

July 13, 2025

# E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

## A Word from Our Pastor

Sadness. Grief. Heartache. It's what we feel as we pray for the families and friends of those who died in the Texas floods. Resolve, resilience, and togetherness; it's what we pray God will give these devastated communities as they mourn and rebuild. Endurance, wisdom, and faith; it's what we pray for the churches and church leaders as they rely on Jesus and share the hope of Jesus with their neighbors.

Sadness. Our Texas neighbors are experiencing a deep sadness that's beyond what most of us can imagine, unless we've experienced a similar tragedy. Yet all of us experience sadness. And all of us can feel sadness for hurting people around the world.

I've heard it said to preachers, "Never forget as you gaze out on the congregation that there's a puddle of tears at the feet of every person present." Not literal tears, but symbolic tears that point to the sadness, grief, and struggles unique to each of our lives and that we bring with us to worship.

One day the sadness, the tears will be no more. When Christ returns, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new'" (Revelation 21:4-5).

Until that day, God walks with us in our sadness. The Scriptures tell us God knows and honors every tear, putting them in a bottle and keeping them in a record (Psalm 56:8). And the Lord gives us strength to live faithfully and fruitfully amid life's pain, even as we work and pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven.

The tears cried in Texas are being kept in God's bottle. The tears cried by Amy Cook (the person who puts together and sends out the E-Connections each week) and her family at the sudden death of her father are being received with tenderness and care by the Lord. Your tears and mine, all in God's bottle.

Which means we are not alone. The One who made us, who redeems us in Christ, and who sustains us by the Holy Spirit, is with us. Always. Even amid the tears. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, walking with us in personal relationship, uniting us to our sisters and brothers in Christ, working through us to spread the love and grace of Jesus in the world. Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,  
Eric Porterfield



**Vacation Bible School**  
*is almost here!*

**Flip to page 3 for more details on how to get involved!**



# OBC Updates

## Reading all 150 Psalms in 2025!

We started with Psalm 1 at the beginning of Lent and we've now passed the halfway point in reading through the 150 Psalms, one Psalm per day. And we continue to pray the Lord's prayer each morning. Here's the schedule ...



Friday, July 11: Psalm 128

Saturday, July 12 Psalm 129

Sunday, July 13: Psalm 130

Monday, July 14: Psalm 131

Tuesday, July 15: Psalm 132

Wednesday, July 16: Psalm 133

Thursday, July 17: Psalm 134



**July 13**

2 Kings 5:1-14

Eric Porterfield preaching  
Service of Holy Communion

**July 20**

2 Kings 5:15-27

Eric Porterfield preaching



## Music Ministry Memos

Music ministry midsummer dinner and rehearsal for all singers, instrumentalists, and tech team this Wednesday, July 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Music Suite. If anyone would like to join the music ministry and is interested in attending this summer event, contact Dr. Laurie Cosby at [laurielee@oakmontchurch.com](mailto:laurielee@oakmontchurch.com).



There will be no regularly scheduled music ministry rehearsals until Wednesday, September 3.



# Vacation Bible School

**Sunday, July 20–Thursday, July 24**

## — Vacation Bible School Week: July 20–24 —

Volunteers, **YOU** make VBS possible. Click [HERE](#) to sign up as a volunteer!

*Join us as we explore water as a key part of God's creation and in scripture. Look below to see where you can volunteer to be a part of this exciting, annual event as we minister to the kids in our church and in our community!*

## — Volunteering Training Days —

*We will go over the VBS schedule with the volunteers and help prepare them for VBS week.*

**July 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

**July 14 at 6:00 p.m.**

## — Decorating Days —

*We will begin to decorate the church for the upcoming VBS week.*

*People can come in and out on these days as their schedule allows during the times indicated below.*

*Come as you are able!*

**July 16 (10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)**

**July 17 (10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)**

**July 18 (2:00 to 5:00 p.m.)**



**Sign your kids up to  
participate in VBS now!**

*Use the QR code to the right by scanning or clicking on it,  
and share it with your friends!*

