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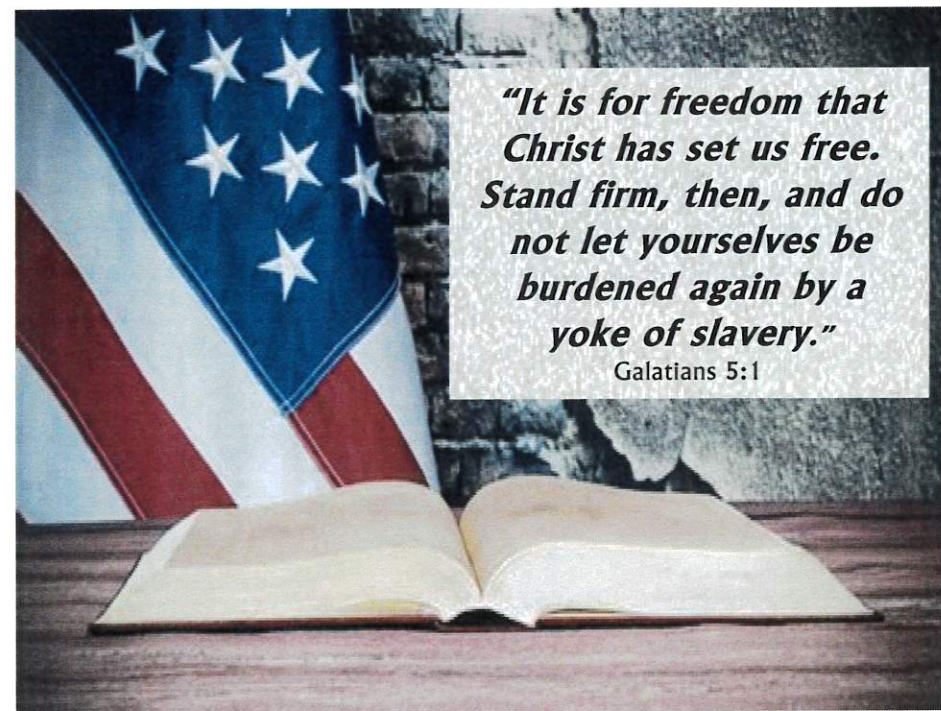


# FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXIII No. 7

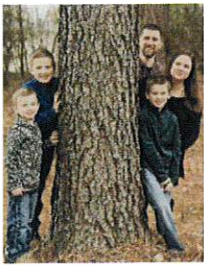
June 30, 2022



***"It is for freedom that  
Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm, then, and do  
not let yourselves be  
burdened again by a  
yoke of slavery."  
Galatians 5:1***

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The apostle Paul's letter to the believers in the region of Galatia is largely about the freedom we have in Christ that the Law of Moses simply didn't afford the ancient Israelites. After several chapters' worth of build-up, he finally lands at the beginning of chapter 5 on this magnificent statement: *"For freedom, Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery."* Christ has set us free from sin and the law

for the purpose of our being able to enjoy the freedom He has given us. Receiving this incredible freedom requires that we entrust our lives fully into His hands, of course; but other than that, there aren't any strings attached to this gift. It is given simply for us to enjoy. The important question, remains, though: How can we live as free people?

As our nation celebrates the truly unique gift of freedom we have as citizens of the United States of America, we find ourselves living in a day when it is an increasingly open question just how free of a nation we really are or even should be. When laws are being passed and changed with greater frequency, and our people are increasingly divided along hyper-partisan lines, what claim to freedom do we really have anymore?

Yet both sides of the aisle are too often and easily losing sight of what freedom really is—at least, the kind of freedom that is worth having. Both the right and the left are growing more comfortable turning to the state as the chief guarantor of our freedom. We want laws that specify the things we can and cannot do. We want laws that specify what the people around us can and cannot do as well. The trouble with this is that instead of living by freedom, we are more and more living by law. Living by law is not freedom. At least, it's not freedom according to guys like Paul.

But even if you run away from the idea of freedom determined by legislation toward some sort of more libertarian view of freedom being best secured by a government that stays out of the way so that we can be our own masters, you're still not on target with the freedom Paul called us to in Christ.

Contrary to so many folks today, freedom is not something any law can guarantee. It is also not something we can claim for ourselves. In fact, one of the most subtle forms of slavery is the slavery of being responsible for ourselves. I've been reading a book recently called, *You Are Not Your Own*, by Alan Noble. It is absolutely worth your time to get a copy and

read it for yourself, but his thesis is that our culture's great commitment to our being responsible for ourselves is leading to nothing but pain and destruction in our lives.

