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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
PO BOX 10  
OAKBORO NC 28129-0010

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST BAPTIST  
OAKBORO

## The Communicator

VOL. XXXVI No. 11

November 2025

**Prayer Guides and Offering Envelopes are  
available at the church entrances.**

BECAUSE OF YOUR OFFERING,  
IAN IS NO LONGER ONE OF THE  
**10,000+ CHILDREN**  
IN NC FOSTER CARE.

**EVERY** *Child*

ANNUAL OFFERING 2025



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

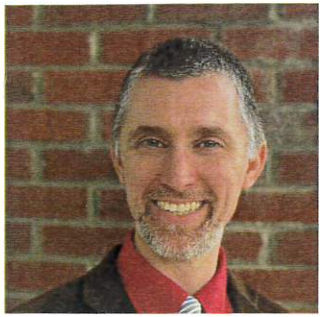
Baptist Children's Homes  
of NORTH CAROLINA



**Prayerfully consider how you can support  
this ministry to aid children in need.**

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

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[pastorjwaits@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjwaits@gmail.com)  
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Gratitude is a wonderful thing. It's a powerful thing too. Gratitude can lift our spirits. When we are down in the dumps, a bit of gratitude can turn our whole mindset around to something entirely more positive. Fraulein Maria's reminder that when we are low to give attention to a few of our favorite things really was sound advice.

Gratitude prevents bitterness. When we are grateful for something, we are not going to be focused on all the things we don't like about it. We won't be focused on all the things we aren't happy about either.

Gratitude is a solution for jealousy and envy. When you are grateful for something and, better yet, for someone, you won't be worried about what they might be getting that you aren't. When you know something was given to you, and that you didn't have anything to do with receiving it, you'll be more willing to share it.

Gratitude will even make you better looking. A grateful person tends to smile more than an ungrateful one, and a smile is always more attractive than a frown.

In the context of a church, a spirit of gratitude helps to maintain the unity of the body of Christ. When we are looking for things for which we are grateful, we are not going to be focused on things we don't like or what this or that person did to make us upset. When we are grateful together for the work God is doing in our midst, we are going to be naturally inclined toward seeing more and more of it happen more and more frequently. And when we are moving together in the direction of seeing God's work expand, we are pretty likely to see it expand.

If you'll remember from our series on prayer, gratitude is a major factor in seeing our prayers answered and experiencing the peace of God that passes all understanding.

But here's something about gratitude that is really important to understand: It is directional. That is, gratitude is pointed toward someone for something. You can't just be grateful generally. You are grateful for something and to someone.

Now, the most obvious and important object of our gratitude is God. Yet because He often does His work through other people, our gratitude is

directed first toward them, and then on toward God from there. Do you know who else God does His work through? You. There are times when God does something through you for someone else such that you are the direct object of their gratitude. That's always a fun moment. It feels good to receive gratitude like that because we know we have done something worthwhile and God-honoring for another person.

So then, what if we tried something together as a church? If God's gratitude-prompting grace is often directed to us through other people and to other people through us, what if for the next month we sought to be more intentional about that experience? What if instead of waiting for God to move and happening to be there when He does, we started taking the initiative and looking for opportunities to induce gratitude in our fellow church members? What if we started being intentional about increasing the amount of gratitude flowing through our church body by doing things for one another that are designed to elicit responses of gratitude?

The point is not that we love one another simply to be told "thank you" for what we have done. We do this without seeking any kind of recognition for ourselves. Rather, we look to bless one another in intentional ways that will cause gratitude to well up among us as we go. If you have read this far, I challenge you to do two things. First, write down four things you can do for four people this month that will bless them, prompting a response of gratitude on their part. Then, go and do those things over the course of the month—one per week. Second, if you wind up being on the receiving end of someone else's efforts, share the story of that experience with someone else, emphasizing your gratefulness for the blessing of whatever it was.

Let's work together to foster a great and deeper spirit of gratitude among ourselves, to God's glory, our joy, and the increase in our ability to turn that blessing outward toward our community. Let's be the church that becomes known as the place where gratitude flows in abundance and see just what God does with our efforts.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## OUR RECORD OF GIVING

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Budget Goals – October               | 26,663.80  |
| Budget Receipts – October            | 28,083.00  |
| Budget Goals – YTD                   | 53,327.60  |
| Budget Receipts – YTD                | 50,251.03  |
| Budget Variance                      | - 3,076.57 |
| <b>Special Offerings</b>             |            |
| Building Fund                        | 9,416.66   |
| The Gathering Place                  | 1,349.00   |
| NC Children's Homes                  | 100.00     |
| Youth Fall Retreat & Lock-In         | 1,930.00   |
| Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip     | 1,750.00   |
| Deacons Offering                     | 35.00      |
| Women's Ministry: Books & Conference | 178.00     |
| Pastor Appreciation                  | 1,225.00   |



## HOPE Fellowship Happenings

On **November 16-19**, the group goes to Myrtle Beach for the annual Christmas shows trip. If you signed up, but haven't turned in your money, please contact Betty Huneycutt.

For December, the historic Bathabara Park in Winston-Salem is the destination. On Thursday, **December 4**, they will leave FBO parking lot at 9:00 a.m., to visit this park dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of Bathabara, founded by the Moravians in 1753. Be sure to sign up and go along with them. More information about lunch plans, etc. will be in the upcoming announcements.



## In Honor

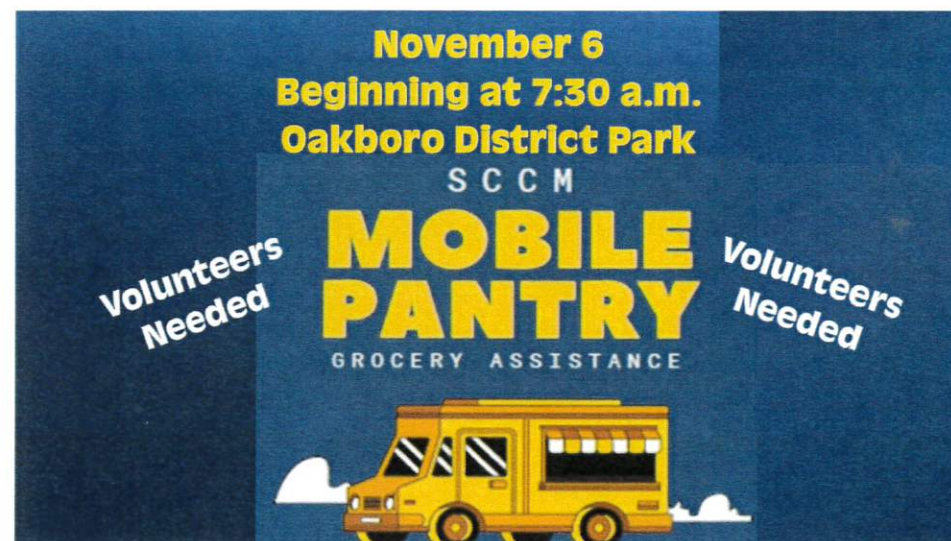
In honor of **Jewell Parker's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday**, donations were given to the Building Fund by  
 Eddie & Linda Arrowood  
 Deborah Tucker  
 Mike & JJ Hughes  
 Kim Goodman



A contribution was made to the Pastor's Appreciation Fund by Butch & Sylvia Poplin in honor of **Pastor Jonathan's birthday**.



**UPDATED INFO NEEDED:** Please fill out a new CONNECT card and provide us with your current address, cell phone number and correct email address. These are located at various locations including the building entrances.



What is your Association up to these days?



Annual meeting agenda jam-packed

September 2023 Prayer Guide

Scan for the Sept. update!

Download the new Prayer Guide

Pleasant Grove Baptist in Oakboro will host a *GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays* seminar from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, **November 16**. This free event is designed to support those facing the holidays after the loss of a loved one. Topics will include preparing for unexpected emotions, adjusting traditions and managing seasonal changes, navigating holiday parties and social interactions, and finding strength and hope in a difficult season. Attendees will receive a Survival Guide filled with tips, uplifting messages, journaling prompts, and daily exercises to help. (Please note that childcare will not be available.) Pleasant Grove is located at 17236 Frog Pond Road, Oakboro. Questions? Email [pgbcoakboro@gmail.com](mailto:pgbcoakboro@gmail.com).



### Church-Wide Thanksgiving Dinner

Come and gather with your church family on Sunday, **November 23**, at 5:00 p.m. to count your blessings and share a meal. The church will purchase hams and turkeys, and everyone is asked to bring side dishes, desserts and/or tea, water or soft drink to complete the menu. Again, invite others to join you.



Join us for Missions Night on Wednesday, **November 12**, at 6:30 p.m. following dinner at 5:30 p.m. We will have a **"Shoebox Packing Party"** for Operation Christmas Child. There is a wish list of items on Amazon.com. If you wish to donate other items, please have these turned in by **November 5**, then come and have lots of fun on the 12<sup>th</sup>!

**ONLY A FEW SPOTS REMAIN:** Sign up NOW! FBO has a date and time slot secured to go and process shoeboxes on Friday, **December 6**. Please sign up on the sheet located in the fellowship building entrance.



Sign up to process shoeboxes at the distribution warehouse

**December 6**  
**7:00-10:00 p.m.**  
For ages 13+  
**50 spaces available**





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- November**
- 1 Bud Smith  
Michael Thompson
  - 3 Cooper Hudson  
Gray Crisco
  - 4 Shannon Baucom  
Myra Beatty
  - 6 Cindy Thompson
  - 8 Donna Coble
  - 9 Sheila Rich
  - 10 Lisa Lowder  
Riley Wadkins
  - 11 Deborah Tucker
  - 13 Bug Kippes
  - 15 Starla Thompson
  - 18 Andy Beatty
  - 19 Denise Ross
  - 25 Lucas Mullis
  - 26 Angel Copple
  - 27 Alyssa Smith
  - 28 Steven Davenport
  - 29 Allison Toepperwein

| Sun                                                                                          | Mon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tue                                                    | Wed                                                                                                                    | Thu                                                                                                                        | Fri                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Weekly Sunday Schedule</b><br>9:00 a.m. Sunday School (Live & Zoom)<br>10:00 a.m. Worship |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                        |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                            | 5:00 p.m.<br>                                       |
|                                                                                              | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer<br><br>6:30 p.m.<br>Deacons' Meeting                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                        | 5:30 p.m.<br>The Gathering Place (please sign up)<br>6:30 Bible Study for ALL Ages<br>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal     | 7:30 a.m.<br>Mobile Food Pantry at Oakboro District Park<br><br>12:00 p.m.<br>Greater Oakboro Business Association Meeting | 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.<br>                            |
|                                                                                              | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer<br><br><b>NC State Convention Nov. 10-11</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>HAPPY VETERANS DAY</b><br>                          | 5:30 p.m.<br>The Gathering Place (please sign up)<br><b>6:30 SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY</b><br>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal |                                                                                                                            | <b>Youth Fall Retreat at Caswell November 14-16</b> |
| 2:00-4:00 p.m.<br>GriefShare at Pleasant Grove                                               | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Myrtle Beach Christmas Show Trip November 16-19</b> | 5:30 p.m.<br>The Gathering Place (please sign up)<br>6:30 The Sisterhood Bible Study<br>7:30 Worship Choir Rehearsal   |                                                                                                                            |                                                     |
| 5:00 p.m.<br>                                                                                | 8:30 a.m.<br>Two or More Prayer                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                        | YMCA in Fellowship Building<br><br><b>NO SERVICES OR ACTIVITIES</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                            |                                                     |
|                                                                                              | <b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b><br>December 4, leaving at 9:00 a.m.: HOPE Fellowship Trip to Bathabara Park<br>December 4, Oakboro Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade<br>December 6, Operation Christmas Child Packing at Distribution Warehouse |                                                        |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                            |                                                     |

- December**
- 1 Butch Poplin
  - 2 Harry Foster
  - 3 Kristen Beatty

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