## 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](mailto:lauri@oakmontchurch.com). Thank you!

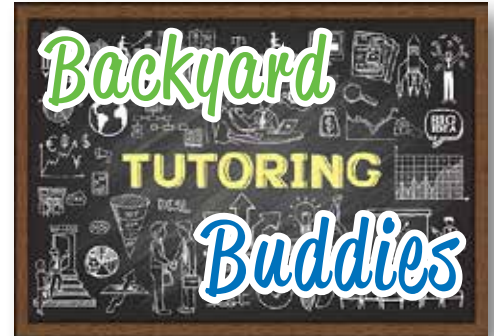
# Oakmont Mission Corner



## Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Last week it was good to see how the kids who took lessons with us last year quickly connected with the initial review of the basics! We missed POOL TIME this week because of a broken pump at the OSA pool. So on Wednesday, we met for PIZZA AND A MOVIE in the Fellowship Hall. We feasted on pizza as we watched “Jungle Cruise” and quizzed each other on what we learned from the movie, from geography to the storyline.

Next week, we will meet TUESDAY ONLY for POOL TIME from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thanks to our volunteers who make this summer ministry work!



## CBF Support Begins for Flood Victims in Texas



From CBF: As we learn about the catastrophic flooding in Kerr County, Texas, we invite our Fellowship to join us in prayer—for the victims, their families, and all those still waiting for news of their loved ones.

We are actively exploring opportunities to respond in partnership with local churches and organizations during this difficult time.

If you feel led to make a donation, please give [here](#).



## Handyman Helpers Available

The Dining Divas (widows' lunch group) have asked for some help with small household tasks, like replacing the batteries in smoke detectors or replacing light bulbs. Wayne Taylor has pulled together a group of helpers who are willing to assist! Please contact Wayne ([wayne@oakmontchurch.com](mailto:wayne@oakmontchurch.com)) if you need help with a small task.

### 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.



## Walmart Fridays

Our five committed drivers for "Walmart Fridays," our weekly shopping ministry for ECU's International Students, are juggling summer vacation schedules to make sure everything gets covered. So grateful for them making this key ministry possible! In case you missed it, this ministry transports students at 5:00 p.m. from ECU's International House to Walmart and return them home at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays.



## Clothes Closet

**Open the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month**

Our next open day is July 15. We won't be open July 29 as that is a 5th Tuesday. Thanks to our faithful team who makes this ministry a blessing to our neighbors.

If you can help, please contact Robin Congleton at [rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com) or Alicia at [Alicia@oakmontchurch.com](mailto:Alicia@oakmontchurch.com)!



## The Village Update

Thanks for praying for our moms and their kids. We are looking to return for Bible study in two weeks. We're grateful to be a small part of these families' support system as the moms face struggles with addiction and the pain that led to them.

## NC LINKS



On Tuesday, the teens living in foster care and their leaders worked hard in the Oakmont kitchen to practice cooking a meal of chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Since most of these teens will be living independently after high school graduation, LINKS creates opportunities to learn "how to adult." In this case, they got to eat their practice meal.





## Celebrate Recovery Childcare Volunteers **URGENT NEED**

We have been able to secure one of our faithful Sunday morning childcare workers to help on Monday nights, too! Thank you, Katie! We would still love to have some additional folks to love on these children while their parents do the work of healing from addiction. Would you be interested in joining the team to serve some Monday evenings from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. as a childcare volunteer for CR meetings?

Contact LuAnn Sullivan for more information: [luann.sullivan@gmail.com](mailto:luann.sullivan@gmail.com) or 252-531-6377.

### Tuesday Meals Ministry



## Tuesday Night Meals

Only one more remaining JULY date: the 15<sup>th</sup>. No meals on July 22 due to VBS or on July 29 as that is a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. We're thankful to Norma Williams and Loretta Mills (first and third Tuesdays) and Cindy Quinn and Lisa Stevens (second and fourth Tuesdays) for cooking and often delivering meals. Thanks also to John Groesser, Dot Seay, Wayne and Becky Taylor, and Joann Faulkner for helping pack the bags and delivering meals as well.

