

August 10, 2025

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

A Word from Our Pastor

After reading so many authors over the years quoting from Flannery O'Connor's "The Habit of Being," I finally read the book for myself this summer. Okay, I skimmed it because it's really long! O'Connor is considered one of the great Southern novelists of the 20th century. "The Habit of Being" however is not full of her stories but of her letters to fellow writers and friends. It's long been considered a treasure trove for writers and for preachers.

For writers, her letters are filled with thoughts on the writing craft. She's big on the commitment to write for a certain amount of time every single day, especially when the words are not flowing: "I suppose half of writing is overcoming the revulsion you feel when you sit down to it." She also brings a spiritual perspective to her craft, with words that can apply to all of us, whatever our vocation may be: "You do not write the best you can for the sake of art but for the sake of returning your talent increased to the invisible God to use or not use as he sees fit."

For preachers, she provides a vast amount of quotations that can strengthen just about any sermon. She says this about conversion: "I don't think of conversion as being once and for all and that's that. I think once the process is begun and continues that you are continually turning inward toward God and away from your own egocentricity and that you have to see this selfish side of yourself in order to turn away from it."

And our struggles with grace: "All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful."

One quotation has informed my preparation for this Sunday's sermon from Hebrews 11:1-3, which states that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." There's a difference between assurance and certainty. "Certainty" has an almost scientific, mathematical feel to it, as if one has absolute foreknowledge of exactly what will happen and how it will happen in the future. "Assurance" is not a scientific but a relational word; because of the personal and relational nature of God as revealed in Jesus, we trust in and stand on the promises of God, as we'll sing Sunday morning. Because we know God is faithful and with us, our faith is the "assurance of things hoped for."

O'Connor writes, "You arrive at enough certainty to be able to make your way, but it is making it in darkness. Don't expect faith to clear things up for you. It is trust, not certainty..."

I'm grateful for the moments when the way forward in life is crystal clear. And I'm even more grateful that when it's hard to see out in front of us, we know God is still with us, that the Holy Spirit is guiding us. For enough certainty to make our way we give thanks. More importantly, we pray for the gift of trust. May our trust in God grow each day, each month, each year.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





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, August 8: Psalm 6
Saturday, August 9: Psalm 7
Sunday, August 10: Psalm 8
Monday, August 11: Psalm 9

Tuesday, August 12: Psalm 10
Wednesday, August 13: Psalm 11
Thursday, August 14: Psalm 12



August 10
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Eric Porterfield preaching

August 17
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Eric Porterfield preaching



Music Ministry Memos

Instrumental Ministry
Pizza and Practice
Wednesday, August 13 at 6:30 p.m.
in the Music Suite

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.

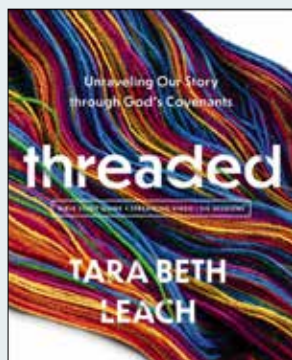
Wednesday Night Events

Return September 3!



After a summer break and with the arrival of the new school year, we return to Wednesday night activities at church. We gather at 6:00 p.m. for Adult Bible studies, youth group, and Missions and Music for our children. Choir rehearsal returns as well at 7:00 p.m. See you on the third!

Wednesday Women's Bible Study



Our Wednesday Women's Bible Study will return September 3 along with other Wednesday Night Ministries. We will start at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall ready to learn about God's covenants through scripture with *Threaded: Unraveling Our Story Through God's Covenants* by Tara Beth Leach. We have ordered 20 books, which are \$17.00 each. Call the church office or email [Alicia](#) if you'd like to reserve a book. Or you can order your own book [here](#). Looking forward to being together again!

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.

MULTI-MEDIA

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

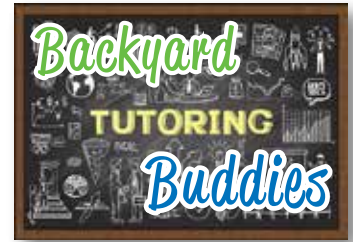
Live streaming of our service and service archives are available in the Media section of our website.

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

We are taking a break this month as everyone savors the last days of summer break and prepares for PCS to start on August 25. TUTORs, we will meet **TUESDAY, AUGUST 19** at 2:00 p.m. in room 507 to get ready for another year of tutoring and supporting our children. That same day, we will have a no-cost “school store” open in Rawl parlor from 3:30–5:30 p.m. for our tutoring kids to come by and shop for what they need.



