

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



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 10
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXIV No. 8

July 31, 2023



The LORD God is a
sun and shield:
the LORD will give
grace and Glory:
... no good thing
will He withhold
from them that walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:11

PO Box 10
322 N Main Street
Oakboro, NC 28129
www.fbcoakboro.org

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



I used to enjoy watching the Food Network series, **Restaurant Impossible** with host Robert Irvine. If you haven't seen it, the basic premise is that Chef Irvine goes into failing restaurants and gives them a two-day makeover intended to set them back on a path to success. Some of the businesses are further down in a hole than others, but the one thing all of them have in common is that they have lost their way somewhere along the journey from their founding to the point they are in such desperate need of help.

Most of them are in a hole of debt. So. Much. Debt. Others have food that just isn't cutting it. Many of them have given up on basic cleaning, and it has snowballed into a mess that leaves you wondering just how often the health inspectors really make the rounds because there's no way in the world they could have survived an inspection with their licenses intact. For so many others, they've just grown tired and forgot why it was exactly they got in business in the first place.

I think I've told the story before about visiting a little country church whose fellowship hall was literally in the back of their sanctuary—efficiency kitchen and all. And, the only bathrooms were accessible by going around to the back of the building on the outside, with the men's room on one side of the building and the women's room on the other side. The night I happened to be there, it had been raining so the ground was wet. It was also drizzling during the meeting. This meant you had to walk around through the wet grass...in the dark...in the rain. Oh, and the lights weren't working in the bathrooms. The only light was coming from an electric floodlight they had on a stand pointing at the door which you couldn't shut all the way, or you were going to be taking care of your business in the dark. And during his welcome remarks before the meeting began, the pastor openly wondered why they couldn't get anyone to come and visit the church.

I'm sure at one time that was a vibrant, healthy, growing church. Somewhere along the way from then to now, though, they had lost their way. They had lost sight of what they were really doing and why they were doing it. And now they were failing and at risk of having to close up shop entirely. They need a Restaurant Impossible-style makeover.

The thing is, just like failing restaurants that have lost their way are a dime a dozen, so are failing churches. For so many of these churches, there's not necessarily a lack of love for the Lord and one another. Rather, they have lost sight of exactly what it means to be the church. Even more simply than that, they have lost sight of how the church was designed and intended to work.

There are a few basic things that we can see in the Scriptures that should characterize every church. These are points of operation that have to be healthy or the church won't be. One pastor wrote a book thirty years ago calling several of these points the "marks of a healthy church." Some of these aren't terribly hard to fix if they are broken. Things like expository preaching (that is, preaching that comes out of the word rather than bringing the ideas of the preacher to the word) and having solid, orthodox, Gospel doctrine undergirding all the church's activities are fairly simple fixes. You simply go to the Scriptures and let them be your guide.

Others, though, are a little more complicated to set in order when they are broken. Often, these are things that were never set right in the beginning—at least in practice if not also on paper. This includes things like church membership and church discipline. These are both ideas that are fundamental to getting the church right. They are nuts and bolts issues that must be set properly in order if a church is going to thrive. If they are not handled with sufficient care, they allow for ideas to flourish that seem innocuous at first, but eventually grow up to create a lackadaisical membership that allows the church to atrophy instead of thrive.

There are other things necessary for the church to be functioning healthily and well, but these two represent a sufficiently sizable challenge that they are worthy of their own focused attention.

As a church, we have wonderful members. Let not your hearts doubt or wonder about that fact in any way, shape, or form. But we also on paper have an official membership number that is closing in on 600 which is patently absurd. What this communicates is that in the minds of quite a few official members of this church, church membership isn't something that really matters all that much. Before we react with an insistence that of course membership at First Baptist Oakboro matters, let's ask a question worthy of a bit of consideration: What does it mean to be a member of First Baptist Oakboro, really?

In the coming months, that is a question I would like for us to begin seeking to answer together. Ours is a wonderful, growing church. Far too few churches can say something similar today. But we can be stronger yet than we are. We can pursue our God-given purpose with even greater Gospel efficiency and effectiveness than we already are. I hope you will join me in agreeing on the vital importance of doing that very thing; on the importance of being as healthy and strong of a church as we possibly can be. Let's have this conversation and pursue the Gospel-derived answers together wherever the Spirit leads us. There is a kingdom to advance, and our call is to be active disciple-makers as we pursue it. Let's go there together.