# 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](mailto:lynnej@suddenlink.net) or Kimberly Williamson at [kfwilliamson@suddenlink.net](mailto: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: Fred Daniel, Gayle Daniel, Dot Seay, Doug Strickland, & 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

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LEARN ABOUT HOW JESUS SHOWS US TO LOVE OTHERS. WHENEVER THERE ARE MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES WHEN WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO SOMETHING, THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT CAN HELP US GET BETTER AT THE THINGS WE WANT TO

LEARN HOW TO DO. WHEN IT COMES TO LEARNING HOW TO LOVE OTHERS, THERE IS NO ONE BETTER TO TEACH US HOW TO DO THAT THAN JESUS. SO, FOR THIS MONTH, ALL OF OUR BIBLE STORIES WILL FOCUS ON THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT JESUS TEACHES US TO HELP AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Our story for this week comes to us from John 17:1-26. In this story we read a special prayer that Jesus prays just before He is arrested and put to death. In this prayer, Jesus prays for His disciples. He prays for their safety after He is gone and that the world would listen to their message as they continue His ministry. Jesus also prays for ALL of the people who believe in Him. But not just the ones who believe in Him in the present, Jesus prays for the ones who will believe in Him in the future as well! Jesus prays that His followers would know Him, that they would worship Him, and that they would always know the great love that God has for them.

Even during one of the most difficult times in Jesus' life, as He faced the cross, Jesus prayed for those that He loved. He prayed for His disciples, He prayed for His followers, and He prayed for us! Jesus' prayer reminds us all that we can pray for one another. No matter what the circumstances of our life are, we should always know that we can talk to God about what is going on. God wants to hear from us! God wants us to talk about our hopes, our fears, our dreams, and our joys. Jesus reminds us of that amazing truth in this week's story.

*Continued on next page...*

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"Jesus Prays:" Click [HERE](#).

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## **PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN**

### **July Bible Study Lessons**

*(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)*

## **JULY THEME: LIVE IT OUT**

This month, we will continue to live it out and discover how to love like Jesus. Jesus showed us how to love in many ways as He helped people, was kind to them, forgave them, and was patient and gentle toward them. Jesus was consistently showing us what love looks like. There is another way we can learn how to love like Jesus and that is by doing what Jesus says. Jesus gave us very clear instructions on what to do, and then Jesus gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit to guide us and help us do it. That is why we want our children to learn that they can do what Jesus says ... because they can! Our children can do what Jesus says and show his love to everyone everywhere!

### **July Memory Verse**

*"Be kind and loving to each other." – Ephesians 4:32, NCV*

## Continued from previous page

So, this week I want you to think about the people that you can pray for. Remember how Jesus, the Son of God, prayed for you. And may we always remember to pray for one another so that the world would know about the amazing love of God.

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

### First – Sixth Grade

#### 1<sup>st</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Grade July Bible Study Lessons

*(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)*

### JULY THEME:

## LIVE IT OUT- Discover How to Love Like Jesus

### **GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LIVE IT OUT AND GOD’S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD’S BIG STORY**

Living and loving like Jesus sounds great in theory, but may be a little hard in practice. However, with the help of God’s Spirit, we don’t have to do it alone. When we follow Jesus, God’s Spirit transforms us, shaping us every day into who God has called us to be and how God is calling us to live. Live It Out is not JUST a theme, but a call to action. It encourages kids to actively live out their faith through their words and interactions with others. And the more we become like Jesus, the more we can make a true difference in this world and in the lives of those around us.

### — Weekly Bottom Lines for July —

#### **July 6**

Forgive one another.

#### **July 20**

Care for one another.

#### **July 13**

Pray for one another.

#### **July 27**

Teach one another.

