



A Note from Pastor Debbie

Dear friends,

I wanted to share an update of where we are in the transitional process.

We had an excellent response to our June 4 congregational lunch and Holy Cow Survey presentation. After that presentation the Mission Study Team scheduled two listening/conversation sessions as follow-up. Together, again, we had excellent participation and gleaned some terrific suggestions as we move forward and begin to put the information which the Holy Cow Survey lifted up into practice. I am meeting with the Mission Study Team Thursday, July 13 at 7 pm to review the results of the presentation and the listening/conversation sessions.

As a recap: The Holy Cow Survey reflected what the Oakland congregation says about yourselves. Approximately 150 persons were invited to participate in the survey of which we received 86 respondents. 48% of the respondents were over 65 years of age and have attended Oakland for 20 or more years. 70% of you live within 5 miles of the church. These are the goals for ministry which you identified in order of priority:

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.

Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth.

Strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in times of need.

The leaders of the church show a genuine concern to know what people are thinking when decisions need to be made.

Change or improve the music of the church to deepen our worship experience.

These goals reflect a need to be adaptable to change, improve the communication between the leadership and the congregation, improve our hospitality and outreach ministries, and improve our music in worship. The Mission Study Team (Rudy Baker, Jennifer Wells, Leslie Myers, Steve Pingle, Ben Swift, Sharon Arends, Melinda Garvin, and myself) will discuss and suggest to the Session at their August Session meeting how we might "connect the dots" between what the survey said and the work of our Ministry Teams. Stay tuned!!

Some of you are asking what now? The first task is for our Ministry Teams to begin to put into practice the goals for ministry you have identified. Our Mission Study Team and the Session will help to facilitate this. Kitty Nappen is our Clerk of Session and she will be writing a monthly (if not more often) Session Notes to keep you informed.

Continued on page 4

Oakland Presbyterian Women

The summer is over, and it has been a busy one for many. Not only busy with family vacations, but up-keep of our yards. I, like many of you, am so looking forward to the Fall in hopes that it cools down some in the next weeks. My small shrubs and flowers could use a break from the heat.

Our Circle of Presbyterian women will dive into the new Presbyterian Bible Study, titled, "Sacred Encounters, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts." Olive Mahabir writes this Study. It has nine chapters and invites you to consider Jesus, "the good shepherd" (Luke 10:15), who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

We will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 3 to 4 pm. This will begin in August or September depending on when the books arrive. Watch for the announcement in the Oakland Weekly email.

Other news is that we are looking for women to fill the vacant positions of the council. If you would be interested in helping the women of Oakland grow, please feel free to contact me via phone or email to see how you can help. My contact information can be found in the new Oakland Directory.

May God Bless and Keep you,

Linda Pingel

Moderator of Presbyterian Women

August Anniversaries

Keith & Sue Braswell	8/3
<i>Celebrating 57 years</i>	
Matthew & Sarah Duncan	8/4
<i>Celebrating 11 years</i>	
Michael & Melissa Barefoot	8/6
<i>Celebrating 12 years</i>	
Merle & Charlotte McNutt	8/6
<i>Celebrating 63 years</i>	
Earl & Amy Corbett	8/16
<i>Celebrating 17 years</i>	
Billy & Tammy Barefoot	8/17
<i>Celebrating 27 years</i>	
Stenson & Elaine Lee	8/29
<i>Celebrating 25 years</i>	



September Anniversaries

Rob & Beth Braswell	9/10
<i>Celebrating 29 years</i>	
Ben & Kate Swift	9/16
<i>Celebrating 17 years</i>	
Biff & Angie Partin	9/17
<i>Celebrating 35 years</i>	
T.J. & Hillary Beach	9/26
<i>Celebrating 8 years</i>	
Wayne & Kim Baker	9/29
<i>Celebrating 29 years</i>	

