

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



FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

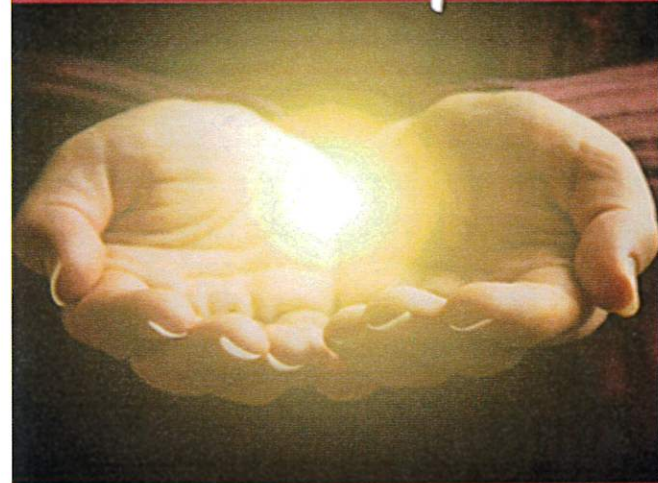
The Communicator

VOL. XXXV No. 2

February 2024

Sharing Hope

ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)



2024
HECK-JONES
Offering

WEEK OF PRAYER
for WMU NC
GOAL: \$325,000
www.wmunc.org



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
PO BOX 10
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



The average New Year's resolution lasts a bit under four months. Incidentally, that's about the same time that the cold of winter lasts in most places. Yes, some places further south start getting warmer well before that (if they get cold at all), and some places further north or in the mountains have cold that hangs around a lot longer than that (in Denver, March is, on average, the second snowiest month of the year), but generally speaking, the observation holds. In any event, that timeline puts you beyond the first official day of Spring. And, as the weather gets warmer, and we start to go outside and relish not being cooped up in the house all the time, we begin to get distracted by all the things we are able to do now.

The trouble is, that three- to four-month mark is also right about the point that we are really starting to notice some of the benefits of whatever good (and, if we're being honest, probably exercise-related) habit we (re)started at the beginning of the year. And maybe that's the trouble. We finally see the results, figure we're good now, and set it to the side so we can get back to what we were doing before.

Maintaining momentum of any kind isn't easy. It takes focus and intentionality over time...a long time. If we lived in a frictionless world we wouldn't have any problems here. Newton was right about an object in motion tending to stay in motion. The trouble is that outside forces part of his first law of motion. You see, we live in a world filled with outside forces that don't just slow us down incidentally by their very presence, but in a spiritual sense, work rather diligently to grind us down to a halt when we get a bit of momentum going in our lives.

Just like when driving a car, if you take your foot off the gas, you start to slow down, as a church, if we take our foot off the gas, we start to slow down as well.

Well, as a church, we have been slowly but steadily gaining momentum since we came fully and finally out of all the slowdowns and pauses Covid foisted upon us. The Gathering Place is chugging along. Our building process is steadily moving forward. We are seeing a steady stream of visitors who become regular attenders and then members. There is generally excitement about what our future holds. I've overheard conversations especially between members and guests in which members were excitedly telling the guests all about things we have going on now as well as things we are looking forward to in the near future.

So...how do we keep up the momentum? How do we keep our foot on the gas pedal? How do we avoid the friction of the world slowing us down?

All of these things are signs of a church that is largely healthy and strong.

Well, there are lots of ways to do this, but one thing is primary. We have to keep the mission in mind. We are looking at possibly driving to Missouri again this summer to visit my folks. The last time we drove, the first long day of driving really wasn't too bad. The second, shorter, day, on the other hand, found us crossing the state from St. Louis to Kansas City which, near as I can tell, involves driving through some kind of a time-loop wormhole in which the normal three-and-a-half hours takes about six weeks. We were all about ready to park it on the side of the road and give up. But we knew where we were going. We had a strong vision of arriving at my parents' house. Our destination was clear, so we kept going...maybe even a bit faster than the law allowed over those final long miles.

