

August 9, 2026

E-Connections

News from Oakmont Baptist Church

A Word from Our Pastor

Our Church Office will be closed on Wednesday, August 12, and Thursday, August 13, due to construction work.

It's great news that we're closing the office this Wednesday and Thursday because it means work on our new Youth Room is progressing! Part of the work involves running a sewage line from the new bathrooms to our existing out-take line . . . which is located underneath the main hallway outside the church office. The building crew will have to tear through the floor in the office work room and also tear up a section of the hallway to make the connection. It will be a very noisy and very dusty process, making for a very unpleasant office work environment! Therefore, we'll close the office while this work is being done. Wayne Taylor and Jimmy Weaver will be on site, our pastors will be either on site or working remotely, and Lauri Johnson and Nicole Davis will also be working remotely.

If you need to visit or call the church office next week, please do so Monday or Tuesday. Hopefully the work will be completed by Thursday and we can resume normal office hours (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM) on Friday.

I'm thankful for our congregation's flexibility and patience throughout this whole journey. We had a late start due to permit questions, recent rain has slowed things down (we're grateful for the rain!), and yet things are still moving along well. The foundation is in place and we'll soon see the infrastructure of the new room rising; what a gift, what a joy, what

a wonderful opportunity God has given us to bless our young people for generations to come.

This Sunday we end this summer's sermon series during which I've preached from Romans 5-7 and then most of Romans 8. I had already preached from Romans 8:31-39 earlier in the spring so I'll end the series with verse 30, but will make references to the rest of the chapter. Romans 8 is one of the most influential chapters in all of Paul's writings, so rich in Paul's deep reflection on the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, so full of Trinitarian references and so beautiful in testifying to the Holy Spirit's work.

Romans 8:28 has given comfort so often to so many, telling us that God takes all the things that happen to us and works them together for good. That doesn't mean God causes bad things to happen for a larger purpose; it means the Holy Spirit takes the bad and the good and uses it for the larger purpose of conforming us to the image of Jesus (v29). I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us as we explore these verses together on Sunday.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





OBC Updates



August 9

Romans 8:28-30
Eric Porterfield preaching

August 16

John 15:1-11
Alicia Porterfield preaching

Treats for Eppes Middle School Staff



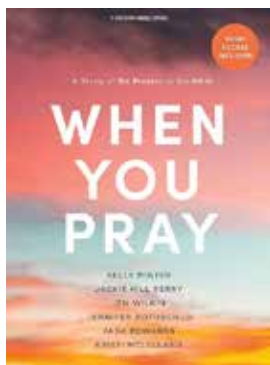
The first Pitt County Schools workday is Friday, August 14, and the first day of classes is August 24. Let's help welcome back the staff and offer support by "stocking the staff room" with fruit cups, granola and protein bars, packs of nuts/trail mix, pudding cups, packs of crackers, individual bags of pretzels, chips, popcorn, or other individually wrapped treats. A box will be in the narthex and one by the office marked "SNACKS FOR EPPES STAFF." The deadline is Tuesday, August 18.

Dining Divas: A Social Group for Widows



We meet on the first Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. and have lunch at a local restaurant. Come and enjoy the friendships of Christian sisters! If you're interested in attending/joining this group, please contact Sue Curll at (252) 321-0214 or sue.v.curll@gmail.com.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study: Fall Edition



Wednesday Women's Bible Study: Fall Edition begins September 9 at 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Together, we will study six different prayers in scripture guided by the book *When You Pray*. Each chapter of this seven-session study is written by a different Bible teacher and covers prayers from the Old Testament, Gospels, and Epistles. Not only will we explore scriptural prayers, but we will also work on deepening and expanding our own prayer lives. Please contact [Alicia](#) if you'd like to reserve a book (\$20 each; scholarships available), or you can order yours [here](#) (just FYI, the price of the book has fluctuated recently). Can't wait to be together again and be shaped by God through the gift of prayer!

