

June 28, 2026

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Minister of Missions

It was such a joy to help lead worship this past Sunday along with Karen, Luke, Cindy, Mac and Sharron and all the many people who make things happen behind the scenes: the tech team, ushers, greeters, and everyone together in the sanctuary and online. Every time I preach, I am reminded of what a great honor and responsibility studying, praying over, and proclaiming God's word truly is. And this particular time, it felt even more meaningful because I was sharing from the passage that serves as the paradigm, or cornerstone, passage for my Doctor of Ministry studies.

This past spring semester, we each chose scripture passages to provide the foundation for the ministry project we plan to pursue. The Doctor of Ministry program at Campbell University Divinity School asks each student to consider a "gap" in their ministry context, both past and present. As I referenced in the sermon, my project revolves around the question, "How might we take God's love more seriously?" It's a question that I have only recently been able to put into words, though it has been with me for many years.

To use the words of John's Gospel, we could put the question as, "How might we learn how to abide in the One who abides in us?" This is what drew me to this passage in the first place as I prayed and pondered over which scriptures spoke to the question most powerfully. If "home is where the heart is," then John 15:4's call/command reminds us that Jesus

is our true home, the place where we abide all our days, the place where we belong. Or as J. Ramsey Michael, whom I referenced in the sermon, worded it, Jesus is telling us to "make my love for you your identity."

The thing is that this is *already true*. Jesus' love for us is our true identity, the most important thing about us and about our world: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit love us with a fierce, steadfast, tender and everlasting love. That love is the most powerful force and the truest reality in existence. That love is our home, where we abide, and where we are transformed over time and one day will be completely made new.

In the coming months, we will revisit this passage and add in the rest of the verses through vs. 17. There are so many treasures in this brief passage, so much good news. Like the vineyard Jesus uses to illustrate the profound, organic connection between the Trinity and us, the wisdom in this passage twines, loops, curls around to cling together, and bears much fruit. Thanks for participating with me as we spend time in this part of God's word and revisit it several times, like a vinekeeper tending to the vine and branches.

Gratefully,
Alicia





OBC Updates



June 28

Romans 6:12-23
Eric Porterfield preaching

July 5

Romans 7:15-25a
Eric Porterfield preaching



Save the Date & Sign Up!

This year's VBS is scheduled for July 12–16 at The Memorial Baptist Church. Use the links below to volunteer and/or register your child to participate. Let's make this another successful week for our kids and neighbors!

VBS Prep Date

Wednesday, July 1, 5:30–7:30 p.m. *(This will involve painting.)*

VBS Decorating

Wednesday & Thursday, July 8 & 9

Sharon Lee will be at TMBC daily from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. *Please come help when you can!*

VBS Volunteer Training (All Volunteers)

Monday, July 6 OR Tuesday, July 7 at 5:30 p.m. at TMBC

VBS Amazon Wish List Link

Please use this [link](#) to order items needed for VBS.
The items will ship directly to TMBC. *Thank you!*

Sign up to volunteer [here](#).

Register your child to participate [here](#).



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Sanctuary Angels Needed!

We would love to have one to two people who could come twice a month to sharpen pew pencils and replenish pew pads and pew envelopes. Angels would schedule work at their convenience during normal church hours Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reach out to wayne@oakmontchurch.com if you can help! A meeting for interested volunteers will be scheduled during the week of July 6th. More details will come next week.



Senior Adult Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA

PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE REGARDING FINAL PAYMENTS: The deadline for final payments is JULY 25. This allows us time to get the payments to PML by the August 3 deadline. If you cannot make the July 25 deadline, you can also mail your own payment to PML. Please contact Lisa Stevens if you have any questions or need more information. 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.



Music Ministry Memos

Chancel Choir and Orchestra are off on Wednesday nights for the summer. Regular rehearsals resume after Labor Day.

Are you interested in being a part of the music ministry?

Regardless of your age or skill level, we have so many options for you!

We offer Senior Adult Choir (JOY Singers), Children's Choir, Women's Choir (Joyful Sounds), Band, Youth Band, Handbells, Orchestra, Chancel Choir, and Praise Team.

Would you like to learn more? Contact Laurie Cosby at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com.

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!

