

August 24, 2025

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

I have a theory, a highly unscientific theory based on a sample of two people. The theory: that many people (not all!) find their favorite season of the year to be the season in which they were born. The two person sample study: I was born in late October; fall has always been my favorite season. Alicia was born in June; summer has always been her favorite season. Does this theory hold true for you?

While I appreciate and enjoy summer, I'm always looking for reminders during summer that fall is almost here. We had great reminder several weeks ago. Do you remember when a long heat wave with highs in the upper 90s was followed by a brief "cold spell" with highs in the low 80s? The low temperatures themselves were a great taste of fall, but then I visited a convenience store for a cup of coffee. The store manager must be a very astute observer of human nature. With the cooler temperatures, the store made sure to provide its customers the option of Pumpkin Spice flavored coffee, a perennial fall favorite! The coffee was extra good that day, taking me into October with every sip.

Much more significant than coffee flavors of course, is the arrival of the fall semester at our schools, colleges, and universities. It will still be summer when school starts across Pitt County this Monday, when ECU plays N.C. State in football next Thursday night, and when our Wednesday night activities resume on September 3, but we will be in our fall rhythm.

God made us as rhythm-based creatures. Breathing rhythms, heart-beating rhythms, eating and

sleeping rhythms; to be physically healthy, we need strong rhythms in all these areas and countless more. God also made us as spiritual rhythm-based creatures. Our walk with God is far more impacted, I believe, by our daily, weekly, and annual rhythms than most of us realize.

Each creation season (winter, spring, summer, fall), regardless of which one is our favorite, helps shape our rhythms of daily attentiveness to God. The school season for many of us dramatically shapes the number of people with whom we interact and serve in Jesus' name.

As we enjoy the last days of summer and move toward fall, as school begins and we dive into the school year rhythm, I invite us to pay attention to the Spirit's work among us in the new rhythms. Who will Jesus bring into our lives as new friends? Who will Jesus bring into our path to love? How will we experience the love of the Father, the grace of the Son, and the guidance of the Spirit in these new days? What will God be up to in our church this fall semester?

I'm looking forward to sipping a Pumpkin Spice flavored coffee in October, marveling at all God is doing among us.

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 22: Psalm 20
Saturday, August 23: Psalm 21
Sunday, August 24: Psalm 22
Monday, August 25: Psalm 23

Tuesday, August 26: Psalm 24
Wednesday, August 27: Psalm 25
Thursday, August 28: Psalm 26



August 24

Ordinance of Baptism, Emery McGee
Hebrews 12:18-29
Eric Porterfield preaching

August 31

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Eric Porterfield preaching

Music Ministry Memos



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

Fall rehearsals begin
after Labor Day.

Wednesday, September 3

6:00 p.m. | Band/Orchestra

7:00 p.m. | Chancel Choir

Thursday, September, 4

10:00 a.m. | Joy Singers (srs. choir)



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Over the past month we've been delighted to welcome the following into our church fellowship!

Emery McGee, John Eaves, and Kent Eaves have joined us through profession of faith and baptism, and Linda Wilkerson, Pete Perry, and Judy Perry have joined by transfer of letter. May God bless our newest members and our congregation as we love and serve the Lord together.

Pray4Me



A new prayer partner ministry begins this September as we match adults with a youth or child and invite both parties to pray for and support each other during the school year! Sign-up sheets are in the Sunday School classes and the Narthex; you can call the church office; or email Ben (ben@oakmontchurch.com). Prayer partners will meet each other at a pizza luncheon after worship on September 21.

ECU International Students Welcome Dinner

Saturday, August 30 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.



Oakmont is delighted to be co-hosting along with St. James UMC the ECU International Students Welcome Dinner on Saturday, August 30 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at SJUMC. This event aims to offer a warm ENC welcome to students from all over the world and share how our congregations support international students. We'll also ask what would help them.

If you are willing to cook/bake a dish for this gathering, please contact Betty Langston. We are requesting side dishes/desserts that are sufficient to feed your family as we are expecting a large number of dinner guests. We'd love to have some greeters as well as folks to visit with students. Contact Alicia to serve these new neighbors!

*ECU Global Affairs suggested having this on Labor Day weekend so new students would have something to do on their first big weekend on campus.

Be On Mission

SEPTEMBER 11-22



Street Fair Ministry

Save The Date!!!!

For over a decade TMBC has embraced the opportunity to minister to carnival workers at the Pitt County Fair. Come be a part of meeting the physical and spiritual needs of folks who come from throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, South America, Europe, and South Africa! We want everyone who comes into our tent right off the midway to feel God's love and know of his salvation.

