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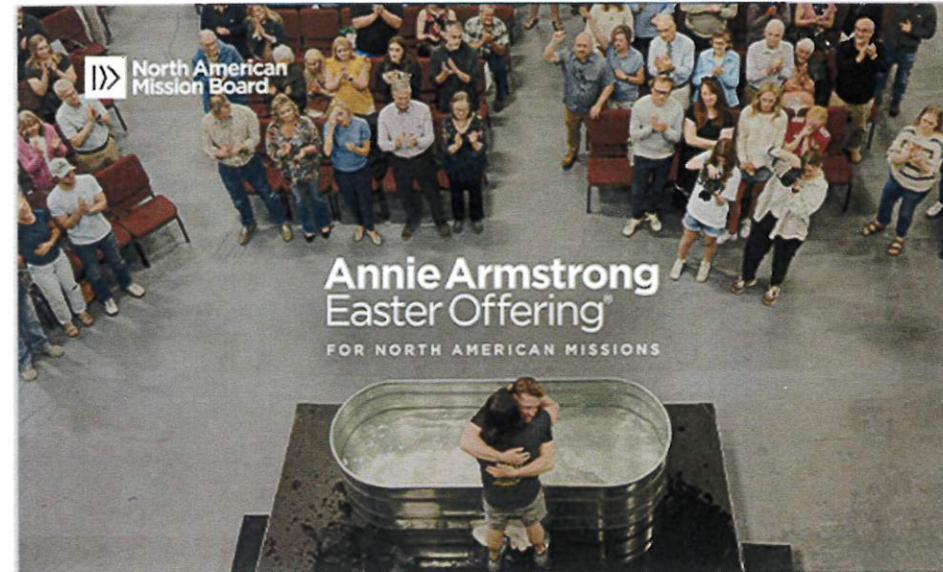


FIRST BAPTIST
OAKBORO

The Communicator

VOL. XXXVII No. 3

March 2026

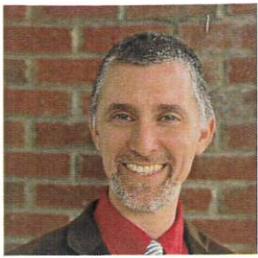


The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports
Missions in North America.

Prayer Guides and Envelopes are located at the
entrances to the buildings. Please pick these up to
learn more. You also may give online by choosing
Annie Armstrong.

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



Have you ever had the satisfaction of asking someone to do something that they not only did, but did really well? When I write these articles each month, I often include a piece—usually near the end in hopes that you’ll remember it—where I ask you to do something. It’s pretty much always something practical you can do to continue to be an active part of what we see God doing in our midst. The last couple of months in particular, I have invited you to pray over the work God is clearly doing around us and in us and through us, and I have invited you to make sure that you are an active part of that work.

It would seem that many of you have taken me very seriously.

The evidence for this is in the ways we continue to see God work. Let me offer some anecdotes that might help give you a more complete picture.

I’m writing this on Thursday, February 19. Last night we had the most people we have ever had at The Gathering Place. And everybody felt it too. As I made my way around the room, more than one person looked at me with big eyes and exclaimed, “There’s a lot of people here!” I understood the sentiment entirely. And of the more than 150 people who were there (more than had been here the previous Sunday morning, by the way), 68 of those were under 18. We live in a world that is hungry for community. We have that and word continues to spread.

Let me add something else here. I listened to a podcast the other day about the demographic death spiral many churches are facing over the next 5-10 years. Essentially the argument was that we are just a few years from the point where many from the Boomer generation are going to hit the average lifespan age. This is a morbid thought, I know, but that means many of them are going to start dying out. Churches that are heavy on the upper range of a demographic chart are going to suddenly find themselves rapidly losing members to death.

That’s not us. The average age of the group that was here Wednesday was 33. The median (the exact middle of the dataset) was 30. And the mode (the most common age) was about 15. The interquartile range (which tells you about the spread of a set of data) was 42. That means it was an extremely intergenerational crowd that skewed healthily toward the younger end of the spectrum. In plain English all of that means that from a purely statistical standpoint, our church is really healthy and has a bright, long future ahead of us.

