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For my dad...  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXIV No. 6

May 30, 2023



I will be your  
*Father,*  
and you will  
be my sons  
and daughters,  
says the Lord  
Almighty.

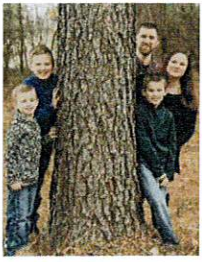
2 Corinthians 6:18

[hisdearlyloveddaughter.com](http://hisdearlyloveddaughter.com)

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As a pastor, at any one time, there are several different passages of Scripture I am sitting with and studying. There's whatever is going to be the focus of the upcoming Sunday sermon, of course. There's also the passage we are working through on Wednesday nights. Those two are givens and just part of life. The danger for pastors is that we spend so much time focused on this kind of routine study-with-the-explicit-purpose-of-teaching that we don't make time for personal study so that God can speak to us through our own study times, not merely the times we spend studying on behalf of the church.

If you follow my blog at all, what you see there is a reflection of what I am studying in my personal Bible study times. I have long had a pattern of study that involves reading the Scriptures and reflecting through them by writing out my thoughts. In other words, I'm going to be writing regardless, so I just write where it's public.

In any event, these three ongoing areas of study are generally disconnected from one another. Sometimes, though, they all start running into each other. When I'm on my game (which isn't always by any stretch), I'll pay close attention to this to see if I can wrap my head around why.

Well, in the last few weeks I have been spending a lot of time with Matthew 10, Exodus 3-4, and the first half of the book of Acts. All of this is coming at a point in our church's life cycle in which we are starting to reach out and move forward in ways we haven't for some time. I don't think any of this is accidental. Let me see if I can show you why.

In Exodus 3-4, God appears to Moses in the burning bush that isn't actually burning and calls him go and lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Moses' response (which we will be taking a look at together this coming Sunday, Lord willing, as a challenge to our graduates) leaves much to be desired. He whines and complains and finally just begs God to send someone else. It makes for a pretty inauspicious start to the stories of one of the greatest figures in the entire Old Testament. It's also a good example of how not to respond to God's invitations to join Him in His work.

In Matthew 10, Jesus is sending the disciples out in pairs to proclaim the coming of God's kingdom. We've been sitting with this on Wednesday nights recently. After given a whole range of instructions about how they

are to go, Jesus shifts gears on them to talk about the kinds of challenges they can expect to face when they set about advancing His kingdom. It's not a terribly encouraging conversation. In fact, it's rather unsettling to think these are the kinds of things we can expect to face when we set out to do His work in the world around us.

As we engage with Luke's description of the various trials and tribulations of the early church in the first half of Acts (which, Lord willing, we'll be engaging with together over the summer on Sunday mornings), we find the church not only seeking to do the things Jesus told them to do, but experiencing many of the things Jesus told them they would experience. It's an inspiring story, to be sure, but one that sets quite a few different challenges before us.

I can't help but think as I engage with all of these different passages that run on the same basic theme that there is a lesson here we dare not miss. There is a great deal of momentum for the future—both immediate and more distant—building here at First Baptist Oakboro right now. I hope you have been able to feel that as well as I have. Consider just this year. We have already sent a group of students for a week's worth of missions work in Fredericksburg, VA. We'll send our middle and high school students to camp in a few weeks, and our elementary students to camp a few weeks later. VBS is right around the corner. We also have a group preparing to go to Guatemala for a week this coming September. Then there are the steps we have started taking forward once again when it comes to our facilities.

God is preparing us for the work He has planned to do in and through us in the coming months and years. He is inviting us to take an increasingly active role in the advance of His kingdom into this community and beyond. This is a good and exciting thing, but it is also one that brings with it the potential for pushback and even persecutions of varying kinds. We go forward with boldness all the same because the God who is leading us is greater than anything that might come up before us.

Friends, God is moving. I believe we will see fruits of His movement this very summer. Jesus Himself told us the harvest is plentiful. We have been invited to take an intentional and active role in gathering it in. The question is: What are you willing to do to take part in that? Let us commit to being the church God made us to be to His great glory and our great joy.

*Pastor Jonathan*



## GROWING



Well, this is my last newsletter I write as a father of one. By the time you read this, there's a good chance baby Zachariah has been born, and we are excited as can be. The one thing that has been on Marisa's and my minds is soaking up these last few days with Ben as an only child. It's been a great 16 months with him, and we can't imagine loving him more than we do. But we're growing as a family, that love will soon expand to include another child. With it comes new joys, new challenges and struggles, and new responsibilities. We'll adapt, but it'll be different for sure.

We're growing as a church and within our student ministry. Our kids' ministry is seeing more elementary kids, more preschoolers by the week, and the nursery (courtesy of our family in part), is growing, too. Youth had a record night of 21 students last Wednesday, and adults had over 30 in Bible Study; not to mention the Gathering Place is pushing 100 each week.

