



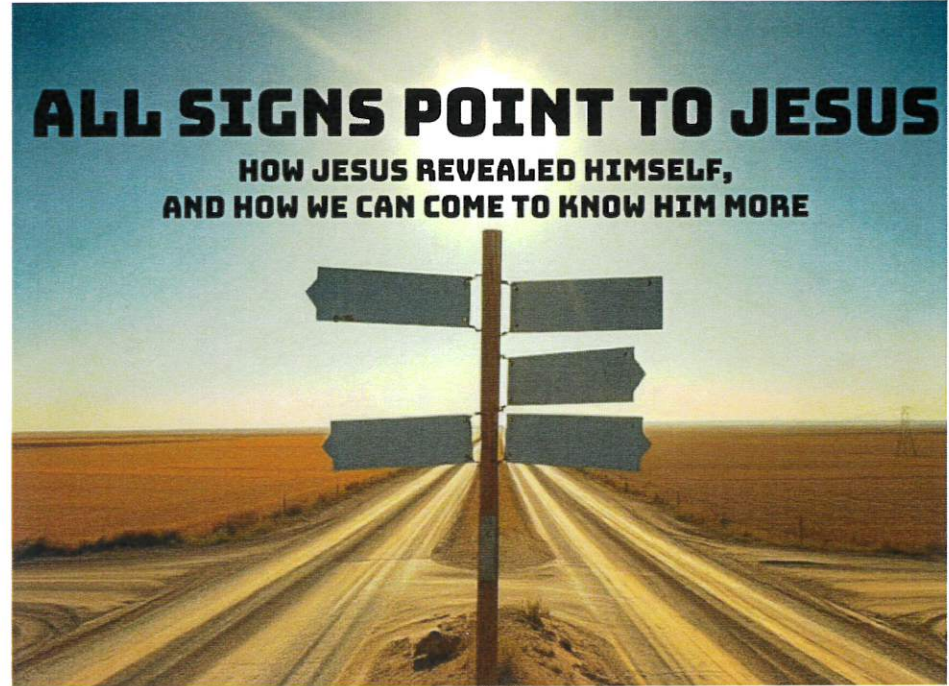
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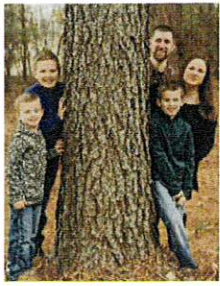
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**ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS**  
**HOW JESUS REVEALED HIMSELF,**  
**AND HOW WE CAN COME TO KNOW HIM MORE**

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

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



Once a month, I meet with a small group of pastors in the area to pray. Recently we've added a couple of things to the agenda. One is lunch. Given that we're a bunch of Baptist pastors, that really shouldn't surprise anyone. The other is studying the Scriptures together. Basically, I'm regularly doing with them what I tell you to be doing with the church.

The particular guide we are using for our Scripture studying is a little booklet that has the text of 1-2 Timothy and Titus on one page, and a blank, lined sheet for note taking on the other. We're just going through the book one page at a time.

Paul's letters to Timothy are intensely practical guides for church leaders to help them pursue their task wisely, winsomely, and well. This past week, I was reading 1 Timothy 1:12-20. There Paul is marveling about his own call in Christ to the ministry of the Gospel. He says something starting in v. 15 that I've read before, and that Paul says in other places as well.

Here's what he says: *"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*

Now, this is one of those things Paul says that makes us roll our eyes just a bit...and cringe inwardly with guilt. If Paul, the super-apostle, was the foremost of sinners, then what does that make us? I completely understand that sentiment, but that's not what I want to focus on right now. Instead, let's keep going with Paul in v. 16: *"But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."*

What I want you to see here is that even after several years' worth of really successful ministry by both worldly and kingdom standards, Paul had not lost the wonder of his salvation. He had not lost sight of the fact that, as he wrote to the Ephesian believers, it was by grace he was saved through faith, and this was not of himself. It was the gift of Jesus Christ such that he could not boast in himself. He could only boast in his God (which he did as often as he could).