Church Directory Photos October 1–3



The time has finally arrived! A new church directory is on the way! Pictures will be taken Thursday through Saturday, October 1–3, 2026, and the company we're working with thinks directories will be in our hands by Christmas. As picture days approach, we will have sign-ups online and in the church office. We also will need volunteers to help facilitate picture-taking. Please make plans now to be included in our directory!

Jesus said, "let the little children come to me." Matthew 19:14

Jarvis Preschool
ENROLLMENT

2026-2027 **New Location!**

Oakmont Baptist Church
1100 Red Banks Rd.
Greenville, NC 27858

*Christian, play-based half-day program for babies (6 weeks) through pre-k.
*Early Drop Off available every day at 8am for additional cost
*Lunch club and Suzuki violin lessons are available for 3 & 4 year olds for additional costs

PLAY

GROW

LEARN

ENROLL NOW!

Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!

Email jarvisumcpreschool@gmail.com
Call 252-752-3101 or Visit jarvis.church/preschool

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Click [here](#) or on the image above to access the website to learn more!.

Oakmont Prayer Garden

Your Prayer Garden Team needs help! Your team is getting older, and we need some younger bodies with strong backs and a willingness to do some work. I've divided the duties into small manageable tasks:

- One person to just take care of the roses, which would only include deadheading.
- Four people to weed, each person assigned to one section of the garden. (There are four sections).
- Four people to mow on a rotating basis. (The mower is electric, and it takes about 10–15 minutes to mow and blow the grass off the walkway.)

The team has done a wonderful job designing the garden, and it's beautiful. So, we want to maintain it and keep the garden in everlasting beauty. We have all the tools you'll need and it's not necessary to bring anything from home. So, please join us and help us keep the garden in great shape! Call, text, or email David Steele at 252-916-5322 or steeled02@gmail.com.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We're taking a break from all that hard work we did throughout the school year! But in July, on Mondays (July 6, 20 & 27) from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., we will regather for swimming and School Skills at the Oakmont Square pool (thanks to our swimming instructor, Michele Mazey!). We will also gather for Food, Fun, and Facts in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays (July 8, 22 & 29) from 6:00 to 7:15 pm.



Clothes Closet



The clothes closet is now accepting donations again! IT IS LOCATED IN THE OLD YOUTH ROOM! The entrance is at the youth room double doors facing the parking lot on the Oakmont Square side of the church. This vital community ministry is open on first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Our next open date to love our neighbors is July 7 (no Clothes Closet on June 30, which is a fifth Tuesday).

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

The Village Update



The Village is part of a network of residential treatment programs in Eastern NC that supports moms, along with their young children, in recovery from substance use disorder. Oakmont brings lunch to the moms and kids twice a month and shares an encouraging time of Bible study, prayer, and loving childcare. We visited the Village on Wednesday, June 24. Pastor Alicia led Bible Study on "I am the vine, you are the branches" from John 15 with support from Chris Deville and Kahla Hall. We talked about everything a plant needs to grow and thought about all that God gives us to help us grow. We spent time talking about the meaning of "abiding" and then practiced praying in color while we listened to the song "Abide in Me." Weezy Boulden and Gerry Jolly worked with the children, giving them lots of love and attention. If you can lend a hand with childcare or be a sub as needed, please let Kahla Hall or Alicia Porterfield know!

- We have a number of new moms with newborns. Please pray for their bonding as a family and their well-being.
- Please remember the moms as they unlearn harmful patterns and replace them with new, loving patterns. Our prayer is that God's immense, life-changing love for them overcomes their fears and doubts. They have so much to offer God's world.



Walmart Fridays

For June and July while ECU is on a summer schedule, our Walmart Fridays drivers will move to an every-other-Friday schedule, with drivers on standby for urgent needs.

July Schedule: July 10: Kim Hodges & July 24: David Steele

Young Lives



This ministry of Young Life supports teen moms and their children and meets in our Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. Next gathering will be July 21!

LINKS



During the school year, LINKS meets on second Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality with help from Sharron Edwards and Nicole Davis. They will be with us during the day on July 14 and August 11. Please join us in praying for these teens as they take the next right step in their lives.

Backpack Pals!



We have three families who have requested summer food help. Anne Durham is helping to coordinate this ministry. Please pray for our friends in food insecure living situations this summer. For many of them, school is the most reliable source of nutrition.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

We will take a break on the fifth Tuesday, June 30, and we'll be back in the kitchen July 7. Special thanks for the two teams that make this ministry work!



