

July 27, 2025

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

She joined our group of 2nd and 3rd graders on the third night of Vacation Bible School. She was at a disadvantage not because of the late start but because she doesn't speak English yet. She's one of our neighbors who lives at Oakmont Square Apartments. She started slowly, figuring things out as we went through the schedule of opening worship, the Bible story station, then crafts.

It was at our last station, recreation, that she came alive. It was water game night, the children passing a leaky cup of water over their heads to the person behind them, over and over again. Many of them were soon soaked. She managed to pass the cup over her shoulder instead of her head so she was dry. But I wasn't worried about her playing the game incorrectly. I was too excited to see the smile on her face and the bounce in her step! The smile kept growing the longer we played; it was a beautiful thing to see.

We moved from outdoor recreation to the Multipurpose Room for closing worship, and took our seats on the floor. There was the usual chaotic, joyful buzz in the room as we waited for all the age groups to arrive. And then another beautiful sight! Another girl in our group, a guest from a ministry in town that works with single Moms, was sitting next to our Spanish-speaking guest. She pulled out her phone when she wasn't supposed to (I let it slide because of what I saw happening) and used a translation application to communicate with her new friend!

Since our work with the Welcome House ministry began, I've become well-versed in using my phone

as a translation device when interacting with Spanish-speaking neighbors. Not once since our Spanish-speaking guest arrived that night had I thought of using my phone as a way to welcome her. But one of her peers thought about it, and reached out to her, and blessed her.

The music started, we all stood up to sing and do the motions to "Waves of Wonder," a song celebrating the wonders of God's grace. And our first-time guest was singing and doing the motions! She may not have understood the words but the joy on her face tells me she was experiencing the presence of God. Her new friend was next her, doing the motions, singing, smiling, laughing. Waves of wonder for sure! God is good, so very, very good.

That's why we do it! That's why we work so hard to decorate the halls, plan the crafts, Bible stories, recreation, worship, the meals, it's why we give countless volunteer hours and voluntarily make ourselves more tired than we normally would be during a hot summer week in July. We serve because we know Jesus will be walking among us, blessing the children, revealing and sharing and showering us all with grace, drawing us into relationships of love with God and each other.

Amen, and Amen, and Amen.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates

Reading all 150 Psalms in 2025!

We're almost there! We started with Psalm 1 in Lent and we'll soon reach Psalm 150!

How has God worked in your life through this practice of praying the Lord's Prayer each morning and reading one Psalm each day?



Friday, July 25: Psalm 142

Saturday, July 26: Psalm 143

Sunday, July 27: Psalm 144

Monday, July 28: Psalm 145

Tuesday, July 29: Psalm 146

Wednesday, July 30: Psalm 147

Thursday, July 31: Psalm 148



July 27

2 Kings 8:1-6

Eric Porterfield preaching

August 3

Mark 12:38-44

Alicia Porterfield preaching



Music Ministry Memos

If anyone would like to join the music ministry, contact Dr. Laurie Cosby at laurielee@oakmontchurch.com. There will be no regularly scheduled music ministry rehearsals until Wednesday, September 3.

Oakmont SENIORS MINISTRY



Senior Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, July 29 at 11:30 a.m.

in the fellowship hall. Bring your own lunch.

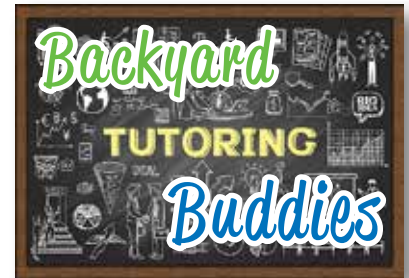
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We took this week off from daytime activities so our BYB kids (and our volunteers) could bring all their energy to “Waves of Wonder” VBS in the evenings! Next week we will have POOL TIME on Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. for our last week of Summer Fun!



15 STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Fairway to Freedom

Golf Tournament

Aug. 16, 2025
Washington Yacht and Country Club

Click [here](#) or on the QR code to register!