PRAYER REQUESTS

Bonnie Adams	Ron Hockaday
Stuart Anderson	Kelly Dunn Johnson
Pat and Larry Barbour	Ann Lee
Billy Barefoot	Mary Lee
Karl Barbee	Linda Mahar
Rob Braswell	Ken McGee
Eric Brown	Clara Santanta
Norma Blackmon	Keith Sorrell
Karen Caruso	Shirley Watkins
Phyllis Collins	Rudolph and Elgie Wells
Debbie Dockery	Paulette Woodard
Megan Doxie & Family	Mindy Wood
Dalton Family	Danny Wood
Joyce English	Kris Wilson
Audrey Ennis	Lindsey Wilson
Bob Foor	Bill Yelvington
Benjamin Geary	
Candice Green	
Dawson Hammer	



Financial Update

May

Expense - \$19,511

Revenues - \$17,754

Difference - (-\$1,757)

June

Expenses - \$19,538

Revenues - \$15,758

Difference - (-\$3,804)

YTD Expenses vs Revenue (-\$24,399)



August Birthdays

Andria Sears	8/1
David Bjorling	8/4
Cole Doerner	8/4
Cody Jolly-Bradford	8/4
Angela Pleasants	8/4
Jimmy Benson	8/5
Daren Dunavan	8/5
Samantha Dietrich	8/6
Ray McGee	8/7
Alexander Kuppler	8/13
Bryan New	8/13
Adeline Watkins	8/14
Jacob Dulmaine	8/15
Katherine Graham	8/15
Edward Leonard	8/15
Jack Ruth	8/15
Alex Hamer	8/16
Chris Doerner	8/18
Avery Barbour	8/19
Drew Caldwell	8/22
Rob Braswell	8/23
Beth Braswell	8/24
Edi Broadwell	8/24

Drew Boyd	8/29
Seth Gooding	8/30
Allison Lee	8/30
Anna Lee	8/31

September Birthdays

Alexander Autry	9/1
Brenda Barefoot	9/1
Wayne Tudor	9/2
Ingrid Wright	9/2
Chad Myers	9/3
Julio Miller	9/6
Shepard Barbour	9/7
Don Wells	9/7
Spencer Corbett	9/8
Graham Therriault	9/8
Paige Kuppler	9/9
Thomas Luter	9/9
Coleen Doerner	9/10
Matthew Duncan	9/10
Jeff Thompson	9/10
Tammy Watkins	9/12
Keith Braswell	9/13
Fiona Kirk	9/15

Mark Hamer	9/18
Ava Elizabeth Lee	9/18
Linda Winslow	9/19
Holly Doerner	9/21
Pat Tabler	9/23
Daniel Broadwell	9/24
Jordan Douglas	9/24
Amber Barbour	9/25
Mike Stancil	9/26
Tom Dietrich	9/28
Kolby Jarman	9/30

Continued from page 1

The second task is to move forward with New Hope Presbytery's requirements for calling your next installed pastor. The Mission Study Team will be completing the Mission Study and ask Session to approve it at their August Session meeting. Once approved by the Session, we will send the Mission Study to New Hope Presbytery's Commission on Ministry for approval and hopefully we will receive that approval in September, which will give us the green light to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

I will meet in August with the Nominating Committee which you elected: Katie Dulmaine, Sandra Bjorling, Mark Hamer, Denton Lee, Daniel Broadwell, Leslie Meyers, Becky Stancil, Frank Taylor, and Deborah Williford. We will begin the discernment process of identifying people to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee and as Elders in the Class of 2026. When the Nominating Committee has a slate of names to present to the congregation for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee and the Class of 2026 Elders, the Session will call for a congregational meeting for you to vote on those nominations. *Note: The Nominating Committee and the Pastor Nominating Committee (or Search Committee) are two different committees which may be meeting simultaneously this fall but their tasks/responsibilities are different!

We may be in the midst of summer vacations but there is a lot happening at Oakland Presbyterian Church. As always, I am in awe of your devotion to the church, your energy and most of all, your love of Jesus Christ. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions concerning the transition and how we are moving forward in our service to Jesus Christ, here at Oakland but also in this community. I enjoy visiting so be assured your comments and suggestions are always welcome!

Blessings!
Debbie



Rise Against Hunger Service Opportunity!!