God made us for something greater. He made us to be His. When we are willing to embrace not being responsible for ourselves, but instead of belonging entirely to God, all of a sudden, a whole world of pressure and expectation is lifted entirely from our shoulders and cannot be put back on us unless we allow it. The freest we will ever be is when we are entirely committed body, mind, and soul to Christ. Then we will be able to become fully who we were designed to be to His great glory and our great joy. Then we will not have to concern ourselves with maintaining some identity because our identity will be firmly established in Him. Then we will not have to fear someone taking our freedom from us, because it will be safely held by one who cannot be conquered.

So, this season, as you celebrate your freedom, celebrate it best by committing yourself fully in obedience to Christ and His kingdom, where the only law is the law of love. Live free in Him and show the world what it has always been seeking.

*Pastor Jonathan*

### Oakboro July 4<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Events

#### Friday, July 1, 2022

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway \*\*Armband Night\*\*
- 6:00 PM Local Talent Showcase
- 8:30 PM The Entertainers on the Union Power Stage

#### Saturday, July 2, 2022

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway \*\*Armband Night\*\*
- 8:30 PM The Tams on the Union Power Stage
- 11:00 PM Fireworks (time subject to change depending on weather)

#### Sunday, July 3, 2022 NO EVENTS

#### Monday, July 4, 2022

- 9:00 AM 64th Annual 4th of July Parade
- 11:00 AM B & K Carnival on Midway
- Opening Ceremonies
- Welcome Remarks - Mayor Joyce Little
- Invocation , National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance & Flag Raising
- Miss Stanly County Fire Queen Pageant
- BBQ Lunch @ Fire Department (Dine In or Carry Out)
- 2:00 PM Midway Closes; reopens at 5:00 p.m.
- 8:30 PM The Tonez on the Union Power Stage
- 11:30 PM Fireworks (time subject to change depending on weather)



## In You

What. A. Few. Past. Weeks. That's all I can say as I sit here on my couch writing this newsletter on a Tuesday afternoon. It started a few weeks back with the explosion of our preschool ministry on Sundays and Wednesdays. God has been good to bring us young ones to disciple, but creating and implementing the systems needed to handle this growth has been no small task. Then the time to take our youth to Caswell arrived, and God did an awesome work in the lives of the students and adults that went. When we got back, there was follow-up to be done on all that He accomplished that week. Then, after that, we have 4<sup>th</sup> of July Outreach to do, Kids' camp to attend, and Vacation Bible School. Throw in some YMCA Bible studies in there, and there's a full summer. There is much to do!

But...

Last Saturday, I entered quarantine due to being around a family member who tested positive for COVID, my to-do list got turned upside down. Instead of focusing on all the things I have to accomplish, God told me to slow down and add a few different things to my plate. The task now is to take care of Ben, Marisa, and myself while both of us attempt to work from home. Needless to say, this is not how I planned to spend my week. But, as I now have time to reflect and—now more than ever—have realized that when I start to focus on my own ability to accomplish good things in life, God has a way of humbling me, bringing me to my point of exhaustion and burnout, all to teach me that I HAVE to trust in His way of doing things.

Jesus says in Matthew 11 that he is humble and lowly in spirit, but that he invited us to take upon his yoke, his way of doing things. What is the result when we do this? When we come to him, he will give us rest. I pray that if you're overwhelmed this week like I am, you would turn to the one who gives rest. Do things HIS way. It will not be without its own work, but it will be one where you gain rest through him.

Blessings as I covet your prayers,

**Nate**



*In memory of **Aline Tarlton**, contributions were given to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks and Bea & Kim Goodman.*

*In memory of **Mike McClellan**, a contribution was made to the Brotherhood by Bea & Kim Goodman.*

*The following made donations to the Building Fund in memory of **Mike McClellan**:*

*James & Dianne Hudson*

*Jim & Cheryl Cameron*

*Doug & Ann Burgess*

*Hope Gaston*

*Eddie & Linda Arrowood*

*Mary Nelms*

*Mae Brooks*

*Sue Greene*

*Kevin & Erica Floyd*

*Doris Hatley*

*Deacons*

*Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class*

*Joy Sunday School Class*

*First Baptist, Oakboro*

*Mae Brooks made a donation to the Youth Ministry in memory of **Mike McClellan**.*

*In memory of **Margo Plyler**, Vickie Yandle's sister, Jim & Cheryl Cameron gave a contribution to the Building Fund.*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





