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FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

The Communicator

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North Carolina
MISSIONS
Offering 2022 goal
\$2.1 MILLION

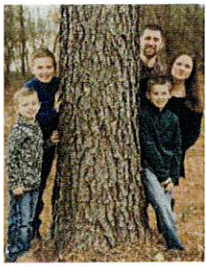
Relief for Today
**HOPE FOR
TOMORROW.**

NCCMISSIONSOFFERING.ORG

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13 CSB*

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Evangelism is a scary word. It shouldn't be for all kinds of reasons. We were commanded to do it. Jesus promised to help us when we do it. It's just telling people about Jesus. It involves sharing what should be one of the single most powerful experiences with the Creator of the universe we've ever had. It should be easy. And fun. And what every conscientious good Christian looks forward to doing all the time with all of the unbelievers about us.

But it's not. Except for the few extroverts among us who happen to be blessed with the spiritual gift of evangelism, if we're really being honest, it's a terrifying thought. We might be rejected. We might be asked a question we can't answer. We might be made fun of. We could lose a relationship. On and on and on our litany of excuses...er...reasons goes. If I can offer an observation, though, it seems that evangelism is a scary thought not because of the act of sharing the Gospel itself, but because of how we've been trained to think about it.

If you are someone who has been around the church for more than 30 years, you were raised with a particular vision of evangelism. This was a rather formal vision in which you sat down with an unbeliever and went through some sort of specific conversation in which you shared a handful of spiritual truths and Scriptures that you had memorized in advance. Then, once all of this was finished, you asked if they wanted to pray to accept Jesus into their heart, they said, "Yes" (because you did such a great job presenting the Gospel to them), you prayed the Sinner's Prayer with them, and, congratulations, you had successfully shared the Gospel.

And the real trouble with this image is that the church then unleashed charismatic men and women who were gifted evangelists who criss-crossed the country sharing story after incredible story of how they had done this very thing over and over again to great effect. Personal ministries rose up around folks who created and perfected methods of evangelism that conscientious Christians wanting to be faithful paid good money to learn from conferences and books and group study series. And, yes, a handful of these folks discovered they had the gift of evangelism as well. But for the rest of us...it mostly left us feeling badly that we never once had a Gospel encounter like we kept hearing about. We'd ask that one question that was supposed to turn the whole conversation in the direction of Jesus and the other person didn't bite. And nothing happened. Or maybe we inadvertently pushed an unbelieving friend too hard and instead of making a Christian, we lost a friend. And so evangelism became in our minds something that was, honestly, scary and dangerous.

But what if we've been thinking about it all wrong? And I don't just mean there is yet another evangelism method that's finally going to be the one that will work and make it easy for us. There will always be new evangelism methods being created in an effort to convince Christians that sharing their faith is

something they really can do. One of the latest is the Three Circles Method and it's great. But it may not work for you...meaning you're not better off in your thinking than you were before.

What if instead of worrying about doing evangelism or sharing your faith or even proclaiming the Gospel, you just gave your attention to having Gospel conversations. These don't ever have to be forced. In fact, they shouldn't be forced. Forced conversations never changed a single mind or heart. But if you have a personal conversation with someone with whom you already have a relationship, and that conversation begins to drift near a topic about which the Gospel has something to say (which is a pretty broad category), do you think you could express why and how Jesus has made a difference in your life in that particular area? Or, could you be honest enough with them to express how even though you aren't there yet, you're finding that letting Jesus help is getting you further toward the goal of righteousness than you have gotten on your own?

The truth here is that if we are going to advance God's kingdom and be faithful to the task Jesus has given us (not to mention growing and strengthening the church), sharing the Gospel is going to be a central part of the task (along with prayer, engaging with the Scriptures, and staying vitally connected with the church). But this doesn't have to be something scary or intimidating. It simply involves having Gospel conversations with the people around you.

