



FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

The Communicator

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Prayer Guides and Offering Envelopes are available on tables in the building entrances.

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OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – February	25,742.44
Budget Receipts – February	27,403.00
Budget Goals – YTD	160,890.25
Budget Receipts – YTD	177,579.45
Budget Variance	+16,689.20
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	2,550.00
Lottie Moon	10.00
Heck-Jones WMU Offering	575.00
Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Youth Ministry	50.00
Camp Deposits: Youth & Kids	2,050.00

In Memory

In memory of David Love and Anabel Speight, donations were given to the Building Fund by Eddie & Linda Arrowood.

In Honor



In honor of The Faithful Now and Past, an anonymous donation was given to the Building Fund.



If you would like to place an Easter lily in the church in memory or in honor of someone this year, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin boards or contact the office. They will have wrapping and a bow, and the cost is \$13. The deadline for reserving your lily is **March 30**.

Attention, high school seniors: Scholarship applications are available in the fellowship building entrance or through your high school guidance counselor. The deadline for these to be submitted is **April 15**.





Systems are boring. No one likes to talk about the nitty-gritty of how things operate. Well, that's not totally true. God has designed some people who love getting into that kind of stuff. We call them nerds, and the world would not work right without the nerds. We need the nerds. But for the rest of us...okay, you can stop the loud thoughts, I'm not a nerd in that particular regard. The point is: systems are boring.

And yet systems are necessary. The reason your life works the way it does in most of the places you go is because there are systems in place making sure it works that way. For the most part, you probably don't recognize the systems. (Again, because they're not very exciting.) You may not even be aware of what the particular systems undergirding your life are. But they're there. The only time you really notice the systems is when they don't work.

My laptop at home is old (as far as laptops go). When I start it up, sometimes its systems all work properly, and it pops right up ready to go. Sometimes, though, I'll have to wait for an hour or more to get it to do anything because somewhere in its systems something has gone haywire. I couldn't possibly tell you what it is—usually I just blame the tech gremlins—but I know that it's happening because it's not working the way I'm used to its working.

What I want to make sure you know even more than the fact that systems are necessary, is that systems are everywhere. We're used to thinking about the systems of a computing device of some sort or a car, but did you know organizations have systems? Every organization in the world has systems in place. Just like all the other systems, they mostly go overlooked, but whether we notice them or not, the systems of that organization are perfectly designed to achieve the results it is achieving.

So, why am I thinking about systems this month? Because we're growing. One of the themes of these letters over the last several months has been my excitement over God's clear movement in our midst. Everywhere we look there are signs of life and kingdom advancement. God has been steadily building us up in a whole manner of ways as He prepares and positions us to be a catalyst for great kingdom transformation in the lives of the people who are moving to this area at a pace I don't suspect anyone has ever seen before. This community is growing fast, and we are exactly

where God wants us to be to make sure the Gospel is proclaimed to as many of the folks moving to town as will hear it. And in the months ahead, as we begin to take some concrete steps forward on a new facility, I suspect the pace of that growth here will quicken.

Growth, however, requires systems to sustain it. We must make certain we are putting in place now the kinds of systems we need to handle the growth God is bringing our way. These include systems for making disciples, systems for connecting people formally with our community, systems for managing the various technology we need to get along in the culture as it currently is, systems for communication, systems for plugging men and women and youth and children into kingdom-advancing missions efforts, systems for maintaining our facilities wisely and well so that resources needed for kingdom-building don't get needlessly tied up in our physical buildings, systems for making sure our children's ministries are the safest, funnest, and spiritually richest spaces they can possibly be, systems for helping our youth embrace and understand how to defend the Christian worldview, systems for managing and caring for our staff and volunteers..

Now, none of these things are necessarily riveting to think about. But they are necessary. We can't be fully the church God has planned for us to be without getting them right. And here's the thing I don't want you to miss: God has designed and equipped some of you to take leading roles in making sure we do get them right. You know who you are. Consider this your invitation to greater involvement. The role God has equipped you to play in His church may not seem like something anyone is going to notice—and thus isn't important by the world's standards—but it is absolutely vital to the advancement of God's kingdom into this community and beyond. You matter far more than you can imagine.

So, let's commit to advancing the Gospel together in increasingly powerful ways as God brings more and more people to our doorstep. But as we do that, let's not forget to build the systems we need to do that as effectively as we possibly can. The kingdom depends on it.

Pastor Jonathan



GROWTH

Our Student Ministry is growing. On an average Wednesday night, around half of the students we have in attendance in both our youth and kids Bible studies started attending FBO within the last 12 months. This is awesome! This surge in growth can only be attributed to the wonderful work God is doing in the lives of our students. But doing it through tools such as each parent and volunteer who shows up to bring their student to church, to volunteer in order to impact their lives, to point them to our goal of becoming a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for his kingdom. It reminds me of Acts 2: 42-47, where we see the fruits of what a biblical community looks like.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

While we haven't arrived at this level yet (there will always be room for growth), we can see rejoice at seeing glimpses of this in our student ministry. The Word is being taught here, we're eating together, students are growing in awe-inspiring ways, and we are developing a community truly dedicated to God and each other. Plus, the last verse of this passage is happening too, we're adding to our numbers. It's exciting to watch, and I can only give God all the credit.

Would you be a part of it? Through prayer, your resources, volunteering your time, taking a student and teaching them something, or any other way you think God is calling you to build relationships with our kids and youth. We always need Godly adults who want to pour into these students' lives. If you need or want help getting started, I'm only a call or conversation away from helping you do so. To those already a part of it, thank you for your faithfulness. We're starting to see God move in tangible ways. He's being faithful, too, just as he promised.

With thanks and hopeful faith,
Nate



If you wish to give to the church, an offering plate is located as you enter the sanctuary of the fellowship building. Feel free to pick up an envelope, put your name & amount on it and drop into the plate.

Online giving also is available.

- ~ Go to www.fbcoakboro.org
- ~ Click on "Partner with FBC"
- ~ Sign up for one-time or recurring gifts. "Budget" is the name of the general fund.



When you shop Amazon, use this link.
They will donate a portion to the church.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1345829>



Youth Bake Auction
April 9
Boston Butt Sign-Ups Begin
(More details to come)