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FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

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Notes from the inside...

Well, after nearly two and a half years, I finally got the opportunity to take the journey that so many others have. I woke up last Sunday morning with a fever...and a positive Covid test. Actually two. The second line on the first one was faint enough that I was hopefully questioning it. The second gave a nice, strong, clear result within just a couple of minutes. This means that after the unexpected opportunity of

giving Nate the chance to preach on about an hour's worth of notice, I got to spend some quality time with my bedroom in hopes of not infecting the rest of the household. By the time I'm writing this, that goal is on target. Prayerfully, by the time you're reading this, we're still on that track. I am grateful my case has been comparatively mild. Being inconvenienced as well as being an inconvenience for a few days certainly isn't fun, but it also isn't the experience of far too many. For that I am indeed grateful...although I am going to owe my incredible bride a whole bunch of housework and flowers when this is all said and done.

That much all being said, I have learned a few things during even just the two and a half days I've been living in quarantine. Let me share some of these with you including one with some real Gospel significance.

First, my bride is amazing. That she has stepped up and taken on the load of everything really isn't a surprise at all. That's simply who she is. To say I married up doesn't begin to cover it. Wedding vows cover good times, but they also cover times that aren't quite so exhilarating. I've got a bride who covers both ends of the spectrum with grace and love. My gratitude to her is more than I can express.

I also have some pretty amazing boys. Noah has jumped into the fray to help. As a nearly 14-year-old young man, he is far more capable around the house than I was at his age. In addition to being able to handle any chore we throw at him (including laundry), he's also pretty handy around the kitchen. There aren't many things he can't do. And his servant's heart leads him to do them gladly and without complaint. Even Micah, as small as he is, has been ready, willing, and able to go above and beyond to make this season work. Just this morning, he made breakfast for his brother all by himself. And I dare not forget Josiah. He's been locked down with me but has shouldered the whole experience with grace and patience that goes far beyond what most kids his age could have handled. These three boys will make fantastic husbands someday. All in all, I am blessed beyond measure.

This blessing goes beyond my family to the Gospel itself. And speaking of that Gospel, Covid has reminded me of something important about the Gospel. At the core of the Gospel is God's grace made available to us in Christ. And how

do we come by this incredible gift of grace? By our faith. As the apostle Paul wrote, "*it is by grace you have been saved through faith.*" The salvation we have in Christ comes only by our faith in Him. There's nothing we can do to earn or otherwise lay hands on it by our own efforts. If we even try to do that, not only will we fail, but the whole thing will slip through our grasp. It is a faith-only affair.

Yet receiving this gift by faith alone is difficult. As this week has gone by, and Lisa has had to do basically everything for me, I have had to be willing to gratefully receive the gift she has given. Any interference from me could have risked sharing my germs with everyone else in the house. That is, attempts to have something to do with the gift beyond receiving it would have interfered with my ability to receive the gift and created a mess for everyone around me. It's not an easy thing to sit back and receive something given without doing anything to earn or deserve it. Everything in us wants to have *something* to do with it. Yet trying on our part will negate the gift.

The same thing goes with the Gospel. It comes to us by no effort of our own. It is all grace from start to finish. As the original Protestant reformers emphatically declared, the salvation of our God is *sola fidelis*—by faith alone. Any works on our part intended in the direction of making ourselves worthy of the gift only serve to get in the way. They are not nor will ever be enough to that end. Our God is really that good. We simply need to receive from Him and live.

There's one more thing here. As hard as this notion is for us to get our own hearts and minds around (and if you want evidence of this, consider all the ways we know it and yet nonetheless keep trying to smuggle our works into the equation of salvation), it's just that hard for the folks around us who have not yet received this incredible gift of life. Just like we sometimes still struggle with, the idea of salvation by grace alone through faith seems like it is going to disempower them and leave them with a load of guilt for taking something they didn't earn. They will marvel at their own unworthiness and refuse the gift on all of these grounds. What will ultimately push them to receive the gift will not be any amount of force or coercion on our part. No, love alone is the thing that will get them where they are trying to go. Our love as a reflection of Jesus' love is what will draw them to the truth. Anything else simply won't do. There's a reason Jesus said it will be by our love that we are best known as His followers. So, let us make certain as a community that our love is leading the way in all of our Gospel efforts. Then and only then will we be able to accomplish all He has called and created us to do.

