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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

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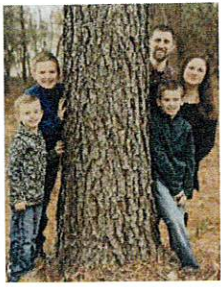
CELEBRATE
YOUR FREEDOM
IN CHRIST THIS

*Independence
Day*

IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST
HAS SET US FREE. GAL. 5:1 NIV

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“‘The time has come,’ the Walrus said,
‘To talk of many things.
Of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—
of cabbages—and kings—
And why the moon is boiling hot—
And whether pigs have wings.’”

I’ve told the story before, but those lines from Lewis Carroll’s (the guy who wrote *Alice in Wonderland*) poem, “The Walrus and the Carpenter,” always ring in my mind in a season of change. The reason is that they were the words my 8th grade algebra teacher, Mr. Brock, always greeted us with in class on the day he gave us a new seating chart. I’m not sure why they have stuck with me for so long. I suspect the reason is that Mr. Brock was just that effective of a teacher. I still remember several other things that were integral parts of his class including even a little bit of math (ask me about “the Battle of Integer Hill” sometime).

Those words from Carroll, though, have probably stuck around the longest. As I write this, we are in a season of change at First Baptist Oakboro.

Some of it is just the changing of the seasons. In case you hadn’t noticed, somebody clearly forgot to pay the AC bill outside which is usually a pretty good signal that we are in the thick of summer. Seasons change from one to the other and back again. That’s normal. That kind of a change is a good reminder that some things are still the way they have always been. The onset of summer has brought a brief pause to The Gathering Place. That’s not necessarily a welcome change, but it is a healthy one. We all get a bit of time to rest and recreate, but all with an anticipatory eye toward its August return and a renewal of that cherished time of fellowship and discipleship in our regular rhythm.

Other changes are building, but still have not arrived in full. As we talked about a couple of weeks ago, we are moving smoothly and steadily forward with our plans to build a new space for worship that will be added on to our existing sanctuary building, a project that will include many renovations in the old part of the building. That will be a significant change to the look and feel of how we do things around here, and a welcome one at that. As we talked about, part of that project is being driven by convenience, but a larger part of it is being driven by the Gospel. Sharing the Gospel and making disciples intentionally in our

culture is made enormously more effective by not simply having enough space (which we do), but by having the right kind of space (which we need more of).

As we keep that latter fact firmly in mind, letting not just the truth, but the necessity of it drive us forward, we will indeed come to see this particular change have a profound impact on our efforts to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples in Oakboro and beyond. Go ahead and put it on your calendar to be here the whole month of October as we step forward together into embracing this change.

Still other changes are already upon us. Sunday will be Nate and Marisa’s final Sunday worshiping with us as members of this community. We are launching them out in pursuit of God’s call on their lives to pursue a path of church planting that will take them first to Fredericksburg, VA, and ultimately to New Orleans, LA. This will be a big change for them and for us. Yet as we can see in God’s call on the church in Antioch to send out Paul and Barnabas to plant churches across Asia Minor in Acts 13, big changes can pave the way for great growth of the church both at home and abroad. We are excited for them and excited to hear the stories of how God continues using them to make disciples and grow His kingdom.

And yet, for all the things that are changing around here, some things are not. We are still a people with whom anyone can connect to grow in Christ and reach out for His kingdom. I don’t know if you’ve been looking around the room on Sunday mornings lately, but more and more people are discovering that and taking the steps to explore what that could look like in their life with us. We are still committed to seeing the Gospel advanced in the Oakboro community and beyond. We are still going to keep pouring great time and energy and resources into proclaiming the Gospel into the hearts and minds of our young people. We are going to keep ministering to families of all shapes and sizes in order to equip them to take part in the passing of the faith to the next generation. We are still going to be the loving, welcoming, fellowship community you know and love. We are simply following God’s lead in pursuing becoming the church He has called and created us to be in new and exciting ways that will lead to more kingdom growth.

With our feet planted firmly on the Gospel foundation that can sustain us, we will not stop surging forward in pursuit of Jesus together, celebrating where we have been while embracing where we are going, so that His kingdom grows all the more. I can’t wait, and I hope you can’t either. Good days are ahead of us.

