

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #3  
Oakboro NC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 10  
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXIII No. 12

November 30, 2022

REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.  
ALCANZANDO A LAS NACIONES, UNIDOS.

함께, 열방을 향해.  
齊心合力，觸及萬民。



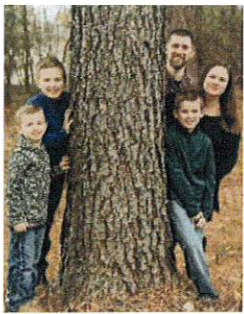
INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION BOARD  
LET THE MOON CHRISTMAS  
OFFERING



ibm.org/letthemoon

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

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor  
Office (704) 485-4313  
[pastorjwaits@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjwaits@gmail.com)  
(804) 896-4520



I want you to think for just a second about the last time you had important company coming to stay at your house. What exactly made the company important doesn't matter right now. For you, for whatever reason, they were significant people.

Do you have that time in your mind?

Now, think about what you did to prepare for their arrival.

You probably cleaned. A lot. You may have gone through closets and gotten rid of old junk in there you had long needed to deal with but had been putting off for a while. You got into some of those nooks and crannies around the house where dirt and grime had been collecting for far too long. You may have even cleaned...wait for it...the blinds. Whether someone else was looking in or your company was looking out, you wanted them to have a clean, clear view.

If the company was sufficiently important, you probably tried to get into a few new good habits before their arrival. You started putting the dishes away right after dinner instead of the next morning. You picked up your towel off the floor after your shower. You watched TV less and read interesting books more. You carved out intentional time for conversation rather than just having your nose buried in your phone all the time.

There's a good chance you even sprung for some gifts to present to your guests when they arrived.

You wanted to impress them with your hospitality and your home and your having-it-all-togetherness. You wanted them to be comfortable for the whole duration of their stay. You wanted them to leave marveling at how impressive your life and family are.

Have you made the connection with me yet?

Most of this month will be spent in the season of Advent. The Christmas season doesn't officially begin this year until December 25. This means that most of this month is to be spent not celebrating Jesus' birth but preparing for His arrival. We rightly celebrate His birth. You may be able to rest with delight and contentment because of His arrival in your heart some number of years ago. And yet, even as His Spirit may be an invited

guest in your heart, there is a day coming when Jesus will come again in person, and this time He's staying forever.

Are you ready for that? Are you ready for His Advent? Is there any cleaning you need to do? Closets in your heart that need to be cleaned? Corners you've ignored for too long? Are there any good habits you need to start? Bad habits you need to eliminate? Are there gifts you could prepare for Him? Heavenly treasures you could store in bigger piles? My guess is that you are already busy this month, and that it won't get any better from here. That's part of life at this time of year. My challenge to you—to all of us—is to not get lost in it. Don't miss the chance to prepare yourself for His arrival. Make certain that you are ready when He arrives. That will make His coming all the sweeter, and you will be able to have a very, merry Christmas.

*Pastor Jonathan*



*THANK YOU ALL so much for the turn-out for the Community Trunk or Treat event! Without the decorated vehicles, the volunteers helping bag the candy and helping that night, those who donated candy, ones who shared our event and anything that you did, this would not have been the HUGE success that it was. Despite the misty/drizzly weather, the estimate was between 3,000-4,000 people. It was AMAZING! We celebrate this year's outreach and look forward with great anticipation to next year!*

*"Dear Pastor Jonathan & First Baptist,  
Thank you so much for joining us as financial partners. We are honored to be the first outside missionary. We are looking forward to partnering together to help marriages and families.*

*Love," Eva & Jason McLean*

## Others



Well, here I am, on the couch as I write this, confined to move only with my crutches and when necessary.

As I'm recovering from this surgery. I am very thankful for all those in my life right now. One, my awesome wife—as she has been great getting me all that I need. But also for those in our church who have checked on me but are also leading in our student ministries while I'm out. You see, this surgery should have been the week of Thanksgiving. I would have had the surgery the Monday before, taken the week of Thanksgiving, and then barely missed a beat when it comes to ministry and activities. Well, that didn't happen...but I've come to realize that maybe this is God teaching me a lesson to rely on others more.

I'm so thankful for everyone that has stepped up to help; you are all a blessing and a joy. But don't we all sometimes take this attitude at first, trying to do everything on our own instead of asking for help? How much easier would our tasks be if we just leaned on each other more? If we all worked together helping advance the Kingdom? That's what I'm learning this week: Help is not something to be ashamed of, but a gift from God. Thank you to God for the help he gives us through his Spirit and his people. May we learn to engage well with the gifts he gives us.

Blessings and much, much thanks, **Nate**

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



**Poinsettia Dedications:** If you'd like to reserve a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please sign up on the bulletin board. This year, they are \$10 each. If questions, please see Debbie Edwards or contact the church office.