15th ANNUAL 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

School Supplies Drive!



Thanks for providing the items below for our Backyard Buddies friends and other neighbors nearby. We will host a no-cost “school store” for our tutoring kids TUESDAY AUGUST 19 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Rawl parlor. We have plenty of other supplies to share, but the ones below would be a huge help! Please leave items in the tubs at the church office or narthex. Thanks!

Items Needed

Kleenex tissues
Baby wipes (just 4 packs)
Clorox wipes
Ziploc bags (gallon)
Band-Aids

Black Expo markers (LOTS!)
Multi-colored Expo markers
3x5 index cards (6)
Yellow highlighters



CBF Response to Texas Flooding and Ways to Help

The CBF family continues to pray and partner with local efforts and stay connected to churches and organizations in the area. We want to ensure that our efforts coordinate with the current needs on the ground.

Two Immediate Ways to Help

1. Gas gift cards for [Shell](#), [Exxon](#), and [Valero](#) all have stations in the affected area. These may need to be purchased online. Alicia Porterfield is the point person for this.
2. Donate to CBF Disaster Response! Every dollar goes straight to on the ground relief. Click [HERE](#) to donate.

CBFNC Flood Recovery Ministry in the NC Mountains

Please continue to pray for CBFNC’s “Meals for the Mountains,” a summer food box ministry for families, and Kids Clubb, a ministry with local children impacted by the flooding. Oakmont had the gift of supporting 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](#).



Walmart Fridays

Thankful to our drivers who keep “Walmart Fridays,” our weekly shopping ministry for ECU’s International Students, going. We received feedback this week about a student who has ridden with us sharing info about the rides with a brand new student—who happened to need everything! Thanks to Cal Hayslip, who was the driver that day, this just-arrived student was able to have extra time to get everything he needed and not worry about how to get it back home. Thanks for blessing our international neighbors at ECU!

Clothes Closet



Open the first and third Tuesdays of each month
from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (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!

Tuesday
Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

We’re cooking on August 12, 19, and 26! We are grateful for the dedicated team that plans, shops for, cooks, plates, and delivers these meals to our friends who are homebound and in need!

The Village Update



It was a joy to be back with our friends at The Village this Wednesday! Alicia led Bible study while Kahla and Chris loved up on the toddlers and pre-schoolers. In the study, we looked at God’s generosity to us and what it means to lead a generous life.



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 AUGUST, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT HOW GOD IS OUR AMAZING CREATOR! WHENEVER OUR CHILDREN LOOK AT THE WORLD AROUND THEM, WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT IT WAS CREATED BY A LOVING, CREATIVE, AND POWERFUL GOD. GOD SPOKE THIS BEAUTIFUL WORLD INTO EXISTENCE. AND AFTER GOD CREATED THE WORLD, GOD RESTED BECAUSE GOD KNEW THAT WHAT GOD HAD CREATED WAS GOOD. THROUGH OUR BIBLE STORIES THIS MONTH, OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN TO SEE THE BEAUTY OF CREATION AND ITS CREATOR, THEY WILL KNOW THAT WHAT GOD MADE IS GOOD, AND THEY CAN REST IN KNOWING THE TRUE DEPTHS THAT THEIR CREATOR LOVES THEM WITH.

Our story for this week comes to us from Genesis 1:9-13. Have you ever driven through the mountains or walked on a sandy beach? Have you ever seen big farm fields full of crops, ready to be picked? The world we live in is massive, beautiful, and incredibly diverse! In our story this week, we will learn how God created the land, plants, and seas.

After God created day and night, and then the sky and the oceans, God then began to expand on those incredible things. God made the dry land, a place for plants and crops to grow. From the dry land God added beaches and seas to extend out from the shores.

Isn't it amazing to think that when we see things like rolling mountains, or lush rainforests, or sandy beaches, that God created all of those things? When we see fields full of flowers, or trees bearing fruit, it's crazy to think that God made everything to be that way! Our planet is an incredible masterpiece. And no matter where you go, everything that you see is proof of the work of our incredible Creator God.

Continued on next page...

"God Makes Everything" Click [HERE](#).