Pastor Jonathan

Exhaustion



My goodness has it been a busy summer—and it's not even over yet! As I write this, this past week has been exceptionally busy and filled with exhaustion. With Centrikid wrapping up last week and unexpectedly preaching this past Sunday, I got home Sunday and crashed hard.

But isn't that life a lot of times for all of us? We push ourselves really hard, and then take a day to recover and bandage our wounds from the days before. It's a cycle that I know I find myself in more times than not. So, how do we break it? I'm reminded about Matthew 11: 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."

When we come to Jesus, when we rest in him, he gives us rest. He never says the rest will be without work though, notice the taking on a yoke and learning aspects of this verse. But because he is gentle and lowly in heart, this gives us the rest that we need even though it isn't all palm trees and sunscreen.

Too often though, we only come to pursue this kind of rest when we're at our wits' end rather than pursuing it as a regular part of our routines. I know I've found myself guilty of this more times than not. When we schedule intentional time with the Savior intertwined with our regular lives, he will give us this kind of rest that our soul so deeply craves.

So next time you reach that point of exhaustion, ask: how can I better spend restful time with Jesus each day, so that when exhaustion comes again, I'll know exactly how to rest and regain my strength through the gentle and lowly Savior?

May God grant us the rest to see the work through,

Nate

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



Interested??
Come to Prayer Breakfast

Saturdays
August 6 & 27
7:30 a.m. in
Fellowship Building

The Gideons International

www.gideons.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please register
at <https://forms.gle/WwQHv7yG6W8dogze6>

Or www.fbcoakboro.org

Schedule: Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Opening ~ 6:00-6:25 p.m.

Tracks 1-3 & Closing Time ~ 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Sign Up to Help in Fellowship Building

August 14, 2022
Following Worship

**CHURCH
 BUSINESS
 MEETING**

~ **Vote on: Stewardship & Nominating Reports**
 ~ **Election of Deacons:**

You will be electing 3 deacons this year plus 1 deacon to serve for Mike McClellan. The following or their spouses are not eligible because they are currently serving or are *rotating off: Chip Alsobrooks, Jim Cameron, *Jeff Chance, Jimmy Copple, *Cliff Edwards, Kevin Floyd, Doug Hinson, *Danny Poplin, Jeff Ross, and Wes Tucker.

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
 (704) 485-4313



POOL party

Kids and Youth
August 17
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Oakboro Swim Club



American Red Cross

Join Camp Do Good
DONATE BLOOD. HELP SAVE LIVES.

Blood Drive
First Baptist Church of Oakboro
 Fellowship Hall - Behind the Main Building
 322 N. Main Street
 Oakboro, NC 28129

Wednesday, August 17th
12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – July (through 7/24)	25,742.44
Budget Receipts – July (through 7/24)	23,898.00
Budget Goals – YTD	296,038.06
Budget Receipts – YTD	307,035.42
Budget Variance	+10,997.36
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	1,345.00
Youth Ministry	50.00
Gideons	100.00
MOM	50.00
Sales Tax Refund	2,399.55



"I can never thank all of you adequately for the love and support of my Mother, Aline Tarlton, and me over the years. This church community is beyond special. Thank you for such a beautiful celebration of life service for her, the cards, and calls that you continue to shower on me."

Pam Tarlton Wellons

"FBO, Thank you guys for allowing me the opportunity to apply and receive a scholarship. I also want to thank you for the College Life book! I appreciate it so much!"

Alyssa Pope

"Thank you so much for being like my second family. I have loved the time I have spent in Youth and I am so sad it is coming to an end.