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 311

***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

The Journey Class

Co-ed small group for adults ages 30s–50s who may have school-aged 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, Fred Daniel, Wayne Taylor, and Pat Dunn

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

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, WE WILL BE TAKING OUR STUDENTS ON A TREASURE HUNT THROUGHOUT THE STORIES OF THE BIBLE. BUT THE TREASURE WE ARE SEEKING IS NOT RICHES OR GOLD. INSTEAD, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT THE GREATEST TREASURE OF ALL...THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THROUGH OUR STORIES AND LESSONS THIS

MONTH, OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN, NOT ONLY WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS, BUT THEY WILL DISCOVER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HOW TO SHARE THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH THOSE WHO ARE AROUND THEM. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US ON THIS EPIC JOURNEY, AS WE LEARN ALL ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Our story for this week comes to us from Matthew 13:44-46. In this passage Jesus tells two parables about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. In the first parable, Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it he sold everything he had in order to buy the field. In the second story, Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a fine pearl. When a merchant found it he sold everything he had in order to buy it.

Now, at first these stories might seem a little strange, and we might wonder why Jesus would compare the Kingdom of Heaven to these things. But here is the point that Jesus was making. The Kingdom of God/Heaven is the most valuable thing that we could ever have in our lives. Belonging to the Kingdom of God

Continued on next page...

“The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl” | Click [HERE](#).

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

June Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JUNE THEME: KINGDOM QUEST —SEEKING THE GREATEST TREASURE

Kingdom Quest—where we are seeking the greatest treasure...and it isn't a chest full of gold coins. Our memory verse is found in Matthew 6:10 where Jesus prays: “Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (NIV). God's kingdom is so important, and it isn't something just for our future in heaven. God's kingdom is here...wherever God's people are doing what God wants us to do. And God wants everyone, including our children, to be a part of it. So this month, we are going to listen to Jesus tell stories about tiny seeds, a lost coin, and hidden treasure to help our children learn that they can be a part of God's kingdom. No armor, swords, or battles required. All we have to do is listen to Jesus. His stories show us what God's beautiful kingdom is like and how we can be a part of it. We want every child to know—and celebrate—this truth: I can be part of God's kingdom.

June Memory Verse

“our kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” – Matthew 6:10 NIV

Continued from previous page

is worth more than money, toys, video games, trophies, trading cards, or anything else that we might own. When we discover the Kingdom of God through Jesus, that should become the most important thing in our lives.

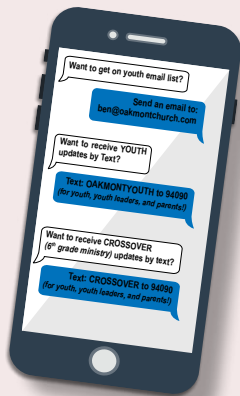
Now, does this mean that Jesus does not want us to have any possessions? NO, but Jesus was making an important point that if it came down to it, we should be willing to give up everything that we have for the Kingdom of God because it is that much better. The Kingdom of Heaven offers us something that nothing else in the world can...a life with Jesus.

So, this week I want you to do some thinking. What are some of your favorite things in the world? Why do you love them so much? What would it mean to you to give up those things for the Kingdom of God? Would it be hard? Easy? The more time we spend with Jesus, and the longer we know Him, we see that He is the only thing in our lives that truly gives us joy, fulfillment, and salvation. While our possessions are nice, they are only temporary. But a relationship with Jesus is forever! A relationship with Jesus can transform and change our lives in such extraordinary ways...ways we can't even fully imagine. Loving God and His Kingdom is the most important thing we can do. Let us give thanks to God that He offers this Kingdom to us freely. It is so great to be part of the Kingdom of God!

—Ben Gurganus,
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education

Resources and ideas are from Orange Curriculum.

