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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 10  
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



# FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXV No. 12 December 2024

*Thank you for giving to the*  
**LOTTIE MOON  
CHRISTMAS OFFERING®**



**GOD'S WORK IN 2023**

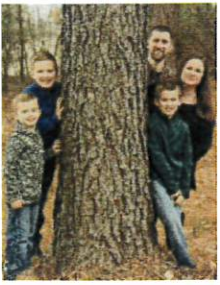
116,992 BAPTISMS	3,515 MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED
269,571 DISCIPLED	879,798 PEOPLE HEARD THE GOSPEL
141,206 NEW BELIEVERS	

Envelopes and Prayer Guides  
are located at the Building  
entrances

**WEEK OF PRAYER**  
*for International Missions*

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

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor  
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(804) 896-4520



I am not a financial guru. I've never "played" the stock market. If you want sound investment strategies, I am not your man. But I do understand some basic principles well enough to keep me out of trouble. One of these is that when you get into investing, your best bet is always going to be to play the long game. If you are investing to make a quick buck and get out, you might get lucky, but you don't want to count on that.

You can't build a financial plan on that kind of approach. But over time, as the economy gradually grows, so will your stock portfolio. Yes, it will go up and down in spurts—some of which can get rather dramatic and unnerving—but over a long period of time, the trend will generally be up. Playing the long game is typically best.

Most things, in fact, work better when we play the long time. Not many good things happen very quickly. Yes, of course, there are exceptions to that. But exceptions tend to reveal the existence of a rule.

Perhaps this is a bit of over-spiritualizing things, but I wonder if part of the reason this trend holds so well is because the God we serve is an eternal God. He tends to play the long game because He has all the time in the world. In fact, although He operates within time because we do, His being eternal by nature means that time doesn't mean the same thing for Him that it does for us. As the apostle Peter reminded us, "*with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.*"

Our God plays the long game.

This is an idea we are going to be looking at through the month of December together. This is the season when we prepare for and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That was a world-changing moment. The God who created the universe took on human flesh and became a part of His creation in a way no other god ever did. There were myths and legends about gods taking on a guise of humanity, but these were all stories in which they wore humanity as a kind of costume. They never gave up their fully divine nature, and they weren't fully human. Jesus was as completely human as you or me. He voluntarily took on all of our limitations while yet never ceasing to be fully the God in whom all things hold together, as the apostle Paul described Him for the Colossian believers. Up to that point in history, the incarnation of God was the greatest miracle He ever performed. Only the resurrection would ever eclipse it.

Yet in so many of our celebrations of the season, we focus all our attention on the stories of Jesus' birth themselves. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but doing this over and over can result in our starting to think that the story came out of nowhere. The truth, though, is that the coming of the Messiah into the world was something that God had been planning on for a very long time. He had been playing the long game.

In fact, God's plans for our salvation go all the way back to when the dust of the explosion of sin into the world when Adam and Eve ate the fruit God told them not to eat was still settling. There, when God was detailing what the results of our choice to sin were going to be, He paused to announce that one day, the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

He had Moses tell the people that a prophet like him was going to come, and that they would need to listen to Him and do everything He said.

Isaiah declared a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son.

Micah announced the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

Multiple times over hundreds and hundreds of years God told us what He was planning. The game He was playing for us to win the prize of salvation was a very long one indeed.

What this means for us as we enter together into the season of Advent, is that what we celebrate God spent a lot of time preparing. This is a season for giving as we celebrate God's greatest gift. You know well that the best gifts are the ones that come with the most thought. God thought about the gift of salvation a very, very long time (from our perspective) before finally giving it to us. Let us plan and prepare, then, to receive it joyfully and fully as the gift that it truly is. Let us receive our King knowing full well that He was given for us.

And then, let us take an active role in making sure that others are able to enjoy the gift as well by sharing it with everyone we meet.

God's kingdom is growing. It is growing here. But the growth we see is ultimately from the seed God first planted when Jesus was born. Let us continue His work and grow His kingdom. Blessings to you as you bless others this Advent season!

