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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXV No. 9

September 2024

**\$2.6  
MILLION**  
2024 GOAL

**GIVE THE  
GIFT OF**  
RELIEF FOR TODAY.  
HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

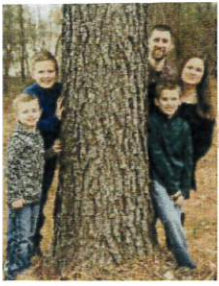
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North Carolina  
**MISSIONS**  
Offering

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

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor  
Office (704) 485-4313  
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Baptism is not the end of someone's journey of faith.

It sometimes gets treated like it. In nearly 16 years of ministry, I've seen parents bring their kids for baptism who may have made an honest profession of faith, but they may also be there because their parents want them to be baptized. Baptists have occasionally treated baptism—especially for kids—like a cultural rite of passage that is different from what traditions that practice

infant baptism or even adolescent confirmation with sprinkling only in how wet the subject is when it's all said and done.

Someone who gets baptized and then never grows in their faith lives in such a way as to suggest that the baptism may have been just a religious rite rather than an honest proclamation of saving faith by way of the symbol Jesus Himself commanded us to use for such a thing.

That latter pathway is the goal. It's also the beginning. It's the beginning of a journey after Jesus that will last for the rest of our lives and will take us—if we let Him—to places we cannot imagine sitting where we are right now. Maybe you've experienced that personally. You cannot imagine what your life might have looked like without Jesus. It hasn't always been easy. Sometimes it has been excruciatingly hard. But it wouldn't have been the same or nearly as good without Him.

If that has been your experience, you need to encourage that same faithfulness over time in the lives of those around you who are new to the journey. That's how disciples get made. And while baptism is a fundamental part of who we are as, you know, Baptists, making disciples is our real goal. That's the real job Jesus gave us to do. We are to make disciples who make disciples.

A couple of weeks ago, we celebrated together the beginning and the continuation of five journeys after Jesus. Just this past Sunday, we celebrated another journey's starting with a profession of faith. That means we'll fill up that tank again here soon. Keep watching for more and more of God's work in our midst. He's up to something.

In fact, I've been telling you that for months in this very space. God is up to something in our midst. His Spirit is moving. I've been telling you to watch for signs of Gospel fruit from His work coming to bear. Well...here you go. And there's more to come. When God's Spirit starts moving, it isn't often in fits and starts. It may start slowly, but once the growing season hits, the results are generally pretty spectacular.

So then, what can we do to keep this exciting momentum rolling forward?

The first thing is to pray. Constantly. Fervently. Prayer is the gas that fuels every true Gospel engine. It is the oil that keeps all the parts well-lubricated and operating properly. If you take the engine out of a plane soaring through the air, it may yet glide for a little while, but a crash is coming. Our commitment to prayer as a congregation is what will keep our Gospel engine humming along as it should.

The second thing is to keep welcoming—not merely greeting, but welcoming—the new people God keeps sending our way. Don't smother them. Welcome them. Invite them forward into the life of the church, especially The Gathering Place. When you arrive at The Gathering Place on Wednesday evenings, be on the lookout for people who are still on the periphery of the community and be intentional about sitting with them and engaging them in conversation. Don't ever let somebody new sit by themselves if you can help it.

Speaking of inviting, the third thing is to keep inviting people to church. The vast majority of people who are here, are here because they were invited. So, invite away. Some will politely refuse. Some will not so politely refuse. But some will accept, and come, and hear the Gospel, and have their lives transformed. Jesus said those seeds that land in good soil like that tend to bear a lot of fruit. It just takes one successful seed to generate an incredible yield, but you have to sow a lot of seeds to find that one. Sow liberally by inviting regularly.

One last thing is what we are all going to do together in the coming months. The more people we see connecting here—and especially the more young families—the more pressing our need for more space is becoming. Well, the design process for that space is moving along steadily. There are many minute details involved in the process, but they are all falling into place bit by bit. That's our builders' part of the process. Our part is going to be to pray and to give sacrificially. We can't do this, we can't grow God's kingdom as He is calling us, unless we all commit to be fully invested in the effort. When we do, the results will be pretty special.