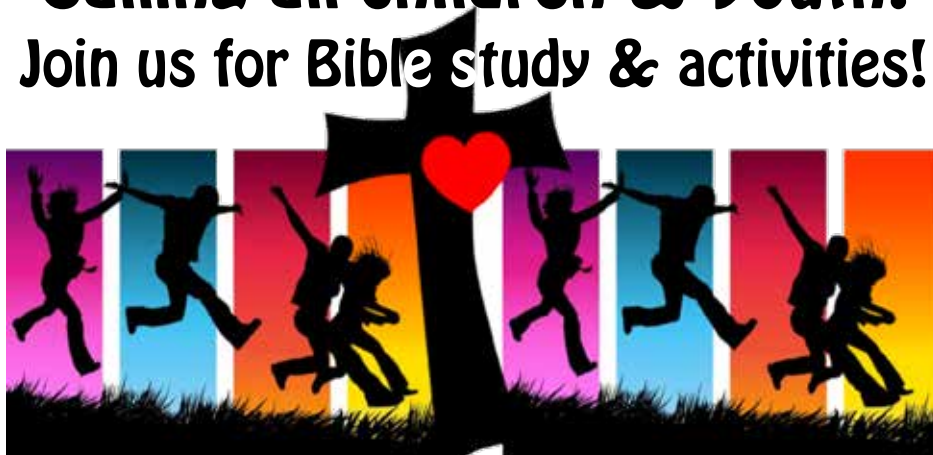
— **Children's Connection continued on next page.** —



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 children & youth! Join us for Bible study & activities!



First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade June Bible Study Lessons
(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

JUNE THEME: KINGDOM QUEST— Seeking the Greatest Treasure

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD’S CREATION, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD’S BIG STORY

We are so excited to dive into Kingdom Quest, a two-month series on the parables of Jesus. Our brains are hard-wired to understand the world in terms of story, so when Jesus told stories, He gave His followers a chance to wrestle with deep truths. He challenged them to discover how those truths could apply to their daily lives. Through many of the parables, Jesus painted pictures of what God’s kingdom is like and how each one of us can pursue and be a part of it. We start off exploring how the kingdom grows through The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast. Then we dive into The Story of the Lost Sheep and connect the dots on how Jesus came to find us and make a way for us to be part of God’s Kingdom. We follow up with The Story of the Lost Son and how God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom. And we finish June with the Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl, so kids can discover that seeking to know God and His kingdom is more important than anything else in their lives.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for June —

June 7

Jesus shows us God’s Kingdom.

June 21

God wants everyone to be part of His Kingdom.

June 14

Jesus made a way for you to be part of God’s Kingdom.

June 28

Loving God and His kingdom is most important.

June Memory Verse

“May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.”

– Matthew 6:10, NIV

— Youth Calendar —

JULY

JULY 12–16 | Vacation Bible School

JULY 21 | Kings Dominion Trip

JULY 29–AUG. 5 | High School Youth Mission Trip

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, June 28

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

1:00 p.m.
Korean Church Service & Lunch
Fellowship Hall

Monday, June 29

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, June 30

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

Wednesday, July 1

5:30 p.m.
VBS Prep Day
The Memorial Baptist Church

Friday, July 3

Office Closed for the July 4 Holiday

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL



Sunday

June 21, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

2026 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,304,524

Receipts (<i>This Week</i>)	\$14,426	Building Fund (<i>This Week</i>)	\$50
(<i>\$1,660 Online, \$12,766 Mail</i>)		Building Fund (MTD)	\$1,107
Receipts (MTD)	\$72,876	Building Fund (YTD)	\$12,736
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$542,494.67		
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$537,077.22		
Communion Offering (<i>This Week</i>)	\$85		
Communion Offering (MTD)	\$1,940		

The Worship of God at Oakmont

———— GATHERING OF GOD’S PEOPLE ————

WELCOME Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN *“Victory in Jesus”*

———— PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD’S PEOPLE ————

MORNING PRAYER Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN *“What a Beautiful Name”*

PASSPORT TESTIMONIES Youth

OFFERTORY SENTENCES Youth

———— PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD’S PEOPLE ————

ANTHEM *“Give Me Jesus”*
Chancel Choir; Soloist: Rev. Eric Porterfield; Saxophone: Jim Gilliam

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP TIME Rev. Ben Gurganus

SCRIPTURE READING Romans 6:12–23 Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON *“Freed from Sin”* Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN *“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”*

———— SENDING FORTH GOD’S PEOPLE ————

LIFE AT OAKMONT Rev. Ben 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
wayne@oakmontchurch.com

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.