Here's the connection point that struck me for us as a church. We've got a lot of good things going on right now. I highlighted several of those with you last month, and since then, all the numbers I gave you have only

increased. I know the tornado threat impacted this to make it an anomaly, but we actually had 41 more people at The Gathering Place two weeks ago than we did in worship. And the kids. So. Many. Kids. By many external measures, we are doing really, really well as a church. If you are as excited about that as I am, that's a good and right thing to feel. We should be celebrating that.

But let's make sure we are celebrating the right thing.

Let us make sure we are celebrating the incredible, faithful work of our God through us. In one sense, yes, we have had everything to do with the success we are enjoying. We are the ones showing up. We are the ones fixing the meals. We are the ones teaching the lessons. We are the ones leading the ministries. We are the ones keeping the nursery. On and on it goes. But in a much greater, more important sense, we don't have anything to do with any of the success we are experiencing. Lots of other churches are doing those same sorts of things and yet they are slowly dying. Instead of trying to figure out where to put all of the kids and youth they are seeing, they are trying to figure out how to keep the lights on and the pastor employed.

Our faithful God is doing a work. He is doing it for reasons of His own that are all grace from start to finish. He is doing it in response to our praying together. He is doing it in response to faithfulness. But He is doing it. Not us. What we are is stewards. He is doing the work, He is putting the work in our hands, and it is our job to steward it, to manage it faithfully and well.

This means we have to keep serving faithfully. We have to keep serving selflessly. We have to keep serving generously. We have to keep serving sacrificially. We have to keep serving joyfully (there are few things as off-putting to guests as a grumpy servant). We have to keep going above and beyond just like our God is. We do all of this in spite of the fact that we are just a small community of imperfect people. We do it so that "Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who [are] to believe in him for eternal life."

Let me give you one more reason we do it, and this is the most important of all: Jesus rose from the grave. Our God defeated death, opened the doors to eternal life in His kingdom, and then gave us the keys of that kingdom. The only proper response to this on our part is to keep those doors thrown open wide so that everyone He puts within our sphere of influence hears about it so they can receive it as well.

*Pastor Jonathan*



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

A third recognizable trait in our character is our apology... No matter who we are, how old we are becoming, the practice of apology hopefully will be something we take seriously...

Living for the Lord involves being in a right relationship with both our Heavenly Father and our fellow man:

*[34] But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together. [35] One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, [36] "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" [37] And He said to him, " You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' [38] "This is the great and foremost commandment. [39] "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

Gary Chapman in his book **"The Five Languages of Apology"** shares simply what apology should look like.

First, apology has an expression of regret: I am sorry.

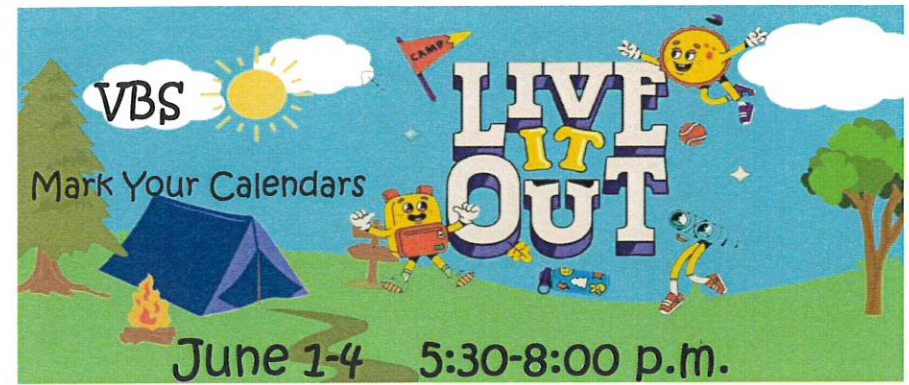
Second, it contains an admission of guilt: I was wrong.