Music Ministry Memos



WANTED: TECH Operators for the TECH Team Ministry

We will be hosting an operator training event soon that will offer advanced training for current operators and beginning training for new operators on all four positions for in-house and broadcast audio media. If you would be interested in serving on the TECH TEAM as a new member, contact Laurie Cosby at: laurie@oakmontchurch.com.

Church Directory Photos October 1–3



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



Oakmont's Social Media

Our social media presence has increased! Visit our [facebook page](#) to view postings about church happenings, including videos! And now we have an [Instagram](#) page! The purpose of these posts is to share with one another and others in the community how God is working at Oakmont. Therefore, we'd love for you to "share" these postings as a way of informing others about the great things God is doing at Oakmont.

Online Giving



When you give through ACS online (via our website), please remember that this can ONLY be used to send the money to the "Operating Fund" (which is our regular budget). Please do not use the other two options in the drop-down menu. We welcome all other gifts for our various ministries (including—but not limited to—communion, building fund, Backpack Pals, and other special events gifts during the year) to be sent to the church either as cash, check, or through your bank. If you write a check, please use the memo line to indicate where your gift should be directed. Also, if you set up a gift through your bank's online platform, most banks have a 'memo' line or a 'note' line where special instructions may be given digitally. This will be a

great help to the church, the tellers who count the money on Mondays, and this also helps our CPA. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Lauri Johnson in the church office at 252.756.1245; or you may send an email to lauri@oakmontchurch.com.

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.

Let's Welcome Jarvis at Oakmont Preschool by Collecting Pops Tabs!



A colorful poster for Jarvis Preschool enrollment for 2026-2027. The poster features a yellow background with a purple banner at the top that reads "Jarvis Preschool ENROLLMENT". Below this, it says "2026-2027" in a green banner. The text "Jesus said, 'let the little children come to me.' Matthew 19:14" is at the top left. The location is listed as "Oakmont Baptist Church, 1100 Red Banks Rd., Greenville, NC 27858". A speech bubble says "New Location!". The poster includes a cartoon boy on a pencil, a QR code, and three circular photos of children. The words "PLAY", "LEARN", and "GROW" are in white banners. At the bottom, it says "ENROLL NOW!" and "Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!". Contact information includes "Email jarvisumcpreschool@gmail.com" and "Call 252-752-3101 or Visit jarvis.church/preschool".

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

Jarvis Preschool
ENROLLMENT

2026-2027

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

New Location!

PLAY

LEARN

GROW

ENROLL NOW!

Proudly serving families in Pitt county since 1969!

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

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Jarvis Preschool collects "pop tabs" (the tabs on aluminum soft drink cans) for the Ronald McDonald House, a charity that provides accommodations for families of out-of-town pediatric patients at major hospitals (learn more [here](#)). The charity redeems the pop tabs at aluminum centers, and those funds support the day-to-day work of the houses. What a great way for these children and their families to help other children and their families in need!

Let's help welcome the preschool and support this ministry by collecting as many pop tabs as we can by their opening day, September 9. Collection spots will be on the table in the narthex and at the church office.

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

Oakmont Prayer Garden

We have had a great response to our call for help in the Prayer Garden. However, we still need three more folks for weeding, one section each. Thanks to the following team members: Cutting grass: John Groesser, Ed Congleton, Bill Gaston, Al Holloway; Deadheading roses: Carol A. Brown; Weeding Section 1: Bobby Fussell; Section 2: Betty Langston.

