

E-Connections

News from **Oakmont Baptist Church**

A Word from Our Pastor

She was a graduate student at Marshall University who arrived in West Virginia on a cold January night after a long flight from her native Kenya. One of the first things she did was find a church home; we had the privilege of ministering to and with her over several years, and of learning from her. I especially loved tales of her home church. It was a normal part of her church's rhythm to spend an entire night together in prayer! These all-night prayer vigils were especially emphasized in moments of discernment for the church.

Don't worry, I'm not suggesting a similar all-night prayer pattern for us as we discern God's new Oakmont idea! But our friend and her home church point us to a crucial element of discernment: an ongoing rhythm of intentional prayer and listening to God.

Paul points to a daily rhythm in Romans 12:2 when he says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect." The first half of the verse indicates a daily pursuit, not a one-time thing. Resisting being conformed to the world never ends in this life, and renewal/transformation will not be complete until we're with Jesus. So, each day we rely on the Spirit to resist being conformed to the world and we open ourselves to the Spirit's transforming, renewing work.

We do this daily work for many reasons, one of which is "so that" we may discern God's will. Which means a crucial component of our congregational

discernment journey involves all of us giving renewed and increased attention to our own walk with God. The more our minds are renewed as individuals, the deeper our capacity for discernment as a congregation.

We meet September 17 at 4:00 to identify specific areas in the life of our church where intentional discernment is needed. Facilities usage, mission opportunities, ministry to children and young families and young adults are some areas that have come to my mind. Others may emerge in our conversation. The vision steering team from our Deacons will listen and prayerfully review what's discussed on the 17th, report back to the church the areas for discernment that emerge, and then form teams of interested church members to practice discernment in each of the areas.

Our Kenyan friend saw her own walk with Jesus as inseparable from her church's walk with Jesus. She embraced the truth of the passage we will look at this Sunday: "we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Rom 12:5). She knew that her prayers with her sisters and brothers were essential to the church's discernment journey. May it be so for us, as we discern God's will together.

Grace and peace,
Eric Porterfield





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 607

Young Adults

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

Teacher: Lauren McGee

Location: Room 607

***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 Sunday School 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, Bill Little, Dot Seay,

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)

Book Studies

This class is not meeting during the summer.

Readers Group

Co-ed ongoing class for people who like to read and study books.

Teacher: Vickie Coleman

Location: Room 311



2023 Deacon Elections

The ballots have been mailed to our church members, and we invite you to prayerfully discern the church members you believe God might be calling to serve as deacons. Ballots must be mailed or turned into the church office by noon on Sunday, September 10. A deacon team will tabulate the results, contact the selectees, and ask them to prayerfully consider serving. The new deacons will be announced on Sunday, September 17, and deacon ordination/installation will take place during the worship service on September 24.

This Week's Events

Sunday, September 3

9:40 a.m.

Bible Study/Sunday School

NO Sunday School
for Preschool and Children

10:45 a.m.

In-Person & Live-Stream Worship

12:15 p.m.

Worship on Cable Channel 7

Monday, September 4

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Labor Day

6:30 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday, September 5

10:00 a.m

Knitting Group
(Room 307)

3:00 p.m.

Clothes Closet

Wednesday, September 6

6:30 p.m

Orchestra Rehearsal

Our Record of Our
FINANCIAL
Sunday



August 27, 2023
FAITHFULNESS

2023 MISSIONS AND MINISTRY SPENDING PLAN: \$1,249,992

Receipts (This Week).....\$16,252.00
(*\$1,045 Online : \$15,207 Mail*)

Receipts (Month-to-Date) \$75,607.43

Receipts 2023 (Year-to-Date) \$682,711.29

Receipts 2022 (Year-to-Date) \$674,669.74

Communion Offering (This Week) \$40

Communion Offering (Month-to-Date) \$1,430

Building Fund (This Week).....\$307

Building Fund (Month-to-Date).....\$627

Building Fund (Year-to-Date) \$3,741.50

NCMB/WMUNC (This Week) \$30

NCMB/WMUNC (Year-to-Date) \$55



When you leave something in the brass box under the carport, please label it so that we know where it should go. If it is for someone, please notify them that the item is here for them to pick up. This will help alleviate much confusion. Thank you.



Rev. Alicia Porterfield Called as Minister of Missions!

Following the worship service on August 20, Personnel Chair Joe Edwards announced the calling of the Rev. Alicia Davis Porterfield to serve as our Minister of Missions. Alicia was the Associate Pastor at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church of Huntington, WV, for six and a half years. Her duties included leading the church's partnerships with a local elementary school, a food/clothing distribution ministry, and a residential facility for men struggling with addiction. She also organized the church's annual mission days, similar to Oakmont's Operation In-As-Much events. In addition

to her ministry in Huntington, Alicia has served as a hospital chaplain, an interim pastor, and continues to write Sunday School literature for Smyth and Helwys.