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

August Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: TO THE MOON AND BACK

This month, we are taking our children on an exciting journey to the moon and back as we teach them that God made everything. We want our children to know that this beautiful world they live in was created by our loving, creative, and powerful God. All God had to do was say it, and it was! Wow! So, what did God do after He made everything? "God saw everything he had made. And it was very good." (Genesis 1:31 NIV) Then, God rested. And that is what we hope to do this month with our children. Look at everything God made. See that it is very good. And then rest in knowing that our God is powerful and creative and beautiful, and He loves us to the moon and back.

August Memory Verse

"God saw everything he had made. And it was very good.." – Genesis 1:31, NIV

Continued from previous page

So, the next time you pass a farm field full of crops, or take a vacation to the mountains, or go for a swim at the beach, take a moment to stop and remember that you are in the presence of something that God made. It is a comforting thing to be reminded of, that no matter where we look on this incredible earth, God's handywork is there!

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

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade August Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: ORIGIN STORY **— Where Our Story with God Begins**

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

This month kicks off our year-long journey through the Bible as we look at God's Big Story. Every story has a beginning. As we explore Creation, the Fall and other pivotal moments in the origin of our faith, kids will discover that not only did God create everything, but even after people chose to go their own way, God had a plan to restore us. We can see how God faithfully began to fulfill that plan in Abram's call and in the lives of Jacob and Joseph—and we look forward to the fulfillment of that plan in Jesus. When kids see how God has worked in the past, they can grow in faith that our faithful God continues to work in and through each person who chooses to follow Jesus.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for August —

August 3

You can trust God no matter what.

August 17

You can trust that God has a plan.

August 10

You can trust God even when you don't understand.

August 24

You can trust that God is with you

August 31

You can trust God when things get tough.

August Memory Verse

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see." – Hebrews 11:1, NIV

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, August 10

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, August 11

6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery

7:00 p.m.

Stewardship Team Meeting
Rawl Parlor

Tuesday, August 12

10:00 a.m.

Oakmont Handcrafters Group

1:00 p.m.

Homebound Food
Preparation & Delivery

Wednesday, August 13

6:00 p.m.

Children's Ministry Team Planning Meeting
Fellowship Hall

6:30 p.m.

Orchestra Gathering & Rehearsal

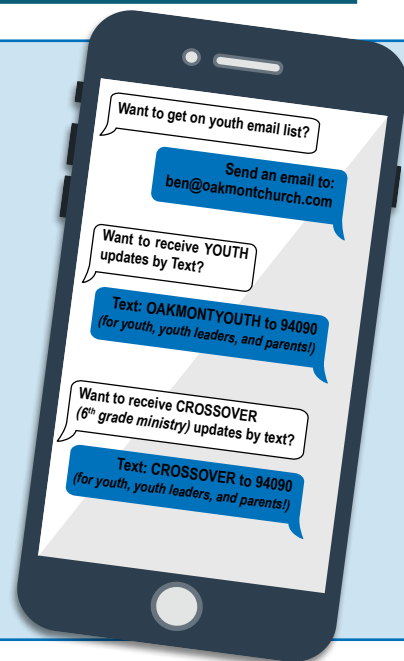
Thursday, August 14

6:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Team Planning Meeting
Fellowship Hall

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!



Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



July 27, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$16,276	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$85
(\$2,195 Online, \$14,081 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD).....	\$3,600
Receipts (Month-to-Date)	\$68,977	Building Fund (This Week)	\$100
Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date)	\$626,857.97	Building Fund (Month-to-Date)	\$354
Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date)	\$561,822.21	Building Fund (Year-to-Date)	\$2,962.50

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



August 3, 2025
FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$18,275.50	Communion Offering (This Week)	\$1,065
(\$2,380 Online July 28 – 31 \$1,880 Online Aug, \$14,015.50 Mail)		Communion Offering (MTD).....	\$1,065
Receipts (July Month-to-Date)	\$71,357	Building Fund (This Week)	\$100
Receipts (Aug. Month-to-Date)	\$15,895.50	Building Fund (Month-to-Date)	\$100
Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date)	\$645,133.47	Building Fund (Year-to-Date)	\$3,062.50
Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date)	\$581,692.21	Baptist Hospital (This Week)	\$50
		Building Fund (Year-to-Date)	\$2,200



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

"Gathering in God's Promises"

Dr. Laurie Cosby & Children

HYMN

"Standing on the Promises"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"Trust in God"

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Ben Gurganus

ANTHEM

"Father of Light"
Chancel Choir and Karen Meetze, solo

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

OFFERTORY

Stephanie Suedbeck

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Living Toward What We Cannot See"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Stephanie Suedbeck

SONG OF RESPONSE

"Day by Day"

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

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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.

