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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 10  
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

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September 2023

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

# Give the gift of



RELIEF FOR TODAY.  
HOPE FOR TOMORROW.



North Carolina  
**MISSIONS**  
Offering

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

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[pastorjwaits@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjwaits@gmail.com)  
(804) 896-4520



If you are reading this, there is a good chance you are at least to some capacity a part of this church. It may not be a very formal part. It may be a formerly formal part. Perhaps there's a formal connection waiting in your not-so-distant future. As I said this past Sunday, the church often gets a bad rap because churches and church people have blown it so many times over our long and colorful history. None of these examples come out of times when the church was on track with its original design, of course. They were all places where the church forgot who she was and started acting like everyone else rather than the called-out body of Jesus committed to advancing His message and mission in the world. When we have gotten that right, the world has been made a much better place every single time.

The thing is, though, and like I said this past Sunday (and if you missed it, you need to go to our YouTube channel and watch it; it really was a special time), times when the church has acted in some grand way to make the world a better place never came out of nowhere. It wasn't like the church was just trucking along, doing its thing, and then suddenly—BAM—the world was magically better. No, those big things happen because there were a whole lot of little things happening first. And while talking about and giving attention to the big things are certainly a lot of fun, unless we have the little things down well, those big things aren't going to be happening.

It works the same way when thinking about learning higher levels of pretty much any subject in school. Until you know the alphabet, you're not going to write the next great American novel. Until you grasp the fact that  $2+2$  always equals 4, advanced calculus is off the table for you. Unless you are armed with the knowledge of the periodic table, chemistry will remain a mystery (and, honestly, it may still remain a mystery after that point, but you get my point by now I hope). Until you can swing a bat and catch a ball, a career in baseball is not going to happen.

So then, what are the basic things the church needs to be doing in order to facilitate the happening of those big things that make such a difference in communities, in regions, and in the world at large?

Well, there are three things that are most fundamental and that I have found myself reminding the groups I've taught about lately a lot more often than I used to do. If you want to be growing in your faith and

relationship with Jesus at all, you need to be regularly and actively engaged in the Scriptures, in prayer, and with the body of Christ. Absent all three of those things, you won't grow. Take away even one of them, and your growth will be so stunted that it won't make any meaningful difference in your life. All three are necessary; none are singularly sufficient to the task of making you more like Jesus. Engage with the Scriptures without prayer and the church, and you'll never be able to make positive sense out of what you discover. Pray without the Scriptures and the church and your prayers will become selfish and ineffective very quickly. Go to church without prayer and the Scriptures, and you'll be nothing more than a pew filler, and the Lord knows we don't need any of those.

If, as a church, we don't manage to accomplish much more than getting all of our people doing those three things regularly and actively, we will have accomplished an awful lot at the end of the day because when people do those three things regularly and actively, the odds of God getting ahold of them to work through them in a powerful way shoot up to the moon.

But is there anything else? I mean, what about the functioning of the church itself? Sure, we could do nothing more than just tell people to have their triad in place every chance we get (and we should), but is there more than that in terms of basic church functions so that we are successfully creating the kind of environment where those things not only happen consistently, but where the growth that comes from them is nurtured, sustained, and unleashed upon a waiting world?

As a matter of fact, there is.

And if you'll make plans to be here in the month of September (and the first Sunday of October), we are going to be talking about several of them together. We'll start with what it means to be a member of a church in the first place. After that we'll tackle discipleship, church leadership, church discipline (you won't want to miss that one), and exactly what the church's mission really is. This is going to be one of those teaching series that has the potential to be transformative in a big way. It won't necessarily seem like it at first, but as we start to let these ideas soak into the ground we walk together, eventually they will grow the exceptionally sweet fruit of a strong healthy church that is making a big impact on the world for the kingdom of God. That's what God designed us to do, and that is what I'd love to invite you to join me in doing together as we move forward into the grand future He has planned for us as a church.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## What a Time



This month's newsletter article from me is a bit more jovial than most. That's because this is one of my favorite seasons to me: Fall. For one, I love cold weather, so seeing the leaves fall, cutting the grass less, watching temperatures slowly drop (hopefully, because y'all last week was brutal).

But two, because students and families are back to routine. Football season is upon us, (I love watching and cheering on our Stanly teams, my LSU Tigers, and my New Orleans Saints.), kids are in school learning, different campus ministries are up and running, and we have plenty of youth and kids' events going on here at church.

And lastly, this is a season where I personally am home with family more often, minus the Guatemala trip, (which I'm very excited about), I'm not away from my family again overnight until April. So, I guess what I'm trying to convey is that I constantly remind myself "What a Time to Be Alive." Take time today to pray Psalm 118:24: *"This is the day that the Lord has made, let's rejoice in it."* Be thankful.

Amen,  
**Nate**

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth



Below are the newest members to join our church family. They all already have been active in many activities and services of the church.

