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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXVI No. 1

January 2025

WHEN IN DOUBT

...A CONVERSATION ABOUT DOUBT, FAITH, AND GETTING FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.



THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR IS USUALLY A TIME OF HOPEFUL EXPECTATION FOR WHAT THE FUTURE BRINGS. BUT JUST BECAUSE WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD DOESN'T MEAN WE AREN'T STILL OCCASIONALLY HAUNTED BY DOUBTS OF THE PAST. JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AS WE HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT DOUBT, FAITH, AND GETTING FROM ONE TO THE OTHER.

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When a train gets going at full speed, it is an incredibly powerful force. It is a force powerful enough that it fascinates us. Countless movies have been made involving a train wreck in some form or fashion. You can even find lists ranking them in order from best to worst. One I remember from growing up was the climactic ending of the movie *Silver Streak*, a comedy/action thriller from 1976, starring Gene Wilder and Richard Pryor. That crash was really well done. The expression “like a train wreck” refers to a situation that has gone horribly wrong, but from which we can’t divert our attention. Such raw power begs to be observed.

A train going at full speed, though, won’t stay there forever. Physics works against such a thing. As soon as the power driving the train forward goes out, the seemingly unstoppable force immediately begins slowing down, its kinetic energy gradually being converted back into mere potential energy. Now, depending on just how much kinetic energy has been unleashed, it may take a long time and a long stretch of track, but without that engine pumping, its end has already been determined. The only questions are when and where it will stop, not whether.

In the same sort of way, an organization that gets up and running at full speed can be an extraordinarily powerful force. When an organization really hits its stride, it can feel like nothing can stand in its way. Yet the law of institutional inertia works in much the same way as physical inertia does. Everything will continue in the same direction at the same speed unless acted upon by an outside force. Unfortunately, the world is full of outside forces that will slow things down to a crawl, and eventually to a full halt.

I have been telling you in this space for months that God is up to something big at First Baptist Oakboro. The momentum was building and building, and I kept telling you that we were right around the corner from it all being unleashed in a powerful explosion of kingdom advancement.

Then we started into a new calendar year at the start of school this past August and the explosion arrived. I don’t say that to pat ourselves on the back, but merely to report what God has done. If you don’t believe me, just look around. Go back and watch the recordings of the service over the last year paying attention only to the children’s sermon each week. Pay attention to just how many kids are down front. That kind of thing doesn’t happen without God’s empowering it.

As we talked about this past Sunday, we are seeing new members officially join each month. First-time guests are an almost weekly affair. We are baptizing regularly (three times since August). The Gathering Place really is the hottest

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – December	33,350.30
Budget Receipts – December	31,022.00
Budget Goals – YTD	120,061.08
Budget Receipts – YTD	98,172.00
Budget Variance	-21,889.08
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	74,878.99
NC Baptist Children’s Homes	200.00
Gathering Place	381.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	2,803.92
Youth Ministry Donation	40.00
Scholarship Fund	1,000.00



If you haven’t already done so, reach out, introduce yourself, and welcome the newest members to the church family. Mike joins the FBO staff as Associate Pastor for Students & Discipleship.

Mike & Shari Dunn
8641D Hill-Ford Road
Oakboro, NC 28129
(704) 706-5647 – Mike
(704) 706-5648 – Shari

Tommy & Hannah Wall
125 W Ninth Street
Oakboro, NC 28129
(704) 984-2766 – Tommy
(910) 817-5092 - Hannah



Make plans to join us on Sunday, **January 26**, leaving FBO at 2:15 p.m. We will stop for a sandwich along the way to Bojangles Coliseum in Charlotte. This is a first come-first serve seating event, and admission is \$15.



Summer Camp registration and planning are upon us. Our week this summer at Caswell is **June 16-20** (Monday through Friday). A \$50 deposit is due by **February 1**, which secures a spot. The balance-due details will follow soon. There will be a required parent meeting scheduled in the spring in preparation for the trip to assist in finalizing plans.



Mike's Minute

As we close out this year and embrace 2025, might we have the courage to honestly re-examine some of the rhythms of our life that are crucial to us as Christ Followers?

The Psalmist in 5:3 speaks of the importance of spending time with the Lord in prayer...In Joshua 1:8, we are exhorted to meditate on God's Word...in Hebrews 10:25, we are exhorted to continue to meet with other believers, and in Philippians 3:13-14, we are reminded to live His purpose for our lives.

But as the new year approaches, an important question might be considered—Is there anything I need to draw the line on this year? Paul challenges the reader in 1 Corinthians 6:12 and again in 10:23 that while all things are lawful (permissible), not all things are profitable (beneficial). Might we have the courage to ask what is it in my life that is hindering my growth into Christlikeness? John Wesley is credited by saying, *"Whatever cools my affection towards Christ is of the World."*

In 2025, let's not blend into the world...let us impact it by being visual and verbal reflections of Christ to the world... and that begins with rhythms that spur Christlikeness.



ticket in Oakboro on Wednesday nights. I remember a service a few weeks ago when things felt like they always did in the room until suddenly it felt like there were people everywhere. You could hardly move to get around the room there were so many here. I wasn't alone in noticing that either. And to repeat the point, there are kids and youth everywhere these days. At our last Gathering Place of the year there were more than 50 kids and youth on campus, and that wasn't everybody. (And when you consider that there were just 108 here for dinner, that means we were almost outnumbered.)

As we move together into this new year, there are few places better to be as a church than right where we are. This is good. It is exciting! There are few things as fun as being a part of a growing and active church. Everything just feels right. There's a kind of buzz in the air. You get the sense that you are part of something significant. You are where God is moving.