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – November	31,723.95
Budget Receipts – November	34,126.00
Budget Goals – YTD	82,482.27
Budget Receipts – YTD	82,126.00
Budget Variance	-356.27
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,560.00
Ministry Appreciation Offering	1,000.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	475.00
Deacons	40.00
Gathering Place	625.00
Kids' T-Shirts	30.00
Youth Lock-In	270.00
Brotherhood (BBQ)	400.00
Toys for Tots	200.00
West Stanly Christian Ministries (Day of Giving)	720.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	155.00
Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Postage	413.00



*Contributions were made to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by Jewell Parker in honor of **Deborah Tucker** and **Chip & Dot Alsbrooks**.*



*In memory of **Edna Bolin**, Ann Eudy's mom, donations were given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by:*  
*Mae Brooks*  
*Doug & Ann Burgess*  
*Jewell Parker*  
*Ladies Care Ring*  
*Jim & Cheryl Cameron*

Envelopes and Prayer guides for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions are located at the church entrances during December. Prayerfully consider giving to continue spreading the Gospel throughout the world.



## HOPE Fellowship Happenings

We had another FANTASTIC trip to Myrtle Beach this year; we hope you will consider joining us next year. Our next trip is scheduled to *Southern Supreme Fruit Cakes & More* for a tour, shopping, and lunch at Best Foods Cafeteria on Monday, **December 5**. Lunch at Rosebriar is set for Tuesday, **January 17, 2023**. Additional information will be provided as we approach these dates.

**IT'S PEANUT BUTTER JELLY TIME!**



**WHAT?** Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is collecting plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly for its annual Peanut Butter and Jelly Campaign for local food banks


**WHEN?** Now through MLK Day

**WHERE?** Drop off here at FBO

**WHY?** Help GAL reach their goal of 10,000 jars to feed hungry North Carolinians!

North Carolina  
GUARDIAN AD LITEM  
A COURT APPOINTED SOCIETY

[volunteeforgal.org](http://volunteeforgal.org)



**Partner with West Stanly Christian Ministries:** To help feed local families this Christmas, we are joining with 5 other churches to raise \$20,000 for WSCM. We've collected \$720 so far. How can you help? If you'd like to contribute to this cause, please mark your envelope "WSCM," and place your donation into the offering plate during Sunday School or Worship. You also may go to our "Partner with FBC" tab and choose "Miscellaneous Offering." Funds collected in this category for December will be posted toward WSCM.

## Offering Envelopes




Over the next few weeks, the Stewardship Committee will distribute the numbered offering envelope sets. Those of you who give online will not be given a set UNLESS you email or call the office to request one. Also, contribution statements will be ready mid-January.



*Oakboro Christmas Festivities*  
*Thursday, December 1*  
*6:00 p.m. Tree Lighting*  
*6:30 p.m. Parade*



The Worship Choir  
Presents  
**CHRISTMAS**  
*in HIS*  
**PRESENCE**

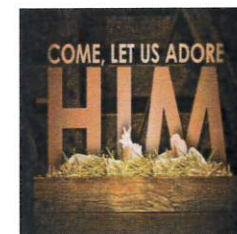


**Sunday, December 18**  
**10:00 a.m. Worship**

**The Timeless Story of His Coming**  
*Created by Marty Hamby and Deborah Craig-Claar*  
*Arranged for Choir & Orchestra by Marty Hamby*  
*Optional Drama by Deborah Craig-Claar*

**We will have Communion during this Service.**  
**Treat bags will be distributed afterward.**

Join Us for  
Christmas Eve Worship  
At 5:00 p.m.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

# DECEMBER

- December**
- 1 Butch Poplin
  - 2 Harry Foster
  - 3 Kristen Beatty
  - 5 Jeff Chance
  - Presley Poplin
  - 15 Heather Cople
  - 18 Georgia Harvey
  - Barry Beatty
  - 25 Joyce Little
  - Rebekah Crisco
  - 28 Iris Mooney
  - 29 Betty Huneycutt
  - Shannon Chaney
  - 30 Case Smith
  - 31 Teresa Smith
  - Stephen Obie

- January**
- 2 Julie Poplin
  - Ann Burgess
  - 4 Jean Little

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>322 N Main Street PO Box 10 Oakboro, NC 28129 www.fbcoakboro.org</p>	<p><b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>			<p>5:00 p.m. Oakboro Christmas Festivities 6:00 Tree Lighting 6:30 Parade</p>	<p>1 2 3</p> 	<p>7:30 a.m. Gideons International Prayer Breakfast 3:00-7:00 p.m. Shoebox Trip</p>  
<p>4 11:30 a.m. Ladies Christmas Party &amp; Secret Sister Reveal</p>	<p>5 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 8:30 HOPE Fellowship to</p> 	<p>6 6:30 p.m. Deacon Family Meal at Los Jacubes</p>	<p>7 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Missions Night for All Youth Bible Study 7:30 Worship Choir</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 10</p> 	
<p>11 4:00 p.m. Proverbs 31 Wannabes Christmas at Ma Mae's</p>	<p>12 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:00 Kids' Light of the World Christmas Party 6:30 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 Worship Choir</p>	<p>15</p> 	<p>16 17 6:00-8:00 p.m. YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY at the Tuckers</p> 	
<p>18 10:00 a.m. Communion, Treat Bags &amp; Worship Choir Presents CHRISTMAS in HIS PRESENCE</p>	<p>19 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 YMCA - Fellowship Building Use 7:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Christmas Eve Worship COME, LET US ADORE HIM</p> 	
<p>25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Worship</p>	<p>26 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 29 30 31 YMCA - Fellowship Building Use 7:00 a.m. -6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 31 New Year's Eve</p> 	
<p>Merry Christmas!</p> 						