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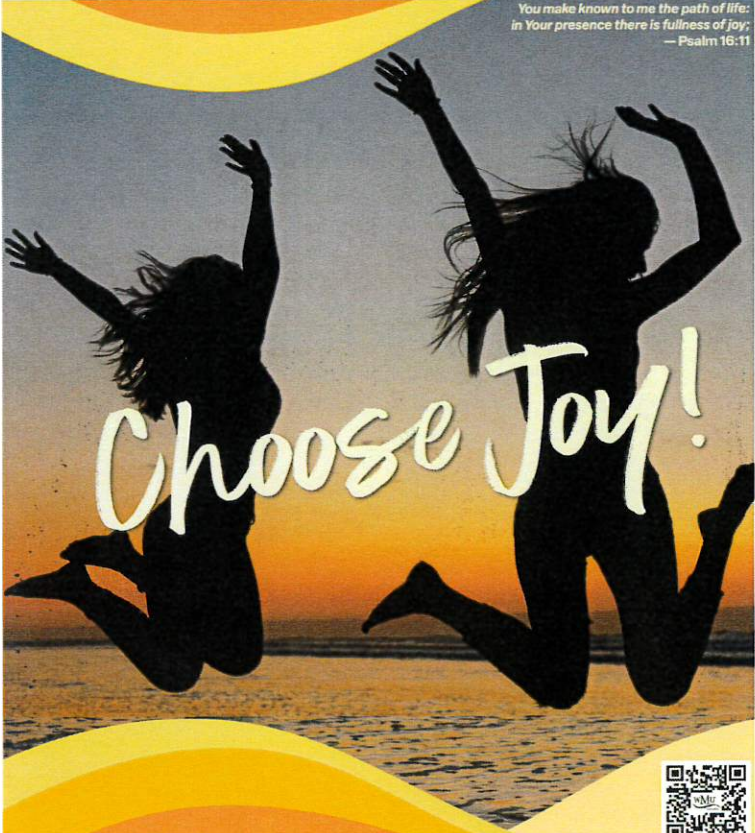
FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator


VOL. XXXVI No. 2

February 2025

*You make known to me the path of life;
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
— Psalm 16:11*



Choose Joy!

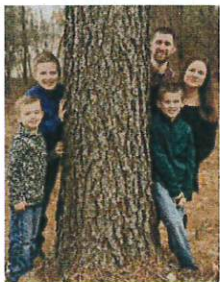


Scan with your smartphone

2025 HECK-JONES
Offering WEEK OF PRAYER
for WMU NC
GOAL: \$325,000
www.wmunc.org

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

Rev. Jonathan Waits, Pastor
Office (704) 485-4313
pastorjwaits@gmail.com
(804) 896-4520



God's timing is an interesting thing. In many, if not most cases, we don't see or understand it until we can look back with the clarity of hindsight. Other times, things line up in such a way that you start to get the sense that God is up to something when you're still in the middle of a situation.

Track with me here for just a second. We are in the midst of a building process. Recent conversations with our design-build firm have put the potential start to actually moving dirt around in early-to mid-summer. The process of bringing this long-developing vision into reality is something God has been leading us faithfully forward in for a long time. He's not going to stop now. A big part of how He is going to do that is through our collective commitment to sacrificial generosity in the years ahead of us. He'll yet surprise us in other ways because that's the kind of thing He does, but our part with His power will be significant. The ownership that is going to give us of this bold step to advance God's kingdom in this community and beyond will be an important part of our energetic commitment to moving forward together.

The goal of this project, though, isn't just to build and renovate our facilities. It isn't even just to expand God's kingdom. It is to lead us forward as a church to know God more together. That knowledge will lead to greater trust on our part, which will lead to more radical acts of obedience and faithfulness, which will result in more disciples being made and sent near and far, which will be the thing that grows God's kingdom. Knowledge of God is the key.

This month (starting last Sunday), we are having a conversation on Sunday mornings about marriage. Yes, I know it's more than a little cliché to have a sermon series about marriage timed to end the Sunday after Valentine's Day, but that's the season we are in, so it seemed right to talk about it. As we talked about in the first part of this journey last week, if we are going to love our spouse properly, we have to love God first and most. Well, guess how you come to love God first and most in your life. You get to know Him better. To know God is to love Him because He is love. In the second part of the series coming this Sunday, as we talk about intimacy in marriage, one of the main points in the message will be that if we want to have greater intimacy in our relationships, we have to be better connected to God. That is, we have to know Him more and better.

Last week, I finally picked up my recently acquired copy of J.I. Packer's Christian classic, *Knowing God*. It may shock some of you that I'm just now reading that. Others are wondering who J.I. Packer is. Either way, the book is about what its title suggests. At the time I'm writing this, I started the actual reading yesterday, so I haven't gotten very far yet. Even so, the point has been profound.

Knowing God is the most important thing we can know. No other knowledge surpasses it. Knowing God is really the foundation for all true knowledge. We can know about a lot of things, but unless we know God, we don't actually know any of it like it can and should be known. This makes perfect sense too, since He is the one who created all of it. Mere knowledge about God won't do. Such incomplete knowledge doesn't benefit our lives in the way we need it to. It doesn't give us access to eternal life in Christ.