Third, apology offers restitution: What can I do to make it right?

Fourth, apology involves genuine repentance: Committing to really trying with all of our hearts not to do that offense again.

Fifth and last, apology requests forgiveness... Will you forgive me?

How about us? Are we practicing true apology?



If you can help in any capacity, please pick up a volunteer sign-up paper from the fellowship building entrance table, complete it and turn it in.



**Available to High School Seniors**

**Apply for one of First Baptist Oakboro's Scholarships by**

- scanning this QR Code
- or picking up a copy from Guidance Counselor or FBO Fellowship Building entrance

**Deadline: April 15, 2025**



**For Everyone**  
**Next Sunday, April 6**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Relay For Life**  
**Interest & Planning Meeting**  
**Do we want a team?**  
**Do we want to plan the Survivor Dinner?**

*We once had a TOP Stanly County team!*

40 Years of Impact. American Cancer Society RELAY FOR LIFE

If interested in the April 5<sup>th</sup> concert featuring **Karen Peck & New River and Brian Free & Assurance**, please see Delinda in the office for discount tickets -- \$15 and \$20. Proceeds go to Relay For Life 2025.



We celebrate with Alex, Summer and Roslyn Mauney as they welcome

*Marinell Lee Mauney (Nell) & Junious Estelle Mauney (June)*

into their family. They were born March 10, 2025, with Nell weighing 5 pounds, 11 ounces, and June weighing 6 pounds. Sherrie and Larry Burgess are their grandparents. Reach out and love on this family!



Just a few things for the radar:

**Camp/Mission Project Fundraising**

Raffle Tickets: We are asking everyone who still has raffle tickets, stubs, and monies out, please bring them by Wednesday, *April 2*. We have some tickets that remain unsold and want to get an accurate count so we can do a final push to get remaining tickets sold. There are folks asking for more tickets.



**Camp Deposits – Tuition payments for camp are due *April 15*.**

**Bake Auction** – Sign-ups for the bake auction will posted on Wednesday, *April 2* in the lobby for those willing to bake something for donation. There also will be space for you to sign up for the hot dog supper so we will know how many to prepare for.

**Events**

**Scavenger Hunt:** We are in need of four drivers for Saturday, *April 5* from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for our scavenger hunt. Please see Mike if you can help with this.

**Kickball Tournament:** FBO Student ministry has registered a team to represent us in the [www.jointhefam.org](http://www.jointhefam.org) ministry kickball tournament on Saturday, *April 26*. We could use a few coaches to help out that day. We need a coach for the following time slots (8-11, 10-1, 12-3, 2-5) at the park in Locust. See Mike if you can help.

**Service**

*March 22* - 10 Students gathered to serve a lady in Stanfield. They worked hard and represented well!

*April 2* – students, as a part of our Wednesday evening, will help move out some yard sale items.

*April 9* – students, as a part of our Wednesday evening, will help stuff Easter eggs with candy, directly after dinner in the gathering place

*April 13* – students will meet early to help hide Easter eggs in the park for the Easter egg hunt. We will leave church at 2:30 p.m. and will return after hiding eggs and the short devotion at approximately 4:00 p.m.

**Church YARD SALE FUNDRAISER**

All types of products to look through!

All proceeds go to support the children, youth, and church building fund!



April 5th, 2025  
8 am - 2 pm

Oakboro First Baptist Church- Fellowship Hall  
522 N Main St  
Oakboro, NC 28129

Grab your basket & join us....

**FBO KIDS**

**Easter Egg Hunt**

**Sunday, April 13** Please bring your candy donations to the Fellowship Building by April 6

**Oakboro Park**  
**3:00 pm**





## The Oakboro School of Music Recital

will be

Sunday, April 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Oakboro  
Fellowship Building

Dana Jenkins is the teacher of voice and piano,  
and she encourages you to come and hear these  
music students.