There are many ways to get plugged in! Scan the QR code to see how or call Griff (252-531-7371) or Terri (252-531-0284) Avin.



Oakmont will supply 12 boxes of granola bars (10-count) for the workers at the Pitt County Fair this year. This is The Memorial Baptist Church's annual food and relational ministry with fair workers who come from all over the world. It's our blessing to support them in it! Please drop your granola bars off at the tub outside the office. *Thanks!*

To view the poster (left) full size, click [here](#). To volunteer or to donate, scan or click on the QR code above!



School Supplies Drive!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who provided the school supplies we needed! Special thanks to Bobby Fussell, Pam Templeton, and Betty Langston who organized and set up our school store (see our [Facebook](#) page for pics). Backyard Buddies friends and our new Young Lives families enjoyed shopping the store and stocking up for a great school year!

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!*

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 SENIORS MINISTRY

Senior Lunch Bunch

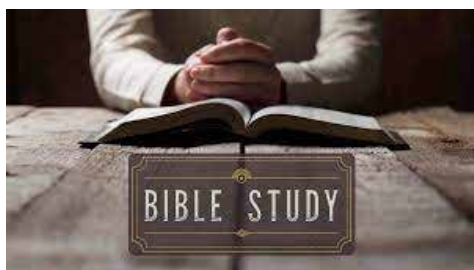
Tuesday, August 26 at 11:15 a.m.
at Chili's (3050 Evans St.)

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Joint Sunday School Opportunity



All Sundays in September, Alicia Porterfield will be teaching the Smyth & Helwys Sessions on Philippians in the Multipurpose Room. The Disciples Class will be there, and everyone is invited to join us!



New Bible Study September 24

Please join us for a new Bible study led by Carole Swan beginning on Wednesday, September 24 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 300. They will be discussing Paul's short letters, starting with Galatians. *All are welcome to attend!*

Ministry Celebration, Meal, and Hymn Sing September 28!



At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, September 28, we gather in the Multipurpose Room for a Ministry Celebration/Business Meeting. Then at 5:00 p.m. we will eat together in the Fellowship Hall! The church will provide the meat and beverages; we invite church members to bring a side dish or dessert. Then we will play a game led by our youth and enjoy a Hymn Sing as we sing our praise to God. *Join us!*

Wednesday Night Events

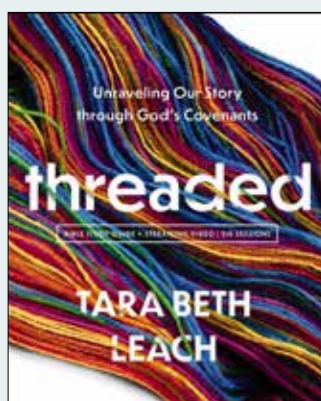
Return September 3!



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!

In our large group Bible study, Eric Porterfield will lead a journey through the prayers of the Bible. From David to Paul, Hannah to Mary, and with Jesus at the center, we'll seek to enrich and deepen our own praying through the prayers recorded in Scripture.

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!

Free Items in Resource Room



In organizing the Resource Room, several things have been found that may be beneficial to educators but were "hidden"! For the next couple of weeks, tables will be put up in the 300 hallway with materials on them. If you can use them or would like to have them, please feel free to take anything you'd like! There is more than we could ever use, and it was mentioned to me that teachers or educators may have a use for

some of these items. Please help yourself and tell your friends! There are multiples of many of these things, and there is also a bin that has items that contains one or two of each of these items. Thank you for helping us to make good use of these treasures.

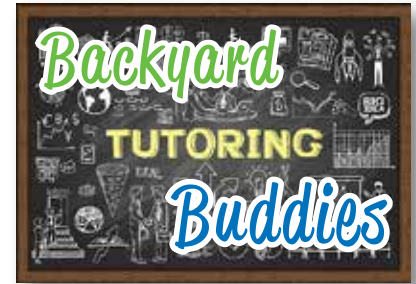
Also, please check out what may be available in the Resource Room before purchasing items. You may find what you need—or what could be used! *Thank you!*

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Tutors met Tuesday, August 19 to prepare for another year of tutoring and supporting our children. It was great to be together again and welcome new tutor, Ron Mills! We also had a no-cost “school store” in Rawl parlor from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. for our tutoring kids to come by and shop for what they need. It’s beginning to look a lot like SCHOOL TIME! Tutoring begins September 8 and 9!



Treats for Eppes and Third Street Academy Teachers and Staff!