Stay tuned and be prayerfully preparing for next month when we will be talking about all of this in a whole lot more detail and direction. Until then, let's keep on harvesting the Gospel fruit we see growing, and working the land to see even more.

*Pastor Jonathan*



## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Budget Goals – August       | 26,037.84   |
| Budget Receipts – August    | 25,435.00   |
| Budget Goals – YTD          | 331,982.46  |
| Budget Receipts – YTD       | 294,331.00  |
| Budget Variance             | - 37,651.46 |
| <i>Special Offerings</i>    |             |
| Building Fund               | 926.00      |
| NC Baptist Children's Homes | 100.00      |
| Deacons                     | 75.00       |
| Gathering Place             | 605.00      |
| Christmas Show Trip         | 400.00      |
| Equipment & Maintenance     | 600.00      |

**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.



*"Oakboro First Baptist Church,*

*Thank you for the gift bag of goodies to start our year off! We appreciate your prayers and support as we start a new school year. Y'all always show so much love for your community teachers and we appreciate it.*

*Love," Amanda Yow, 3rd Grade teacher OCSS*

During September, we will receive the NC Missions Offering. This goes to support disaster relief, medical & dental aid, mission camps and sending churches and church planters. Please consider supporting this mission in North Carolina through your prayers and giving. Envelopes and more information is available on the church entrance tables.



*In honor of Louise Floyd and Dana Jenkins, the Blessed Assurance Sunday School class made donations to the Building Fund.*

*A contribution was given by Jewell Parker to the Building Fund in honor of Dana Jenkins and Gerald & Bonnie Lee.*

We welcome

## Madalyn Kate Beatty

to our church family. She arrived August 23, 2024, weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. She joins big sister Emma and beaming parents Andy & Kristen Beatty. Her loving grandparents are Myra and Barry Beatty and great-grandmother Frances Beatty.



Please reach out to the following new members, make them feel welcomed and tell them how excited you are that they joined our church family, even if they've been active in FBO church for awhile.

**Larry & Sherrie Burgess**  
10174 NC 138 Hwy  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(704) 309-1685 (Larry)  
(980) 521-1669 (Sherrie)

**Roslyn Smith**  
10206 NC 138 Hwy  
Oakboro, NC 28129

**Micah Waits**  
710 Hathcock-Glen Dr  
Oakboro, NC 28129

**Steven Eury & Allison Toepperwein**  
Mason Eury, Emma Kimbrough  
1057 Allison Street  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
eurysteven@hotmail.com  
(704) 591-2250 (Steven)  
(512) 663-0056 (Allison)





### The NC Baptist Singers and Orchestra

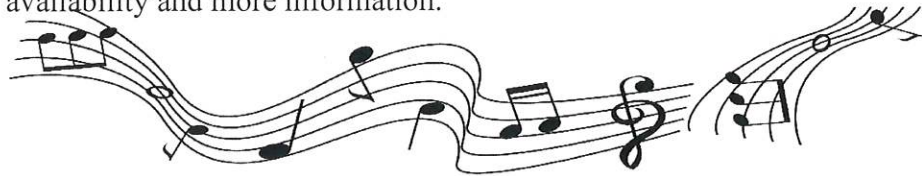
are presenting a Worship Concert Monday, *September 9*, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at Idlewild Baptist Church in Matthews. Dana Jenkins has been a long-time member of this voice/instrument group comprised of 130 musicians from across NC. She invites you to come and participate in this worship.



### The Oakboro School of Music



will kick off its 2024-25 season this Monday, *September 2*. Weekly, 30-minute private lessons in piano and voice will be offered for all ages. To enroll, please call Dana Jenkins, Instructor, at (704) 985-6075 for availability and more information.



### Newly Elected Deacons

Kevin Floyd, Doug Hinson, Mike Hughes, and Nick Wadkins were elected at the recent Annual Church conference to serve for 3 years. They join Doug Burgess, Jeff Chance, Tracy Lowder, Thomas Meadors, Scott Nightingale, Steve Obie, and Danny Poplin.