As we get into this Fall season, I suspect that many of you will have the opportunity to engage with some folks who aren't currently following Jesus. Some of these folks will be people you know and interact with on a regular basis. You are going to be having conversations about all kinds of things with them and some of those things will be things to which the Gospel speaks. Let it. Let it speak through you. Don't force it. Don't worry about questions you can't answer. Don't worry about being rejected. Just share honestly why the Gospel has made a difference for you in relation to that issue. Plant a seed. Then watch and see how the Spirit makes it grow. You'll be glad you did. And so will they. Let us together be the church God designed us to be—one that reaches out to advance God's kingdom by having Gospel conversations in the world around us.

Pastor Jonathan

When you shop Amazon, use this link.
They will donate to the church.
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-1345829>



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

Momentum



It's go time! By time you read this, our students will be back in school full time, getting after it: Studies, sports, practices, rehearsals, science fairs; it's that time of year. It's also go time here at FBO Students. We're back to Wednesday meals every week, we've got 3 Bible studies plus a nursery running on Wednesdays, both kids and youth events on the horizon. We're hitting the ground running even after coming off a fantastic summer! We've got a lot to look forward to in our student ministry, and we've built a lot of momentum over the past year. With the volunteer and teaching systems that we have in place, we've got a great opportunity to really develop disciples and grow kids to love and serve like Jesus. If you're already involved in one of our volunteer rotations, thank you. We really cannot do it without you. If not, what would it take to get you involved in this momentum God has going for us? For everyone, both those involved now and yet to be involved, the next step is to identify just ONE student that God could use you to get to know, form a relationship with, and be there for them in their growth. Do you have that one student in mind that you know well? One that you have built trust with? That's how momentum keeps going, and that's how we continue to grow. Discipling relationships. I'm reminded of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 11:1. *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."*

Are you imitating Christ? But does somebody look at you and say: "Alright, it's go time, if I model their behavior, I can become more like Jesus"? That is my prayer and vision for our student ministry, that EVERY SINGLE STUDENT has that person in our church to look up to. I can't do it alone, you can't do it alone, and we can't do it without looking to the ultimate motivator, our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Nate

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

Mark your calendars!

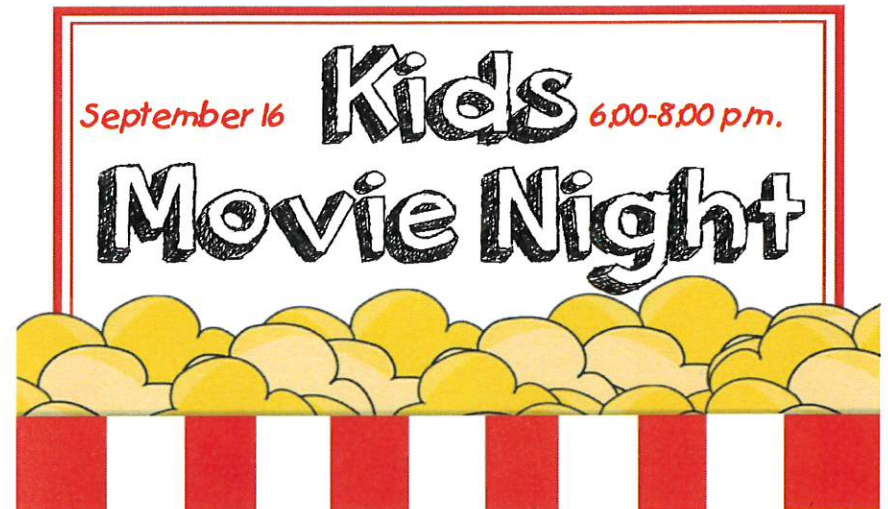
WE ARE AMBASSADORS

Stanly-Montgomery Youth Conference

Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16



Order your FBO Kids T-Shirts!
Cost: \$15 (2x and up, \$18)
Pay Delinda or Nate
Deadline to Order: September 28



OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – August	32,178.05
Budget Receipts – August	28,046.91
Budget Goals – YTD	328,216.11
Budget Receipts – YTD	335,082.33
Budget Variance	+6,866.22
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	2,035.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
VBS Offering for West Stanly Christian Mins.	240.89



"First Baptist Oakboro, Thank you so much for the scholarship. I appreciate it so much. Thank you for giving me a safe place to practice my faith and feel loved. I love you all so much!"
Sophie Tucker