A BIG “thank-you” goes to Dot Seay, Carol P. Brown, Lauri Johnson, Jimmie Hughes, Marty Mills, and Norma Williams who baked treats for the staff at Eppes Middle School and Third Street Academy, our partner schools, as they prepare to start back to school Monday, August 25.

The Village Update



If anyone has a **cushioned lap desk** they are not using, we’d love to share some of these with our friends at The Village. Contact Alicia if you can help! We’re planning to be back at The Village for Bible study and relationship building with moms and children next week.



Walmart Fridays

Thankful for our drivers who keep “Walmart Fridays,” our weekly shopping ministry for ECU’s international students, going. The summer has been a slow season for riders. We’ll be seeing if the fall picks up! Thanks for blessing our international neighbors at ECU!

Tuesday Meals Ministry



Tuesday Night Meals

Our last day for cooking this month is August 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!



Clothes Closet

Normally open the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (no fifth Tuesdays), this ministry serves our neighbors in need.

Our next open day is September 2—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!

NC LINKS



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

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.



Spiritual Formation at OBC

Prayer Team at Oakmont



Oakmont, you have a prayer team that wants to pray for the issues in your life that challenge you! We have set up four prayer boxes around the church; two at the back of the sanctuary, one in Grand Central, and one in the back hallway near the choir suite. There is no issue too small; it would be our honor to support each of you this way. Please put us to work!

Care Team Update



The CARE (Connecting, Appreciating, Responding, Engaging) Team provides a ministry of love and support to some of our members who are not able to attend worship and other church activities on a regular basis. The team makes visits, phone calls, and remembers birthdays, just to name a few things. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Lynne James at lynnej@suddenlink.net or Kimberly Williamson at kfwilliamson@suddenlink.net.

Join us on Sunday mornings!

IN-PERSON WORSHIP
this Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

LIVE-STREAM WORSHIP
at 10:45 a.m.

WATCH US ON CABLE CHANNEL 7
at 12:15 p.m.



Watch our worship services online!

You're invited to subscribe to Oakmont's YouTube channel to watch our worship services online! Access it via YouTube by typing in the channel's name: "Oakmont BC Greenville NC." You can also access it by clicking [here](#) or on the YouTube logo above.



Join us for live-stream using the QR code above!



Small Group Connections AT OAKMONT



Life Lessons Bible Studies

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Sharron Edwards

Location: Room 607

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Cal Hayslip

Location: Room 606

Nurturing Faith Bible Study

Co-ed Small Group for adults in 40s–50s who may have children in middle and/or high school

Teacher: Mac Williamson

Location: Room 501

Young Adults

Co-ed small group for young adults, 30s–40s, who may have children

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 502

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Potter's Clay

Co-ed ongoing class for middle/older adults

Co-teachers: Tim Britton, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston

Location: Room 300

College/Young Adult Class

A class for college-age coeds

Teacher: Michele Mazey

Location: Room 506

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Disciples

Co-ed ongoing class for older adults

Co-teachers: Dot Seay, Doug Strickland, & 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 1:20-23. After God created the earth, sky, land, and seas, God did not stop there. God made those things for a special purpose. God made birds to fly high in the sky, and animals to live on the land and swim in the sea. From the very beginning, God made the oceans, sky, and land to be a home for living creatures. God is the Author and Creator of life. Everything God made was to care for and provide for God's creation.

Isn't that truly incredible? All month we have talked about the amazing beauty of the earth. We have talked about the vastness of the sky and the oceans. We have talked about the diversity and beauty of the land. And all along, God knew that these places would be home to all kinds of different animals. God could have given the animals a basic place to live, but instead, God made their homes beautiful. He gave the animals

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

everything they would need to live, and more. Imagine, if God loves the animals of this earth that much, just think about how much more God loves you!

So, the next time you see a bird flying high in the sky, or you see a bee resting on a flower, remember how God created them to give life to the earth. Whenever you watch a fish swim effortlessly through the water, or a deer run through the woods, remember how God created them to live in the beautiful world that God has made.

God created our beautiful planet with the intent that it would not just support life but that it would be a place where life would thrive! We have an amazing and thoughtful God who loves this earth, who loves its animals, and most importantly...who loves you! Thank you, God!