### July Memory Verse

*“Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May He give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.” – Romans 15:5, NIRV*

# Youth Mission Trip 2025: West Yellowstone, Montana

This year's youth mission trip will be to the town of West Yellowstone, Montana, as we work with the congregation of First Baptist Church West Yellowstone. This community is one that is very near and dear to my heart. In the summer of 2018, I lived in West Yellowstone serving as a CBF intern at the church. I also worked at one of the local ice cream shops, as the purpose of the internship was to replicate what it is like to be a bi-vocational minister. The internship was so good that I almost did not come back to North Carolina!



West Yellowstone is an amazingly unique town. It has a year-round population of 1,200 people. However, during the summer months, it receives over a million tourists who enter Yellowstone National Park through the park's west gate. The church itself probably has a handful of year-round members, but they are a church full of loving and passionate people.

Each day that I spent in West Yellowstone was a new adventure waiting to be discovered. During my time there, I learned how to make homemade ice cream, took selfies with bison, hiked the backcountry of Yellowstone National Park, stood on precarious cliffs, signed as a wedding witness for complete strangers, caught a limit of lake trout while battling hypothermia, preached a sermon, led communion, went white water rafting, fought an aggressive bat, got snowed on in June, and spent every day in the presence of God's most beautiful creation.

I am beyond excited to share this special piece of my heart with the youth going on this trip, as they make their own memories of this amazing place. This is truly a trip that we will never forget. And who knows, y'all may have to fly out to Montana to drag me back home!

Blessings, Ben





## — Youth Calendar —

### **JULY**

**15** | Youth to King's Dominion

**20–24** | Vacation Bible School

### **AUGUST**

**2–9** | Mission Trip

*The youth group is taking a break from its regular, weekly meetings this summer.  
We'll see you back when school begins!*

# Calling all youth!

## Join us for Bible study & activities!



# — This Week's Events —

## Sunday, July 13

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.  
VBS Volunteer Training

## Monday, July 14

6:00 p.m.  
VBS Volunteer Training

6:30 p.m.  
Celebrate Recovery

## Tuesday, July 15

7:30 a.m.  
Youth to King's Dominion

10:00 a.m.  
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:00 a.m.  
Backyard Buddies  
Pool Time & Fun Days

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

2:00 p.m.  
Clothes Closet

## Wednesday, July 16

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
VBS Decorating Day

6:00 p.m.  
Music Ministry Midsummer  
Dinner and Rehearsal

## Thursday, July 17

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
VBS Decorating Day

## Friday, July 18

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
VBS Decorating Day

Our Record of Our  
**FINANCIAL**  
Sunday



July 6, 2025

**FAITHFULNESS**

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

Receipts (This Week) ..... \$20,821  
(\$3,200 Online, \$17,621 Mail)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) ..... \$20,821

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) ..... \$578,701.97

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) ..... \$510,811.50

Communion Offering (This Week) ..... \$690

Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$690

Building Fund (This Week) ..... \$0

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) ..... \$0

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) ..... \$2,608.50

**OFFERING  
NOTES**

The Communion Offering is for Pitt County Council on Aging,  
Community Crossroads Center, and OBC Benevolent Fund.



# The Worship of God at Oakmont

## GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

*"Bless the Lord, O My Soul"*

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

*"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)"*

## PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

*"Always"*

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Kimberly Williamson

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING

*Luke 4:23-30*

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

ANTHEM

*"God of Heaven"*  
*Chancel Choir*

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

SCRIPTURE READING

*2 Kings 5:1-14*

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

*"More Than a Wave of the Hand"*

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SONG OF RESPONSE

*"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"*

## 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](mailto:eric@oakmontchurch.com)

**Dr. Laurie Cosby**  
Minister of Music  
[laurielee@oakmontchurch.com](mailto:laurielee@oakmontchurch.com)

**Rev. Ben Gurganus**  
Associate Pastor for Youth  
& Christian Education  
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**Rev. Alicia Porterfield**  
Minister of Missions  
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**Dr. Greg Rogers**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Ms. Lauri Johnson**  
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary  
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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](http://oakmontchurch.com)  
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