Pastor Jonathan

Not Goodbye, See Ya Later



By the time you read this, June 30th probably will have already happened. We'll most likely be on the road to drop off our stuff in Virginia then hitting the road to Mississippi for the summer before starting our next adventure God has for us. There's so much I could write about our time at First Baptist Oakboro. From arriving part-time, to surviving Covid with the church, to new beginnings, new changes, event growth, and an explosion in our student ministries, it's easily been the best 5 years of my life. I thank God for the friendships and experiences he gave us while here. But here's the beautiful thing, it's not goodbye, but see ya later. How do I know this? Because I know FBO is a church that is on mission and wants to see the lost reached for King Jesus' Kingdom. I'm confident that the different types of support y'all send our way will not only keep us close but also allow God's blessings to rain on both the church and us. I so look forward to the day when we get to meet up again and tell stories of what God has been doing lately. How we've made disciples, reached new families, seen explosion continue in terms of outreach, and the Kingdom expanded. In the meantime, I'll be praying for you all. We love you all and can't wait to see you again.

With all the love we got,
Nate, Marisa, Ben, and Zach
See ya soon.

Follow our youth ministry on Instagram @fboyouth

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

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – June	26,037.84
Budget Receipts – June (<i>through 6/27</i>)	18,906.00
Budget Goals – YTD	273,397.32
Budget Receipts – YTD	240,222.00
Budget Variance	- 33,175.32
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	5,460.00
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Gathering Place	338.00
Deacons	110.00
Kids' Ministry	100.00
Youth Camp	50.00
Scholarship	1,200.00
MOM Donation	100.00

Pregnancy Resource Center
of Stanly County
Diaper Drive!
Receiving sizes newborn-6
Drop Off Until July 14
Three Convenient Drop-Off Locations:
• Greater Grounds Coffee, Locust
• West Stanly Christian Ministries, Stanfield
• The PRC, Albemarle
Diapers are received for a diaper giveaway at West Stanly Christian Ministries on July 30th!

You may bring the diapers to the church, and we will distribute them to WSCM.

POPPBELLY SOULFOOD

PRESENTS THE FIRST ANNUAL

Back to School Festival

JULY 20, 2024

School Supply Bazaar, Games, Food Vendors and Entertainment

FROM 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM

EVENT HELD AT THE OAKBORO FAIRGROUNDS

Connect with us at PoppBelly Soulfood on Facebook
 Poppbelly24@gmail.com Demetrus Ingram 704-984-8975

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Beach Cove Resort
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC

Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip

November 11-13, 2024

Prices: \$245 per person (2 to a room)
 single room: \$350
 (Pricing for 3 & 4 to a room available)

Currently, the Package Includes:

- ~ 2 nights' oceanfront accommodations @ Beach Cove Resort (all taxes & fees)
- ~ 2 hot breakfast buffets
- ~ Transportation by mini-bus and/or van (or you're welcome to drive your own vehicle)
- ~ Day of shopping or rest
- ~ 1 all-you-can eat buffet at Original Benjamin's Seafood
- ~ Alabama Theatre's Christmas Show
- ~ LeGrand Cirque's Winter in the Air

2 SHOWS (this year!!!)

THE SOUTH'S GRANDEST CHRISTMAS SHOW

LE GRAND CIRQUE PRESENTS WINTER IN THE AIR

THE ORIGINAL BENJAMIN'S SEAFOOD A FAMILY TRADITION FOR OVER 50 YEARS

EVERYONE is welcomed to join us on our annual trek to Myrtle Beach for some early Christmas fun. In the past, we have attended 2 shows, but for a couple of years, we opted to do just 1. This year, we're doing 2, which accounts for the price increase. Winter in the Air is a fairly new show to the Grand Strand at the Broadway at the Beach Theatre. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board, and if you have any questions, please contact Betty Hunzycutt or call Delinda in the office. This is a GREAT, FUN trip at a TERRIFIC price. Don't miss it!

Information for future HOPE Fellowship trips, including a possible Ice Cream Social and "Peach" trip will be in the weekly announcements and next month's newsletter. Stay tuned!



In memory of **Joyce Little**, Shannon Taylor made a contribution to the Building Fund.

Doug & Ann Burgess and Brooks & Jane Barnhardt gave donations to the Building Fund in memory of **Vera Eudy**.