As a church, our mission is clear. We are a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. That's our destination. It is who we are, but it is also who we are becoming more of all that time. It is who God has designed us to be, and although we have taken some strong strides in that direction, we're not there yet, so we keep on moving.

The joys and successes we have experienced as a church—some of which we talked about just a few weeks ago—must be seen not as ends in themselves, but as pointers along the way indicating our direction is good. The challenges we are facing as a congregation including things like recruiting new volunteers to start dinner teams for The Gathering Place so our current teams don't burn out, training and encouraging volunteers with our students to keep them excited about pouring the Gospel into the next generation, training up more adult teachers to let us form new Sunday school groups where new members can connect, as well as a whole range of physical and health challenges currently afflicting several of our members are also indicators that we are heading in the right direction. Those and others like them are all points of friction our enemy is using in an attempt to slow us down and throw us off track.

But God is moving. And we're following. And as we keep our foot on the gas by staying focused on the mission and doing things along the way to keep ourselves moving in the right direction—things like being intentional about our own individual spiritual growth, actively encouraging the spiritual growth and development of the people around us, engaging intentionally with the church community, inviting friends and neighbors to church, having Gospel conversations when we are in the community, practicing sacrificial generosity together, serving our community to show them the love of Christ in practical ways—we will continue to enjoy the fruits of momentum. Let's keep it up. There's more good stuff ahead of us.

Pastor Jonathan



NEXT

We're already almost a month into the new year! Crazy! I hope your new year's resolutions are still going strong, but it's okay if they've gone to the wayside. Regardless, though, of resolutions and what time of year it is, we ask the same question of what's next regularly. James 4:15 encourages us to rather reframe that question by saying, "If God wills, we'll do this.." Well, here at FBO Students, we're asking that question, and we're praying that if God wills it, we're going to strive for these goals next. We've identified three steps that if achieved, our student ministry will be thriving AND reproducing through multiplication. Here they are.

1. Strengthen Relationships between Adults and Students
2. Equip and Train Parents and Volunteers to Minister to Students
3. Form Relational Accountable Discipleship Groups for the purpose of Multiplying.

Can you tell Step 1 is already being accomplished? From the literal army of volunteers in our student ministry to the amount of interaction during the Gathering Place, to SWAG Nights, we've begun seeing kids and adults learn more about each other and begin friendships. Next, we're praying about how to leverage those relationships for discipleship in steps 2 and 3.

Step 2 involved training parents and leaders to be equipped to have life and faith conversations with our students. Will these adults have all the answers to all the students' questions? Absolutely not. But their willingness to be a part of the student's life will come from the relationship they've already formed.

Then Step 3 begins by forming small groups that meet for the purpose of being open about their faith and life. They could involve parents, key student leaders, volunteers, or anyone helping lead these groups. But the purpose of these groups is not to stay with the same amount of people. The group may start with only 3-4 people, but as it grows to 5-6 or 9-12 people, it eventually reproduces to form a new group of 3-4 people and the process starts over. This way, a maximum amount of people are impacted.

Now, we're a ways off from step 3, but step 2 might be around the corner. The question we have to ask ourselves is the same: What's next? What does God have for me in terms of me making disciples? Am I ready to learn more so I can teach more? If you think that's you, reach out to me or Pastor

Jonathan; we can get you started on that and see together just exactly...what's next.

Much love, **Nate**



February 10, 5:00-7:00 p.m. ~ Youth host Valentine Banquet
February 21, 6:30 p.m. ~ SWAG Night

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

Donations Accepted for Youth Ministry

Saturday, February 10

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Baked spaghetti, salad, roll, dessert & drink

Child Care Available in Youth Center

Valentine Banquet

Hosted by FBO Youth

Please sign up

Welcome, Baby Girl!

Opal Brookley Huneycutt was born January 24, 2024 weighing 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long. Her parents, Wesley and Kayla, along with siblings Emma, Jamie, Addie & Josiah are so happy and proud. Delinda (church secretary) and Donnie Huneycutt are the excited grandparents, along with great-grandmother Betty and great-uncle Chris Huneycutt.



OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – January	26,037.84
Budget Receipts – January	19,518.00
Budget Goals – YTD	136,698.66
Budget Receipts – YTD	123,171.00
Budget Variance	-13,527.66
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	930.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Gathering Place	828.00
Lottie Moon Offering	105.00
Deacons	45.00
Youth Ministry	165.00
Youth Camp	450.00
Children's Camp	100.00



In memory of Frances VanHorn, donations were given to the Building Fund by Mary Nelms and First Baptist Church, Oakboro.

*In memory of Margaret Furr, contributions were made to the Building Fund by:
Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Kevin & Erica Floyd
Mae Brooks
First Baptist Church, Oakboro*

In memory of Bertie Hatley, Mae Brooks gave a donation to the Building Fund.



HOPE Fellowship



Join us in the fellowship building for the annual Soup Luncheon on Thursday, **February 15**, at 12:00 noon. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would like to bring a soup, crackers, bread, dessert and/or tea/drink. This is for EVERYONE who is available, and you're encouraged to bring someone with you.



*"My Church Family,
It is difficult to put on paper how much gratitude I feel for all the outpouring of love you have shown me during the recent weeks. Your prayers have been felt and have given me much needed encouragement. My chemotherapy week was tough, but the next week was good because "God Is Good." Thank you for the cards, phone calls, texts, and all the meals brought to us. I ask for continued prayers as I move forward on this journey.*

*'This is the day which the Lord hath made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.' Psalm 118:24
Love," Bonnie Lee*

*"Dear FBC Oakboro Family,
Thank you so much for all your love and support! Over the past few months, our kids ministry keeps growing in size and spiritual health! It has been so exciting to see a couple kids decide to follow Jesus and reach unchurched families! I am so thankful for you and can't wait to share more as our church grows!*

*Love & prayers"
Alexa Levis, Children's Director
Impact Church Fredericksburg*



Candy Collection for Egg Hunt

**Easter is March 31 this year.
We are starting to collect candy for
our community egg hunt
(date to be determined).
Please bring items small enough to fit into
plastic eggs - no chocolate.
Boxes will be located in the church
and fellowship building for your convenience.**





Baptist Women's Day

February 18, 2024

10:00 a.m. Worship

With Guest Speaker

Abbey Irwin

This page is intentionally left blank



POOR MAN'S SUPPER

February 24, 2024

5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Menu: Streaked meat, potatoes,
cabbage, pintos, cornbread**

Donations Accepted

Fellowship Building of First Baptist Church of Oakboro

Sponsored by the Brotherhood
Proceeds benefit
West Stanly
Christian Ministries



Celebrating FEBRUARY Birthdays

- February**
- 11 Micah Waits
 - 13 Cooper Haymond
 - 14 Erica Floyd
 - 15 Jim Davis
 - 21 Theo Burris
 - 23 Sophie Tucker
 - 24 Bill Young
 - 25 Melanie Hudson
 - Rick Baucom
 - 26 Kim Goodman
 - 28 Daniel Jenkins

- March**
- 1 Vickie Yandle
 - 2 Katie Broadway

Please email or call the church office with additions to or deletions from the calendar.



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship					
4	5 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	6 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	7 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	8	9 10 5:00-7:00 p.m. <i>Valentine Banquet</i> in Fellowship Building (please sign up)
11	12 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	13	14 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	15 12:00 noon HOPE Fellowship Soup Luncheon in Fellowship Building	16 17
2024 HECK-JONES Offering <small>WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WMUNC</small> <small>GOAL: \$325,000</small> <small>www.wmunc.org</small>		HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY			
18 <i>Baptist Women's Day</i> 10:00 a.m. Worship with Guest Speaker <i>Amy Irwin</i>	19 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	20 6:30 p.m. <i>Ladies' Care Ring</i> in Youth Center	21 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 <i>SWAG</i> Night 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	22	23 24 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Prayer Breakfast in Men's SS Class 5:00-7:00 p.m. <i>Poor Man's Supper</i> in Fellowship Building
25	26 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Gideons' Pastor Appreciation Banquet in Fellowship Building	27	28 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	29 HOPPY LEAP DAY!	

