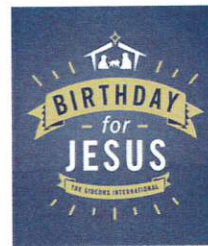
No, the reality is that while we are wise to make preparations for what we think the future may bring—after all, as Benjamin Franklin said, “*by failing to prepare you are preparing to fail*”—the people who handle what tomorrow brings best are the ones who are the most able to adapt to it. They hold lightly to their plans and are able to nimbly leap from one thing to another, always riding the wave to an amalgam of where they wanted to go in the first place and where it is actually taking them.

We are at the time of year when most of us are thinking about the future. What does the new year hold for us? Granted we’ve been burned a couple of times now in placing much in the way of hope in what the new year

itself will bring, but as a church, we have been able to ride the waves to a pretty fun place. God is at work in our midst as we will celebrate with joy on *Celebrate Sunday* coming *January 9*. We are seeing people connect. We are seeing disciples grow. We are seeing more and more fruits coming to bear from reaching out to expand God’s kingdom. We have every reason to be hopefully excited about what the next twelve months will bring.

It may not all go exactly according to our plans, but we are learning to hold to those lightly in favor of what God is actually doing around us. And what He is doing is growing His kingdom. In the next year, He has plans to do that even more. If we are willing to stick closely to Him and commit ourselves to faithful obedience even when it’s hard, we will get to be a part of the action in ways we don’t want to miss. I don’t know everything the future will bring, but I do know this: As we continue pursuing the mission God has set before us, our future is going to be bright. *Happy New Year* to you, and I can’t wait to experience the wonder of God’s plans with you.

*Pastor Jonathan*



I wanted to take a moment to thank all that donated to the Gideons International to send Bibles to 200 countries around the world through the “*Birthday for Jesus tree.*” God will honor His Word, and it will not return empty, Isaiah 55:11. Just a reminder that you can donate Bibles throughout the entire year through the Gideon Card display at the entrance table. Cards are available to give Bibles for “*In Memory,*” “*Praying for You,*” “*In Honor of your Special Day,*” and also “*In Appreciation.*” If anyone has any questions about the Gideon Card program or would like one of our Free Gideon Card packets to have on hand at home, please let Chip Alsobrooks, Jeff Chance, or me know.

Thanks again for your outreach for Jesus.

*Doug Hinson*  
Gideons International



## PERSPECTIVE

For this month's article, I'd like to change it up some and approach this entry from a bit of a personal perspective – a personal perspective that's about to change. But before getting too deep, let me just say how much I love you all, the FBO Family and Oakboro Community. Since I started vocational ministry in November of 2015 as a youth pastor, never have I found such a church and community that shows such a great love for each other and the least of these. I write this because I mean it from the bottom of my heart, and I don't want it to be lip service at all. I love getting to serve here and do life together. It has been an absolute joy to minister here to our students these past 2½ years now. Throughout this time here as Minister of Students and at the previous places of service, there has always been one thing that has been the same: one perspective of ministry. From starting out as a 20-year-old college student to now a 26-year-old young adult, I've always ministered to students from a particular perspective. A perspective of love and discipleship toward children and youth, but without one of my own. When I married my bride Marisa, we moved from our seasons of singleness to one of marriage, and our perspective changed greatly. It is the biggest blessing to have a partner for both life and ministry. But the perspective of not having children of our own was still there.

However, as most of you know, this is the last newsletter article that I'll be writing to you from this current perspective. Soon, very soon, January 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest, Marisa and I will be welcoming baby Benjamin into the world. Over the past few months, I've given a lot of thought to how ministry will operate with a baby in our home, and I have come to realize that I am beyond excited for my perspective to change. Do I know yet how much exactly things will change? Of course not. As many have told us, the phrases "You'll see" or "You'll understand" are soon upon us, but just quite not here yet. Here is my prayer, one that I ask you to pray with us, not only for Ben, but also for the ministry of FBO to students in our community. That prayer is Ephesians 6: 4; that this verse would be true of myself as a father to Ben, but also that this truth would be experienced by each and every student at Oakboro STEM School, West Stanly High, West Stanly Middle, Carolina Christian, Gray Stone Day School, and every homeschooled Student in our area and any other schools we do ministry in. Here is the verse.

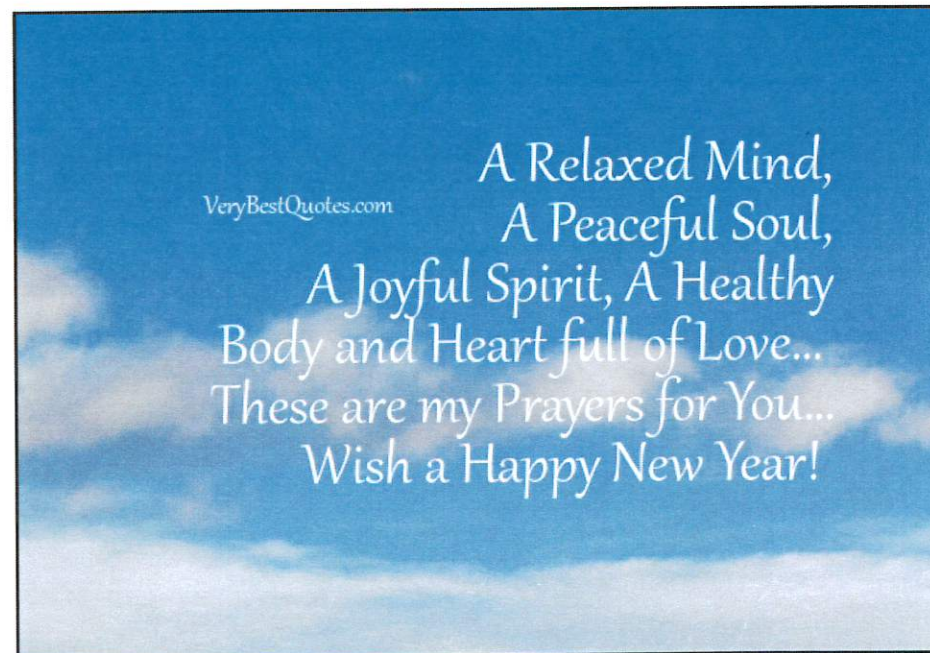
*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (continued)*