That same night I had a conversation with one of the youth who has been coming regularly. He doesn’t have any connection to this church beyond friends from school. He lives in New London and goes to church in Albemarle on Sunday mornings. But he’s here pretty much every Wednesday night because he loves the community. He loves time with friends and growing in his faith together. Your faithfulness, your prayer, your involvement have helped to create the kind of community that has a high school student driving himself from New London to be here on Wednesday nights.

Part of having so many kids running around is the need to have plenty of adults outside to help keep an eye on them. I’m in the Kids’ Volunteers GroupMe so that I can stay abreast of what’s going on with that crucial part of our ministry. Each week Missy sends out a call for Playground Patrol volunteers. In some churches, trying to get volunteers to do things like that is like pulling teeth. Yet I watch as one volunteer after another steps up to make sure our fun community environment is also a safe one.

I got an email a few weeks ago from a local parent who shared that their church doesn’t really have anything going on for kids right now, but that they had heard that our program was dynamite (which, of course, is true because it is thanks to Missy’s excellent leadership and the faithfulness of our amazing volunteers), and would it be okay if their daughter came to be a part of it. I gave the parent an enthusiastic yes, and their little one has been here almost every week since.

A member felt a burden for making sure guests are not only welcomed warmly when they visit, but also that the welcome extends beyond the doors of the church when they leave. So now we have a hospitality team ready to be even more intentional at greeting everyone, but especially guests, and at following up with them to make sure they know about further opportunities to connect. We also have a really slick brochure about the church with all sorts of helpful information for guests in it.

A parent of one of our little ones who is still just getting a start on the faith reached out about getting a Bible the little one could easily read and a reading plan to help direct that reading. I was glad to make the recommendation and put together the reading plan, but the reason that happened in the first place is because that little one is hearing the Gospel from our faithful teachers who are extending that Gospel experience all the way down to our youngest attendees.

We recently experienced two tough losses as a church in Mae Brooks and Judy Tucker. Both saintly ladies are with our Lord. But their passings came within a week of each other. Meanwhile, there were a whole lot of other things going on at the same time. This church loves its own, though, and loves them well. A whole host of faithful servants helped to fix food and set rooms and run tech and care for the families and so on and so forth. As a result, both families were loved well and God was glorified.

Like Paul wrote, the church works best when every part is playing its part, and all of those parts are in pursuit of Jesus together. We have a lot of parts right now, and they are all playing their part well. As a result, we have a church that is strong and vibrant and healthy in a number of different respects. I hope you are as excited to see all of this playing out before our eyes as I am. I hope you are as motivated to keep doing everything we can in pursuit of the goal of transforming this community with the Gospel as I am.

(continued on next page)

God is at work and it is exciting to see. The challenge for us is to keep on pursuing Him together; to keep on praying together; to keep on serving together; and to do all of that with that next generation that is being poured into firmly in mind. What we are doing in creating this community where our youth and kids programs are thriving is vitally important work; more so even than perhaps we realize. So, let's keep doing it. Let's keep giving it everything we've got. Nothing short of the future of the church, the community, and the world are at stake.

Pastor Jonathan



Seniors 60 and older are invited to a nutritious midday meal at your local Senior Nutrition Lunch Site operated by Stanly County Senior Services Department.

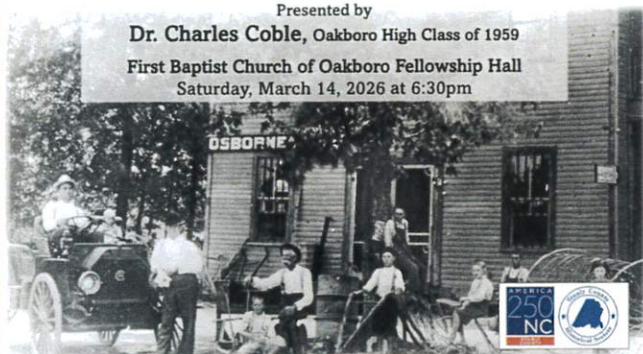
- Lunch is catered by Golden Corral-Asheboro
- Cost: Donations accepted & appreciated; not necessary
- Diners must eat at the site (no takeouts)
- Please call by 12:00 the day before to reserve your lunch

RSVP by calling:
Oakboro Senior Nutrition Lunch Site
626 N Long Street, Oakboro
(704) 485-8211

