



600 E. SUNSET DRIVE  
 MONROE, NC 28112  
 704-283-5656  
 oaklandchurchmonroe@gmail.com  
 www.oaklandchurchmonroe.org

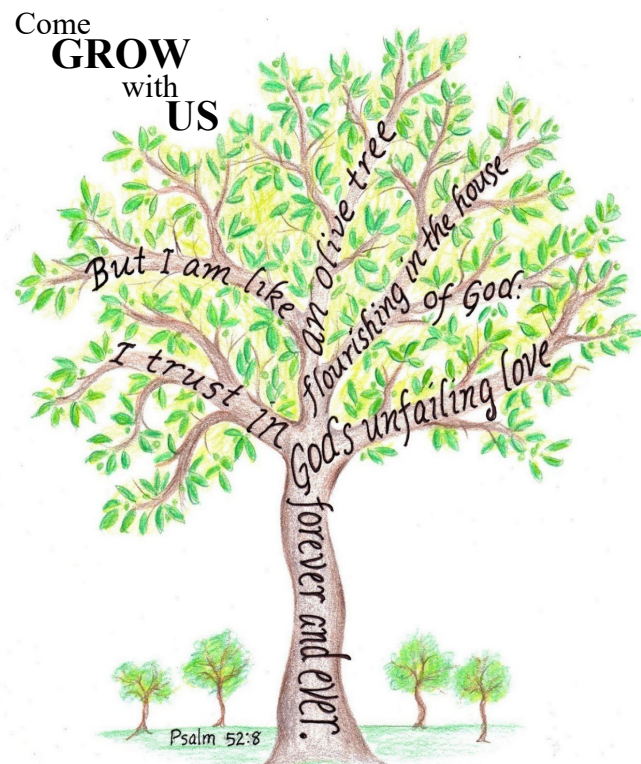
**September 2024: Verse of the Month**

The fruits of the Spirit is love,  
 joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
 goodness, faithfulness,  
 gentleness, and self-control.

**Galatians 5:22-23a**

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES  
 AT OAKLAND**

- Sunday** 9:00 AM Sunday School
- 10:00 AM Indoor Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service Online (Facebook)
- Wednesday** 6:30 PM Wednesday Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Worship Online (Facebook)



**CONNECTING TO GOD & ONE ANOTHER**

September 2024

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*Pastor David's Corner*

**Faithfulness**

Developing faithfulness is a transformative process that involves aligning our actions with God's unchanging truth. Here are a few tips to help guide us:

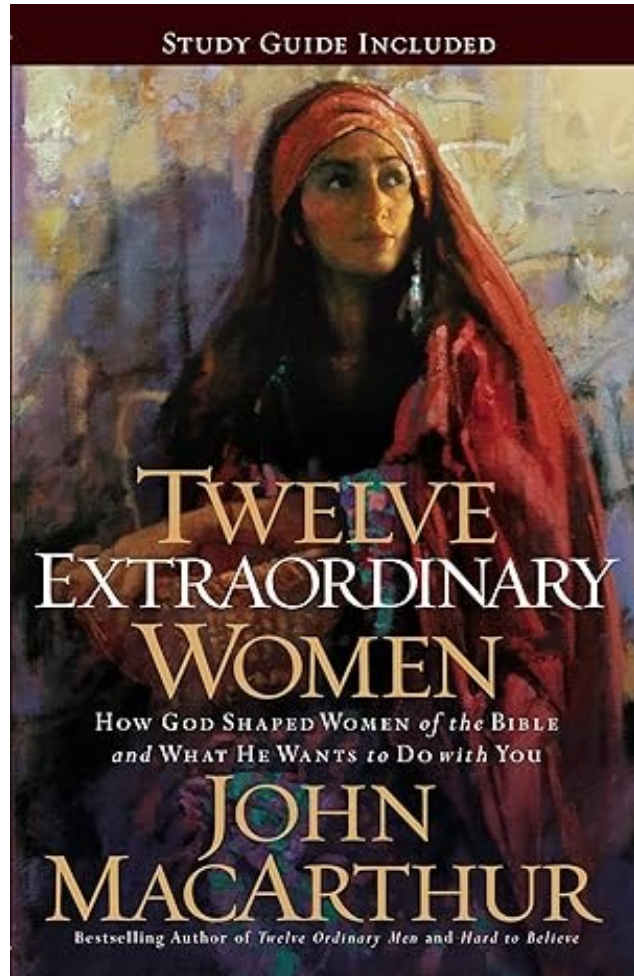
1. **Prioritize Your Relationship with God:** Cultivate a deep and vibrant relationship with God through prayer, worship, and reading His Word. Psalm 119:90 emphasizes, "Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast."
2. **Stay Committed to Your Promises:** Honor your commitments and promises, even when it's challenging. Ecclesiastes 5:4 advises, "When you vow a vow to God, do not delay in paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow."
3. **Seek God's Will:** Regularly seek God's guidance in making decisions, and follow His path with steadfastness. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."
4. **Practice Dependability:** Be known for reliability in your commitments and responsibilities. Proverbs 25:19 says, "Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips."
5. **Embrace Perseverance:** In the face of challenges, persevere with unwavering determination. Hebrews 10:36 encourages, "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."
6. **Be Accountable:** Hold yourself accountable for your actions and choices. Luke 16:10 reminds us, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."
7. **Extend Love and Kindness:** Exhibit faithfulness in relationships by showing love, kindness, and forgiveness. Colossians 3:12-13 urges, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."
8. **Learn from God's Faithfulness:** Reflect on instances of God's faithfulness in your life and in Scripture. Lamentations 3:22-23 reassures, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
9. **Maintain Integrity:** Keep your word and act with integrity, even when no one is watching. Proverbs 20:7 highlights, "The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him!"
10. **Rest in God's Promises:** Place your ultimate trust in God's promises, knowing that His faithfulness is unshakable. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 assures, "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Eddie & Candy Anderson
- Jerry & Brenda Carnes
- Gary Clontz
- Andy Cook
- Marlene Crider
- Lela Crump
- John Efird
- Cindy French
- Sam & Wanda Goodwin
- Ray Greene
- Doris Hannah

Prayer requests continued on page 4.



### Ladies Fall Bible Study

Ladies, you are invited to attend our Fall Ladies Bible Study beginning Tuesday, September 3rd @ 6:30 PM.

If you are looking to sign up, please contact Leigh Ann or the Church Office.

Books are available for purchase on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fGZGxq9>

### Deacon's Meeting

Sunday, September 8th at 1 PM in the sanctuary.



### August Attendance

- Sunday, August 4 (49 Indoor + 111 Online)**  
Wednesday, August 7 (108 Online)
- Sunday, August 11 (51 Indoor + 101 Online)**  
Wednesday, August 14 (113 Online)
- Sunday, August 18 (47 Indoor + 61 Online)**  
Wednesday, August 21 (57 Online)
- Sunday, August 25 (43 Indoor + 101 Online)**  
Wednesday, August 28 (36 Online)



### Backpacks of Hope

The backpacks ministry is gearing up for the Fall semester. Pray for this ministry and for the Monroe Middle School students who will receive food each week this semester. Bags will include a selection from the following items:

- Applesauce, Beanie Weenies, Canned Chicken & Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Chicken Noodle Soup, Fruit Cups (Fruit Medley, Orange Slices, Peaches), Grits, Oatmeal, Peanut Butter Crackers, Pop Tarts, Pork & Beans, Pudding Cups, Raisins, Ramen Noodles, Ravioli, Shells & Cheese, Spaghetti & Meatballs, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup



If you feel led to purchase these food items or easy-to-make items that middle schoolers would enjoy, please drop items off in the church office throughout the school year!

### Community Clean Up

Looking for a community service project? Does your student need community service hours?

The City of Monroe's Stormwater team is holding a Community Clean Up day on September 21st to improve water quality by picking up litter!

Email [edowling@monroenc.org](mailto:edowling@monroenc.org) to register or if you have questions.

### Counseling Volunteers Needed for 2024 Toy Store

The Donna Pittman Christmas Toy Store will be held at the UBA on Saturday, December 14th from 8 AM until 6 PM. The UBA will need counselors for two-hour time slots. Each shopper that comes through the Toy Store is required to sit down with a counselor and be presented the plan of Salvation. If you would be interested in filling one of these time slots, please call the UBA at 704-283-8383 and speak with Bessie.



**Haley's Ministry - Prayer Requests & Praises**

· Please pray for continued opportunities for Haley to serve with international populations in Dallas in her role as WASH Program Coordinator. Pray that the Lord would create time in her schedule to prioritize this in the midst of her other responsibilities.

· Pray that the Lord would continue to remind Haley of His faithful love and abundant provision in all areas of life.

· Please pray that the Lord would bring more staff to the WASH team!



**Summer Mission**

This year, Unto sent out four different summer missions with students from around the country. I worked with the Agriculture team to help coordinate the logistics of their trip behind the scenes, interviewing participants and assisting with trip planning. Across all four trips, over 300 people accepted the gospel. That is an astounding number, and it brings my heart joy to know that behind each number is an individual who heard the good news and a student or staff who had the courage to share.

Summer mission students in Guatemala worked closely with local university students who served as translators during the agriculture workshops. Many of these translators were not believers, but spending so much time together created many opportunities for spiritual

conversations. One translator, Dylan, expressed interest in learning more about Christianity. Through conversations with multiple students on the trip and prayers from the whole team, Dylan decided to commit his life to Christ! God used conversations with students to reveal himself to Dylan and many others this summer. Praise God for how he is at work among the nations!



*Except from Haley's August Update*

# SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Session 1: Purpose Questioned 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Fall Ladies Bible Study Begins	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>5</b> Jail Ministry	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30 PM-1 AM Hispanic Church using FH
<b>8</b> Session 2: Purpose Abandoned 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship 1 PM Deacon's Meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Fall Ladies Bible Study	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Youth Litter Pick Up 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>12</b> Jail Ministry	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Session 3: Purpose Restored 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>16</b> Pastor David Out of Office	<b>17</b> Pastor David Out of Office NO Ladies Bible Study	<b>18</b> Pastor David Out of Office 6:30 PM Youth	<b>19</b> Pastor David Out of Office Jail Ministry	<b>20</b> Pastor David Out of Office	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Session 4: Purpose Lived 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Fall Ladies Bible Study	<b>25</b> 6:30 PM Youth 6:30 PM Online Worship	<b>26</b> Jail Ministry	<b>27</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved	<b>28</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>29</b> Session 5: Purpose Expressed 9 AM SS 10 AM Worship	<b>30</b>					

**August 2024  
Offerings  
\$12,852.00**

**Budget Needs  
for August  
\$17,623.26**

# PRAY

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Nan Helms
- Grady & Judy Hill
- Christine Hinson
- Shelia Horne & Parents
- Rodney Johnson
- (Renee Helms' Son)
- Lillian Lewis
- Tammy Lovingood
- Richard Lovingood's Sister
- Mike Lunsford
- Pam Majewski
- Lorraine McClellan
- Louise Parker
- Richie Raines
- David Welch
- (Irene's Son)
- Irene Welch

### Upcoming Sermon Series based on Bible Studies For Life

#### THRIVE: LIVING ON PURPOSE

- September 1: Purpose Questioned
- September 8: Purpose Abandoned
- September 15: Purpose Restored
- September 22: Purpose Lived
- September 29: Purpose Expressed
- October 6: Purpose Exemplified

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE**

#### Bible Studies For Life Summary

##### *Thrive: Living on Purpose*



Thrive: Living on Purpose

Lynn H. Pryor

Antique stores. Not everyone is a fan, but my wife and I like to walk the aisles of an antique store. I may find something I can refurbish or repurpose into something else. I often get a harsh dose of reality when I see a toy I played with as a kid. My childhood toys are now antiques.

Occasionally, I'll see something that's new and unusual to me. *"What is it?"* I'm not interested in simply knowing its name; I want to know what it

does. What's its purpose? Knowing the purpose of some tool or instrument I pick up tells me so much. Knowing its purpose tells me why it was invented, who might use it, and how effective it was.

Too many of us go through life without purpose or ever realizing God created us with a purpose in mind. Life can be mundane and even carry a sense of hopelessness, but that was never God's intent for us. God created us with purpose, and when we discover that purpose in Christ, life takes on a meaning and richness the world can't offer.



#### Youth Litter Pick Up

The youth group will pick up litter around Oakland's campus and along Oakland Road on Wednesday, September 11th (rain date: September 18th). Please wear close-toed shoes & bright colors!

#### Wellspring Preparatory School Daily Schedule

- 8:30 am: Arrival
- 8:45 am - 9:00 am: Coalesce
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am: Core I (Reading or Math)
- 10:00 am - 10:15 am: Snack
- 10:15 am - 11:15 am: Core II (Reading or Math)
- 11:15 am - 12:15 pm: Lunch/Recess
- 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm: STEM / SS
- 1:15 pm - 2:00 pm: Core III Reading or Math
- 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm: Mind Builders Specials  
Art /Fun Fitness/ Music/Theater
- 2:45 pm - 2:55 pm: Gakko Soji (Students clean the classroom)
- 3:00 pm: Dismissal



#### Prayer Ministry

Teresa, a new member and a prayer warrior for our church, has felt the Lord's calling to offer in-home prayer for any church member desiring prayer. If interested, please contact the Church Office or Teresa directly.



#### Shoes for Pastor Abhishek



Our fundraising goal for our mission partners in Southern India who were collecting funds to purchase shoes to distribute as part of their ministry was \$1,000 (~300 shoes).

\$1,600 was sent to Pastor Abhishek in August! Thank you for giving to this mission!