Many students have wonderful Christian fathers who strive to have this perspective each day with their children, and I hope to count myself among their number in the coming weeks, months, and years. I also know that there are countless other students who do not have fathers who live this out. We as a church know this, but sometimes it gets overlooked in our communities. Why? This verse should be the standard; it's expected to be done, but for so many children, it is not. Would we as the church see that fact as our call to action: to minister to these students and children by loving them and discipling them in the discipline and love of the Lord? Would we see it as an opportunity to love fathers and to challenge them to lead in this way? Shouldn't we love and support mothers who are forced to do this themselves because there is no father in the picture? I pray it could become so, and we would be known as a church that loves students and families from all backgrounds in this manner.

So, as my perspective changes to one of fatherhood, I pray that my ministry, both to my family and our students reflects this in a God-honoring way and that I do it well through his strength. As I embark, I covet your prayers, but I also invite you on this journey God has set before us in our community.

Many thanks, love, and blessings to you all,

**Nate**



## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – December	32,178.05
Budget Receipts – December (through 12/28)	36,893.00
Budget Goals – YTD	102,969.76
Budget Receipts – YTD	105,588.35
Budget Variance	+2,618.59
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,895.00
Lottie Moon	4,170.00
Meals on a Mission	100.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes (Total \$790)	150.00
Shoebox Postage (Total \$454)	36.00



## Offering Envelopes

Most of the envelope boxes have been distributed. If you didn't receive an assigned box and would like to, please contact the church office at [firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com) or call (704) 485-4313.

Those of you who give online will not be given a set UNLESS you request one. Also, contribution statements will be ready mid-January.



*"Thank you to each and everyone that reached out to us during our times of loss of Logan Broome and Dennis Love. We have felt the prayers and will make it thru because of them."*

Tommy & Tina Ross  
Billy & Sarah Hazelwood  
Reagan, Ella & Corbin

*"Family, We cannot express our gratitude and love toward each of you! Thank you for loving Benjamin even before his arrival and us for the past few years! We can't thank God enough for placing us in the Oakboro community and allowing us to serve alongside each of you! We love you all!"*

Nate, Marisa & Benjamin



*In memory of **Bill Turner**, a donation to the Building Fund was given by Doris Hatley*

*A donation was given to the Building Fund by Rick & Shannon Baucom in memory of **Margaret Tyson**.*

*Contributions were made to the Building Fund in memory of **Sonja Linthicum** by:  
Eddie & Linda Arrowood  
Jim & Cheryl Cameron  
First Baptist, Oakboro*

*In memory of **Anabel Speight**, Susan Adams made a donation to the Building Fund.*

*In memory of **Tommy Tucker**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Judy & Larry Tucker.*

*In memory of **David Love**, a donation was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering by Ted & Jewell Parker.*

*First Baptist, Oakboro made a contribution to the Building Fund in memory of **David Love**.*



*In honor of **Mae, Brooks**, donations were given to Lottie Moon Christmas offering and to the Mae Brooks Scholarship Fund by John Brooks.*

*Jim & Cheryl Cameron made a contribution to the Building Fund in honor of **Ted Parker's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**.*

*"I am making this donation in appreciation for the Senior Adult meal program and for the joy it brings to so many people! It is in honor of **Rita and Dana** who bring joy to my mom as she looks forward to the meal each month and the visits. We thank you for what you do! It is a wonderful ministry!"*

Christie Honeycutt

*A donation was given to First Baptist Oakboro: "In honor of my sweet mother, **Aline Tarlton**, and all the faithful members of this wonderful church who continue to pray for us, support and love us and, most of all, the visits. She loves the visits." Pam Wellons*



- January 2 Julie Poplin  
Ann Burgess
- 4 Jean Little
- 5 Jessica Colquitt
- 7 Taryn Barringer
- 9 Carol Kiker  
Jordan Hunt
- 10 Jane Barnhardt
- 11 James Hudson
- 14 Carolyn Hinson
- 15 Janet Jackson
- 18 Lana Lambert
- 19 Dana Jenkins
- 20 Mason Jones
- 23 Ashley Morton  
Chris Johnson
- 24 Josiah Waits
- 26 Vivian Williams
- 27 Mike McClellan
- 28 Scott Nightingale

February 3 Eddie Henry

Please email or call the church office with additions to or deletions from the calendar.



# January

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
OAKBORO  
322 N Main Street  
PO Box 10  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
[www.fbcoakboro.org](http://www.fbcoakboro.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Worship</b>						
	2 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	3	4 6:30 p.m. Missions Night for ALL (Brotherhood, WMU, Kids) 7:30 Adult Choir	5	6	7 
	10 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	11 6:30 p.m. Deacons	12 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	13	14	15
16	17 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 7:00 p.m. Gideons International Meeting 	18	19 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	20	21	22 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Prayer Breakfast
	24 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	25	26 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	27	28	29
30	31 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer					

Mark Your Calendars:

June 20-25



July 18-22  
Youth Camp at Ft. Caswell