Well, if you're keeping score with me, that's three different ways the significance of our knowing God has been emphasized to me in just the last 24-hours at the time of my writing this on Friday afternoon. Do you think perhaps that He's trying to tell us something? If we are going to move forward together as a church, becoming all the time more fully the church our God has designed us to be for the season we are in, the engine that will properly drive us is our knowledge of God.

As a church we need to work together to increase our knowledge of God. This applies both personally in our own devotional times, but also corporately as we work together to help one another to know Him more. This happens formally in the context of things like Sunday school or Wednesday night Bible studies, but also more informally as older members of the congregation are intentional about doing life alongside younger members, letting them see firsthand the fruits of knowing God. If you are not fully connected to what is going on around here, if you are not fully committed to our journey of knowing God more and by that becoming more the church He designed us to be, allow me to invite you to fix that. Come and be a fully committed and invested part of our journey to know God more and to live in light of that knowledge in everything we do. God is moving in our midst. I can't wait to see and experience with you what He does next.

Pastor Jonathan



Character can be defined as what you and I are on the inside... and that which is in us eventually comes out...

Jesus said it this way... Luke 6:45

"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart."

This is clearly seen in our behavior...

One of the recognizable traits in our character is our integrity... that is when what we know matches what we do and what we say.

The Bible speaks of Noah that

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. Gen. 6:9

Of David

[71] From the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance.

[72] So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them with his skillful hands. Psalm 78-71-72

Of Daniel

Who began distinguishing himself among the commissioners... Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel...but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. Daniel 6:3-4

To us the Bible exhorts

in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, [8] sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. Titus 2:7-8

Jesus had harsh words to those who lacked integrity:

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. [26] "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. [27] "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's

bones and all uncleanness. [28] "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. Matthew 23:25-28

At the end of the day:

Reputation is what folks think you are... **Personality** is what you seem to be... **Character** is what you really are...



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 6:00

SPONSORED BY
FBO YOUTH

LASAGNA, SALAD, & DESSERT

Please sign up on one of the bulletin board sheets.



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.

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – January	26,680.24
Budget Receipts – January	22,962.00
Budget Goals – YTD	146,741.32
Budget Receipts – YTD	121,134.00
Budget Variance	-25,607.32
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	32,839.33
NC Baptist Children's Homes	100.00
Gathering Place	535.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering	75.00
Youth Camp	350.00
Kids Camp	100.00
Deacons	106.00



Show love like Jesus! Reach out, introduce yourself, and welcome the newest members to our church family.

Greg & Amber Mullis
5400 NC 742 Highway
Oakboro, NC 28129
(704) 400-7346 - Greg
(704) 425-6535 - Amber



Chris & Edith Todd
8026 Hillsvie Road
Oakboro, NC 28129
(704) 608-6994 - Chris
(704) 991-5739 - Edith

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.



In loving memory of **Bill Thomas**, a gift was presented to the Building Fund by Catherine Thomas.

A donation was made to the Building Fund by Mary Nelms in memory of Louise Floyd.



Contributions were given to the Building Fund in memory of **Carolyn Hill** by:
Deborah Tucker
Eddie & Linda Arrowood
Bea & Kim Goodman

In memory of **Brenda Huneycutt**, donations were made to the Building Fund by:
Jeff & Sandra Chance
Jim & Cheryl Cameron
Jewell Parker
Bea & Kim Goodman
Doug & Ann Burgess
Kevin & Erica Floyd



The WMU Heck-Jones Offering

The Heck-Jones offering is named after Fannie E. S. Heck and Sallie Bailey Jones, two beloved leaders and founders of WMU of NC. They spent their lives serving God through the missions and ministries of WMU. Today the missions and ministries of WMU NC are supported entirely by your gifts to the Heck-Jones offering.

For your use and convenience, offering envelopes and prayer guides are located at the building entrances.





JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER DROP-IN
CELEBRATING

Summer Mauney

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

3:00 - 5:00 PM

FIRST BAPTIST OAKBORO FELLOWSHIP HALL

SUMMER IS REGISTERED WITH AMAZON
DIAPERS(ALL SIZES) & WIPES ALWAYS NEEDED



FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

January 26, 2025

Dear Parents:

It's that time of the year again...CAMP! This year we will be returning to Caswell on June 16-20.