The youth are visiting the Rise Against Hunger Warehouse on Wednesday, August 16th. We were able to secure 25 spots for this event, and wanted to open this opportunity up to anyone who would like to participate! Our plan is to

meet at the church at 10:30am for a short devotion, grab lunch on the way to the warehouse in North Raleigh, do the tour and pack meals from about 12:30-3pm, and return to the church by 4:00pm. If you would like to attend this awesome service opportunity, you can register using this link <http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/opcyouth>.

Please contact sarah@oaklandpresbyterianchurch.org if you have any questions.

CHANGE

Change is something we tend to hear and become anxious about. Changes, changes, everywhere you go you hear and see changes. Interstate 40 has caused many changes. New sub-divisions have taken up much farmland. New schools are being built; there are two high schools, three middle and four elementary schools within a five-mile radius of our location. Traffic is congested due to construction and widening of the roads. Teaching, writing and mathematics have also changed.

The way people dress has also changed. When I was young, everyone wore their "Sunday clothes" to church and to town as well. Some people still do and some dress more casual and for comfort now which is alright. In 1905, Rev. Jesse Ford, pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Robeson County, NC rebuked Sally Wilson for wearing a short sleeve dress to church. He said from the pulpit they were the invention of the devil for leading men astray. Deeply offended at the time, Sally eventually forgot her anger and became Mrs. Jesse Ford.

Oakland Sunday School has changed as well. I remember when we had a short assembly in the sanctuary. The Sunday School Superintendent had a short devotion and we sang a hymn and then were dismissed to go to our classes.

Behind the pulpit was a narrow hall and on the right was a small ladies bathroom and at the end of the hall was a tiny kitchen. The men's bathroom was on the back of the building. There were classrooms divided with folding doors. I taught the Primary class and in one of them we had to keep our voices down so we would not disturb the other class next to us. There were three classrooms upstairs and the elderly class was in the back of the sanctuary. They asked me to teach them & I said I am best at teaching children, and they said that was fine that they were in their second childhood.

A tinkling bell sound was a reminder to get ready to go back to the sanctuary and the second bell was to dismiss and return to the sanctuary.

A plaque hung on the wall showing the attendance and offering. Business was discussed and if someone had a birthday that week, that individual went up front and dropped a penny in for each year. An older lady once dropped in a dollar. She said she wasn't about to stand up there and drop in all those pennies.

We sang a song and then were dismissed.

In 1972, a study committee was formed to make recommendations for the construction of new classrooms and a fellowship hall. It was approved by the congregation and construction began in 1973 and was completed in 1974.

August 9, 2009, the final service was held in the old church. It was razed to make room for the new church that we are in presently.

Looking at Romans Chapter 12, Paul gives us the key to change, "that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice." In other words, give your life to Jesus and he will change you.

Changes are good sometimes and sometimes not as good. Regardless of how they are, we must accept them, but this "TRAFFIC is driving me C-R-A-Z-Y!!"

By Shirley Watkins

JUNE / JULY SESSION RECAP

Session Notes from the Clerk

In our July meeting, the Session discussed re-imagining Serve Night. How can we incorporate the results of our Holy Cow Survey and find the best structure for our ministry teams and congregation to collaborate and function efficiently? The importance of our future pastor being able to be involved with all the teams is also a major consideration. Pastor Debbie will be meeting with Session members, Craig New, Tammy Pflum and Kitty Nappen during August to discuss the structure of Serve Night to begin in September. There will not be a Serve Night meeting in August.

In preparation for our new pastor search, the Session is aware of the importance of having our website updated and re-designed. Several local contacts to complete this update have been investigated by the Congregational Care team without much success. The Personnel team was assigned to contact the Presbytery to see what resources are available for churches with this need and will report their findings at the August meeting.

The convenience and success of other churches with online giving was discussed. Pastor Debbie has experience in implementing online giving in one of her previous churches and will bring that information to the Finance Committee meeting for their consideration.

To connect the Holy Cow Survey results and how Oakland does ministry, the Mission Study Team is planning to meet with all the Ministry Teams (Congregational Care, Finance, Mission, Property, Worship, Personnel and Hospitality/Outreach) and then develop their final piece work, the future goals of Oakland. Their completed study will be presented to the Session during the August meeting for approval and then sent to the Commission on Ministry.

