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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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FIRST BAPTIST
O A K B O R O

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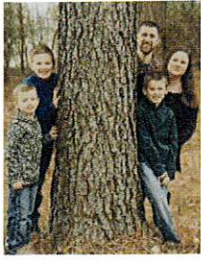


Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of
the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

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One of the most significant, but often overlooked parts of the creation story (except perhaps in academic papers), is found right at the beginning of Genesis 2. Having spoken all of creation into existence and formed humanity in His own image, God rests from all the work that He had done. In the context of this statement, Moses, writing sometime during the Israelites' journey through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, notes that because of His decision to rest on what he calls the "seventh day," God "blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, for on it he rested from all his work of creation."

The reason Moses added this little editorial note to the story is not immediately clear. From the hindsight of history we know, but if you were someone reading this story for the first time and without any knowledge of Christianity or Judaism, it would just seem odd. Why write something like this? Especially when, as you keep reading, nothing else is said or done in connection with this note for a very long time.

It is not, in fact, until you get all the way to the midway point of the next major story—Exodus—that the necessary context is given for Moses' editorial note. The fourth of the initial ten commands God gave the people of Israel which were intended to form the heart of the covenant He was making with them expanded on the importance of the seventh day to create the Sabbath. Moses' editorial note at the end of the first creation story was about helping the Israelites see that God's Sabbath command wasn't arbitrary, but rather something that was rooted in the very nature of creation itself.

What exactly we are to do with the Sabbath today as followers of Jesus is a bit more complicated of a question than it was for the ancient Israelites. Their instructions were clear: don't work on the Sabbath. For us, however, things aren't quite so clear cut. Most notably, we aren't held to the standards of the old covenant any longer—including the Ten Commandments—because that was fulfilled in Christ's sacrificial death and replaced with the New Covenant of grace through faith.

That being said, the pattern of work and rest is still something that is built into creation. Jesus pointed us forward toward a greater Sabbath rest coming at the consummation of all things when God's eternal kingdom finally comes in glory and power, but the work-rest pattern is nonetheless something we need to figure out how to manage in our lives as His followers today.

We can do this in ways both small and large. Some of the small ways are to make sure we are carving out regular and intentional time in our lives for worship and physical rest. Some of the larger ways are to be intentional about taking time on an annual basis and at periods of five, seven, or ten years, to take longer periods of rest. This goes for our lives generally. It is where the idea of taking a sabbatical comes from. It also, though, is something worth incorporating into our life cycle as a church.

With that in mind, this summer we are trying something a little different. It's something we have done before, though not for several years. For the month of July, we are taking a bit of Sabbath together. We are not going to have any Wednesday night activities for the whole month. This is going to give all of our various volunteers (to the tune of 15-20 different volunteers each week) some time to rest. It will give all of us more time with our families during a season when people often plan to take that time anyway. From the standpoint of the pastor, it will give me time to shift my focus to prayerfully planning out sermon series for the entire year ahead of us. Please feel free to hold me accountable for that by asking about what it is starting in August.

Taking a break like this, though, comes with some inherent risk, because spiritual inertia can be a powerful thing. Just because we are embracing some rest as a church, doesn't mean we can quit following Jesus together. Doing this will make being here on Sunday mornings all the more important. It will make your pursuit of engaging with the Scriptures and prayer in your personal devotional times all the more important as well. I will continue to write my blog each weekday, so you can use that for your devotional time if you would like. We will be continuing the journey through Exodus I have started there. It also means that we need to be covering this next month and the year ahead of us in prayer during this time. We need to be praying together over the direction God has for us to go so that we can hit the ground in August ready to run as everything fires back up again into full gear.

So, for the next month, use the extra time in our schedule to do just that. Engage with the Scriptures. Pray fervently. Worship with the body. Prepare yourself for what God has in store for us. There are big things coming our way. I can't wait to experience them with you as we commit ourselves to expanding His kingdom into this community and beyond together.

Pastor Jonathan



God Works Even Without Me

What a week it was at Caswell with our Youth! We saw 2 students make professions of faith in Christ and several go forward to make commitments to explore vocational ministry. And the thing was: I wasn't even there. This year was the first time in my 8 years of student ministry that I didn't attend a summer camp with our students. I'm so thankful that the church allowed me to spend time with our new son and be with them and I'm immensely grateful to our 5 chaperones who went this week. But I'll admit, it was a teaching moment for me. I'd be lying if I said my heart didn't hurt a little watching them drive off out of the parking lot without me. God taught me this week that He doesn't need me to work great things for His glory. He can do that through numerous other ways. This is one of the goals in ministry and really our church, too. Finding ways to let God work in ways through others and not just you.

Now, don't hear that as an excuse to not serve or volunteer. God still used people to work in our students' lives--Specifically, 5 fantastic adults. God's primary way of working in this world is the church, and the church is still the people. We are still salt and light here on this earth. What I mean is don't fall into the trap of thinking if you don't do it, it won't get done, or it won't get done properly. God is more than able to use others for his goals. Rather, ask, "how can I disciple someone and encourage them to see if God has them to do that?" Don't hog all the ministry, but rather ask "how can I lovingly invite others to do this alongside me?" That's discipleship. If we do it properly, we'll find just how big our God is and realize that while he doesn't need us for anything, he still uses us and loves us. And I can't think of many more awe-inspiring things than that.

