

In Loving Memory

In memory of **Pat Hammack**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:

Carolyn Clontz
Wiley & Joyce Little
Bea & Kim Goodman

Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class.

In memory of **Priscilla Foreman**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:

Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Wiley & Joyce Little
Mickey & Vera Robinson.

In memory of **Margie Helms**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:

Wiley & Joyce Little
Bryce & Alice Kimrey
Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Kim & Bea Goodman
Doris Hatley

Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class.

A contribution was made by Dianne Hudson to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in memory of **Margie Helms**.

In memory of **Aline Tarlton** for Mother's Day, Pamela Wellons made a donation to First Baptist, Oakboro.

In memory of **Barbara Drye**, a donation was given by Wiley & Joyce Little to the Building Fund.

In memory of **Tommy Rogers**, a donation was given to the Scholarship Fund by Bill & Vickie Yandle.

In Honor

In honor of **Louise Floyd's birthday**, a donation was given to First Baptist Church of Oakboro Building Fund by Wiley & Joyce Little.

In honor of **Mae Brooks**, Tracy & Lisa Lowder made a contribution to the NC Baptist Children's Homes Food Round-up.



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

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If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? Pilgrims!

There really wasn't a point to that beyond sharing a joke Josiah shared with me the other day to make you smile. Even if you've heard it before and are now rolling your eyes, it still might have elicited at least a chuckle.

Sometimes it's easy to get stuck in a pattern in which we forget to smile. We get so busy running around trying to keep all of our plates spinning in the air that we overlook the simple joys of life like a silly joke. The same thing can happen in the life of the church. We get so busy trying to serve the Lord that we forget about basking in the joy of the Lord.

This is all running through my mind because the next few weeks and months are going to feel busy. We have something different and special going on for each of the next five Sundays. This coming week will be Youth Sunday. Following that is Mother's Day. Then we'll celebrate a baptism Sunday. Then comes Memorial Day weekend, and finally graduate recognition Sunday. And once we get into June things aren't going to slow down much at all. We'll hold our VBS the weekend after school gets out (we still need lots of volunteers, and you are one of those). The following week the youth head to Caswell. That trip will be followed quickly by the Fourth of July festival. Then the elementary students head to CentriKid. And then we're back in school! Not too long after that, we'll send a group to Guatemala for a week on the first international missions trip this church has sponsored in a very long time.

And just to make sure we don't get bored, there are a whole host of other small events peppered in between these bigger ones.

Like I said: There's a lot coming down the pipe at us.

But here's the thing: It's all good stuff. We are advancing God's kingdom into our community and beyond in a number of crucial ways. We are rightly celebrating His work in our midst. We are being the church He created us to be. Oh, we're still growing together, and we have much more growing yet to do, but we're further than we were.

In the midst of all this action and activity, though, don't miss out on the joy that should be a part of it. Jesus promised us a light and easy burden when we follow Him. That's not the same as saying it is going to be easy.

He guaranteed it wouldn't be. What He was telling us is that the serving will be a joy if we will let it be. When we are doing it under His power and with His Spirit leading the way, joy will characterize every part of it.

That does not, however, have to be the case. It is frightfully easy for us to begin trying to serve Him under our own power and with just the resources we can produce. This usually happens when we start getting focused on the tasks before us and not the God who is giving them. It happens when we get tired of waiting on His timing and rush to get things done on our own schedule so we can zoom ahead to the promised rewards at the end of the path.

Taking this path will not bring us joy. The service will become a chore. We will grow tired and weary. We may even quit and go home wondering why we signed up for this stress in the first place.

Listen well: That's not what God wants for us. He wants the advance of His kingdom to be a source of great joy and gladness in our hearts. In order to experience that, though, we have to do it His way and with our eyes fixed on Him. If we look anywhere else, we'll start to sink beneath the waves like Peter did. If you find yourself slipping and sinking a bit, do what Peter did: cry out to Jesus. Reach out to Him for help. Let Him restore you. Let Him restore your joy.

When we all do this together, there's no telling what God will yet use us to accomplish for His kingdom. As we take that path, we will be able to celebrate together all our God has done as we drive happily away in our Honda just like the early disciples did. What? Don't you remember Luke's telling us at the end of Acts 2 that they were all in one accord?

Blessings and joy to you.

Pastor Jonathan



SHORT SUMMER

9 Weeks – 9 weeks of summer this year, and they begin very soon. With the school system ending like normal but switching to a new schedule next year, we end June 9th and begin the next year August 9th. This is an amazing opportunity for our church, but it will also mean our student ministry will be kicking it into overdrive for those weeks. Here’s why it’s an amazing opportunity, here’s our tentative calendar for June and July alone:

- June 4:** Graduate Sunday
- June 7:** Kids’ End-of-School Party
- June 11-13:** Vacation Bible School
- June 19-24:** Youth Camp at Fort Caswell
- July 1-4:** Fourth of July Town Celebration
- July 4:** Fourth of July Parade
- July 17-21:** Kids’ Camp at CentriKid
- July 26:** Back to School Pool Party

Now, here’s why our student ministry will be kicking it into overdrive during June and July: (See List Above)

As you can see, there is a plethora of events for us to both reach out to students in our community and disciple the students we already have. Now, what does this all mean? It means we could use all the help we can get in pouring into our students. The biggest need is VBS, if you haven’t already signed up to help, please do so. We need all hands on deck for this event. But for a lot of the other events, we already have adults in place for them. So, what can you do? Support the adults and students engaged in these events. Pray, pray, pray, and then pray some more that God would use these events for the advancing of His Kingdom. Then afterwards, put those prayers into action. Send a note to a camp chaperone telling them you’re praying for them. Make or purchase a thank-you goody bag for the kids or youth committee. Make a homemade snack for the kids or youth at one of the parties. Send a letter to a student saying that you are praying for their growth and safety this next school year. If you need the names of these people, use me as a resource to get them. I’d be delighted to help.