Pastor Jonathan



Back to It

Well, that summer went by quickly, didn't it? At the time of my writing this, we're 2 weeks away from the start of school. Teachers will be back next week and students shortly to follow.

With it comes excitement though, because our students are once again all located in the same place, 5 days a week for 7-9 hours each day: school. Ministry becomes focused again and the opportunity to get the Gospel into our schools starts again. As we begin, would you pray that God would show you how you can impact our schools. We're on the campuses of Oakboro STEM, West Stanly Middle and West Stanly High Schools almost every single week as a church. The harvest is truly great in these schools. For most who work jobs, please pray. Pray students would get connected with our Savior through our ministry. For those with time during the day, would you consider joining us on campus for a Bible Study? We're at West Stanly High on Tuesday mornings, West Stanly Middle's day is to be determined, and Oakboro STEM has a Bible Club that will meet after school and begin shortly after the school year starts.

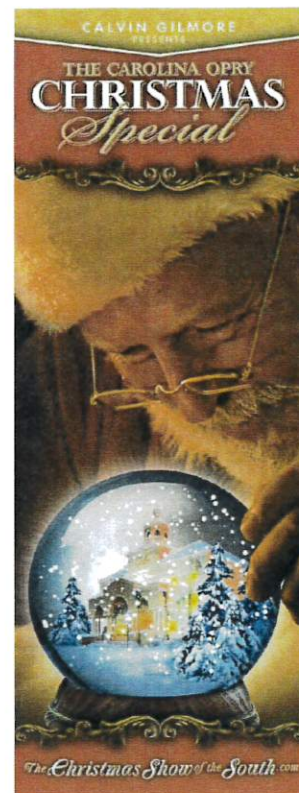
Would you encourage your students and grandchildren attending these schools to make it a priority to join these clubs on campus? Even if it's not one that we're a part of, almost every single school in the county has some form of FCA or Bible Study that is offered to students. Psalm 71:18 encourages us to look to proclaim God's power to the next generation. We're joining in that call as FBO; how is God calling you as well?

Blessings,
Nate



Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

It's not too late to sign up 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

Pricing:
\$220 per person (2 to a room)
single room: \$520
(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



A fun, safe community
where I can grow
to love and serve like Jesus!

Upcoming Events

Sundays

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

Wednesdays

5:30 Dinner @ The Gathering Place
6:30 Bible Study for all ages



August

8/2 Pool Party @ Oakboro Pool
6:00-8:00 pm
8/16 Student/Adult Connect Night
8/23 Prayer & Game Night

September

9/6 Missions Night
9/10 Grandparents Day
9/17 Bowling @ Stars
& Stripes \$20, 11-3:00 pm
9/27 Prayer & Game Night



OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – July	31,723.95
Budget Receipts – July	33,357.00
Budget Goals – YTD	304,549.92
Budget Receipts – YTD	294,878.50
Budget Variance	-9,671.42
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,365.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	4,700.00
Scholarship	1,200.00
Preschool Ministry Donation	50.00
Youth Ministry Donation	50.00



In Honor and In Memory

In honor of Mae Brooks's birthday, a donation was given to the Scholarship Fund by Bea & Kim Goodman.

In memory of Brenda Poplin, contributions were given to the Building Fund by:
Jewell Parker
Wiley & Joyce Little
Kevin & Erica Floyd
Doris Hatley
Jim & Cheryl Cameron
Doug & Ann Burgess.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

AUGUST 13, 2023 – AFTER WORSHIP

Vote on Deacons ~ Nominating & Stewardship Committee Reports



"Dear FBO Family, thank you for the gift card and scholarship. Both will be very helpful preparing us for college."

Shaphan & Elijah Morton

"Thank you for the Scholarship and the support towards my future endeavors."

(No Name)

Drive-Through Medicine Take-Back Event

Saturday,
August 5, 2023
10 am – 1 pm

1st Baptist
Church of
Oakboro –
Fellowship Hall
Parking Lot

310 N
Haywood St.
Oakboro, NC
28129

Bring your unwanted or expired medications for safe disposal and receive information and materials to help keep your family safe around medicine.