*"I want to thank everyone for all your prayers, food, paper goods, cards, visits. Want to thank First Baptist for all the love you showed me when Mike passed. Thanks for the memorial and Bibles in his memory.
Love to all,"* Mary McClellan

"On March 20, 2022, Wiley and I were thrust on an unchartered journey for us. There were days that I was so sick and weak that I could not hold my phone, much less talk but a few sentences at a time. Imagine me not talking! You as a church joined us on this journey at this time. We were weak, but you were strong, lifting us up daily to our heavenly father. I want to thank you for all the many acts of kindness.

*Thank you for the meals, desserts, flowers, plants, money, gift cards, gas cards, get well cards, and most importantly, the prayers that have lifted me up to our Lord and Savior.
Sincerely,"* Joyce Little

*"Dear First Baptist Family,
We cannot thank you enough for the honor you gave as we celebrated our fifth anniversary of God's call to expend the kingdom with you. We love Oakboro and can't wait to see how He advances His kingdom through our work together in the years ahead of us. Blessings & love,"* The Waits



**In Memory &
Honor**

*In memory of **Dean Allen**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron.*

*In honor of **Dana Jenkins, Bea Goodman, and Jane Barnhardt**, the Blessed Assurance Class Sunday School class made donations to the Building Fund.*

*A contribution was given to the Building Fund by Deborah Tucker in honor of **Jim & Cheryl Cameron's** anniversary.*

We excitedly welcome **Miles Jack Mooney**, born August 10, 2022, weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long. Proud parents are Ashlea & Jordan Mooney, along with big sister Iris, and grandparents Bobby & Renée Watkins. Best wishes to the whole family.
We can't wait to meet him.



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*

- Prayerfully consider giving to support disaster recovery, church planting, and other mission needs in NC.

Relief for Today
**HOPE FOR
 TOMORROW**



*“Dear Secret Sister,
 Even though I do not know who you are personally,
 I wanted to use a few lines in the newsletter to say
 ‘Thank you.’ In this last year, I wanted to say
 thank you for the many cards of encouragement &
 the gifts of candy and decor items I can use in my
 home. Thank you most of all for your love and for
 prayers lifted up on my behalf. ‘How can we thank
 God enough for you.’ 1 Thessalonians 3:9
 Love,” Dana Jenkins*



Happy Birthday, Helena!

Oakboro School of Music Reopens in September

Please contact Dana Jenkins at danajenkins@mac.com or call (704) 985-6075 to enroll for private, 30-minute lessons in piano and/or voice.



Friends of Children Workday

Saturday, **September 17, 2022**, from 8:30 until 2:00. Help impact the needs of Camp Duncan’s children’s home on this day with special upkeep projects, meet the children, take a tour of the camp, and enjoy lunch. Sign-up sheets are located on the bulletin boards for your convenience.





- September 6 Telia Baucom
Doris Hatley
7 Wil Kippes
9 Renée Watkins
Justin Barringer
13 Lennon Henry
14 Chris Huneycutt
15 Ellen Meadors
Gale Medlin
16 Laney Castelleo
19 Tina Ross
20 Sue Greene
Trevor McClellan
22 Wes Tucker
24 Catherine Thomas
25 Harrison Montgomery
27 Marilyn Huneycutt
Ashlea Mooney
28 Andy Castelleo
Jill Turner
29 Shea Morton
30 Noah Waits

- October 2 Hope Gaston
Sandra Chance

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

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>			1	2	3 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast in Fellowship Building 
4 	5 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	6 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	7 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 p.m. Missions Night for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir	8 	9 
10 	11 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	12 	13 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING Youth Bible Study 7:30 Worship Choir	14 15 6:00-8:00 p.m. 	16 17  8:30 - 2:00 p.m. Work Day at Camp Duncan's Children's Home Please Sign Up
18 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	19 	20 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir	21 22 	23  Oakboro Cruise-In	24
25 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	26	27 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir Kids T-Shirt Order Deadline	28 29  7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.	30	