It’s going to be an amazing summer; I can feel it. But let’s get prayed up and prepared for it, then watch what God will do.

With excitement, **Nate**

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – April	25,379.16
Budget Receipts – April (<i>Through 4/27/23</i>)	26,693.00
Budget Goals – YTD	215,722.86
Budget Receipts – YTD	213,914.50
Budget Variance	-1,808.36
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,635.00
NC Baptist Children’s Homes	175.00
Gathering Place	259.00
Children’s Ministry	20.00
Youth: T-Shirts, Mission Trip	628.00
Annie Armstrong	275.00
Scholarship	1,300.00
Deacons	25.00

Sunday, May 21
BAPTISM
10:00 a.m.
 See Pastor Jonathan
 for more information



Join us on Sunday, **June 4**, during the 10:00 a.m. Worship service, as we honor all graduates and present scholarships to the recipients. As they begin a new chapter in their lives, show your support to those reaching this milestone and celebrate their academic accomplishments.

BABY
sprinkle

Honoring
The Sisson Family
on the impending arrival of Zachariah

MAY 7



2 - 4 PM

First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

Big Brother Ben has lots to share,
It's just a sprinkle to show that we care.
Not much is needed, the basics will do,
Diapers, wipes, gift cards, and an outfit or two.

Family is registered at Walmart



Blood Drive
First Baptist Oakboro

Fellowship Hall - Located behind the Main Building
322 N. Main Street
Oakboro, NC 28129

Thursday, May 11th
2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: FBCOakboro to schedule an appointment.

RAPIDPASS

Complete your pre-donation and health history questionnaire
from your mobile device using RapidPass



Scan Me

Expedite your donation!

Use your mobile device or a donor tablet to scan the QR code and complete
your RapidPass. Be sure to screenshot or email your RapidPass to yourself
and have it ready to present to staff before exiting health history.



The Scholarship Committee is reviewing the applications received for this year's church scholarship awards. If you wish to contribute this year, please mark your envelope "scholarship" and drop your donation into the offering plate. You also may go online through E-giving and select "scholarship" from the list of funds.



Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



"Thank you, First Baptist Church, for all your kindness and love shown to us with the passing of our sister Priscilla Foreman! Thank you for the phone calls, food, cards, memorial gifts to the Building Fund and most of all for your prayers! We love you our church family!"

Eddie & Linda Arrowood










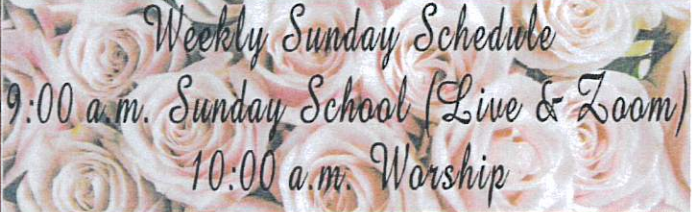
*"Dear Friends,
Many, many thanks for all the love you have shown me over the last winter and spring. My medical journey has been difficult but was helped so much by the cards, gifts, visits, phone calls and prayers you showered on me. It was a constant source of joy and confidence to keep me pushing forward! You are all wonderful friends, and I thank God for all of you in my life!*

With sincere love," Carolyn Hinson



May

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
<p>Upcoming Events: June 4 – Graduate Day June 11-13 Vacation Bible School June 19-24 - Caswell Youth Camp</p>		1	2	3 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Missions Night Brotherhood, WMU Kids & Youth Bible Study 7:30 Worship Choir	4 12:00 p.m. Oakboro Memorial Park 	5  6:00-7:30 p.m. Hot Dog Supper & Bake Auction 	
<p>2:00-4:00 p.m. Baby Sprinkle for Sisson Family </p>		8 8:30 a.m. Two or More 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	9	10 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir	11 2:30-6:30 pm.  American Red Cross Blood Drive	12 	13
<p>14 </p>		15 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	16 7:00 p.m. <i>Ladies' Care Ring in Youth Center</i>	17 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir	18	19	20 7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast - Church Basement 
<p>21 10:00 a.m. <i>Baptism Service</i> 4:00 p.m. <i>Proverbs 31 Wannabes</i></p>		22 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	23	24 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Youth & Parents' Meeting After Bible Study 7:30 Worship Choir	25	26	27
<p>28  MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBERING & HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★ ★ ★ ★</p>			30	31 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir	<p><i>Weekly Sunday Schedule</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship </p>		

- May 4 Ellen Little
Bill Thomas
- 7 Peggy Carey
- 10 Elijah Morton
Shaphan Morton
- 11 Nancy Haywood
Danny Poplin
- 12 Doyle Hatley
Frances VanHorn
- 13 Mandy Smith
- 14 Shelbie Davis
- 16 Andrew Smith
- 19 Brayden Meadors
- 20 D. J. Poplin
Joe Cople
- 21 Judy Tucker
Jax Mabry
- 24 Mark Hinson
Nate Sisson

- June 1 Gretchen Castelloe
Jeff Bowers
- 3 Matt Hudson

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