For more information, contact:
valerian.growcock@preventionservices.org



Community
DIAPER SPRINKLE

JULY 10TH - AUGUST 10TH
 HELP US COLLECT
DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES
 TO BENEFIT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR
 CHILDREN'S DIAPER BANK.

ALL SIZES AND BRANDS OF DIAPERS AND
 BABY WIPES ARE APPRECIATED.

Donate online

Drop off locations:
 1000 N. First Street - Ste B
 Stanly County Commons
 Albemarle, NC 28002

or
 Locust, Norwood, and New
 London Town Halls

**First Baptist Church
Oakboro**
Kids & Youth
**POOL
PARTY**
at Oakboro Pool
**AUGUST 2ND
6:00-8:00 PM**

**PIZZA
DESSERT
DRINKS**



Pancake Breakfast

**Fundraiser for
Guatemala Mission Trip**
Saturday, August 19
7:30 a.m. until
First Baptist, Oakboro
Fellowship Building
Donations Accepted



Pancakes, Bacon, Juice, Coffee, Milk

Some of us may not be able to go on the mission trip, but we can pray and support the efforts of those who are going. Attending the Pancake Breakfast is one way to support through giving.



**STANLY-MONTGOMERY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

UNDIE SUNDAY

Bring Items to your church on
Sunday, August 6th & 13th

**NEEDED ITEMS: UNDERWEAR, SOCKS,
UNDERSHIRTS (FOR GIRLS AND BOYS OF
ALL AGES AND SIZES)**

STANLY & MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS


DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:
Stanly-Montgomery Baptist Association
27212 Hedge Rd.
Albemarle, NC 28001



Collecting at
FBCO
August 6 & 13

Guatemala Mission Trip September 2-9

To help sponsor this trip,
drop donation marked
"Guatemala" into
offering plate or
go to fbcoakboro.org
"partner with FBCO"
then select "Guatemala"



We will be collecting the following items for Oakboro STEM School through the month of August. Please bring any donations and place them in the fellowship building entrance.

- Kleenex, facial tissues
 - Paper towels
- Colored copy paper (8½ x 11)

College Addresses Needed: Please call or email the church office at firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com to give us your college student's address for the upcoming year. They will be featured in the "Student of the Week" on the announcements page.





CONNECT
GROW
REACH



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO
322 N Main Street
PO Box 10
Oakboro, NC 28129
www.fbcoakboro.org

Happy Birthday!

- August 2 T. J. Smith
- 10 Miles Mooney
- 13 Pattygene Baggie
- 14 Meredith Broadway
- 15 Naley Barringer
- 16 Vera Robinson
- 18 Debbie Edwards
- 21 Julie Castelloe
- 22 Bobby Watkins
- 23 Roslyn Smith
- 24 Reagan West
- 26 Carla Smith
Nate Barringer
- 27 Victoria McEachern
- 28 Brooks Barnhardt
Sheila Hinson
- 29 Helena McClellan
- 31 Denise Nightingale

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>		<p>2:00 p.m. History Committee Meets 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Gathering Place 6:00 p.m. BACK-TO-SCHOOL POOL PARTY Missions Night 7:30 Worship Choir Resumes</p>		<p>7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast at Union Chapel Methodist 10:00a.m.-1:00 p.m Drive-Through Medicine Take-Back Event in Church Parking Lot</p>
<p>Bring Items to Church for</p> <p>UNDIE SUNDAY</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>BACK TO SCHOOL 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast at Philadelphia Baptist</p>
<p>11:15 a.m. ANNUAL CONFERENCE</p> <p>Bring Items to Church for</p> <p>UNDIE SUNDAY</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Student/Adult CONNECT Night 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>7:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Guatemala Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser in Fellowship Building ** Donation **</p>
	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study Kids' Prayer & Game Night 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast in Men's Sunday School Class</p>
	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>Community DIAPER SPRINKLE JULY 10TH - AUGUST 10TH HELP US COLLECT DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES TO BENEFIT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN'S DIAPER BANK ALL SIZES AND BRANDS OF DIAPERS AND BABY WIPES ARE APPRECIATED. Donate online: or Drop off locations: 1000 N. First Street, Ste. B Oakboro, NC 28129 OR 1000 N. First Street, Ste. B Oakboro, NC 28129</p>