Team: \$200	Longest Drive Sponsor: \$500
Hole Sponsor: \$200	Flight Sponsor: \$1,000
Putting Green Sponsor: \$250	Registration Sponsor: \$1,000
Closest to the Pin: \$300	Title Sponsor: \$5,000

Inaugural “Fairway to Freedom” Golf Tournament benefiting NC Stop Human Trafficking

Washington Yacht & Country Club
Saturday, August 16, 2025

The Inaugural Fairway to Freedom Golf Tournament will benefit NC Stop Human Trafficking in helping to educate about the seriousness of human trafficking. It will also help assist those victims and survivors of trafficking to start a new beginning.

REGISTRATION

ncstophumantrafficking.org

Sponsorships & donations may be sent to:

NC Stop Human Trafficking
PO Box 959 | Farmville, NC 27828

For more information, contact:

Darrell Ange at 252.495.1575

darrell@encstophumantrafficking.org

CBF Response to Texas Flooding and Ways to Help

From CBF: The recent flooding in the San Antonio and Kerrville regions has left many families in need of support. The CBF family continues to pray and partner with local efforts! Staying connected to churches and organizations in the area ensures that our efforts coordinate with the current needs on the ground.

Current Local Response:

1. **Family Support Center:** A Family Support Center and a Family Reunification Center are now open to assist affected families.
2. **Disaster Recovery Center (DRC):** A DRC has officially opened to provide resources and assistance. Organizations such as Red Cross and Salvation Army have the lead role in this event.
3. **Volunteer Opportunities:** Currently, CBF DR is not coordinating volunteer efforts in respect to local requests and initiatives. However, due to numerous inquiries, a Volunteer Reception Center is open daily. For more information, please contact 830-465-4797.

Current Needs: There is a specific need for gas gift cards to support impacted families. Please bring gas gifts cards to Alicia Porterfield or the church office. [Shell](#), [Exxon](#), and [Valero](#) all have stations in the area.

How You Can Help Now:

1. Pray for the families and the communities affected.
2. Your contributions can make a significant difference! Please consider donating to support those affected by the floods. Every donation helps! Click here to donate.

Together, we can provide the necessary support during this challenging time.

Thank you for your generosity! Give [HERE](#).

Updates on CBFNC Flood Recovery Ministry in the NC Mountains

This summer, CBFNC is partnering with NC churches on two primary initiatives: “Meals for the Mountains,” a summer food box ministry for families, and “Kids Clubb,” a ministry with local children impacted by the flooding. Both ministries have practical and relational aspects, effectively sharing the love of Christ through human connection.

Each week meal boxes and backpacks filled with food go out to support about 100 families. They are distributed to about 10 sites across the area. Wanda Kidd, Disaster Recovery coordinator for CBFNC, shared the response of one recipient: “It was like Christmas!” Yes! Immanuel, “God with us,” is at work even in the hardest times.

The “Kids Clubb” name is not a misspelling! This name honors Heather Clubb, a lover of missions and young people from Mars Hill Baptist who died at the age of 36. Along with fun and food, students also receive tutoring to help with the school and learning disruptions caused by Hurricane Helene. In the early weeks, numbers have been small at the clubs, allowing leaders to offer more time and attention to individual children. But word is spreading! Last week, one attendee brought 10 friends with her so they could all have fun together at Kids Clubb!

Oakmont had the gift of supporting both of these ministries through our Disaster Recovery offerings and a specific gift made to the meals ministry in June. For more info about recovery in the mountains and how you can help, reach out to Wanda Kidd, at DR@cbfnc.org. If you’re feeling called to lend practical skills for rebuilding, check out Baptists on Mission [here](#).



Clothes Closet

Open the first and third Tuesdays of each month
(no fifth Tuesdays)

The Clothes Closet team will take a break the first week in August. Our next open day is August 19—just in time for back to school shopping!

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



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) if you need help with a small task.

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

No meals on July 29 as that is a fifth Tuesday.
We'll return to the kitchen on August 5!

The Village Update



Last week, we heard from one of our former Village moms who graduated from the program several months ago. She is in another city participating in a program designed for the next steps of building a life in recovery. She and her kids are doing so well! She was also able to visit with some of her older children, which boosted her spirits and determination to keep moving forward. Thanks for supporting and praying for this ministry!