In late spring a church member recommended Alicia to the Personnel Committee. The committee interviewed Alicia and unanimously recommended her for the position to our deacons. Before meeting with the deacons, Alicia met with our Missions Team and they endorsed Personnel's recommendation. At their meeting on August 6, the deacons unanimously approved Personnel's recommendation. Because this is a part-time position, it does not require a church vote. Because Alicia is ordained, her title will be Minister of Missions.

Alicia begins her service with Oakmont on Tuesday, September 5. *Welcome, Alicia!*

Discernment Journey Begins!

We gather on Sunday afternoon, September 17 at 4:00 p.m. to begin our discernment journey toward God's vision for our future! Join us as we ask the Spirit to help us identify specific areas in our ministry where vision discernment is needed.

September 3

"The Path of Discernment: Using Our Gifts,"
Romans 12:3-8

September 10

"The Path of Discernment: Practicing Genuine Love,"
Romans 12:9-10

September 17

"The Path of Discernment: Energy, Patience, Perseverance, Hospitality, and Generosity," *Romans 12:11-13*



Welcome House

Welcome House Ministry Begins!

We're excited to enter the Welcome House ministry network of CBFNC, which helps refugee families get established in our state. The families are approved by the State Department, sponsored by a refugee organization, and the churches provide temporary housing and lots of love.

Be on the lookout for a SignUpGenius to be released soon for donations to help us furnish the Oakmont Square apartment that refugee families will be living in for up to 90 days. If you are interested in being on the Hospitality Team that works with families by getting to know them well and connecting with them regularly, please contact Pam Strickland (Missions Team Chair) or Eric Porterfield.

Children's Connection



DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUNG CHILDREN MAKE AN AVERAGE OF 3,500 CHOICES...EVERY SINGLE DAY! THE NUMBER OF CHOICES THAT THEY MAKE WILL ONLY INCREASE AS THEY GET OLDER. AS OUR CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SMART CHOICES FOR THEIR LIVES, WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT THEY CAN TRUST GOD IN THEIR DE-

CISION-MAKING PROCESS. THAT IS WHY, FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, WE WILL BE TEACHING OUR CHILDREN BIBLE STORIES THAT REMIND THEM THAT WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING BETWEEN “THIS OR THAT”, THEY CAN TRUST THAT GOD KNOWS WHAT’S BEST FOR THEM.

This week's Bible story comes to us from Genesis 1:31, 2:8-3:24. You may remember that last month we learned all about Creation, and how God created the earth. At the end of the creation story, we learn about two people named Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve lived in the garden of Eden, and they were allowed to eat from any plant in the garden, except for one. God told them not to eat from that plant because God knew

Continued on next page...

“Creation” Children's Video: Click [HERE](#).

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

SEPTEMBER THEME: This or That

An adult makes about 35,000 choices every single day, but adults are not the only ones with choices to make. Children have their fair share of choices too- about 3,500 of them. Every. Single. Day. Should I eat this snack or that snack? Should I play with this toy or that toy? Should I do this and share or do that and keep it all for myself? Because our children's 3,500 daily choices will one day turn into 35,000 daily choices, we want to teach them that when they have a choice between This or That, they can trust that God knows what's best for them.

September Memory Verse & Bottom Line

God...knows everything.”—1 John 3:20, NIV

Who knows what's best for you? God knows what's best for me.

Continued from previous page.

that it was not good for them. However, one day Adam and Eve did not listen to God, and they ate from the plant that God told them not to. As a result, God got mad at Adam and Eve, and they had to leave the garden of Eden. God was upset with them because God knew the plant was not good for them. God knew that the choice that Adam and Eve made was not going to be helpful for their lives. God knew what was best for Adam and Eve and God was trying to protect them from getting hurt.

There may have been times in your own life where your parents or grandparents, or teachers, or some other adult has told you not to do something because they knew what was best for you. But maybe you chose not to listen to them and as a result something bad might have happened. Your parents and other adults care for you and want to make sure that you are making choices that will keep you safe and happy. Sometimes you just have to trust what they say and remember that they know best and are looking out for you.

The same is true with God. Sometimes God might tell us not to do something, even if we really want to do it! We just have to learn to trust that God knows what's best for our lives and to make choices that honor God. This week, as you are making different choices, remember to listen to your parents and to listen to God, because they love you and only want what's best for you!

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

First – Sixth Grade

1st–6th Grade September Bible Study Lessons

(Bible story video & resources emailed out each Friday)

SEPTEMBER THEME

Together Is Better

God created us for relationships. From the very beginning of the Bible, we see how important it is to have wise people in our lives who help us understand how to honor God with our actions. When God sent Jesus, we were able to see the best example of friendship ever. Jesus showed us how much He loves us as he laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, Jesus showed friendship to everyone He met. We can reflect Jesus' love best when we take time to care for our friends.