**Ed and Kathy Simes**  
(By Statement)  
201 E Second Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(603) 960-0189

**Micah Waits**  
(Awaiting Baptism)  
710 Hathcock Glen Drive  
Oakboro, NC 28129



# 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

## September

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



## October

10/4 Missions Night  
10/21 Pumpkin Patch, 10:00am  
10/25 Prayer & Game Night  
10/28 Trunk or Treat, 5:00-6:30 pm



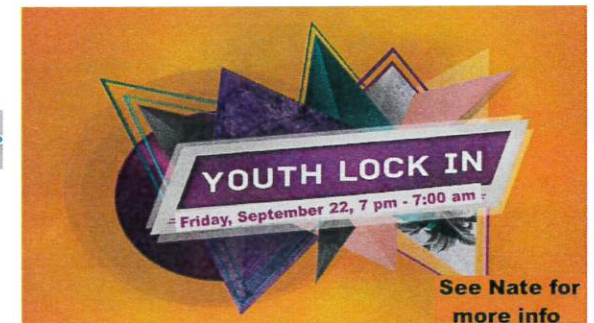
## November

11/1 Missions Night  
11/12 Lunch & OCC Shoebox  
Shopping & Packing  
11/16 Student/Adult Connect Night  
11/22 No Activities



## December

12/6 Missions Night    12/7 Christmas Parade  
12/13 Christmas Party    12/24 Christmas Eve Service  
12/20 & 12/27 No Activities



## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – August	25,379.16
Budget Receipts – August	28,227.00
Budget Goals – YTD	329,929.08
Budget Receipts – YTD	323,105.50
Budget Variance	-6,823.58
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1,175.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	5,925.00
Benevolence	1,160.00
Children's Ministry Donation	115.00
Youth Ministry Donation	65.00
Gathering Place	848.00
Deacons	45.00

## Oakboro School of Music Reopens in September

Please contact Dana Jenkins at [danajenkins@mac.com](mailto:danajenkins@mac.com) or call (704) 985-6075 to enroll for private, 30-minute lessons in piano and/or voice.



In memory of **Brenda Poplin**, donations were given to the Building Fund by Eddie & Linda Arrowood and Nancy Haywood.

In memory of **Chip Osborne**, contributions were made to the Building Fund by Jim & Cheryl Cameron and Kevin & Erica Floyd.



"Oakboro FBO,  
Thank you so much for all the prayers, words of encouragement, love and support during Mom's sickness and passing. It is truly a blessing to have such a loving and praying church family. May God bless each of you abundantly for your faithfulness!"  
The Poplin Family



**College Addresses Needed:** Please call or email the church office at [firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Guatemala Mission Trip September 2-9

To help sponsor this trip, drop donation marked "Guatemala" into offering plate or go to [fbcoakboro.org](http://fbcoakboro.org) "partner with FBCO" then select "Guatemala"

**FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO HOMECOMING**

*Save the Date and Join Us!*  
**October 15, 2023**  
**Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.**  
**Worship at 10:00 a.m.**  
**With Dr. Andy Prince**  
**Stanly-Montgomery Associational Mission Strategist**  
**Covered Dish Luncheon After Worship**  
**Invite Others to Come with You!**



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REACH

# SEPTEMBER

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

- September 6 Telia Baucom  
Doris Hatley  
7 Wil Kippes  
9 Renée Watkins  
Justin Barringer  
13 Lennon Henry  
14 Chris Huneycutt  
15 Ellen Meadors  
Gale Medlin  
16 Laney Castelloe  
19 Tina Ross  
20 Sue Greene  
Trevor McClellan  
22 Wes Tucker  
24 Catherine Thomas  
25 Harrison Montgomery  
27 Marilyn Huneycutt  
Ashlea Mooney  
28 Andy Castelloe  
Jill Turner  
29 Shea Morton  
30 Noah Waits

- October 2 Hope Gaston  
Sandra Chance

Please email or call the church office to make any changes to the birthday list.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	<p>WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHEDULE 9:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (LIVE &amp; ZOOM) 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP</p>				<p>1 2 7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast in Men's Sunday School Class</p>
	<p>3 4 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>5 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>6 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages Missions Night for Kids, 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>7 8 9 E A L S T S I O N</p>
<p>10 11 national GRANDPARENTS DAY</p>	<p>12 13 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>14 15 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 BUSINESS MEETING 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>16 17 7:30 a.m. Gideons Prayer Breakfast in Men's Sunday School Class</p>
<p>18 19 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. KIDS GO ROWLING AT Stars &amp; Strikes GETAWAY-PLAY</p>	<p>20 21 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p> <p>22 23 6:30 p.m. Gideons Camp Dinner Meeting &amp; Auxiliary in Fellowship Building</p>		<p>24 25 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for All Ages 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 27 Friday Oakboro Cruise-In HAPPY FALL y'all!</p>	<p>28 29 Saturday Cruise-In YOUTH LOCK IN Friday, September 25, 7 pm - 7:00 am See Note for more info</p>
	<p>30 31 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>32 33 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study Kids' Prayer &amp; Game Night 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		