FBO is pleased to announce that **Missy Wadkins** is our new Children's Ministry Coordinator. Please be sure to sign up on the bulletin board to be added to the contact list, especially if you are a parent or worker. CONGRATULATIONS to Missy – and to our children's ministry!!

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6



### Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip November 11-13, 2024



Pricing: \$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



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 is posted on the bulletin board, and if you have any questions, please contact Betty Hungyeutt or call Delinda in the office.

A \$100-per-person deposit is due *September 8*, with the total due *October 9*. This is a GREAT, FUN trip at a TERRIFIC price.



Join HOPE Fellowship as they journey to Mocksville on Thursday, *September 19*, leaving the church at 10:00 a.m. We will view the traveling exhibit featuring a life-size reproduction of the Biblical sanctuary. As always, EVERYONE is invited to go along. Please sign up on one of the bulletin board sheets to get a headcount for transportation and lunch – or email the church office at [firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:firstbaptistoakboro@gmail.com) if you'd like to go along.





Hello, Church Family!

I am truly honored for the opportunity to step into the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator here at FBCO! Thank you all so much for the warm welcome and trust that you have put in me. FBO Kids has always had a part of my heart, so I am genuinely excited to be able to serve the ministry even more.

Working with all the wonderful volunteers and the Children's Committee, I can say that we have many exciting activities and plans in mind for FBO Kids. I would like to invite you all to watch us as we grow as well! You can do that by following our brand new FBO Kids Facebook page! Check it out at <http://www.facebook.com/FBOKids>.

Parents, I didn't forget about you! There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board where you can be added to receive our email updates with all the information you need to stay up to date!

Thank you once again for this new position. I am eager to embark on this journey with all of you and to make a fun, safe community where our Kids can grow to love and serve like Jesus!

With love,  
Missy

This page is intentionally left blank.



We also welcome **Cameron (Cam) Potts**, our Interim Wednesday Night Youth & Bible Study leader. It's exciting to see so many youth gathering to pray, play, learn more about Jesus and each other under Cam's direction. His wife Katie and daughter Emery are alongside him in his ministry.

To receive the weekly email from Youth Commission Interim (YCI), the organization we are partnering with, please enter the link below or click on our website [www.fbcoakboro.org](http://www.fbcoakboro.org), then go to "Youth Ministry." It's how parents (or anyone interested) can sign up to know what's going on with the students: <https://mailchi.mp/youthcommission/fbo-students>



- September 6 Telia Smith  
Doris Hatley  
7 Wil Kippes  
9 Renée Watkins  
Justin Barringer  
14 Chris Huneycutt  
Caitlin Webb  
15 Ellen Meadors  
Gale Medlin  
16 Laney Castelleo  
19 Tina Ross  
20 Sue Greene  
Trevor McClellan  
22 Wes Tucker  
JJ Hughes  
24 Catherine Thomas  
25 Harrison Montgomery  
27 Marilyn Huneycutt  
Ashlea Mooney  
28 Andy Castelleo  
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.



# September



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO  
322 N Main Street  
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| Sun | Mon                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Tue | Wed                                                                                                       | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer<br><br><b>LABOR DAY</b>                                                                           | 2   | 3                                                                                                         | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7   | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8   | 9                                                                                                         | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 11:15 a.m.<br>Women's Ministry<br>Fall Kick-Off Lunch & Fellowship for All Ladies<br>4:00 p.m.<br><i>Proverbs 31 Wannabes</i><br> | 14  | 15                                                                                                        | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 21  | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                    | 22  | 23                                                                                                        | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                    | 28  | 29                                                                                                        | 30  |     |     |
|     | 4:00 p.m.<br>Annual Fall Stanly-Montgomery Baptist Association Meeting at Prospect Baptist<br>6:00 Message from Dr. Andy Prince<br>Dessert Fellowship After                                                        |     | <p><i>Weekly Sunday Schedule</i><br/>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom)<br/>10:00 a.m. Worship</p> |     |     |     |



*Weekly Sunday Schedule*  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom)  
10:00 a.m. Worship