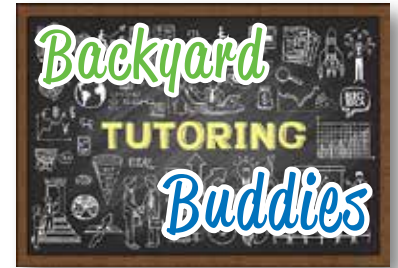
The team has done a wonderful job designing the garden, and it's beautiful. So, we want to maintain it and keep the garden in everlasting beauty. We have all the tools you'll need and it's not necessary to bring anything from home. So, please join us and help us keep the garden in great shape! Call,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

Oakmont Mission Corner



Backyard Buddies After-School Ministry

Our make-up POOL DAY got postponed AGAIN to Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. We really wanted one more chance to work on our swim lessons, water safety learning, and just plain play at the pool! Thankfully, the rain held off and we could enjoy an hour of summer learning and fun. Thanks, Coach Michele, for teaching us!



Clothes Closet



The clothes closet is now accepting donations again! IT IS LOCATED IN THE OLD YOUTH ROOM! The entrance is at the youth room double doors facing the parking lot on the Oakmont Square side of the church. This vital community ministry is open on first and third Tuesdays (no fifth Tuesdays) from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. July went by fast! Our next date is 16th.

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

The Village Update



Kayla, Chris, Gerry, and Alicia enjoyed spending time with about 10 women and four children at lunchtime on Monday. Chris led the Bible study on Matthew 7:7-11, and we discussed what it means to ask, seek, and knock. Chris had verses from all over the Bible supporting these ways of encountering with God, and it was so good to see how the women who were more familiar with the Bible helped other

others who were less familiar by supplying page numbers and reading aloud.

The woman who sat next to Alicia said she'd never look things up in the Bible—ever. So Chris offered us not only a great lesson about how receptive God is to our asking, seeking, and knocking, and but also gave the women a sense of engagement and agency with their Bibles. We pray they will begin to realize that this is their story, too—a story of how much God loves them and all the world. Thanks, Chris!

Our plan is to be back at The Village in about two weeks. Please pray that more of the women will stay in the program for continued support even after their 60- or 90-day assigned time by the courts is over. Sadly, that's not nearly long enough for the women to begin to do the serious work of healing and recovery. Please join us in praying that the moms who are there will begin to understand and fully accept the support and time the program offers as they seek to start anew.

LINKS



During the school year, LINKS meets on second Tuesdays from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Diane Myers leads this ministry of hospitality with help from Sharron Edwards and Nicole Davis. Our LINKS friends will be back with us on Tuesday, August 11 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Please join us in praying for these teens as they take the next right step in their lives. Several of them are nearing the age that will wrap up their time in this program.

ESL Classes



At last week's final "Pizza, Play, and Practice" for our Backyard Buddies and ESL kiddos, four of ESL buddies and three moms joined us! Our dear Zuleima worked with the youngest child, who will be entering pre-k, Mrs. Helen worked with our rising first grader, and Mrs. Bethany worked with two of our third rising graders. English is a challenging language to learn, and these learners and their moms are really working hard on their speaking and writing skills. We thank God for these relationships and the gifts our new friends bring to us!

Walmart Fridays–Drawing to a Close



For ECU summer classes, our Walmart Fridays drivers will move to an every-other-Friday schedule, with drivers on standby for urgent needs. Our final trip is August 7 with Joe Mitchell, one of the faithful servant-leaders of this ministry for years. Thank you, Joe!

After lots of prayer and conversation, we have decided to make this summer the closing season for this ministry. The good news is that ECU now has an on-demand shuttle that students can call upon to take them anywhere they need to go within a certain radius from campus! This Walmart Fridays ministry began at Immanuel Baptist and has served a great need for many years when students without transportation had few ways to get to the grocery store. We thank God for the many people who have supported our International friends at ECU in this very practical way. Special thanks to the drivers who stepped up as this ministry came to Oakmont. We are grateful!

Young Lives



This ministry of Young Life supports teen moms and their children and meets in our Fellowship Hall the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Lillie Moore from Young Lives and Bethany Bradsher lead this ministry for moms and their children. They are taking a break for July and August and will be back in September!