*Pastor Jonathan*

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – November	26,680.24
Budget Receipts – November	21,490.00
Budget Goals – YTD	86,710.78
Budget Receipts – YTD	67,150.00
Budget Variance	-19,560.78
<i>Special Offerings</i>	
Building Fund	6,547.33
NC Baptist Children's Homes	370.00
Deacons	40.00
Gathering Place	1,873.00
Hurricane Relief including Wed. Meal	500.00
Children's Ministry Donation	40.00
Operation Christmas Child Boxes	794.00
Men's BBQ	526.00
Pastor's Appreciation (total received 1,170)	70.00

## Offering Envelopes

The Stewardship Committee will distribute the 2025 numbered offering envelope sets over the next few weeks. UNLESS you email or call the office to request one, those who give online will not be given a set. Also, contribution statements will be ready mid-January.



The following family has united with our church, and we're so glad to have them as a part. Brent grew up here, and now Ann and the girls are a wonderful addition. Reach out, introduce yourself, and welcome them.

Brent & Ann Beatty  
Ava, Ember  
683A S Oak Ridge Rd  
Oakboro, NC 28129  
(704) 984-0176



# Upcoming Events

## Sundays

9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship Service

## Wednesdays Starting 8/7/24

5:30 Dinner @ The Gathering Place  
6:30 Bible Study for all ages

## December

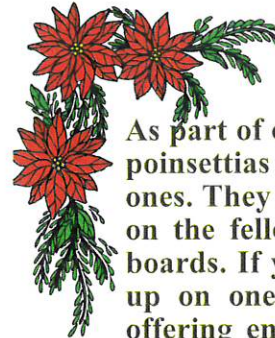
12/5 Christmas Parade  
12/18 Christmas Party 12/24 Christmas Eve Service  
12/25 & 1/1 No Activities



**Only ONE spot remains.** FBO has a date and time slot secured to go and process shoeboxes on Friday, **December 13**, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. All participants must be 13 and older. If you would like to join in this outreach ministry, please sign up on the sheet located in the fellowship building lobby.

## Poinsettias

As part of our church decorations, each year we have poinsettias placed in memory or in honor of loved ones. They are \$12 each, and there are sign-up sheets on the fellowship hall and church building bulletin boards. If you wish to place one or more, please sign up on one of the sheets, place your money in an offering envelope, mark it "poinsettia," and drop it into the offering plate. These are due **December 8**. A list of the dedications will be in the announcements, and after Christmas, you may take your plant home with you.



## HOPE Fellowship Happenings

We had GREAT trips to *Southern Supreme Fruit Cakes & More* and the annual Myrtle Beach Christmas Show trip. Plans are already underway for the next outing as well as for next year's beach trip, which is tentatively scheduled for November 16. We possibly may leave on Sunday and stay 3 nights instead of 2. Nothing is set in stone at this point. Be sure to check our weekly announcements for information on December's event. Again, this is for all ages – if you're available, you're welcome to join in.



## In Memory

In memory of *Louise Floyd*, donations were made to the Building Fund by:  
Jim & Cheryl Cameron  
Seven Oaks Doors & Hardware  
Charles & Beverly Story  
Eddie & Linda Arrowood  
Doris Hatley  
Kim & Bea Goodman  
Nancy Haywood  
Marilyn Huneycutt  
FBCO Visiting Team  
Geneva Beachum

A contribution was given to the Scholarship Fund in memory of **Louise Floyd** by Bud & Teresa Smith

In memory of **Winona Cople**, gifts were presented to the Building Fund by  
Mike & JJ Hughes and  
First Baptist Church, Oakboro



## YOUTH Events

December 5 - Oakboro Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade  
December 18, 6:15 p.m. - Christmas Party  
*Christmas Sweaters, Gift Exchange, Cookies*  
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service  
*December 25 & January 1 - No Activities*

## Christmas Mailbox

We will have mail slots set up in the fellowship hall for you to drop off your church family's Christmas cards. This will save you on postage, but we ask you to consider donating to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for this service. Feel free to use the Lottie Moon offering envelopes for this. Also, be sure to check the mailbox area for your & your family's cards.



The History Committee wants you to know that there are some items remaining from the centennial celebration for sale. These include caps, plates and ornaments. The items are on display in the fellowship hall lobby.