With growth in our church comes new joys, new challenges and struggles, and new responsibilities. But I'm reminded of the goal Paul gave to Timothy in 2 Tim. 2:2: *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.* Four levels of passing on the faith right there: Paul-Timothy-Faithful Men-Others. That's our goal here at FBO and at FBO Students. How is God calling you to pass on the faith to the many people we have here? Who specifically is He calling you to? Don't pass on the opportunity to share what you know or learn from someone who you know. God is moving and growing things here. Let's join in His mission to grow it further.

**Nate**

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



The Oakboro Nutrition Site is looking for drivers to deliver meals the first Monday of every month and every Friday. Please contact Lisa Lowder to volunteer or if you need more information.

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – May (4/30/23-5/30/30)	31,723.95
Budget Receipts – May	28,299.00
Budget Goals – YTD	247,446.81
Budget Receipts – YTD	242,213.50
Budget Variance	- 5,233.31
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,500.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Gathering Place	1,048.00
Meals on a Mission	15.00
Youth Camp Deposits & Donations	4,820.00
Annie Armstrong	52.00
Scholarship	600.00
Deacons	70.00
VBS Donation	40.00



On May 21, the following individuals were baptized into church membership: **Mason Chaney, Shannon Chaney, Cooper Haymond, Brody Hudson, Summer Mauney, and Arabella Smith.**

**Alex Mauney** joined the church by transfer letter of membership.

**Shannon Chaney**  
**Mason Chaney**  
 16049 Liberty Hill Ch Rd  
 Oakboro, NC 28129

**Alex & Summer Mauney**  
 10206 NC 138 Hwy  
 Oakboro, NC 28129

**Cooper Haymond**  
 207 W Ninth Street  
 Oakboro, NC 28129

**Arabella Smith**  
 230 Sunset Lake Rd  
 Stanfield, NC 28163

**Brody Hudson**  
 20073 Crest Rd  
 Locust, NC 28097

Join us on Wednesday evening, **June 14**, at 5:30 p.m. as the Senior Adults host a fun night following Vacation Bible School. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin boards for you to volunteer to bring your favorite homemade ice cream or other sweet treat. Also, sign up if you plan to attend, so we can get an accurate headcount. Don't miss out on your chance to enjoy some of the BEST ice cream and fellowship around!







We congratulate ALL of our graduates:

**Alan Crawford** graduated from Oakboro Kids' Club and will attend Oakboro STEM.

**Asher Obie** graduates from Christ Kidz and will attend The Oaks Classical in Albemarle.

**Elijah Morton, Shaphan Morton, and Alyssa Smith** graduate from West Stanly High School.

**Gretchen Castelloe** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Wake Forest University with a BA in Environmental Science and minors in Anthropology and Dance. She received the Knox award for Dance.

**Dakota Lincoln** graduated from Appalachian State University, Walker College of Business with a BS in Business Administration.

**Sheridan Meadors** graduated from Stanly Community College with an Associate Degree in Advertising and Graphic Design. She plans to attend Wingate University and major in Marketing.

With a BA Degree in Communications, **Presley Poplin** graduated from UNC-Wilmington.

**Graham Tucker** also graduated from UNC-Wilmington with a BA Degree in Communications with an emphasis on video production.

We are pleased to present the following scholarships from the generosity of many of you and the families of those whose names appear on some of these awards.

**Brynn Alaina Cribb** daughter of Mardecia Lane, is a recipient of one of the church's scholarships. She plans to attend UNCC and major in Civil Engineering.

Receiving the Tom & Bertha Rogers Memorial Scholarship is **Madelyn L. Efirm**, daughter of Merideth Eudy and Ryan Efirm. Maddie plans to pursue Pre-Professional Health at Clemson University.

**Matthew Alden Furr**, son of Michael & Tana Furr, also receives a scholarship with plans to attend UNCC to major in Mechanical Engineering.

Receiving the Jeff & Sandra Chance Scholarship is **Shelby Nichole Gibbs**. She plans to attend Gardner Webb University in the Exercise Science program and is the daughter of DeAnn & Chris Gibbs.

*(continued)*

**Elijah Dale Morton**, son of Shea & Ashley Morton, receives one of our Mae Brooks Scholarships. He plans to study Business at Pfeiffer University.

Another Mae Brooks Scholarship is presented to **Shaphan Michael Morton**. The son of Shea & Ashley Morton, he plans to attend Stanly Community College in the area of Computer Integrated Machinery.