*Tuesday
Meals Ministry*



Tuesday Night Meals

These meals go out to our homebound Oakmonters as well as those who are dealing with illness, grief, or other difficult circumstances. Our remaining August dates are the 11th, 18th, and 25th. Special thanks to the cooks, packers, and delivery folks that make this ministry work!



Spiritual Formation at OBC

Prayer Team at Oakmont



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

Care Team Update



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

Join us on Sunday mornings!

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

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

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



Watch our worship services online!

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



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



Small Group Connections AT OAKMONT



Life Lessons Bible Studies

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Sharron Edwards

Location: Room 311

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Co-ed Small Group

Teacher: Cal Hayslip

Location: Room 606

Nurturing Faith Bible Study

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

Teacher: Mac Williamson

Location: Room 501

The Journey Class

Co-ed small group for adults ages 30s–50s who may have school-aged children

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 502

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Potter's Clay

Co-ed ongoing class for middle/older adults

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

Location: Room 300

College/Young Adult Class

A class for college-age coeds

Teacher: Michele Mazey

Location: Room 506

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Disciples

Co-ed ongoing class for older adults

Co-teachers: Dot Seay, Fred Daniel, Wayne Taylor, and Pat Dunn

Location: Fellowship Hall

***Connections Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Messengers

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Teacher: Carol Foor

Location: Room 307

***Formations Adult Bible Study**

(Smyth and Helwys)

Pathfinders

Co-ed ongoing class for senior adults

Co-teachers: Tom Durham, Gerry Jolly

Location: Room 609

Koinonia

An ongoing class for women who are single, divorced, widowed, or women who do not attend a class with their husbands.

During the summer, this small group chooses a contemporary book on a relevant subject, often written by a female author, to study together.

Teacher: Bridgette Williamson

Location: Room 610 (and off-campus on occasion)

Children's Connection



FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, WE WILL BE LEARNING ABOUT GOD'S WONDERFUL CREATION. FROM THE CREATION OF THE EARTH TO THE PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND US...OUR CHILDREN WILL LEARN THAT EVERYTHING THAT GOD MADE WAS GOOD AND WONDERFUL. AS OUR CHILDREN LEARN TO MARVEL AT CREATION, WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE ALSO PART OF THAT AMAZING

CREATION. WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO GOD AND THAT GOD MADE THEM TO BE WONDERFUL! SO LET US BE FILLED WITH WONDER AND JOY THIS MONTH AS WE LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE WONDERFULLY MADE BY GOD!

Our story for this week comes to us from Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139:13-14. Last week we talked about how God is the Creator of ALL things. The earth, the stars, the animals, the plants, and you! God is an amazing Creator who gave creation a purpose for being made. This week, our passages talk about how God not only made humans, but how God intimately and beautifully made humans in God's own image. To be made in God's image means to be made to reflect God's character, and to serve as God's representatives on earth. No one form of creation was made in God's image except for humans. You, me, every person that you see around you was made in God's image. As humans, God put us together with God's very own hands. We were each uniquely made with and given an incredible purpose for our lives.

The Bible tells us that we are "wonderfully made." When you hear that, what do you think it means? To be "wonderfully made" by God means that God created human life with incredible care and amazing design. God did not just randomly throw us together. God took time to make us exactly the way that we are. Isn't

"Wonderfully made" | Click [HERE](#).

Continued on next page...

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

August Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: MADE BY GOD – GOD MADE ME WONDERFUL

Young children are little artists. They experience so much joy when they create something and love to say, "Look at what I made!" But we want our children to know that THEY are made by God and that they are important to God. So this month, our focus with the children is helping them see that God made them wonderful. Through our lessons this month, we will help them experience awe and wonder as they see themselves as a part of God's creation. When they marvel at what they can do and create, we hope that they remember this month's memory verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful (Psalm 139:14 NIV). God made them amazing and wonderful. Let us pray that our children will not only learn, but proudly and joyfully declare: God made me wonderful!