For more information, please call Joy Richardson
(704) 986-3773 (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

HIGHLIGHTS of the HISTORY of BIG LICK and OAKBORO

Presented by
Dr. Charles Coble, Oakboro High Class of 1959
First Baptist Church of Oakboro Fellowship Hall
Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 6:30pm



In cooperation with the Oakboro Regional Museum of History

OUR RECORD OF GIVING

(service cancelled 2/1/26)

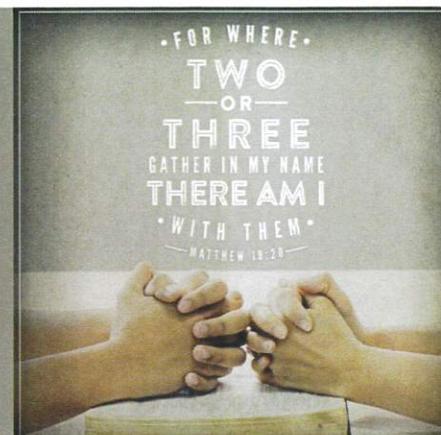
Budget Goals – February	26,663.80
Budget Receipts – February	25,180.00
Budget Goals – YTD	166,647.95
Budget Receipts – YTD	158,754.03
Budget Variance	- 7,893.92
Special Offerings	
Building Fund	14,437.66
The Gathering Place	955.00
NC Children's Homes	100.00
Heck-Jones WMU Offering	100.00
Scholarship	50.00
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	25.00
Deacons	55.00
CentriKids Camp Deposits	130.00
CentriFUGE Camp Deposits	2,000.00

Monday

9:00 a.m.

Two or More
Prayer Group

*If interested in
joining, please
contact the office
for info.*



Scholarship Applications
for high school seniors are
available in the
fellowship building
entranceway.
Due April 15





In memory of **Mae Brooks**, donations were given to the Building Fund by:
 Joe & Janis Davis
 Doug & Sabrina Clevenger
 Edna Tucker
 Barry & Myra Beatty
 Jewell Parker & Family
 Beth Burris
 James & Dianne Hudson
 Lynn Edwards
 Hope Gaston
 Sue Greene
 Susan Adams
 Doris Hatley
 Doug & Ann Burgess
 Jean Little
 Kevin & Erica Floyd
 Danny & Julie Poplin
 Chris & Edith Todd
 Michael & Starla Thompson
 Jeff & Sandra Chance
 Nancy Haywood
 Sue Greene
 Doris Hatley
 Kim Goodman
 Shirley Saunders
 Daniel & Elizabeth Bruton
 Carolyn Huneycutt
 Eddie & Carolyn Hathcock
 Pamela Wellons
 Naomi Hatley
 The Phifer Family
 Robert & Carol Sasser
 Marcia Baumhover
 Jackie Bost Eudy
 Jean Burris
 Larry & Vickie Eudy, Jennifer Eudy Shue
 Mark & Lisa Hartsell
 Linda Canty & Family
 Carolyn Clontz
 Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class
 and First Baptist Church, Oakboro



(continued on next page)

In memory of **Doyle Hatley**, contributions were made by:
 Sue Greene and
 James & Dianne Hudson.

Donations were made to the Building Fund in memory of **Judy Tucker** by:
 Blessed Assurance Sunday School Class

Lynn Edwards
 Sue Greene
 Jim & Cheryl Cameron
 Jean Little
 Doris Hatley
 Vickie Yandle
 Kim Goodman
 Kevin & Erica Floyd
 Gerald & Bonnie Lee
 First Baptist, Oakboro
 Doug & Teresa Brown
 Wayne Coble
 Jerry & Judith Williams
 Carolyn Clontz
 Scott Clontz
 Michael Baucom



A contribution was given by Deborah Tucker to the Senior Adult Fund in memory of **Judy Tucker**.

In loving memory of **our brothers and sisters that have gone before us** at First Baptist Church, Oakboro, 3,405 new testaments were donated through the Gideons by a brother and sister in Christ

Easter Lily Dedications
 Please sign up on the bulletin board by March 11 to place a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. Cost is \$16.



Bring a friend or 2 and join us

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH • 3:00PM
OAKBORO DISTRICT PARK

BRING YOUR BASKET!



We are accepting donations of candy small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. A container is in the fellowship building.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH YOUTH LASER TAG

\$20/
STUDENT



SIGN UP & PAY BY
WED, MAR 11TH

FBO First Baptist Oakboro Youth - Raffle Fundraiser #001



Traeger Pro Series 22 Pellet Grill/Smoker (\$549 value)

New Benelli Super Black Eagle 3 12-Gauge Shotgun (reg. price \$1900 + tax)



New Ruger American Gen 2 30-06 Rifle (reg. price \$700 + tax)



New Henry Repeating Arms .22 Lever Action Rifle (reg. price \$400 + tax)



3 day/2 Night stay for 6 at Cabin on Sugar Mtn Ski Slope (\$400 value)



Fresh local meat and dairy bundle (\$200 value)



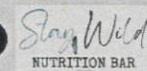
Husqvarna 120 gas chainsaw 16" (\$219 value)



Complete inside and out car detail (\$150 value)

PLUS MANY MORE PRIZES!

Thank you to our Sponsors



RAFFLE TICKETS are available! Don't miss your chance at some GREAT prizes while helping to support the Youth Group. Get your raffle tickets from a youth member or leader, or by calling the church.

Operation Christmas Child Monthly Collection

Don't limit yourself to suggestions

MARCH

"HANDY HELPERS"

EX: COMPASS, SEWING KIT, TAPE MEASURES, EATING UTENSILS (SPOON & FORK), FLASHLIGHTS, FISHING KIT, SPONGE

2-4 Years Old	5-9 Years Old	10-14 Years Old
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOY	GIRL	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



CONNECT
GROW
REACH



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

- March**
- 1 Vickie Yandle
 - 2 Katie Broadway
 - 3 Juliette Hines
 - 4 Sheridan Meadors
 - Lynn Edwards
 - Nick Wadkins
 - 6 Harold Andersen
 - 7 Mike Eudy
 - 10 Lydia Crisco
 - Graceyn Thompson
 - June Mauney
 - Nell Mauney
 - 11 Bill Yandle
 - Brett Smith
 - James Hines
 - 13 Jenna Obie
 - 15 Mary Ellen Nelms
 - Ava Beatty
 - 18 Emma Beatty
 - 19 Aria Shull
 - 20 Hunter Floyd
 - 24 Rhett Webb
 - 25 Greg Mullis
 - 26 Devin Floyd
 - Kevin Floyd
 - 29 Frances Beatty
 - 31 Rachel Young
 - Kallen Davenport
- April**
- 2 Emma Kimbrough
 - 6 Rita Crisco

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3:00 p.m. Relay For Life Team Meeting</p> <p>4:00 Proverbs 31 Wannabes</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p> <p>4:15 p.m. Senior Adult Committee Meeting</p>		<p>5:30 Gathering Place (please sign up)</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study for ALL Ages</p> <p>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. Greater Oakboro Business Association (GOBA) Lunch Meeting</p>		
	<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)</p> <p>6:30 The Sisterhood BUSINESS MEETING</p> <p>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>		<p>7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. YMCA in Fellowship Building & Youth Center</p>	<p>8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>6:30 History of Big Lick & Oakboro Presentation in Fellowship Building</p>
<p>12:15 p.m. Youth Leave for Stars & Strikes - Laser Tag</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Ladies' Care Ring in Youth Center</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up)</p> <p>6:30 Youth Prayer & Game Night</p> <p>Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p>			
<p>All Raffle Tickets Are Due</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>5:30 p.m. The Gathering Place (please sign up)</p> <p>6:30 Bible Study</p> <p>Youth Prayer & Game Night</p> <p>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Raffle Drawings</p>			<p>3:00 p.m. HOPE Fellowship Leaves for Narrowway Theatre "The 4th Cross"</p>
<p>EASTER EGG HUNT</p> <p>SUNDAY MARCH 27TH 3:00PM</p> <p>OAKBORO DISTRICT PARK</p> <p>BRING YOUR BASKET!</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Two or More Prayer</p>		<p>Weekly Sunday Schedule</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Worship</p>			

Please contact the office to report any changes that need to be made to the birthday calendar.