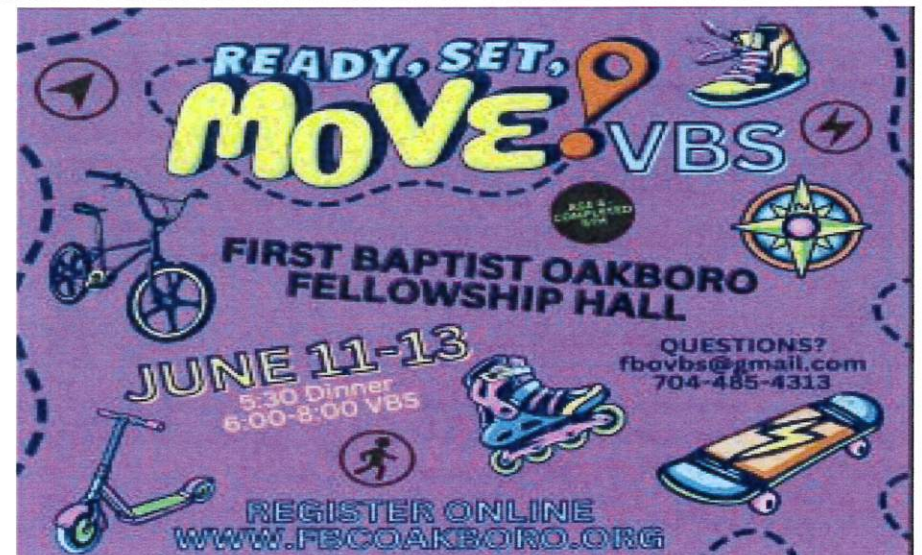
**Kelsey Faith Parker**, daughter of Tony & Melissa Parker, receives one of our scholarships and will study Business at Stanly Community College

Planning to attend UNCC in Pre-Accounting, **Emma Grace Rhodes** receives a scholarship. She is the daughter of Leslie & Damon Rhodes.

**Alyssa Melody Smith**, daughter of Angelina Smith, is the recipient of the Amy Boger Memorial Scholarship. Alyssa plans to study HVAC at Stanly Community College.

Attending Wingate University, **Eli Patrick Toole** is awarded the Alan Smith Memorial Scholarship, majoring in Exercise Science. He is the son of Christopher & Lindsey Toole.

**Courtney Elizabeth Violette**, daughter of Joe & Penny Violette, plans to attend Johnson and Wales University in Baking and Pastry Arts. She is given the Terrell & Janice Watts Scholarship.



It's not too late to volunteer! Sign-up sheets are located in the fellowship building. Please go online at [www.fbcoakboro.org](http://www.fbcoakboro.org), scroll down and click on the VBS link. Contact Lisa Waits or Missy Wadkins for more information.





*In Loving Memory & In Honor*

*In memory of Priscilla Foreman, a donation was given to the Building Fund by Geneva Beachum*

*In memory of G. E. McIntyre, Julie Poplin's uncle, donations were given to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron and Kevin & Erica Floyd.*

*In memory of Amy Edwards Boger, the new church railings were anonymously donated. Please take a moment to look at this improvement to our facility.*

*In honor of the Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class, a donation was made to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks.*



*"Church Family-*

*Thank you does not begin to describe how grateful we are for each of you. From the beautiful shower to each card and hug, you have all shown us true love as we get ready to welcome Zachariah into the world. We love serving FBO, and it would not be possible without each of you. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you. With love,"*

*Nate, Marisa, and Benjamin*

*"Church Family, I am so very grateful for all of the love and support extended to us during my mother's passing. Your words, meals, visits, gifts and all of the kind gestures in our time of need will always be treasured by our family!*

*Much love!"*

*Brenda Huneycutt*

**Oakboro July 4<sup>th</sup> Schedule of Events**

**Sunday, June 25, 2023**

6:30 PM Community Worship at Pavilion at Oakboro District Park

**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 Tonz 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





- June
- 1 Gretchen Castelloe
  - Jeff Bowers
  - 3 Matt Hudson
  - 8 Heather Chaney
  - 9 Sylvia Poplin
  - Jason Crisco
  - 13 Lucas Chaney
  - 18 Brody Hudson
  - 24 Darla Morton
  - Matthew Hinson
  - 27 Cliff Edwards
  - Doug Hinson
  - Addie Obie
  - 29 Mae Brooks
  - 30 Bonnie Richardson

- July
- 1 Doug Burgess
  - Jeff Ross
  - 2 Tracy Lowder
  - 3 Jim Cameron
  - Bonnie Lee

Please contact the church office with any additions or changes to the birthday list.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom)</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Worship</b>				1	2	3
					7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer & Bible Study in Men's Class - Church Basement	
10:00 a.m. Graduate & Scholarship Awards Sunday  Deacons' Meeting After Worship	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer			5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place <b>6:00 End-of-School Party</b> 6:30 Missions Night Brotherhood, WMU  7:30 Worship Choir		
5:30 p.m. Dinner then VBS	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  5:30 p.m. Dinner then VBS	5:30 p.m. Dinner then VBS	5:30 p.m. Sandwiches & Ice Cream Social in Fellowship Building <b>Business Meeting</b>		7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer & Bible Study in Men's Class - Church Basement	
	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  			5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place 6:30 Adult Bible Study Prayer & Game Night 7:30 Worship Choir		
	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer			NO SERVICES or ACTIVITIES	6:00 p.m. <b>Oakboro July 4th            Activities Begin            *Armband Night*</b> 8:30 p.m. <b>THE ENTERTAINERS</b>	6:00 p.m. <b>Oakboro July 4th            Activities            Little Miss Pageant            *Armband Night*</b> 8:30 p.m. Ryan Perry
						Upcoming Camp:  July 17-21