

At First Glance

First Baptist Church

November 2018

Volume 15, Issue 4



NOVEMBER EVENTS

11-1

Norman North Football Dinner
6:00-8:00 p.m., Family Life Center

11-2

Upward Basketball Evaluation
6:00-8:00 p.m., Family Life Center

11-4

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Parade of Nations/OBU Bisonettes
in Worship, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Youth and Parent Lunch
11:30 a.m., Youth Hall

Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Clothes Closet
4:30 p.m.

11-5

First Monday Playtime, Adults 55+
12:00 p.m., Family Life Center

Deacon Ministry Team
6:30 p.m. Hallock Hall

11-6

WMU
11:30 a.m., Family Life Center

You are loved by God! Your value to God is such that He allowed His Son, Jesus, to be crucified on a cross as payment for my sin and for your sin. In Matthew 10:30-31, Jesus offers a picture of our value to God: "the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So, do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows." Wow! God's love for us is so profound that He knows the number of hairs on our head! If God knows that about us, think how intimately He knows the depths of our hearts, minds, and soul.

The impact of this truth has been driven home in recent days. The loss of hair is one of the side-effects of chemo, but the reality of seeing my hair in the bottom of the shower was a surreal experience. The novelty of running my fingers through my hair, ending up with a handful of hair grew old quickly. Likewise, using a lint brush to pick up the loose hair on my pillow or on the back of a chair or sofa where my head had rested. I remember when I realized it was time to shave the remaining patches of hair. And I definitely had to take a moment when I saw my bald head for the first time.

Yet, as I meditated on Matthew 10:30-31, I was comforted by knowing that God had counted each of those hairs. I did not need to fear. I was of value to God and could depend on His loving kindness, even as my hair was falling out and my body was battling cancer.

As my hair makes its comeback, I have caught myself trying to count the hairs on my head. It's an impossible task. Again, I am reminded of God's profound love for me and for each of us. I am just hoping the final hair count is as high as it was before the chemo.

The Parade of Nations on November 4 is a beautiful reminder of God's love for all the peoples of the earth and our mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus in all the world. On that Sunday I will reflect on our own status as migrants in this world and how that perspective can inform our own response to the issue of immigration and the opportunities to proclaim Jesus as the world comes to us.

November means the Celebrate His Gifts emphasis shifts to our Thanksgiving Basket and Giving Tree ministries. You can learn how to share in these ministries inside this newsletter. And for our families, don't forget to sign your children up for the Joy of Giving on December 1.

As the end of November approaches you will receive solicitations and requests for financial support from numerous agencies, non-profits, and ministries. I hope that you are able to give as generously as possible. Yet, I am reminded of the instruction of Scripture to bring our "tithe to the storehouse." As the storehouse, the church is the center of the work of the Kingdom of God in nurturing the people of God, serving the poor, and sharing the Good News of Jesus with the nations of the world. First Baptist is a storehouse for that work.

Tithing celebrates God's role in the work and harvests of our lives. Thus, the tithe not only provides the resources for God's work but is also our expression of gratitude to God for the blessing of the harvest. To offer my tithe to the Lord is an act of obedience, faith, and worship that brings great joy and contentment.

Are you committed to tithing? Our church depends upon your faithfulness in tithes and offerings to carry out our mission to Love People, Teach the Word and Live the Journey. As the emphasis on year-end giving arrives, I invite you to join me in bringing your tithes and offerings to the Lord through First Baptist. I believe there is no better way to honor the harvest of your work than by investing in the life and ministries of this church.

**DR. WADE
SMITH**



Work continues in Texas

When you read this newsletter I will be with our mission team of 21 working in Refugio, Texas, continuing the effort to get families back in their homes following Hurricane Harvey that hit the area August 28, 2017.



Natural disasters in historic proportion seem to be the norm over the past few years. But, consider just in the last 18 months, Hurricane Harvey and the hurricanes that did so much damage in Florida and the Caribbean Islands in 2017, the fires in Western Oklahoma and all over the Western U.S., tsunamis, tornadoes, Hurricane Florence and, most recently, Hurricane Michael and floods in the Texas Hill Country. All of these have left individuals, families, and communities devastated and at a loss of what to do, even how to take the next step. All of these things keep reminding me of how much loss and devastation there is in this journey called life.