In memory of **Michael Brewer**, Jean Little's son-in-law, contributions were given to the Building Fund by Brooks & Jane Barnhardt and Tracy & Lisa Lowder

In memory of **Peggy Carey**, donations were made to the Building Fund by:

- Donald Meggs & Family
- Diane Sheppard-Hill, Lee Joyce, Donna Hardy & Tracy Pace
- Gerald & Vicky Baucom
- Janet Rice
- Joel & Mary Thomas
- Eddie & Linda Arrowood
- Brooks & Jane Barnhardt
- Mae Brooks
- Doug & Ann Burgess
- Jim & Cheryl Cameron
- Mary Nelms
- Jewell Parker
- Tracy & Lisa Lowder
- Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class
- First Baptist, Oakboro

To honor the **First Baptist, Oakboro Church Family**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Jean Little.

In honor of **Louise Floyd and Lorrie Hatley**, the Blessed Assurance made donations to the Building Fund.

In honor of **Mae Brooks's 99th birthday**, a contribution was given to the Building Fund by Jewell Parker, Norris & Libby Parker and Randy & Becky Parker.



"First Baptist Church of Oakboro, Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient for this scholarship!"
Kate Cribb

"Dear Church Family, Thank you for your kind words, prayers, and all acts of kindness during Mike's illness and passing. Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and love for each of you. May God bless each of you as you continue to let your light shine for Jesus.
Love to all," Jean Little

Oakboro July 4th Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 29, 2024

- 6:00 PM - B & K Carnival on the Midway ** \$25 Armband Night**
- 6:00 PM - Little Miss 4th of July Pageant
- 8:00 PM - Talent Show sign ups at Oakboro Fire Department
- 8:30 PM - **Ryan Perry** (Union Power Stage)

Monday, July 1, 2024

- 6:00 PM - B & K Carnival on the Midway ** \$20 Armband Night**
- 8:00 PM - Talent Show sign ups at Oakboro Fire Department
- 8:30 PM - 80's Night **Cassette Rewind** (Union Power Stage)

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

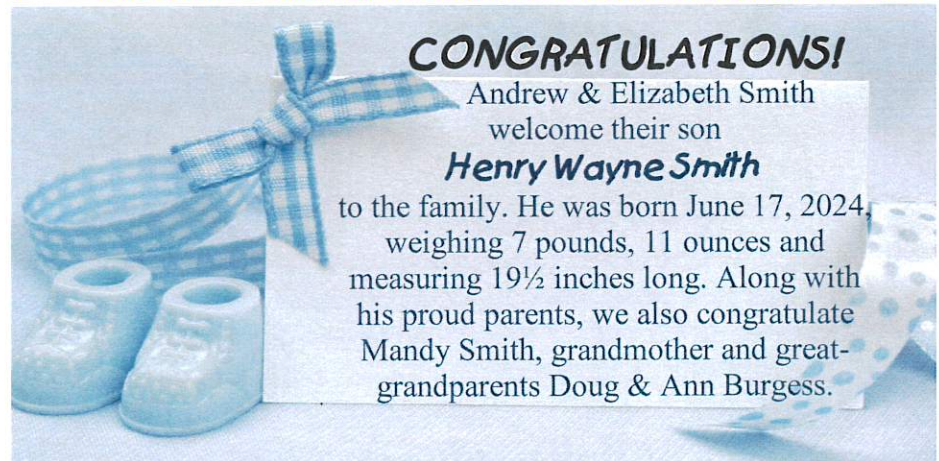
- 6:00 PM - B & K Carnival on the Midway ** \$20 Armband Night**
- 6:00 PM - Local Talent Show
- 8:30 PM - **The Embers featuring Craig Woolard** (Union Power Stage)

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

- 6:00 PM - B & K Carnival on the Midway ** \$20 Armband Night**
- 8:30 PM - **Taylor Richardson** (Union Power Stage)

Thursday, July 4, 2024

- 9:00 AM - 66th Annual 4th of July Parade
- 11:00 AM - B & K Carnival on Midway ** Ride Tickets Only**
- 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 **Ride Tickets Only**
- 8:30 PM - **Too Much Sylvia** (Union Power Stage)
- 10:30 PM - Raffle Drawing
- 11:30 PM - Fireworks (time subject to change depending on weather)



CONGRATULATIONS!

Andrew & Elizabeth Smith welcome their son

Henry Wayne Smith

to the family. He was born June 17, 2024, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measuring 19½ inches long. Along with his proud parents, we also congratulate Mandy Smith, grandmother and great-grandparents Doug & Ann Burgess.