There are exciting steps ahead for Oakland as we decide on our future goals to serve our great God and His people. Please continue to keep your Session and the leaders of our church in your steadfast prayers.

Kitty Nappen, Clerk of Session



Sound Room Training

Sound Room Training

Sound Room Training will be held [August 10th and 14th at 7pm in the sanctuary](#). Participants only need to attend one night. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Wells.



Pancake Breakfast Recap

Thank you to everyone who came to pancake breakfast on July 4th. Whether you donated items, helped during or after the breakfast, or came to enjoy a delicious breakfast, you helped make the breakfast one of the best to date!! We sold roughly **400** plates and raised just over **\$1,700** for our youth camp scholarship fund. Your support of this event helps to lighten the burden on our church families with youth by helping to cover a portion of the cost for summer camps or youth retreats the youth attend throughout the year. Thank you so much for helping to make this event a success year after year!!!!



PYC FALL ACTIVITIES

FALL KICK-OFF
Tie-Dye Party & cookout!
Sunday, Sept. 10
4:30-6:30pm

Weekly Meetings
Sundays @ 4:30pm

Meetings
2nd & 4th
Wed @ 6:30pm

Fall Kick-Off
Wed. Sept. 13th
@ 6:30pm

BE BOLD

PRE-TEEN YOUTH GROUP
FOR 4TH, 5TH, & 6TH
GRADERS



Oakland Happenings

Take Me out to the Ball Game! Sunday August 13th at 1pm

We will head to a Mudcats game on

[Sunday August 13th at 1pm](#). The cost is \$7 a ticket and there is a sign up in the fellowship hall.

We hope you and your family can join us for an afternoon of fellowship and baseball. Please pay by putting money in a pew envelope and marking it for the Mudcats game or you can pay Kate in the office during the week.



JOY GROUP

"JUST OLDER YOUTH"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming JOY Events

[August 10](#) Lunch & program at Restoration Church, Willow Springs
[September 14](#) Lunch & program. This will be at Oakland. Since we are the host, please plan to attend.

Serve night is BACK

After taking the Summer off from Serve nights, it will return on Thursday, September 7th. Save the date and be on the look out for more details coming soon!



Church Picnic

The annual church picnic will be on **Sunday, Sept 24th from 1-3** at Lake Benson Park. We hope you and your family will plan to join us for an afternoon of fellowship.

August Events

Thursday 8/10: JOY Event
Thursday, 8/10: Sound Room Training
Sunday 8/13: Carolina Mudcats game
Monday 8/14: Sound Room Training
Friday 8/16: Rise Against Hunger service project
Sunday 8/20: Session meeting
Friday 8/25: Back to School Bash



September Events

Thursday 9/7: Serve night
Monday 9/4: Labor Day, Office Closed
Sunday 9/10: PYC Kickoff at 4:30
Wednesday 9/13: Be Bold Kickoff
Thursday 9/14: JOY Lunch event at OPC
Wednesday 9/20: Fellowship Supper
Friday 9/22: Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday 9/24: Church Picnic



Summer Bash

The Mid Summer Bash was an overall success! There were probably about 100 or so people that attended some part of the event. Sunny Smiles ice cream truck, Fired Up pizza and BBQ, The Dogfather were the food trucks in attendance. Bounce house, games and water dump game went over well with the youth and even some adults too. The information tables for OPC, BSA and Girl Scouts were set up and several people took information. We sold drinks and raffle tickets for several items donated by some of our members. Money raised will go to the PYC fund. Kids all had a blast playing in the bounce house, connect four, corn hole and sidewalk chalk. The committee received lots of positive feedback from people and many stated we should do this type of thing again and more often. If you would like to help plan something like this or have some ideas for something like this in the future, please reach out to the Congregational Care committee team or Tammy Pflum.



The Oakland Acorn
Oakland Presbyterian Church
8927 Cleveland Road
Clayton, North Carolina 27520

STANDARD
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZA-
TION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Smithfield NC
Permit No. 20

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MAIL TO:

CAROLINA
MUDCATS



Sunday August 13th at 1pm



Blood Drive Friday September 22nd

**American
Red Cross**