August Memory Verse

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful." – Psalm 139:14, NIV

Continued from previous page

that incredible...whenever you look in the mirror, you are seeing someone that was wonderfully made by an incredible God!

So, even though no two humans look the same, that does not mean that any one person is better than another. Instead, the diversity in creation points to a God with an amazing imagination. Every person on earth was given different talents and skills by God to be used for incredible things. So the next time you see someone who is different from you, instead of focusing on those differences as being something that separates you from someone else, imagine how our differences point back to a creative and incredible God.

This week, I want you to think more about what it means that you were wonderfully made by God. When you see the world around you it is easy to tell that it is full of beautiful and incredible things. Things that could have only been made by an incredible God. Now, after you look at those things, I want you to remember that God took even more care when God created humans. You, your family, your friends, your neighbors, and the strangers that you pass on the street...were made wonderfully by God. That is truly something to be amazed about!

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

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



First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade August Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

AUGUST THEME: MASTERPIECE – Made by God

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

For the month of August, we will be diving in and exploring the incredible truth that each one of us is a Masterpiece: Made by God – in God's very own image! Throughout the month, students will discover that they are created for a purpose, that God can use everything in our lives, that every single person is of value because they are made in God's image, and that God has gifted us to work together to grow God's kingdom.

— Weekly Bottom Lines for August —

August 2

I am made in the image of God.

August 16

God can use all things.

August 9

God made me for a purpose.

August 23

Jesus values everyone.

August 30

God grows God's gifts in me to build God's kingdom.

August Memory Verse

*"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that.
What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."*

— Psalm 139:14 NIV



Children's Ministry Text Group

For any parents of children who would like to be added to the Children's Ministry text alerts, please text "oakmontkids" (no quotation marks needed) to 833-744-0524. *Stay informed!*

— This Week's Events —

Sunday, August 9

9:40 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School

10:45 a.m.

In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:15 p.m.

Worship on Cable
Channel 7

1:00 p.m.

Korean Church Service & Lunch
Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 10

6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, August 11

10:00 a.m.

Oakmont Handcrafters Group

12:00 p.m.

LINKS Meeting
Fellowship Hall

1:00 p.m.

Homebound Meal
Preparation & Delivery

Wednesday & Thursday August 12 & 13

Church Office Closed
for Youth Room Construction

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



August 2, 2026

FAITHFULNESS

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

Receipts (This Week)	\$32,317.47	Communion Offering (July This Week)	\$25
(\$2,152 Online Jul 27 - 31, \$9,200 Aug Online		Communion Offering (Aug. This Week)	\$840
\$20,965.47 Mail)		Communion Offering (July MTD)	\$1,910
Receipts (July MTD)	\$107,029.18	Communion Offering (Aug. MTD)	\$840
Receipts (Aug. MTD)	\$30,165.47	Building Fund (July This Week)	\$62
		Building Fund (Aug. This Week)	\$60
Receipts 2026 (YTD)	\$692,120.32	Building Fund (July MTD)	\$2,036
Receipts 2025 (YTD)	\$645,133.47	Building Fund (Aug. MTD)	\$60
		Building Fund (YTD)	\$15,122

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Laurie Cosby

HYMN

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"Always"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Rev. Alicia Porterfield

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME – YOUTH TESTIMONIES

Rev. Ben Gurganus

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:28-30

Rev. Eric Porterfield

SERMON

"Conformed to the Image of Jesus"

Rev. Eric Porterfield

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"
Alisa and Jim Gilliam, piano duet

HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Ben Gurganus

BENEDICTION

Rev. Eric Porterfield

All People of Oakmont Baptist Church Are Ministers *and serve alongside*

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
eric@oakmontchurch.com

Dr. Laurie Cosby
Minister of Music
laurielee@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Ben Gurganus
Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education
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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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Mrs. Nicole Davis
Educational Ministries Secretary
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Mrs. Caroline Bissette
Technical Assistant
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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
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