Please see Cheryl Cameron if you are interested in seeing and/or purchasing some of these.



The Gideons of Stanly County thank First Baptist Church Oakboro for allowing us to meet here this year for some of our camp and prayer meetings. You have been a blessing to us in this regard and also in your prayers. We are also grateful for your faithful use of Gideon Cards that you send out to express condolences, prayers for healing, in recognition, or in appreciation to someone. Through Gideon Cards, many copies of God's Word have been placed both locally and around the world by your donations resulting in precious souls won for Christ.

This Christmas you can say, "Happy Birthday, Jesus" on his birthday by giving Bibles in His honor. It is a very easy process to do. Simply take a Bible donation envelope from the Gideons "Birthday for Jesus" display that we will have by the church door, then 1) Give Bibles in Honor of Jesus' birthday by making a gift for scriptures to The Gideons International. 2) Display your Card that is inside the envelope as a reminder of the real reason for the season, and 3) Pray for the people who will receive the copies of God's Word that you have provided. Full Bibles are only \$5 each and are tax deductible. Any donation envelopes may be given to FBCO's local Gideon representatives: Doug Hinson, Chip Alsobrooks, or Jeff Chance. You may mail it to the Gideons at PO Box 182, Albemarle, NC 28002-0182. Thank you for helping to send the Word for Jesus' birthday! Each Bible makes a difference in someone's life. To learn more please go to our website which is [www.sendtheword.org](http://www.sendtheword.org). Thanks again, and Merry Christmas!

Stanly  
County  
Chorale  
PRESENTS

*Carols at the Spinnet*  
*A New Spin on Old Favorites*

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 7:00pm  
First Baptist Church, Oakboro

Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 3:00pm  
First Baptist Church, Albemarle

STANLY COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

North Carolina Arts Council

## WHO IS LOTTIE MOON?

Lottie Moon was appointed a missionary to China July 7, 1873. She was a bold woman of action and radical obedience who shared Christ with the people of China to the end. Lottie died Dec. 24, 1912, leaving a legacy of love and service to her Lord. Her influence led to the establishment of Woman's Missionary Union and inspired other missions pioneers to join her on the field. Her passionate letter-writing led to the offering that bears her name today, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions.

*The Worship Choir presents*

# LOVE

IS BREATHING



*Created by*  
Michael Frazier & Johnathan Crumpton

*Sunday, December 15*  
*10:00 a.m. Worship*

*The Handbells will present their musical selections during this special service.*





CONNECT  
GROW  
REACH

# December

FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

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

- December**
- 1 Butch Poplin
  - 2 Harry Foster
  - 3 Kristen Beatty
  - 5 Jeff Chance
  - Presley Poplin
  - 8 Mason Eury
  - 15 Heather Copple
  - 17 Liam Berger
  - 18 Barry Beatty
  - 28 Iris Mooney
  - Alex Mauney
  - 29 Betty Huneycutt
  - Shannon Chaney
  - 30 Case Smith
  - 31 Teresa Smith
  - Stephen Obie

- January**
- 2 Julie Poplin
  - Ann Burgess
  - 4 Jean Little

Sun	Mon	* Tue	Wed *	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  6:30 p.m. Deacons' Dinner at Los Jacubes	3	4 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 7:00 p.m. Stanly County Chorale Presents Carols at the Spinnet in Fellowship Hall
8	9 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	10	11 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Business Meeting 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	12 6:00 p.m. Life Sunday School Class Party	13  Group Goes to Operation Christmas Child Distribution Center	14 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 
<b>Week of Prayer for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering</b>						
15 10:00 a.m. Handbells Play & Worship Choir presents <i>Love Is Breathing</i> 	16 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	17	18 5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study KIDS & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. Deacons Assemble Treat Bags 
22 Giving of Treat Bags	23 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA in Fellowship Hall  8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer	24 5:00 p.m.  Worship With Us Christmas Eve	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA in Fellowship Hall	27	28 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Prayer Breakfast in Men's SS Class
29	30 8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer  7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA in Fellowship Hall	31  New Year's Eve	<b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship			

Please call or email the office with any changes to the birthday calendar.