Overview:

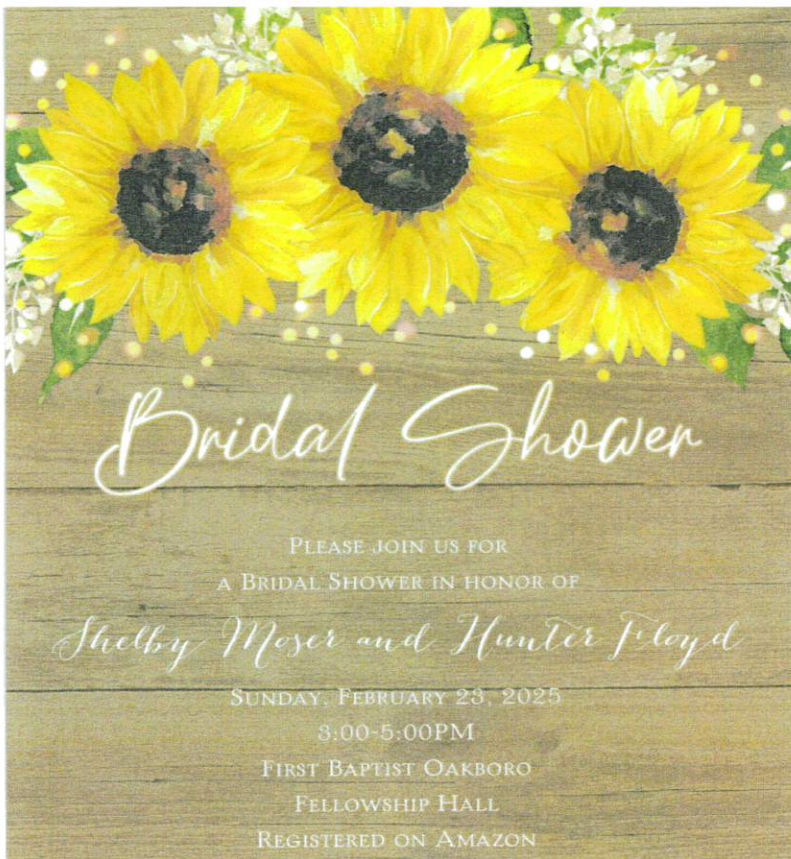
1. The 2025 camp theme is REMAIN. Based on John 15:4-5, REMAIN encourages students to abide in Jesus so they would bear much fruit. This isn't a one-time occurrence, but characteristic of a life devoted to following Jesus every day. The challenge to remain is to be there and stay there.
2. We have limited spots for Caswell. Camp Caswell is always at capacity. If our students want to attend, a non-refundable \$50.00 deposit must be submitted prior to Feb. 15. We have spots for only 14 female students and 14 male students, and they are available on a first come first serve basis. Please make checks payable to First Baptist Oakboro and put "camp deposit" in the memo.
3. The full cost for camp is well over \$500.00 after all expenses are factored in; However, the church has set aside some designated monies for Camp this year, and we'll also be doing a few fundraising events for camp and mission projects. With that being said, **the out-of-pocket cost for each student will be \$250** assuming successful fundraising efforts. Payment deadlines are as follows:

a. Non-refundable registration	\$50.00	due prior to 2/15
b. 1 st installment	\$50.00	due prior to 3/15
c. 2 nd installment	\$50.00	due prior to 4/15
d. 3 rd installment	\$50.00	due prior to 5/15
e. 4 th installment	\$50.00	due prior to 6/15

4. The following are expectations from students/parents:
 - a. Students wanting to attend camp with us must attend either Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings at FBO from February 15 – June 15.
 - b. Students must participate in raffle ticket sales, and one of the following: the February 22 Valentines Dinner from 4-8pm, or the May 3 Hot Dog Supper and Bake Auction from 3-7pm.
 - c. Attend the Mandatory Camp Informational Meeting on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:30 following the Wednesday evening activities.
 - i. Signing of camp-specific forms - this will need to be done at this meeting
 - ii. Student conduct expectations agreement
 - iii. General itinerary
 - iv. Emergency contact information in case you need to get in touch
 - v. Medication and allergy protocol

We are excited for both Camp and future mission project events. Thank you and we looking forward to seeing you soon! Any questions, concerns or conflicts please reach out to us!

Youth Team



Celebrating FEBRUARY Birthdays

- February**
- 11 Micah Waits
 - 13 Cooper Haymond
 - 14 Erica Floyd
 - 15 Jim Davis
 - 16 Jennifer Stancil
 - 21 Theo Burris
 - 22 Mark Smith
 - 23 Sophie Tucker
 - 24 Bill Young
 - 25 Melanie Hudson
 - Rick Baucom
 - 26 Kim Goodman
 - 28 Daniel Jenkins

- March**
- 1 Vickie Yandle
 - 2 Katie Broadway

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



FEBRUARY



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p><i>Weekly Sunday Schedule</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p>8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p>
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 The Sisterhood, Bible Study 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>HAPPY Valentine's Day</p>	<p>7:30 a.m. Gideons' Breakfast & Cabinet Meeting in Men's SS Class</p>
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>3:00-5:00 p.m. Babies Shower for Summer Mauney in Fellowship Building</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring in Youth Center</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p>Valentine's DINNER</p> <p>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND, 6:00</p> <p>SPONSORED BY FBO YOUTH</p> <p>SAGAH, SALAD, & DESSERT</p>
	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	<p>Baptist Women's Day 3:00-5:00 p.m. Bridal Shower for Shelby Moser & Hunter Floyd in Fellowship Building</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>			