## HOPE Fellowship Happenings



Plans are underway to attend The Uwharrie Players' production of "You Can't Take It with You" at the Albemarle Community Theater on either Saturday evening, **April 5**.



Mark your calendar for Thursday, **May 22**, as we travel to Calvary Church in Charlotte to attend a free pipe organ concert in their sanctuary, then enjoy a senior adult lunch for \$9 per person.

Also, please note that our annual Christmas show trip is scheduled for **November 16-19**. Carolina Opry and Greg Rowles' Legacy Theater are the 2 shows we'll attend. We're trying something a little different this year, as we plan to leave on Sunday afternoon, giving us full 2 days of shopping and relaxation, instead of traveling on Monday. However, we'd like your input, as this will be an additional night's stay and breakfast at the hotel, adding this amount to the package. If this price increase or additional night will prohibit you from going this year, please contact Betty Huneycutt – or Delinda Huneycutt in the church office.

As always, our events are not limited to senior adults. EVERYONE is welcome to come and go along.

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

Budget Goals – March (thru March 27)	26,680.24
Budget Receipts – March	27,392.00
Budget Goals – YTD	200,101.80
Budget Receipts – YTD	178,109.75
Budget Variance	-21,992.05
<b>Special Offerings</b>	
Building Fund	7,393.66
Gathering Place	1,453.00
Heck-Jones WMU Offering	280.00
Youth Camp: Deposits	1,250.00
Youth Camp: Sponsorship	320.00
Youth Camp: Valentine Dinner (Additional)	190.00
Youth Camp: Raffle	9,330.00
Deacons	35.00
NC Children's Homes	100.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	260.00
Kids' Camp	100.00



It's hard to see it right now, but our building plans are continuing to come together. We are actively working with our designers to get every detail just right in order to facilitate as smooth a construction process as we possibly can, and also to make sure we are keeping costs as low as we possibly can. We are in the phase when we are working out several of the finishing details, one at a time. This phase requires patience, but our patience will pay off as we look forward to moving into a building phase as soon as we possibly can. Keep covering this whole process in prayer and keep giving with the praiseworthy generosity you have been demonstrating so faithfully. We will enjoy the fruits of God's labor and our faithfulness to their fullest!

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is one that supports missionaries and efforts right here in North America, supporting missionaries and their ministries. Prayerfully consider being a part and giving to this cause.





CONNECT  
GROW  
REACH



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

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

- April**
- 2 Kay Smith
  - Emma Kimbrough
  - 6 Rita Crisco
  - 8 Alyssa Pope
  - Jimmy Cople
  - 11 Beverly Parr
  - 12 Noah Young
  - 16 Thomas Meadors
  - Lillianne Crisco
  - Thea Ellis
  - 20 Chip Alsobrooks
  - Ella West
  - 21 Cooper Smith
  - 22 Lisa Waits
  - 25 Jane Baucom
  - 28 April Tucker
  - 29 Katlyn Thompson
  - Mike Hughes
  - 30 Shari Dunn
- May**
- 3 Kathy Simes
  - 4 Ellen Little

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p>Annie Armstrong Easter Offering</p> <p><b>STEP INTO THE STORY</b></p>		<p>6:30 p.m. Deacons' Meeting</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>7:30 a.m. Meet at Oakboro District Park for</p>	<p>8:00 a.m. Church Yard Sale for Ministries 10:00 Youth Scavenger Hunt HOPE Fellowship Outing 6:00 p.m. Relay For Life Concert @ Stanly Agri-Civic Center</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. Relay For Life Interest Meeting</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up) 6:30 The Sisterhood, Bible Study for ALL 7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p>
<p>3:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Oakboro District Park</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>Good Friday</p>
<p>6:00 p.m. Oakboro School of Music Recital in Fellowship Building</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES</p>		
<p>HE IS RISEN</p>		<p>YMCA Kids in Youth Center 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.</p>			
	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>Weekly Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live &amp; Zoom) 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>	

If changes need to be made to this list, please contact the church office.