During our June 5<sup>th</sup> Worship, we recognized our graduates and scholarship recipients. Due to the generous donations, FBO was able to award \$7,000 to the following (in alphabetical order). **Mia Carol Barbee**, daughter of Bobby & Jennifer Barbee, received the Alan Smith Memorial Scholarship. She plans to attend Wingate University and major in Nursing. Receiving one of the Mae Brooks scholarships is **Gabriel Christian Burleson**. He is the son of Rick & Angie Scaffè and plans to study Landscape/Gardening at Sandhills Community College. One of the young people we've watched grow and excel is **Laney Castelloe**, daughter of Andy & Julie Castelloe. She was awarded the Amy Boger Memorial Scholarship. She graduated from NC School of the Arts and will pursue Contemporary Dance at SUNY Purchase. Another outstanding youth from FBO is **Gavin Hudson**. He was awarded another Mae Brooks scholarship and is the son of Matt & Melanie Hudson, grandson of Marilyn Huneycutt. He will major in Business & Economics at Virginia Military Institute. **Alyssa Faylin Pope**, another excellent student from FBO was awarded the Jeff & Sandra Chance scholarship. She is the daughter of Josh & Tracey Russell will attend UNC-Wilmington in the Digital Arts field. The Tom & Bertha Rogers scholarship was awarded to **Cassidy Faith Scott**, daughter of Greg & Julie Scott. She will attend NC State University, majoring in Business. **Sophie Jane Tucker**, the fourth student from FBO to receive a scholarship, is the daughter of Wes & April Tucker. Planning to attend Appalachian State University to major in Theatre Performance, she was awarded the Terrell & Janice Watts scholarship. We are so proud of these students and their achievements so far and anticipate a bright future. Please uplift them in your prayers.



**Join the Choir!**

“ . . . the time for singing has come . . . ” Song of Solomon 2:12

If you like to sing, and can practice on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., and be in church on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., then we would LOVE for you to be part of the Worship Choir.

*Interested??  
Come to Prayer Breakfast*



*Saturdays,  
July 2 & 30  
7:30 a.m. in  
Church Sanctuary*

## The Gideons International

[www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org)

**Preschool Ministry  
Needs YOU  
Wednesday Evenings  
Sunday Mornings**

**Worship Nursery  
Needs YOU  
Sunday Mornings**



See or Contact  
Nate for Info

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – June	32,178.05
Budget Receipts – June	31,243.05
Budget Goals – YTD	270,295.62
Budget Receipts – YTD	283,137.42
Budget Variance	+12,841.80
<b>Special Offerings</b>	
Building Fund	1,760.00
NC Baptist Children's Home	100.00
Scholarship Fund	1,200.00
Gathering Place	285.00

CHARLOTTE, NC  
OCTOBER 22, 2022  
Steele Creek Church of Charlotte

Julie Clinton  
Mardisa  
Rachelle Walsh  
Ruth Chou Simons  
Mack Brock

WOMEN 2022  
PURSUING  
an  
unfaithful  
GOD  
A DYNAMIC  
ONE-DAY  
WORSHIP  
EVENT!

Sign up on Board  
at Fellowship Door  
?'s Contact Angel Cople



*“Dear Church Family,  
We would like to thank you for all you have done  
for us over the last month. While we are  
heartbroken by the tragic loss of our home, we are  
overwhelmed by the love and support from our  
church and community. Thank you for all the great  
things you got us to restock our kitchen. As you all know, I have a big  
crew to cook for so it was great to be able to do that again. We  
appreciate all the love, support and mostly prayers. Please continue to  
pray for us as we get settled. Thank you all!”*

Matt, Melanie and Boys

Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip  
November 14-16, 2022  
Everyone is Welcome!  
Please pick up info letter in Fellowship  
Building Entrance  
Questions? Contact Betty or Delinda



*In Honor*

*In honor of the **Graduates**, Mae Brooks  
made a donation to the Youth Ministry.*

# JULY

322 N Main Street  
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- July
- 1 Doug Burgess
  - 1 Jeff Ross
  - 2 Tracy Lowder
  - 3 Jim Cameron
  - 3 Bonnie Lee
  - 3 Cade Turner
  - 8 Jonah Russell
  - 11 Sonya Young
  - 12 Nick Barringer
  - 12 Emerie Smith
  - 16 Sarah Hazelwood
  - 17 Dot Alsobrooks
  - 17 Dianne Hudson
  - 17 Asher Obie
  - 20 Mickey Robinson
  - 21 Essa Mabry
  - 22 Braden Smith
  - 25 Josh Russell

- August
- 2 T. J. Smith

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

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast in Church Sanctuar 6:00 p.m. Oakboro Festivities (Arm Band Night)
3	 9:00 a.m. Oakboro Parade & Festivities Begin Youth Hand Out Water During Parade		NO WEDNESDAY STUDIES OR ACTIVITIES			 EALS MISSION
10	11 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	12	13 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	14	15	1
17	18 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	19	20 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	21  Oakboro Cruise-In	22	2
<b>Kids to Centrifuge ~ July 18-22</b>						
24	25 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	26	27 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	28	29	3 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast in Church Sanctuar
31	<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship					

Mark Your Calendars:

