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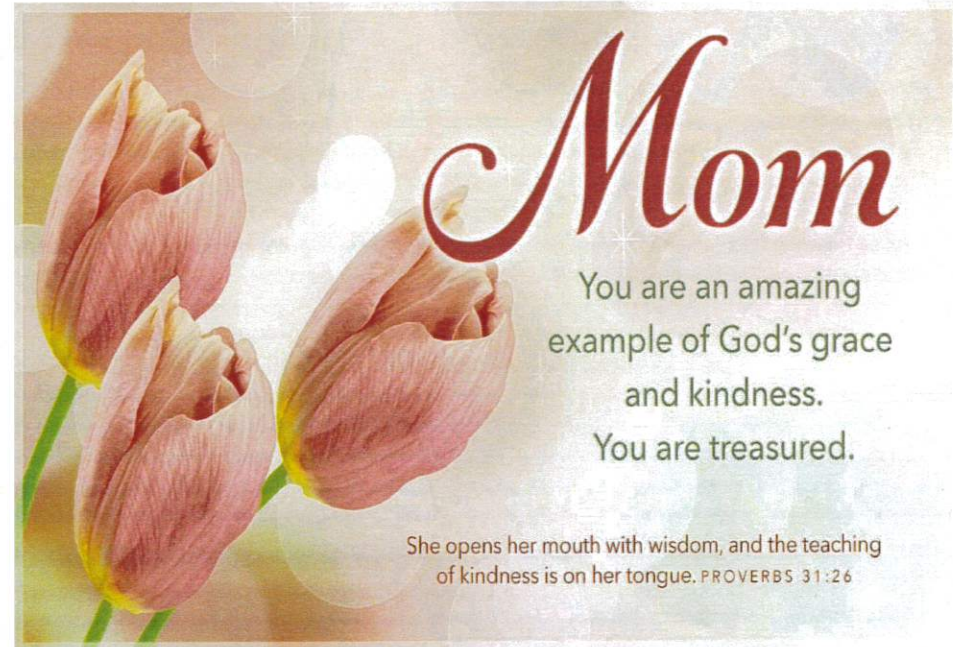


FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXV No. 5

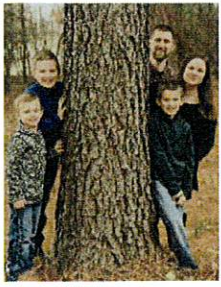
May 2024



*Mother's Day*  
*May 12, 2024*

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Almost 70 years ago, a creative author named Leonard Read wrote an essay entitled, *I, Pencil: My Family Tree as Told to Leonard E. Read*. The essay is a humorous, but also serious, look at just how many different moving parts are involved in the creation of a single pencil. In the essay the pencil shares with Mr. Read all of the various components involved in its creation. There's the cedar wood and the graphite core

and the ferrule rings that hold the eraser and factice that the eraser is made from along with pumice, wax, glue, and lacquer. The pencil shares about all of the different people involved in its creation as well from the lighthouse keeper who makes sure the ship bringing in the components that are created overseas for the final production process to the captain of the ship all the way down to the custodian who sweeps the floors in the factory where it was assembled at night when everyone has gone home.

The net effect of the pencil's story is that in spite of how simple a thing it appears to be, no one person actually knows how to make a pencil. No one has the capability or know-how or access to the resources, let alone the tools and skills to process them properly. There is a whole army of people involved in the process, all acting independently of one another, and yet the final product depends entirely on their ability and willingness to each do their job in the right order and at the right time.

A church is a little like a pencil. There are more moving parts involved in the proper functioning of a healthy church than anyone really understands. There are people doing things at different times and in different ways that nobody knows about, but which have an enormous impact on the final outcome. No one person knows how to do everything. But everyone knows how to do something. Everyone is called and equipped by God to play a role without which the whole thing wouldn't work as well as it does.

Take an average Wednesday night around here. From start to finish there are people who plan a menu, buy groceries, service the ice machine and other kitchen appliances, cook the food, communicate how much food to buy to the dinner team leaders, set the thermostats so the room is comfortable, make sure there is change available when people pay, take up money, greet people, serve the meal, clean up after the meal, pray over the meal, set out placemats so it looks like we care, set up tables and chairs for people to sit at, fellowship around tables so that no one is left out of the fun, eat the food so it doesn't go to waste, watch the kids when

they go outside after dinner, play with the kids, have conversations with students who are curious about God and life and faith, prepare lessons and games for student Bible studies, write Bible studies, lead the choir in rehearsing, choose songs for the following Sunday, practice the music so that it is ready to be led, run the sound board, clean up the building, set chairs back up for Sunday, turn off the lights and lock the doors, and I'm sure there's more that I've forgotten.

No one person can do all of that, and if they were to try, they'd fail and make a mess of things anyway. But each Wednesday and each Sunday morning it happens like clockwork. How? Because each part does their part at the right time, in the right way, and in the right order. The church only works because each and every one of us does our part. And rest assured: there are parts for everybody. And every part matters.

Why do I say all of this? Because we are in a growing season as a church. God is doing a work among us that is getting harder and harder to miss or deny. If you don't believe me, make it a point to be at the Gathering Place and walk outside after dinner but before Bible study time has started and just watch. That kind of life doesn't happen on its own. Or, pause your singing for just a second (but only a quick second) during our time of worshiping with music on a Sunday morning and listen to the sound of voices filling the room all singing praises to our God together. It's a powerful experience.

God is leading us forward, and it is going to take all of us to fully experience the wonders He has in store for us. It will take all of us serving faithfully, worshiping joyfully, fellowshiping energetically, giving generously, learning intentionally, and so on and so forth. None of us can do it alone, but when all of us come together to play fully the role God has designed and equipped us in Christ to play, the sky's the limit. I, for one, can't wait to see what wonders our God has in store for us in the days ahead of us. I can't wait to see new disciples baptized, new facilities constructed, new ministries created, more missions ventures supported, more of the lost converted, and the name of our God glorified. I hope you will commit to joining me in praying toward this very end.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## The Potential for Revival



This month has been a good month for our church. How so? Because I think our students are on to something. With the Fredericksburg mission trip, prayer nights, and a kickball tournament behind us (one in which our students showed everyone what Christ-like competitiveness and sportsmanship was like), our students are gearing up for more. There's currently talks starting among certain students about starting Bible studies in their school and small group prayer times led not by adults, but by themselves! Church, that's exciting stuff! You know what can come out of that? You guessed it, revival. Revival that starts in our students and leads us to a greater urgency at reaching the lost in our community and truly discipling each other in small contexts. So, how can we fuel this? One: Pray. Pray for these students to be led by God in these endeavors. Two: Support them and pour into them. These students need adults to still disciple them by **reading the Bible with them, praying with them, and being around them at church**. Those three things are the core marks of discipleship. Chances are that because of a SWAG night or other activity you probably know the name of a student here and might have a relationship with them. Approach them and ask them what they've heard about prayer groups, then ask if you could join them. After that, watch out. I'm convinced that if we get behind the power of prayer, God is going to but down some doors, and we'll start seeing more disciples made than we can ever imagine. I'm praying for that and hope you will, too.

With expectation,  
**Nate**

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

**Rhonda Whitley**  
583 E First Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(704) 485-2164



**Sherry Edwards**  
813 Laurel Oak Avenue  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(704) 207-6046

**Chris & Leslie Hatley-Murray**  
1207 N Main Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(704) 322-8191 – Chris  
(704) 699-6993 – Leslie



If you would like to donate to this year's scholarship fund, please mark an offering envelope "Scholarship" and drop into the offering plate during Sunday School or Worship by Sunday, **May 5**. You also may go online at [www.fbcoakboro.org](http://www.fbcoakboro.org), click on "Partner with FBC" and follow the prompts, selecting "Scholarship." Your gifts will go directly and solely to the recipients selected for the awards by the Scholarship Committee.

**Missions Night**  
**@ The Gathering Place**

Partnering with Will's Place

**May 15, 2024**

**Donations needed:**

Please bring by May 8th

**Food items :**

(non perishable)  
Small water bottles  
granola bars  
crackers  
dried fruits  
plastic fruits cups  
apple sauce  
lunchbox snacks  
etc.

**Hygiene items:**

(Travel sized items)  
toothpaste  
combs  
body wash / shampoo  
wet wipes  
tissues  
chapstick  
sanitary napkins  
tylenol  
\*No toothbrushes please\*

**Other items:**

Small journal  
Pens

**Bring along your favorite craft items to  
make encouragement cards**

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – April ( <i>inc. 3/31/24</i> )	32,547.30
Budget Receipts – April	30,058.00
Budget Goals – YTD	221,321.64
Budget Receipts – YTD	200,655.00
Budget Variance	-20,666.64
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	1170
NC Baptist Children's Homes	190.00
Gathering Place	610.00
Annie Armstrong Offering	327.00
Deacons	40.00
Youth Ministry: Mission	70.00
Youth Ministry: Boston Butt	425.00
Youth Ministry: Kickball	147.00
Youth Ministry: Cannonballers	35.00
Scholarship	1,000.00
Kids' Camp	200.00

## HOPE Fellowship



A trip to Billy Graham Library is slated for Friday, **May 10**, leaving the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. After spending some time there, we'll grab lunch at their café or venture to a local restaurant. There's no age limit – if you're available, then you're welcome!

Additionally, **November 11-13** are the dates for the Myrtle Beach Christmas show trip, staying at Beach Cove Resort. More details later.



*In memory of Vera Eudy, Mike Eudy's mother, a donation was made to the Building Fund by Marilyn Huneycutt.*

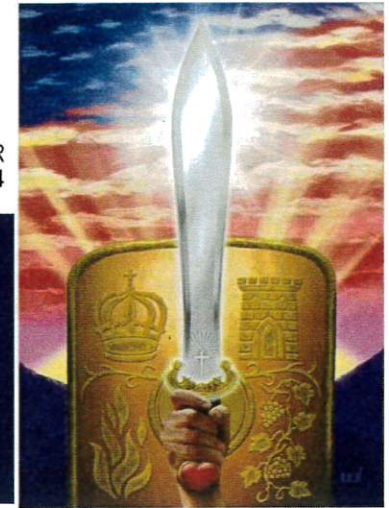
*In honor of all Church Ladies and Cameron Stroud, contributions were given to the Building Fund by Mae Brooks.*

*In honor of Peggy Carey, a donation was given by Mae Brooks to the Annie Armstrong Easter offering.*

*The Blessed Assurance Sunday School class made a donation to the Building Fund in honor of Mae Brooks.*

**LIFT UP THE WORD  
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**  
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31  
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

**Join Us at  
Oakboro Memorial Park  
309 N Main Street  
Oakboro, NC  
12:00 Noon  
May 2, 2024**



**YOUTH**

**Bake Auction**  
May 4, 2024  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Building

Be thinking of what you can bake and bring to help fund camp and summer activities for our youth!  
**Invite everyone to join in the fun!**



- May
- 3 Kathy Simes
  - 4 Ellen Little
  - 7 Peggy Carey
  - 10 Elijah Morton  
Shaphan Morton
  - 11 Nancy Haywood  
Danny Poplin
  - 12 Doyle Hatley
  - 13 Mandy Smith
  - 14 Shelbie Davis
  - 16 Andrew Smith
  - 17 Leslie Hatley-Murray
  - 19 Brayden Meadors  
Jessica Jenkins
  - 20 D. J. Poplin  
Joe Copple
  - 21 Judy Tucker  
Jax Mabry
  - 24 Mark Hinson  
Nate Sisson
- June
- 1 Gretchen Castelloe
  - 3 Matt Hudson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom) 10:00 a.m. - Worship</p>			1	<p>LIFT UP THE WORD LIGHT UP THE WORLD THE 75th ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024</p> <p>Join Us at Oakboro Memorial Park 309 N Main Street Oakboro, NC 12:00 Noon May 2, 2024</p>	3	<p>Bake Auction &amp; Hot Dog Supper May 4, 2024 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Fellowship Building</p>
5	6 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	7 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	8 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	9	10 9:00 a.m. HOPE Fellowship Leaves for Billy Graham Library & Lunch 5:00 - 11:00 p.m. Youth to <b>Canon &amp; Ballers</b>	11 MISSION
12 Happy Mother's Day	13 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	14 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring in Youth Center	15 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Mission Night for Will's Place 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 7:30 a.m. Gideon Men's Prayer Breakfast ARMED FORCES DAY
19 10:00 a.m. Graduate Sunday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Kids' Skate Party (Meet at Sk8 City or Hang Out After Worship)	20 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 6:30 p.m. Gideon Camp Dinner Meeting in Fellowship Building	21	22 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	23	24	25
26	27 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer MEMORIAL DAY	28	29 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	30	31	

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