Nate

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

centrikid
camps

July 17-21

WELCOME!



MEET ZACHARIAH CHRISTOPHER SISSON, NEWEST SON OF OUR MINISTER OF STUDENTS, NATE SISSON AND HIS WIFE MARISA. HE WAS BORN JUNE 1, 2023, WEIGHED 9 POUNDS, 3 OUNCES AND WAS 22 1/2 INCHES LONG. HE JOINS BIG BROTHER, BEN. CONGRATULATIONS NATE, MARISA AND BEN!

Below is the information for the annual beach trip. This is open to EVERYONE. If you have questions, contact the church office or Betty Huneycutt.



Myrtle Beach
Christmas Show Trip
November 13-15, 2023

Prices:
\$220 per person (2 to a room)
single room: \$320
(Pricing for 3 & 4 to a room available)

\$100 per-person deposit due July 20

Currently, the Package Includes:
~ 2 nights' oceanfront accommodations
@ Caravelle Resort (all taxes & fees)
~ 2 hot breakfast buffets
~ Transportation by mini-bus and/or van
~ Day of shopping or rest
~ 1 all-you-can eat buffet at
Original Benjamin's Seafood
~ Carolina Opry Christmas Show

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – June	25,379.16
Budget Receipts – June	19,308.00
Budget Goals – YTD	272,825.97
Budget Receipts – YTD	261,521.50
Budget Variance	-11,304.47
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,070.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Gathering Place	456.00
Porch Rails (Donation & Scrap Reimb)	3,656.00
Youth Camp Deposits & Donations	100.00
Brotherhood	50.00
Scholarship	1,200.00
Deacons	60.00
VBS Donation	130.00
Benevolence	300.00



In Loving Memory & In Honor

*In honor of **Bea Goodman**, a contribution was made to the Building Fund by Jewell Parker.*

*On Father's Day, Jewell Parker made a donation to the Building Fund in memory of **Ted Parker**, and in honor of **Norris Parker** and **Randy Parker**.*

*In honor of the **Brotherhood**, a contribution was given by **Cliff & Lynn Edwards**.*

Church Contact Information

In case you need to reach out to us:

E-mail: firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com

Website: fbcoakboro.org

Telephone: (704) 485-4313

Church Mailing Address: PO Box 10

Physical Address: 322 N Main Street

Fellowship Building Address: 310 N Haywood Street

Oakboro, NC 28129

Oakboro July 4th Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 29, 2023

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway ****Armband Night****
- 8:30 PM The Entertainers on the Union Power Stage
- 11:30 PM Celebration ends for the day

Friday, June 30, 2023

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway ****Armband Night****
- 6:00 PM Little Miss 4th of July Pageant
- 7-9:00 PM Talent Show Sign-Up at Oakboro Fire Department
- 8:30 PM Ryan Perry on Union Power Stage
- 11:30 PM Celebration ends for the day

Saturday, July 1, 2023

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway ****Armband Night****
- 6:00 PM Local Talent Showcase
- 8:30 PM Too Much Sylvia on the Union Power Stage
- 11:30 PM Celebration ends for the day

Sunday, July 2, 2023 NO EVENTS

Monday, July 3, 2023

- 6:00 PM B & K Carnival on the Midway ****Armband Night****
- 8:30 PM Cat5 Band on the Union Power Stage
- 11:30 PM Celebration ends for the day

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

- 9:00 AM 65th Annual 4th of July Parade
- 11:00 AM B & K Carnival on Midway
- Opening Ceremonies
- Welcome Remarks - Mayor Chris Huneycutt
- 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
- 5:00 PM Midway Opens
- 8:30 PM The Tonez on the Union Power Stage
- 10:30 PM Raffle Drawing
- 11:30 PM Fireworks (time subject to change depending on weather)
- 12:00 AM Celebration ends for the year



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship				6:00 p.m. Oakboro July 4th Activities Begin *Armband Night* 8:30 p.m. THE ENTERTAINERS			1
	2 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	3	4 	5 NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES	6	7	8
	9 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	10	11	12 NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES	13 	14	15 7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast in Men's Sunday School Class
	16 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	17	18	19 NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES	20	21	22
JULY 17-21							
	23 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	24	25	26 NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES	27	28	29 7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast in Men's Sunday School Class
	30 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	31	August 1 2:00 p.m. History Committee Meets	August 2 5:30 p.m. Gathering Place 6:00 p.m. BACK-TO-SCHOOL POOL PARTY Missions Night 			

- July**
- 1 Doug Burgess
 - Jeff Ross
 - 2 Tracy Lowder
 - 3 Jim Cameron
 - Bonnie Lee
 - Cade Turner
 - 8 Jonah Russell
 - 11 Sonya Young
 - 12 Emerie Smith
 - 16 Sarah Hazelwood
 - 17 Dot Alsobrooks
 - Dianne Hudson
 - 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.