—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

— Youth Calendar —

SEPTEMBER

3 | Wednesday Evening Activities Begin

7 | Sunday Evening Activities Begin

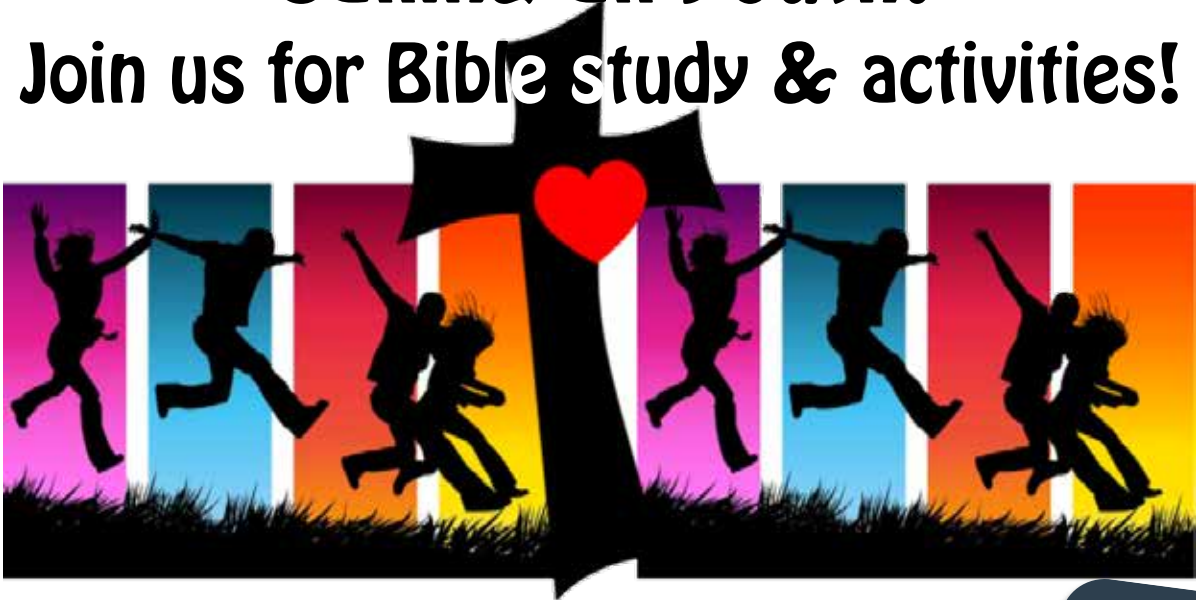
The youth group will meet on a regular weekly basis,
every Sunday and Wednesday night, unless otherwise posted.

ON SUNDAY EVENINGS, the youth will arrive at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m., and small group bible study will begin at 6:30. Youth can be picked up by 7:30 p.m. each Sunday.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT Bible study is from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. each week.

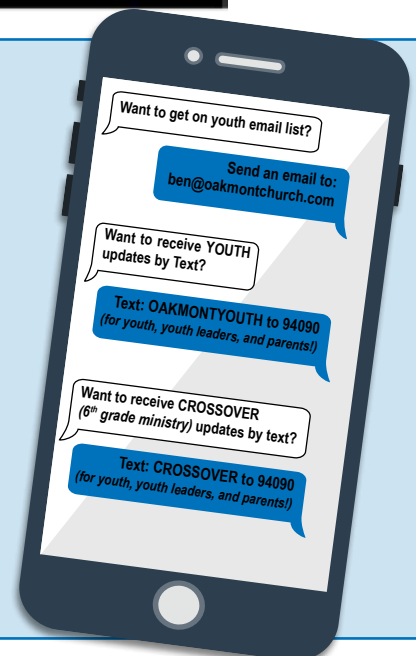
Calling all youth!

Join us for Bible study & activities!



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, August 24

9:40 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School

10:45 a.m.
In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:15 p.m.
Worship on Cable Channel 7

4:00 p.m.
Deacons Meeting

Monday, August 25

6:30 p.m.
Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, August 26

10:00 a.m.
Oakmont Handcrafters Group

11:15 a.m.
Senior Adult Lunch Bunch
Chili's

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

Saturday, August 30

5:00 p.m.
ECU International
Students Welcome Dinner

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



August 17, 2025

FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week) \$20,134
(\$6,398 Online, \$13,736 Mail)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$57,463.50

Receipts 2025 (Year-to-Date) \$686,701.47

Receipts 2024 (Year-to-Date) \$611,836.76

Communion Offering (This Week) \$1,200

Communion Offering (MTD)..... \$2,865

Building Fund (This Week) \$292

Building Fund (Month-to-Date) 392

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$3,354.50

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Dr. Laurie Cosby

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Cosby

OBSERVANCE OF BAPTISM

Emery McGee

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"This Is Amazing Grace"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

James Early

OFFERTORY

"Blessed Be the Name"
Brass Quartet

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

ANTHEM

"Christus Victor"
Chancel Choir with orchestra

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 12:18-19

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Approaching God With Boldness and Awe"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SONG OF RESPONSE

"My Jesus I Love Thee"

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

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
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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.