Last year, we committed to work along the Texas Coast and help in their recovery efforts. Certainly, there is work needed in all of the areas mentioned above and we may see God calling to help in some of those at some time in the future. But, for now, we understand there are still hundreds of homes that have not been touched along the Texas coast and we are 15 months past Hurricane Harvey. One home that we will visit this trip was severely damaged, the husband died suddenly, weeks after the hurricane, with no previous issues, and the wife of the home has since been living in the house with a leaky roof. Sections are boarded up to keep the worst leaks away from her. We know we cannot be an answer to everyone, but our prayer is that we make a significant impact on those we work with. Pray for us now, and pray for God's direction in the potential of going with us from February 24 to March 2, 2019. If you do, you will be blessed.

FINISHING WELL: We have 60 days to finish the year well financially as a church. Thank you for those who so faithfully give regularly and for those who struggle to learn and participate in what God would lead you to give. I believe we must all seek God and come to understand how He may use us individually and as families in this journey to finish well. I am writing this newsletter on October 18, which leaves us 11 Sundays to complete the year. In those 11 Sundays, we need to offer to God in our tithes and offerings \$550,000 to meet our accepted budget for this year. Certainly, this is within the capabilities of our people because it has been done repeatedly through the years. Now, the information is out there, how will we respond? I join with you as we pray, and as we give in these next weeks.

THANK YOU for your prayers, your calls, cards, and words of encouragement over the last few weeks as I have been recovering from pneumonia. I know many of you have experienced this feeling so thank you for your encouragement.

Peace and Grace for this journey we take together!



Celebrate His Gifts

Donations needed for baskets

On November 19 at 6:00 p.m. the Family Life Center will be filled with games and fellowship for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Party.

"We provide a free family meal, time in our gym and game room and a basket of food to take home for Thanksgiving for 50 families with children under 18," Angela Atkins, Minister of Community Ministries said. "We need volunteers to decorate, help serve the meal, help guests gather food, and entertain the children."

This will be the seventh year that First Baptist has provided Thanksgiving baskets to the community.

Donations are also needed for the baskets. This year we are asking for canned sweet potatoes, instant scalloped potatoes, cake mix, chicken broth, instant mashed potatoes, frosting, Stove Top stuffing mix, canned pie filling, boxed pie crust mix, and whole berry cranberry sauce.

"Financial donations also are being accepted to offset the meat and meal costs," Angela said.

Please have food items to the church office by Sunday, November 11.

Register today for Joy of Giving

The Joy of Giving, a gift making experience for kids ages 3 to fifth grade, will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, December 1. Registration continues at fbcnorman.org until November 16. Spots are limited.

Cost for this year's Joy of Giving is \$12 per child between the ages of 3 and kindergarten, and \$20 per child for grades first-fifth.

"This will be a morning your kids will not want to miss! The event includes making seven wonderful gifts to give as well as gift wrapping, pizza, Christmas cookies, and the Christmas story," Suzette Mason, Minister of Discipleship and Children, said.