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: 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

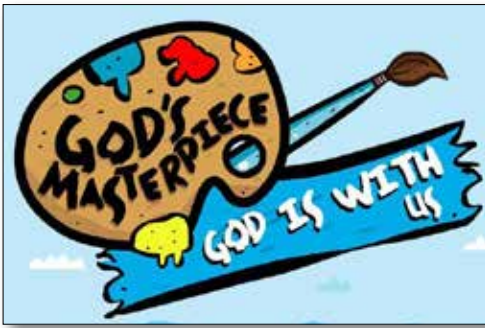
Koinonia

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 Matthew 28:19-20. This verse was one of the last things that Jesus taught to His disciples before He ascended into Heaven. In the passage, Jesus tells His disciples to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As Jesus' last lesson to His disciples, He wanted to make sure that they would go and share the message of the Gospel with the rest of the world. As the disciples taught other people about Jesus, they would then get baptized and continue the teachings of Jesus in their own lives. Going on to tell others about how they got to know Jesus. As more and more people around the world learn about Jesus, the world slowly becomes a better place. But none of this could happen unless the disciples went out into the world and taught others what they saw and heard from Jesus.

Continued on next page...

"Great Commission" Click [HERE](#).

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, that is what the disciples did. They taught others about Jesus, and the message of Jesus spread from person to person, for years and years to come. Isn't it crazy to think that the story of Jesus was passed on from the disciples all the way down to us! Now, we get to know Jesus because of the stories and lessons that the disciples taught thousands of years ago.

But here's the other good news. Now that we know about Jesus, we have the same opportunity to go and do what this week's passage talks about! Jesus has told us to go and tell the world all about Him. So that is what we should do. As we teach others about Jesus, and show them Jesus through our words and actions, those people get to meet and believe in Jesus, too!

So, this week, I want you to look for ways that you can tell others about Jesus. You are an important part of the story of Jesus! And you can teach others how Jesus has changed your life, and how Jesus' love is changing the world. So go and teach others about Jesus, and always remember that Jesus is with you, now and forever!

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

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th 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 —

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!*

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!



— This Week's Events —

Sunday, July 27

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

Monday, July 28

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, July 29

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

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

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

Wednesday, July 30

12:00 p.m.
Backyard Buddies
Pool Time & Fun Days

Thursday, July 31

6:00 p.m.
Youth Mission Trip
Planning Meeting

Saturday, August 2

Youth Mission Trip Begins

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



July 13, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week) \$17,758
(\$1,753 Online, \$16,005 Mail)

Communion Offering (This Week) \$745
Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$1,435

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$38,579

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$596,459.97

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$528,962.71

Building Fund (This Week) \$254

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) \$254

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$2,862.50

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



July 20, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week) \$12,637
(\$3,300 Online, \$9,337 Mail)

Communion Offering (This Week) \$3,565
Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$5,000

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$51,216

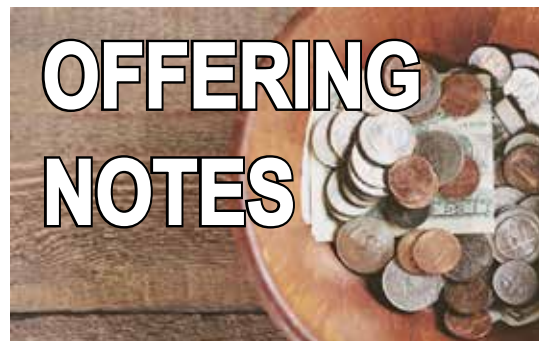
Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$609,096.97

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$541,332.21

Building Fund (This Week) \$0

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) \$254

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$2,862.50



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

Psalm 105:1-5a

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

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

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CHILDREN’S WORSHIP TIME
VBS REFLECTIONS

Rev. Ben Gurganus

VBS SONGS

“Deep and Wide” and “Take Me to the Water”

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Pam Strickland

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 13:2-21

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Kings 8:1-6

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

“The Unseen Power Behind The Testimony”

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SONG OF RESPONSE

“Blessed Assurance”

———— 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
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.

