

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

They prayed for boldness! Peter and John had been arrested by the Temple authorities for “proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead” (Acts 4:2). They were in custody overnight, interrogated by the religious leaders the next morning, sternly ordered to stop preaching about Jesus, and eventually released.

If I was in their shoes, I would have thanked God for setting me free and asked for continuing protection. Instead, they pray for boldness. “And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness” (Acts 4:29).

What would it look like for us to pray for boldness? In what areas of your life do you need to ask God to give you boldness?

Our context is different than Peter and John’s. It was a normal thing in their day for people to preach in the Temple and around the city and draw a crowd. Street preaching is usually ignored today. As our son Davis and I were walking into Yankee Stadium last week for a baseball game, a guy was standing outside with a microphone and loudly calling people to repent. He was not attracting a crowd; instead, thousands of people walked past him without slowing down.

Boldness for witness in our context looks more like inviting people to join us at church. It looks like praying for God to open doors for us to speak with others about what Jesus has done for us and inviting them to follow Jesus with us (Colossians 4:2-4). Boldness looks like serving people we might not

normally serve, paying attention to and blessing people we might normally overlook.

Boldness might look like stepping into a new role of service at church or in our community. Boldness might look like a deeper commitment to specific practices that bless your family. Boldness might look like identifying an area of pain in our community and being used of God to address that pain. Boldness might look like trusting the Holy Spirit to deepen your walk with Jesus, strengthen your faith, and give you victory over the sins that hold you back.

Boldness looks like a lot of things. But the most important thing about it from Acts 4 is that boldness is not something the apostles generate, not something they challenge each other to practice, but something they ask God to give them.

I invite you to join me in asking the Holy Spirit to identify the areas of our lives and our church’s life where we need boldness, then praying for boldness for these areas, then acting boldly when the Spirit answers our prayers.

“When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





Alicia Traveling Home From Uganda!



Alicia Porterfield has been in Uganda the past week serving with two Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ministries who work with refugees. She led Bible studies and worship this past weekend at a conference for female staff members at Refuge and Hope, while other members of her team led workshops and training sessions. After the conference, her team traveled six hours away from Kampala, the capitol city, and enjoyed two days on safari! They saw hippos and elephants and savored the

beauty of this special place in God's creation. They are now serving at Amani Sasa, a refugee ministry begun by CBF missionaries and now an independent non-profit, near Kampala. The long flights home will take place Saturday and Sunday. She will spend the night in Washington, DC on Sunday to rest, then drive back to Greenville on Monday. Thank you for your prayers!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 26 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.!



Thank you all so much for signing up and sending in donations for Trunk or Treat! Guess what though? Trunk or Treat is just a week away, and **WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!** There are a few tags left on the display in the Narthex to donate food; however, we really need volunteers to make the event a success. We still need a few more people to decorate their car trunks and pass out candy to our guests, and we really need people to serve as greeters, parking attendants, and bathroom guides. As far as food, we still need donations of large bags of chips (BBQ and plain) to serve

with the hot dogs and especially individually-wrapped treats (cookies, brownies, Rice Krispies treats, and cake slices—no icing, please) for the cake walk. These can be homemade or store bought! Sign up [here](#) in the E-Connections or on the sign-up sheets in the narthex and outside the church office! Take a TAG from the display in the narthex to donate food. Thank you for working together to make this community ministry happen! Now collecting individually-wrapped candy (peanut-free, if possible, due to allergies). Please drop candy and other donated items in the tubs outside the office and in the narthex. Thank you!

Now collecting individually-wrapped candy (peanut-free, if possible, due to allergies). Please drop candy and other donated items in the tubs outside the office and in the narthex. Thank you!

An Invitation to Read Through the Psalms Again!

We've heard from many people who've found the reading of one Psalm each day to be a blessing.

We've started a second journey through the Psalms and we invite everyone to join in.

This daily reading will take us all the way to December 30 when we read Psalm 150!

We also invite you to pray the Lord's Prayer each morning.



Friday, October 17: Psalm 76

Saturday, October 18: Psalm 77

Sunday, October 19: Psalm 78

Monday, October 20: Psalm 79

Tuesday, October 21: Psalm 80

Wednesday, October 22: Psalm 81

Thursday, October 23: Psalm 82



October 19

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Eric Porterfield preaching

October 26

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Eric Porterfield preaching

Music Ministry Memos



Wednesday, October 22

6:00 p.m. | Orchestra Rehearsal (*sanctuary*)

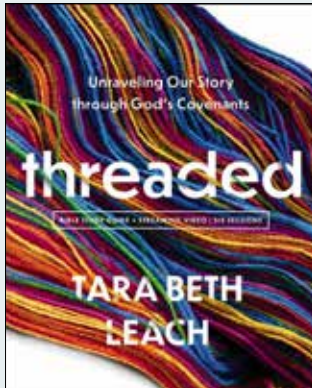
7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir (*choir room*)

Thursday, October 23

10:00 a.m. | Bus leaves for Navion and Care One

Contact Laurie Cosby if you are interested in joining any of these groups at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study

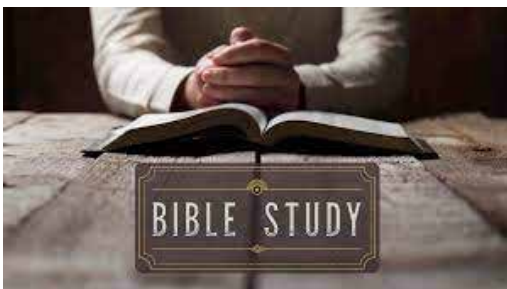


Threaded: Unraveling Our Story Through God's Covenants by Tara Beth Leach is helping us see a bigger picture of God at work through deep covenant-connection with humanity over time. Thank you to Dot Seay who led our study on October 8 and 15! Our wrap-up session and pot-luck feast is this Wednesday, October 22 with Sharron Edwards leading. Looking forward to seeing everyone at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!



Large Group Bible Study

We conclude our study of Prayer from the Bible on October 22 with an exploration of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane and prayers from the cross. On October 29, we begin a four-week series examining the power and importance of gratitude.



Drop-In Bible Study

A Bible study and discussion led by Carole Swan meets every Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. in Room 300. We are studying Paul's short letters, starting with Galatians. All are welcome to attend and drop in when you can!

MULTI-MEDIA

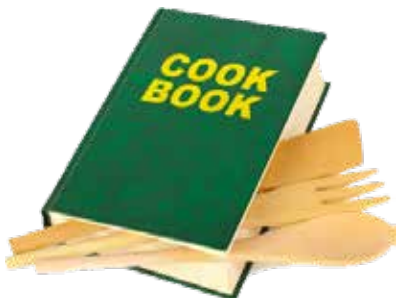
Our 10:45 a.m. worship service is recorded each week and shown on Cable 7 at 12:15 p.m.

Live streaming of our service and service archives are available in the Media section of our website.

Backpack Pals



We're packing **36 backpacks** a week this school year. We welcome financial gifts to support this ministry (just put Backpack Pals in the memo line) and donations of **PROTEINS: CHICKEN CANS/PACKS, TUNA CANS/PACKS, CHEF-BOY-ARDEE, and SOUP**. Special thanks to our team Liz Evans (lead), Kay Redd, Donna Sugg, Randy Fussell, Sabrina Lentz, Sue Thompson, and Sylvia Fuller who support this ministry.



OBC Cookbook

Would you like to be able to access our church's cookbook but don't have one? Then you're in luck! Click [here](#) to access a downloadable PDF so you can enjoy all of the great recipes it has to share!

Flowers in Honor/Memory for Worship



Friends: When you would like flowers in the sanctuary in honor or memory of someone, please contact Chris Rodgers, as she is the head of the Flower Team. (If you need her contact information, please contact Lauri Johnson at Oakmont Baptist Church.) This will alleviate any confusion. Also, if you would like a note in the worship outline on Sunday morning, please contact Lauri Johnson at lauri@oakmontchurch.com. Thank you!

Do you know someone who is not receiving the newsletter?



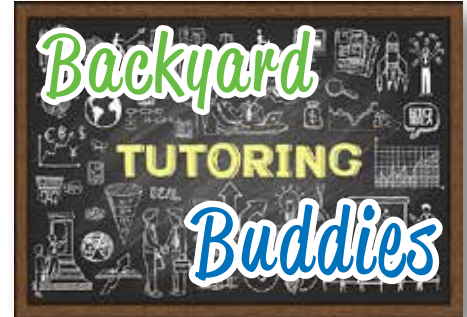
Please let us know if you would like to receive *E-Connections* online. All we need is an email address. If you have received it in the past and seem to have missed some issues, please check your trash or spam folder, as sometimes it goes into those folders. If you think you should be getting it and you are not, please call us in the office at 252-756-1245. Or if you have any questions, please call us. Thank you.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Our Bible verse for October is “A gentle answer turns anger away, but mean words stir up anger” (Prov. 15:1, CEB). While Alicia is away, several folks are stepping up to serve our students while others are adding to their normal roles to be minister of snacks and taking on an additional student. Special thanks to: Sharron Edwards, Bobby Fussell, Lauri Johnson, Dot Seay, Susan Ainsley, Leslie Rogers, Pam Templeton, and all of our BYB volunteers for continuing the mission while Alicia is in Uganda. Also, Jimmie Hughes and Bethany Bradsher have been such a gift to our four new ESL kids! We are so grateful to everyone for their support!



Young Lives



We look forward to welcoming our new Young Lives moms and kiddos again on Tuesday, October 21! Young Lives is Young Life's ministry supporting teen moms. Going forward, they'll gather in the Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday night of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bradsher facilitates this Oakmont partnership in tandem with the group's leader, Lillie Moore. Contact Bethany or Alicia for more info!



Walmart Fridays

Every Friday, Oakmont van drivers take ECU International students, most of whom don't have cars, to Walmart for their weekly shopping. This ministry offers both practical support as well as relational ministry time for the drivers to connect with the students. We give thanks for everyone who makes this ministry happen!



Clothes Closet

Normally open the first and third Tuesdays of each month *from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (no fifth Tuesdays)*, this ministry serves our neighbors in need.

Right now the clothes closet is not accepting anymore clothing.

At this time, please take any donations you may have to Hope of Glory. Thank you.

We will be open again October 21. In the past several weeks, this ministry has been a huge help to our tutoring family recovering from an apartment fire. All their clothing was smoke damaged, but with the Clothes Closet and your generous clothing donations, they are getting what they need.

Thank you to our Clothes Closet team for welcoming and helping our neighbors!

If you can help, please contact Robin Congleton at rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com or Alicia at Alicia@oakmontchurch.com!

Tuesday
Meals Ministry

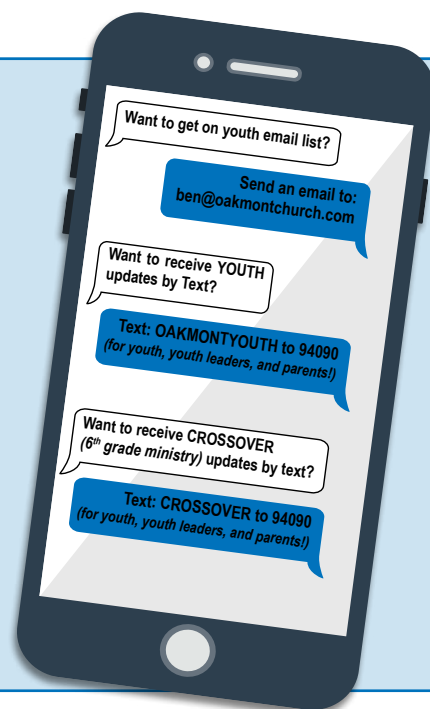


Tuesday Night Meals

Our October dates are the 21st and 28th. We are grateful for the dedicated teams that provide these meals to our friends who are homebound and in need!

YOUTH CONNECTIONS

STAYING IN THE KNOW with all that's going on with our youth is easy!
Just sign up for our email and texting lists,
AND GET INVOLVED NOW!





Spiritual Formation at OBC

Prayer Team at Oakmont



Oakmont, you have a prayer team that wants to pray for the issues in your life that challenge you! We have set up four prayer boxes around the church; two at the back of the sanctuary, one in Grand Central, and one in the back hallway near the choir suite. There is no issue too small; it would be our honor to support each of you this way. Please put us to work!

Care Team Update



The CARE (Connecting, Appreciating, Responding, Engaging) Team provides a ministry of love and support to some of our members who are not able to attend worship and other church activities on a regular basis. The team makes visits, phone calls, and remembers birthdays, just to name a few things. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Lynne James at lynnej@suddenlink.net or Kimberly Williamson at kfwilliamson@suddenlink.net.

Join us on Sunday mornings!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP
at 10:45 a.m.

WATCH US ON CABLE CHANNEL 7
at 12:15 p.m.



Watch our worship services online!

You're invited to subscribe to Oakmont's YouTube channel to watch our worship services online! Access it via YouTube by typing in the channel's name: "Oakmont BC Greenville NC." You can also access it by clicking [here](#) or on the YouTube logo above.



Join us for live-stream using the QR code above!



Small Group Connections AT OAKMONT



Life Lessons Bible Studies

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Sharron Edwards

Location: Room 607

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Cal Hayslip

Location: Room 606

Nurturing Faith Bible Study

Co-ed Small Group for adults in 40s–50s who may have children in middle and/or high school

Teacher: Mac Williamson

Location: Room 501

Young Adults

Co-ed small group for young adults, 30s–40s, who may have children

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 502

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Potter's Clay

Co-ed ongoing class for middle/older adults

Co-teachers: Tim Britton, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston

Location: Room 300

College/Young Adult Class

A class for college-age coeds

Teacher: Michele Mazey

Location: Room 506

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Disciples

Co-ed ongoing class for older adults

Co-teachers: Dot Seay, Doug Strickland, Fred Daniel & Wayne Taylor

Location: Fellowship Hall

***Connections Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Messengers

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Teacher: Carol Foor

Location: Room 307

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Pathfinders

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Co-teachers: Tom Durham, Gerry Jolly

Location: Room 609

Koinonia

An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

During the summer, this small group chooses a contemporary book on a relevant subject, often written by a female author, to study together.

Teacher: Bridgette Williamson

Location: Room 610 (and off-campus on occasion)

Children's Connection

God's Story
Gideon

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WE WILL BE TALKING ABOUT BRAVERY. IN THIS MONTH'S BIBLE STORIES, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHO WERE FACED WITH SCARY SITUATIONS, BUT GOD HELPED THEM TO BE BRAVE. BY LEARNING FROM THESE STORIES, OUR CHILDREN WILL KNOW THAT WHEN THEY ARE AFRAID, GOD CAN HELP THEM BE BRAVE!

Our story for this week comes to us from Judges 6-7. This is a story about a man named Gideon. During the time of Gideon, the Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites. The people cried out to God for help, so God chose Gideon to be the one to help lead the Israelites to freedom. However, Gideon was a hesitant man. Gideon didn't think that he was the right person for the job. He doubted that God truly wanted to use him for such an important task. However, God reassured Gideon that God would help him. So, Gideon listened to God and came up with a plan to defeat the Midianites. With a force of only 300 men, God told Gideon to give this small army trumpets, torches, and jars. Gideon and his men surprised the Midianites and made them think that they were being attacked by a much larger force. The Midianites panicked, and were finally defeated, even though they greatly outnumbered the Israelites. This victory was a true sign that God led Gideon and the Israelites to victory.

Could you imagine being put in Gideon's position? Gideon never thought that he would be the one that God chose to defeat an army. God told Gideon to use a small army so that everyone would believe that their victory came from God, and nothing else. Trusting God in that instance would take a lot of faith,

"Gideon" Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

October Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

OCTOBER THEME:

SUPER KIDS- GOD CAN HELP ME BE BRAVE

Deep down, everybody wants to be a super kid, and nothing defines super kid better than the word "brave." Being brave is a lot easier to say than do—for children and grownups. What we do to be brave—and Who can help us be brave—is what this month is all about. We can pray, like Esther, and be brave. We can remember that God is with us, like David, and be brave. We can trust what God says, like Gideon, and be brave. And when we pray, remember, and trust, God can help us be brave so we can help others, like Abigail. We want our children to grow up knowing that when they are afraid, God can help them be brave, and that is what makes them a super kid. Join us as we pray for our preschoolers and their families, as well as those of us who lead them. Pray that we will look to God and God alone when we are afraid and have to do hard things, because God can help us be brave.

October Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid...For the Lord your God goes with you." – Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

Continued from previous page

because Gideon was probably scared to go to battle with such a small number of soldiers. But Gideon remembered that God helps us to be brave, even when we are afraid. Gideon had plenty of doubts and fears about fighting the Midianites, but God reminded him that he wouldn't be doing it alone.

This week, the next time that you are feeling afraid, remember the story of Gideon. Remember how God helps us to face the things that we are afraid of. Being scared is ok, but we also know that we can talk to God when we are afraid, and God will help us deal with the things that we are afraid of. God helps us to be brave!

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth & Christian Education
Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

OCTOBER THEME: Wisdomland— God Can Help You Make the Wise Choice

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

How many times recently have you heard a celebrity or influencer promote “you do you” or “live your truth”? Though it's true God has created each of us with unique gifts and desires, it all falls apart if we don't seek wisdom from God in everything we say and do. Our world is all about popularity, appearance, and intelligence, but in God's kingdom, wisdom is of far greater value. Jesus showed us perfectly what a wise life looks like: stay connected to God and seek God's best in every circumstance. Then follow through and do it! As we continue to journey with God's people through the story of Scripture, we meet the kings of Israel and Judah—those who made wise choices and those whose foolish choices brought down a nation. Through the lives of David and Solomon, we also take a look at the Bible's wisdom literature in the Psalms and Proverbs. Kids will discover that true wisdom comes through constant connection with God, just as a well-rooted tree on river banks draws life from the water. And the best news of all? God wants us to ask for wisdom and delights to give it.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for October —

October 5

God helps you make the wise choice.

October 19

You can ask God for wisdom.

October 12

If you want to be wise, focus on God.

October 26

Be wise because your choices matter..

October Memory Verse

*“It is much better to get wisdom than gold. It is much better to choose understanding than silver.”
— Proverbs 16:16, NIV*

— Youth Calendar —

OCTOBER

19 | Combined Youth and Children's Ministry Event

26 | Trunk or Treat

The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis, every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS, the youth will arrive at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., and small group bible study will begin at 6:30. Youth can be picked up by 7:30 p.m. each Sunday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Bible study is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. each week.

Children & Youth Event

Sunday, Oct. 19 at 6:00 p.m.



Join us for a joint children and youth event taking place on Sunday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We will be having a pizza dinner followed by an "Amazing Race" style scavenger hunt around the church. Parents are welcome to come and participate as the children and youth team up in this fun fellowship event.

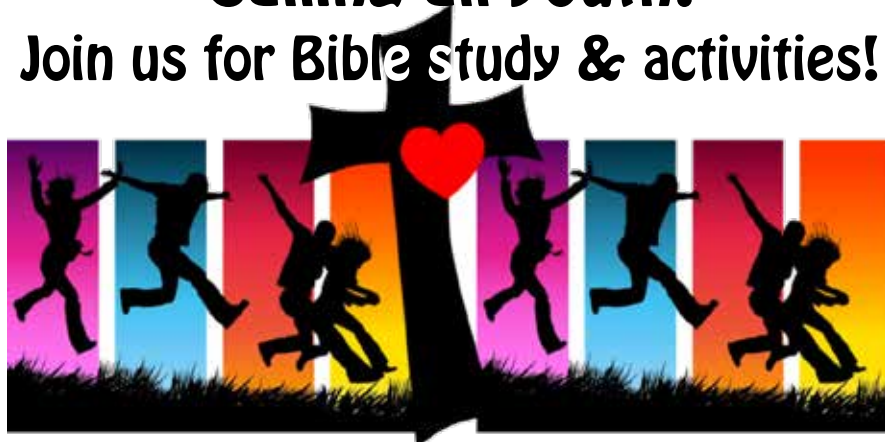
Children's Ministry Text Group



For any parents of children who would like to be added to the Children's Ministry text alerts, please text "oakmontkids" (no quotation marks needed) to 833-744-0524. *Stay informed!*

Calling all youth!

Join us for Bible study & activities!



— This Week's Events —

Sunday, October 19

9:40 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School

10:45 a.m.
In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:15 p.m.
Worship on Cable Channel 7

6:00 p.m.
Children/Youth Pizza
& Amazing Race Event

Monday, October 20

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, October 21

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

1:00 p.m.
Homebound Food
Preparation & Delivery

2:00 p.m.
Clothes Closet

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

7:00 p.m.
Young Lives Meeting
Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 22

11:00 a.m.
Drop-In Bible Study

5:45 p.m.
Women's Bible Study

6:00 p.m.
Large Group Bible Study
Preschool, Children
& Youth Activities
ESL
Orchestra Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sanctuary

Thursday, October 23

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers
*Bus leaves for Navion
and Care One*

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



October 12, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

2025 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,276,650

Receipts (This Week) \$24,895.09
(\$4,798 Online, \$20,097.09 Mail)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$99,194.64

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$914,422.37

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$772,419.32

Communion Offering (This Week) \$200

Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$1,540

Building Fund (This Week) \$137

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) \$237

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$4,199.50

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME	Rev. Eric Porterfield
CALL TO WORSHIP	Dr. Laurie Cosby
HYMN	<i>"How Firm a Foundation"</i>

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER	Rev. Eric Porterfield
HYMN	<i>"Lord, I Need You"</i>
OFFERTORY SENTENCES	Kimberly Williamson
OFFERTORY	

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

SERMON	<i>"Fill My Cup"</i> <i>Chancel Choir and Orchestra</i>	
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME		Rev. Ben Gurganus
OLD TESTAMENT READING	<i>Psalms 119:97-104</i>	Wyatt Judge
NEW TESTAMENT READING	<i>2 Timothy 3:14-4:5</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SERMON	<i>"Equipped for Every Good Work"</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>"Wonderful Words of Life"</i>	

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT	Rev. Gurganus
BENEDICTION	Rev. Eric Porterfield

All People of Oakmont Baptist Church Are Ministers *and serve alongside*

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
eric@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Laurie Cosby
Minister of Music
laurielee@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Ben Gurganus
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
ben@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
alicia@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
lauri@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Nicole Davis
Educational Ministries Secretary
nicole@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Wayne Taylor
Facility Manager
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Mrs. Amy Cook
Communications Specialist
amycook@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Caroline Bissette
Technical Assistant
techteam@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Jackson Bunch
Mr. David Horvath
Mr. Jimmy Weaver
Mr. Phillip Williamson
Sextons

Worship & Music Leadership

Mrs. Alisa Gilliam
Pianist

Mr. Jim Gilliam
Music Assistant

Mrs. Karen Meetze
Organist



1100 Red Banks Road | Greenville, NC 27858 | 252.756.1245 | oakmontchurch.com
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