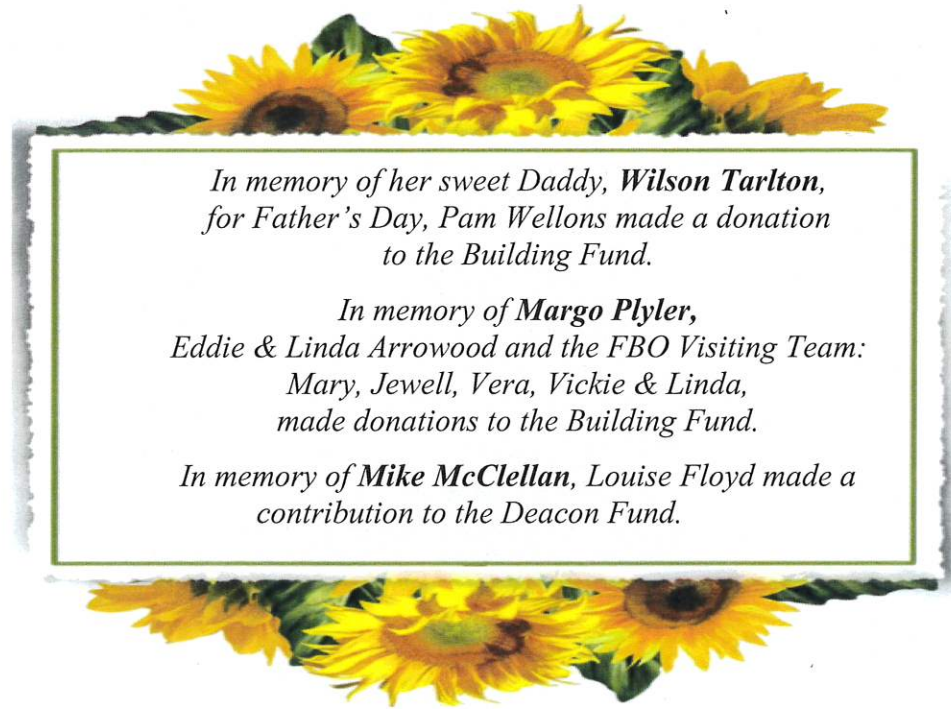
I am very thankful for all of you.

Love," Leah Burleson



In honor of Mae Brooks's Birthday, a donation was given to the Building Fund by FBO Visiting Team: Mary Nelms, Jewell Parker, Vera Robinson, Vickie Yandle, and Linda Arrowood.

A contribution was given to Meals On a Mission by Doug & Ann Burgess in honor of Mae Brooks.



In memory of her sweet Daddy, Wilson Tarlton, for Father's Day, Pam Wellons made a donation to the Building Fund.

In memory of Margo Plyler, Eddie & Linda Arrowood and the FBO Visiting Team: Mary, Jewell, Vera, Vickie & Linda, made donations to the Building Fund.

In memory of Mike McClellan, Louise Floyd made a contribution to the Deacon Fund.

We are receiving monthly deposits from this program. If you haven't signed up, please do so.



Happy Birthday!

- August 2 T. J. Smith
 13 Pattygene Baggie
 14 Meredith Broadaway
 15 Naley Barringer
 16 Vera Robinson
 18 Debbie Edwards
 21 Julie Castelleo
 22 Bobby Watkins
 24 Reagan West
 26 Carla Smith
 Nate Barringer
 27 Victoria McEachern
 28 Brooks Barnhardt
 Sheila Hinson
 29 Helena McClellan
 31 Denise Nightingale

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

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CONNECT
GROW
REACH

	Mon	Tue	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	2	3 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 p.m. Missions Night for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	4	5 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast in Fellowship Building 	
7 Sunday-Wednesday 5:30-8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School	8 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	9	10	11 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	12 	13  E A L S I S S I O N
14 11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE Vote on - Deacons - Nominating & - Stewardship Reports	15 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	16 	17 12:00-4:30 p.m. Blood Drive in Fellowship Building 6:00 Kids & Youth Swim Party at Oakboro Swim Club 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study 7:30 Adult Choir	18	19	20
21	22 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	23	24 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	25	26  Oakboro Cruise-In	27 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast in Fellowship Building 
28	29 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 	30	31 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Adult Choir	Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship		