

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

It was a picture of a beautiful African field, with tall tan grass and several green trees in the distance. I scrolled through the picture quickly as it was one of many Alicia had texted me while she was on safari in Uganda last week. All the pictures either had animals in them, or were of a beautiful sunset or waterfall. This one was just a field so I didn't linger with it. . . until I learned later that hidden in that field was a lioness! I looked again at the picture, and sure enough there she was, sitting regally, peacefully, camouflaged in the grass.

I'm looking forward to being more alert on Sunday afternoon, not scrolling quickly through the scene of our guests who arrive for Trunk or Treat, but lingering, praying God's blessings for each child and guardian. Thank you, all who are providing trunks and candy, all who are volunteering to cook hot dogs and lead games and perform countless other tasks. And thank you, Lisa Stevens, for organizing this year's event. Join us at 4:00 Sunday afternoon in the back parking lot, ready to spot and bless our guests, all of whom are loved by God.

As our Women's Wednesday Bible Study ends for the semester and before our Large Group Study transitions to a new series, I'm delighted to share that Rev. Alicia Porterfield will be sharing about her mission trip to Uganda, Africa, at 6:00 on Wednesday evening, October 29, in the Multipurpose Room. Come hear how God is at work through Refuge and Hope, and through Amani Sasa, both Cooperative Baptist Fellowship affiliated ministries in the capitol city of Kampala. Hear about the work Alicia and her

team did, what they learned about these ministries that we've supported for years through our Global Missions Offering, and maybe even see

some pictures from her African safari! We'll start a new series on Wednesday, November 5, as we take a deep dive into the biblical concept of gratitude.

There's one more group that is working quietly behind the scenes I want to highlight. We won't easily see their work but it's deeply appreciated. Our deacons have appointed a small team consisting of Tim Britton, Randy Fussell, Anthony Ng, Kimberly Williamson, and myself to organize and lead the sale of our Branches property, just down the street on Red Banks Road. At our September 28 Ministry Celebration, the church voted to extend one of our Education Wings to construct a new Youth Room, and also voted to sell The Branches property to help pay for the new construction. We pray wisdom and patience for the team and for ourselves as we take another step on this exciting journey.

I'm grateful for the picture of the African field, and grateful I missed the lion when I first looked. It reminds us to keep watching, waiting, noticing where God is at work in us, through us, around us. The Lord is always at work but we don't always notice! May the Holy Spirit give us eyes to see where Jesus is working in our world.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





Thank You!



Dear Oakmont Family,

I am so grateful for your prayers and financial support of this trip to Uganda. Your generosity helped make possible this retreat for the women on staff and participants in Refuge and Hope's ministries. Our team of five led a spiritual retreat that included Bible study focusing on Jesus' interactions with women, guidance and resources for strengthening bonding and early verbal and cognitive growth in young children, hands-on learning for stress management and practicing self-regulation, and a craft project where the women

created their own market bags. We heard repeatedly from the women how much they appreciated participating in something designed for them and their needs.

Some of our group had the chance to go on safari to explore God's amazing creation in Uganda, while others stayed in Kampala working with the Sewing for Hope job skills program and going on home visits with a Refuge and Hope social worker. We rounded out our trip with time at a refugee ministry, Amani Sasa, and heard from participants in their basket-making job skills program. The women spoke about how life-changing it has been to be part of their four-month shelter program (for women and children and a separate shelter for men). God has been at work through this ministry, providing a safe space for healing and recovering, with emotional, spiritual, and practical support for their process and for the next steps of becoming financially independent.

Seeing this kind of transformational ministry up close was moving and powerful. So many times, hurting people simply need safe, supportive space to get their feet back under them. With time, love, and opportunity, they begin to flourish and find a way forward. What a gift to be a tiny part of that process. **Alicia will be sharing about her experience in Uganda this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.**

Gratefully,
Alicia



October 26

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Eric Porterfield preaching

November 2

Luke 19:1-10
Alicia Porterfield preaching

It's Almost Here! TRUNK OR TREAT

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



- Thanks to everyone who is pitching in to make this a great evening of connection and blessing for our neighbors! Everyone who signed up to serve should receive an email with instructions.
- If you are volunteering but not decorating a trunk, please park in the VERY back lot near the basketball goal to leave spaces at the sides of the church for our visitors.
- Decorated Trunks: please park in the back lot along the sidewalk and grassy/pond area, leaving one space in between cars, trunks facing the middle. Please be in place and ready to go by 3:45 p.m.
- Games/Welcomers: Please arrive at 3:15 p.m. to help set up your space and prepare for the kids.
- We're still collecting individually wrapped candy (peanut-free, if possible, due to allergies) through this Sunday morning (Oct. 26). Please drop your items off in the tubs at the office and in the narthex.
- Please pray for a fun, safe night of making connections, forming relationships, and offering the love and welcome of Jesus.

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 24: Psalm 83

Saturday, October 25: Psalm 84

Sunday, October 26: Psalm 85

Monday, October 27: Psalm 86

Tuesday, October 28: Psalm 87

Wednesday, October 29: Psalm 88

Thursday, October 30: Psalm 89

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, October 28 at 11:30 a.m.
in the fellowship hall. Please bring your own lunch.
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Wednesday Women's Bible Study



We met for our final fall gathering to reflect on all we learned during our study of *Threaded: Unraveling Our Story Through God's Covenants* by Tara Beth Leach. Sharing food and fellowship, we discussed how God has been—and still is—working through deep covenant-connection with humanity over time. We look forward to re-gathering in January for our winter Wednesday women's Bible study—stay tuned!

Large Group Bible Study

October 29

Alicia Porterfield shares stories, pictures, and testimonies of God at work during her recent mission trip to Uganda!

November 5, 12, 19

We say “thank you” often because it is right and polite to do so and Thanksgiving is a holy day for us, but there is so much more to biblical gratitude. Eric Porterfield leads an in-depth study of this vital spiritual practice.



Backpack Pals!

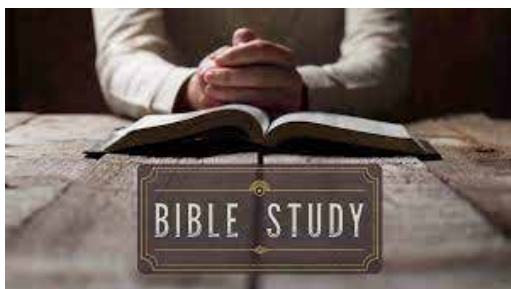


We're packing **36 backpacks** a week this school year. We welcome financial gifts to support this ministry (just put Backpack Pals in the memo line) and donations of **PROTEINS: CHICKEN CANS/PACKS, TUNA CANS/PACKS, CHEF-BOY-ARDEE, and SOUP**. Special thanks to our team: Liz Evans (lead), Kay Redd, Donna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



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!

Music Ministry Memos



Wednesday, October 29

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

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

Thursday, October 30

10:00 a.m. | JOY Singers Rehearsal

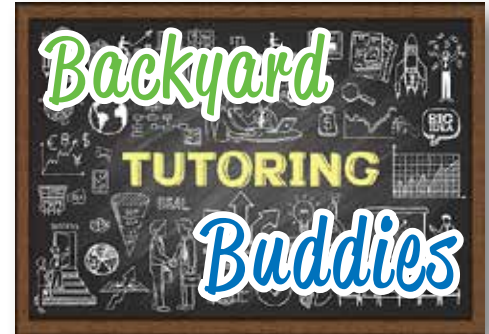
Contact Laurie Cosby if you are interested in joining any of these groups at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

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). We are grateful to our tutoring team and others who joined in to cover everything while Alicia was in Uganda. She came back with special treats and stories from Uganda. We are working hard on math, reading, and writing skills.



Young Lives



We had the blessing of welcoming our new Young Lives moms and kiddos on Tuesday October 21! Young Lives is Young Life's ministry supporting teen moms. They gather in the Fellowship Hall on 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!



The Village Update

Last Wednesday, Chris Deville led the Bible study for ten moms in recovery at The Village, while Kahla Hall and Gerry Jolly spent time with the toddlers and preschoolers. Chris and the women explored Matthew the tax collector's encounter with Jesus found in Luke 5. They discussed how Jesus can change us, shifting our perspectives and behaviors from what harms us to what helps us. The women fill out prayer request cards every visit. Please pray for their healing and sobriety, for their protection and stability, for loving, strong relationships with their children, and for the right next steps in their journey.

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.

HOPE OF GLORY Needs Mentors!



Hope of Glory, one of Oakmont's local ministry partners, needs mentors for families in their empowerment program. This program is "designed to relieve financial burdens, teach biblical wisdom of work, money, wellness, and encourage individuals towards a self-sufficient life in Christ." If you have a passion for empowering people or financial management and want to learn more about serving as a mentor, please contact Cat Knell at (252) 321-6857 x201 or cat@hope-of-glory.org.



Clothes Closet

Normally open the first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., this ministry serves our neighbors in need. We will be open again Nov. 4. Recently the Clothes Closet team helped a groom find a nice outfit for his wedding! Thank you to our Clothes Closet team for welcoming and helping our neighbors! The Clothes Closet is currently pausing new donations. Please share your donations with our local missions partner Hope of Glory!

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 final October date is the 28th. NO MEALS Nov. 4 because Oakmont's Fellowship Hall will be used as a polling site for elections. We will be back in the kitchen Nov. 11, 18, and 25.

LINKS Will Not Meet at Oakmont in November



Pitt County's teen foster support group meets the second Tuesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This program, led by Pitt County social services staff, teaches life skills and provides encouragement as these students move toward transitioning out of foster care. We have the honor of hosting, assisting with set up, serving food, and connecting with staff and students. Diane Myers is our lead supporting LINKS. Their Christmas party will be in our Fellowship Hall on December 9!



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 People
ABIGAIL

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 1 Samuel 25:1-35. In this story we learn about a man named Nabal and his wife, Abigail. Nabal was a wealthy man, but he was also very harsh. Back in Nabal's day, a sign of wealth was usually how many animals you owned. Nabal was so wealthy that he owned over 1,000 goats and over 3,000 sheep. That is a lot of animals! Because there were so many animals, Nabal needed help watching them all. So, Nabal got David to help him watch his flock. This is the same David that would eventually become the King of Israel. After David had been watching Nabal's flock, he asked him for some food and supplies, but Nabal rudely insulted David and refused to help him, even though David had already done so much for him.

When this happened, David was furious. David lost his temper and set out to destroy Nabal and his entire household! However, Nabal's wife, Abigail, heard what happened and she went out to talk to David. Abigail prepared David a generous gift of food and went out to meet him. Abigail apologized for her husband's rudeness and politely asked David to forgive him. Abigail's wise and calm words helped to calm David down. Once David wasn't mad anymore, he thanked God for sending Abigail, because she stopped David from doing something that he would regret.

"Abigail" 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

This story reminds us that God helps us be brave so that we can help others. Imagine, when Abigail heard that David was coming, she was probably very worried for her safety but also for the safety of her husband. But instead of running away, Abigail went to David and talked to him. Her bravery helped calm David down and made him realize that what he was doing was wrong. Abigail's bravery also protected Nabal from being killed by David.

This week, I want you to remember that God helps us to be brave so that we can help others. Sometimes it can be a little scary to go and help other people. But God gives us the words and the bravery to know what to say and do to help others in the middle of a difficult time. So, remember the story of Abigail and how God helped her to be brave so that she could help David and Nabal.

—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 —

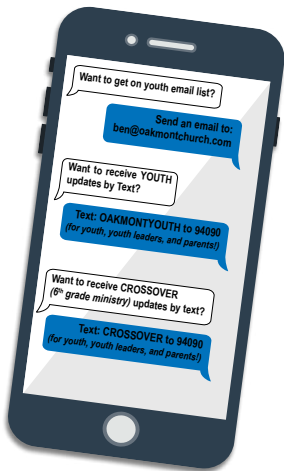
OCTOBER

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.

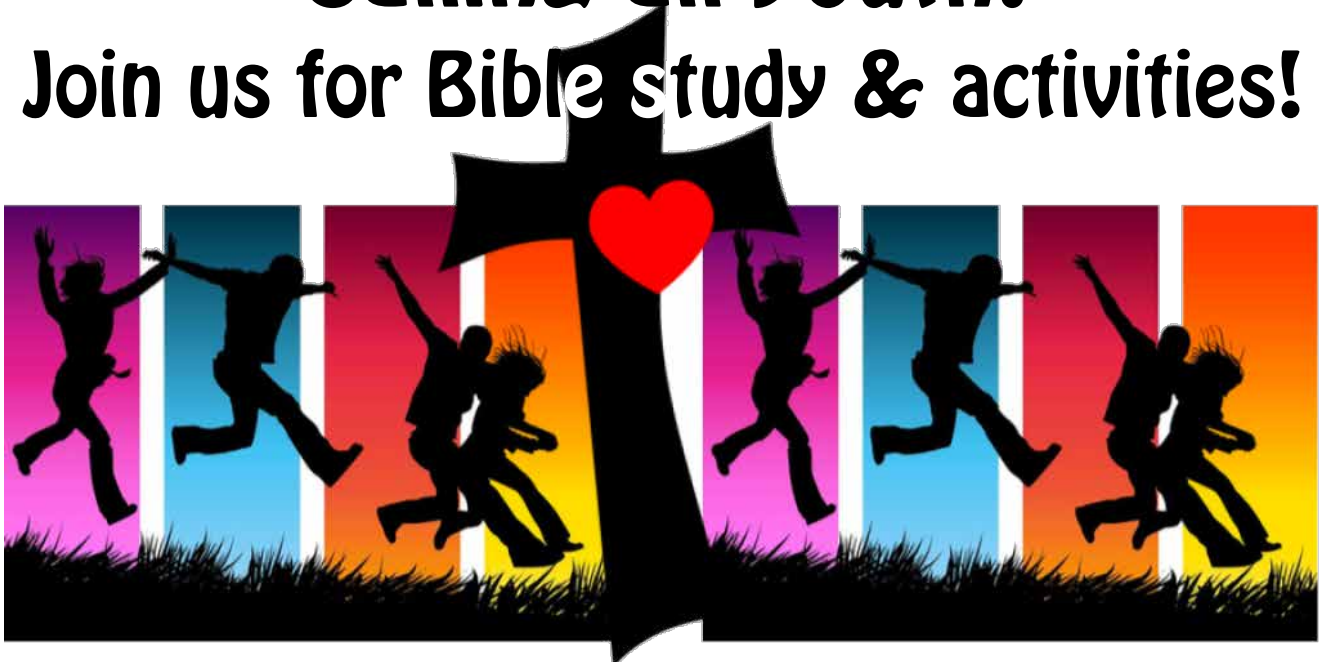


Children's Ministry Text Group

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 26

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

4:00 p.m.
Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 27

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

7:00 p.m.
Ladies' Bible Study

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:30 a.m.
Senior Adult Lunch Bunch
(Fellowship Hall)

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

3:15 p.m.
Backyard Buddies

Wednesday, October 29

11:00 a.m.
Drop-In 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 30

10:00 a.m.
JOY Singers Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



October 19, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week) \$20,537
(\$1,620 Online; \$18,917 Mail)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$119,731.64

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$931,959.37

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$788,314.69

Communion Offering (This Week) \$25

Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$1,565

Building Fund (This Week) \$0

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	<i>"Come Into His Presence"</i> Children's Choir	Dr. Laurie Cosby
HYMN	<i>"God of Grace and God of Glory"</i>	

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER		Rev. Eric Porterfield
OLD TESTAMENT READING	<i>Psalms 65</i>	Jessica Dockerill
HYMN	<i>"What a Beautiful Name"</i>	
OFFERTORY SENTENCES		Rev. Alicia Porterfield

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME		Rev. Ben Gurganus
ANTHEM	<i>"God Is Our Refuge and Strength"</i> Joyful Sounds	
NEW TESTAMENT READING	<i>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SERMON	<i>"Strength From the Lord"</i>	Rev. Eric Porterfield
SONG OF RESPONSE	<i>"The Solid Rock"</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
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Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
alicia@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Greg Rogers
Pastor Emeritus

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
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Mrs. Nicole Davis
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Mrs. Caroline Bissette
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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.