There's just one caveat to all of this. It is absolutely imperative that we not lose sight of the fact that none of this is happening because of us. Yes, we have done much of the practical work. You have been the awesome church you are, which has resulted in the creation of this incredibly attractive community that is drawing people in from out of the woodwork. But we didn't do any of it on our own. Where a church gets big, people can do that. Where a church is actively advancing God's kingdom, only God's power allows for that to happen.

If we want to settle for being a big church, we can, but it won't last, and it won't accomplish anything of significance in the long run. If we want to be a kingdom-advancing church, though, we've got to stay tapped into God's power.

That takes three things in particular. It takes our being intentionally committed to prayer, which is the surest way to access that power. It takes our being intentionally committed to the Scriptures which will make sure we stay on the right track. And it will take our being intentionally committed to being the church. That is, we have to make sure we are staying faithful to the reason for our existence—to advance God's kingdom by proclaiming the Gospel message of Christ's death, resurrection, and the salvation available in Him because of it. As long as we keep doing that, we'll never run out of power. And as long as our engine keeps humming along, we'll keep speeding on down the tracks toward God's kingdom.

Let's keep advancing His kingdom together in this new year!

Pastor Jonathan



Commemorative Items Are Still Available

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.

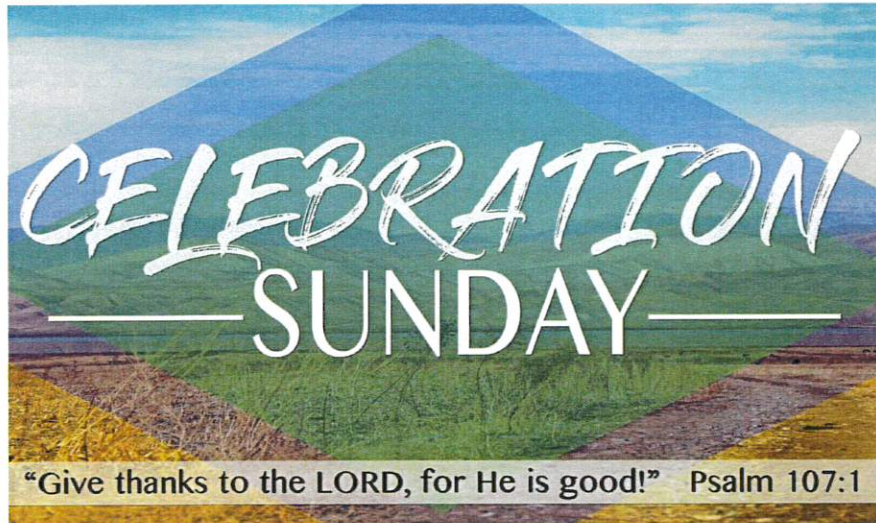


Please see Cheryl Cameron if you are interested in seeing and/or purchasing some of these.



ALL ladies are invited to gather on Sunday, **January 19**, after Morning Worship to have a time of fellowship, food and secret sister reveal. Please bring a food item to

share for lunch, and guests are welcome. We look forward to having **EVERYONE** attend.



Join us as we share ALL that God has done – and continues to do for us!



In memory of **Carolyn Hill**, donations were given to the Building Fund by: **Jim & Cheryl Cameron**
Kevin & Erica Floyd
Doug & Ann Burgess
Jewell Parker

“Dear Pastor, Board of Deacons, and Church Family,
In memory of **Carolyn Hill** and to honor our father and mother’s faithfulness in giving of time, tithe, and talent to missions around the world, a donation was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering by their children,”
Tom, Charles & Jane.

In memory of **Louise Floyd**, donations were given to the Building Fund by **Mike & JJ Hughes** and **Deborah Tucker**.

Contributions were given by **James & Dianne Hudson** to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in memory of **Louise Floyd**.



In honor of **Mike & JJ Hughes**, a contribution was made by **Deborah Tucker** to the Building Fund.

Eddie & Linda Arrowood gave a donation to the Building Fund in honor of **Jim & Cheryl Cameron**

In honor of **Jim Cameron** and **Tracy Lowder**, a donation was made to the Building Fund by **Bea and Kim Goodman**.

In honor of **Mae Brooks** donations were given to the Building Fund, Scholarship Fund and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by **John Brooks**.

A contribution was given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering by **Joe & Linnie Wright** in honor of **Mae Brooks**.

In honor of **Linda Arrowood, Mae Brooks, Mary Nelms, Vera Robinson, Vickie Yandle and Janice Eudy**, a donation was given to the Building Fund by **Jewell Parker**.



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January



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship			1	2	3
				YMCA Kids in Youth Center 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10
	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer YMCA Kids in YC 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting	5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place <i>(please sign up)</i> 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal		8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17
	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place <i>(please sign up)</i> 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal		 7:30 a.m. Gideons' Prayer Breakfast in Men's SS Class
20	21	22	23	24	25
 Women's Ministry Luncheon & Secret Sister Reveal After Worship	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer 	 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring in Youth Center	5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place <i>(please sign up)</i> 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal		
26	27	28	29	30	31
2:45 p.m. Youth Leave for 	8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer		5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place <i>(please sign up)</i> 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal		

- January 2 Julie Poplin
Ann Burgess
Steven Eury
4 Jean Little
5 Jessica Colquitt
7 Taryn Barringer
9 Carol Kiker
Jordan Hunt
10 Jane Barnhardt
11 James Hudson
Ben Sisson
14 Carolyn Hinson
15 Janet Jackson
Sherry Edwards
19 Dana Jenkins
20 Mason Chaney
22 Michael Stancil
23 Ashley Morton
24 Josiah Waits
28 Scott Nightingale

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