Weekly Bottom Lines for September

September 3

Choose your friends carefully

September 10

Friends keep their promises

September 17

Friends stand up for one another

September 24

Friends forgive one another

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RETURN

Wednesday Night Activities Begin September 13!

Join us on Wednesday evening, September 13th, as Bible studies/activities for children, youth, adults return for the fall semester. Children, youth, and adult activities begin at 6:00, with the exception of the women's Bible study, which

begins at 5:45. We have three study options for adults:

For well over a decade, OBC women have drawn closer to God and one another through a special women's Bible study. This fall, Dot Seay and Rev. Alicia Porterfield will co-lead an interactive study using Jennifer Cowart's "Fierce." Together we will learn how God used eight biblical women to impact our world and even change history.

Prior to the pandemic, OBC men also regularly held a men's spiritual formation group on Wednesday nights. A men's group will be offered this fall, with Tim Britton leading a study of Colossians and Philemon based on Rev. Eric Porterfield's book, "Sessions With Colossians and Philemon."

In addition to the women's and men's groups, Rev. Eric Porterfield will lead a large group Bible study on Colossians and Philemon.

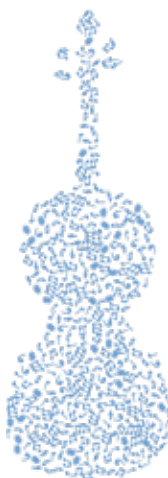
Prayer Team at Oakmont



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!*

Calling All Orchestra Members!



Our orchestra will be leading in worship on October 1 as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of our sanctuary. We will also lead in worship on October 15. If you are interested in participating, please contact Karen Meetze by August 20 (karenc-meetze@gmail.com). Rehearsals will be September 6, 13, and 27 at 6:30 PM.

Join us!

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.



Join us for live-stream here!

Mission Corner



Clothes Closet Ministry Update

Our Clothes Closet is now accepting spring and summer clothes for all ages. Children's summer clothes and Men's 4x clothing are especially needed. Robin Congleton is the new leader for the Clothes Closet ministry. Please contact Robin at rebecca.congleton55@gmail.com if you have questions or want to volunteer.

The Village Bible Study and Child Care

needs a couple of volunteers to play with children while the mothers have Bible study once or twice a month at 12:00 p.m. We meet outside when the weather is warm. Face masks are optional. Please contact Kahla Hall if you can help as your schedule allows.

Blessing Students, Blessing Fair Workers



As the school year approaches, we have opportunity to bless students at Elmhurst Elementary School by helping stock their Care Closet. Bins are located at the carport entry and in the gathering place outside the sanctuary for us to contribute travel-sized hygiene products (deodorant, baby wipes, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, soap, combs, hair brushes), children's sized underwear (boys and girls), and hangers.

We are also collecting white crew socks for the workers at September's Pitt County Fair as part of The Memorial Baptist Church's fair ministry. Let's give and let's bless! The last day to donate items for Elmhurst School was August 27. The last day to donate socks for the Fair Ministry is THIS Sunday, September 3.

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.

The Worship of God at Oakmont

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

WELCOME

Karen Meetze

HYMN

"The Family of God/The Bond of Love"

PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYER

Rev. Eric Porterfield

HYMN

"We All Are One in Mission"

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

Lynne James

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Rev. Gurganus

ANTHEM

"Many Gifts, One Spirit"
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:3–8

Rev. Porterfield

SERMON

"The Path to Discernment: Using Our Gifts"

Rev. Porterfield

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

HYMN

"The Servant Song"

SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

LIFE AT OAKMONT

Rev. Gurganus

BENEDICTION

Rev. Porterfield

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

Rev. Eric Porterfield
Senior Pastor
eric@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Ben Gurganus
*Associate Pastor for Youth
& Christian Education*
ben@oakmontchurch.com

Rev. Alicia Porterfield
Minister of Missions
alicia@oakmontchurch.com

Ms. Lauri Johnson
Pastoral/Music Ministry Secretary
lauri@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Sally Pride
Educational Ministries Secretary
sally@oakmontchurch.com

Mr. Wayne Taylor
Facility Manager
wayne@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Amy Cook
Communications Specialist
amycook@oakmontchurch.com

Mrs. Caroline Bissette
Technical Assistant

Mr. David Horvath
Mr. Jack Morse
Mr. Jimmy Weaver
Mr. Phillip Williamson
Sextons

Worship & Music Leadership

Mrs. Alisa Gilliam
Pianist

Mr. Jim Gilliam
Music Assistant

Mr. Philip Jackson
Worship Leader

Mrs. Karen Meetze
Worship Leader



1100 Red Banks Road | Greenville, NC 27858 | 252.756.1245 | oakmontchurch.com
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