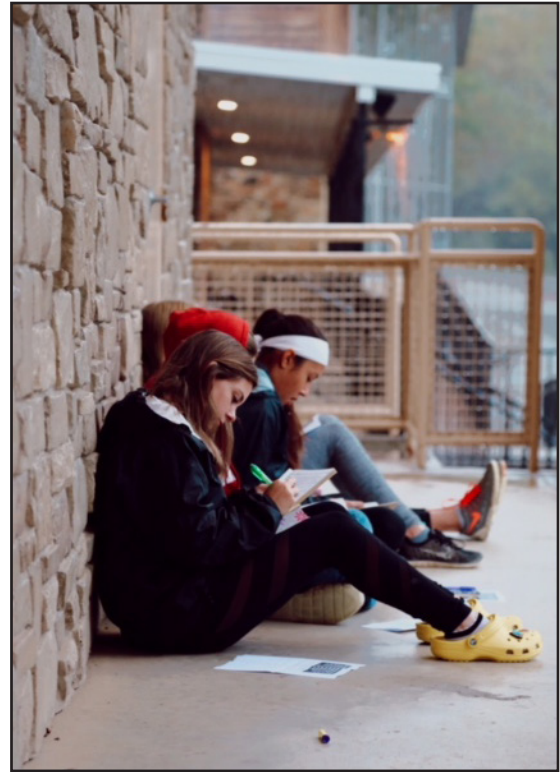


NOVEMBER 18 Giving TREE KICK OFF

Look for trees outside the church office and media library

FIRSTfall

Fall Fallout



Funny Face Festival



Sounds of Christmas Concert to feature Veritas

Contemporary classical vocal group
to perform December 2 at First Baptist

"I am very excited to announce that Veritas will headline this year's Sounds of Christmas Concert. This year's concert will be at 6:00 p.m. December 2 and will feature First Baptist Church's choir, children's choir, and orchestra," Chad Smith, First Baptist Church Minister of Music and Worship Arts, said.

A contemporary classical vocal group, Veritas found themselves in some tremendous places, from belting out their signature power harmonies on the Carnegie Hall stage to crooning cruisers in the middle of the Caribbean, to joining Sandi Patty on her Forever Grateful tour.

With their sophomore record, *Hope Survives*, the men of Veritas – Jeff Anderson, James Berrian, Andrew Goodwin, Jordan Johnson, and Lucas Scott Lawrence — are wielding their powerful, dramatic musical arsenal to communicate the hope expressed by their fans, as well as the hope which guides each of their lives.

"We get so many messages from people on social media, and lots of emails telling us how they were going through a horrible time, and our music reminded them of God's love for them," Lawrence said. "It gave them hope."

The power of hope also is something very real and personal to each member of Veritas.

"Each of us brings a unique voice and sound to the group," Anderson said. "We also bring five different stories—which are still being written."

For his part, Anderson said he had lost hope in 2007 when he lost his father to a "horrific and painful battle with brain cancer," and at the same time, lost his voice for 8 months—an ailment that required reconstructive surgery and therapy to learn how to speak all over again.

"I couldn't whisper, speak or even fathom singing again," he said. "To me, all was lost and I really struggled to find anything positive in life, but during this dark time, I was taught a valuable lesson. I realized, for the first time, I had been placing too much trust in man, material things and my own gifting. It wasn't until I lost it all that I realized my worth was not found in my talent or the things of man but in Jesus Christ alone. Once I placed my Creator on his rightful throne, my hope was restored. He gave me the power to survive."



Hope survives!"

At a young age, Johnson also lost his father, and said in the midst of such loss, "the one thing I had to hope in was Jesus."

Similarly, Goodwin has dealt with the ongoing pain of his father abandoning the family when he was very young, embracing hope for the future from his Heavenly Father's love—something that has become all the more important now that he himself has children.

As the only unmarried member of the group, Berrian says that while he can sometimes relate to feelings of emptiness or uncertainty, God fills him with hope that He has a good plan for his life.

"For me, it is waking up every day and wondering what my life is going to look like in five, 10 years, but I do not have to worry about that," he said. "God is going to be with me."

For Lawrence, hope has emerged in the midst of a heartbreaking journey of infertility he and his wife have experienced.

"I got to the point where I had to choose to trust God's goodness, to choose the peace I get when my mind is stayed on him," he said. "It was a choice I had to make every day."

The Sounds of Christmas Concert is free and will be in the sanctuary of First Baptist Norman.

Behold!

ADVENT 2018

DEC. 2 – BEHOLD HOPE!

DEC. 9 – BEHOLD FAITH!

DEC. 16 – BEHOLD LOVE!

DEC. 23 – BEHOLD JOY

DEC. 24 – BEHOLD CHRIST!

DEC. 30 – BEHOLD, GET UP!

REGISTER NOW **AT THE FLC**

UPWARD BASKETBALL

REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT FBCNORMAN.ORG

OBU Glee Club to share in worship

The Women's Glee Club from Oklahoma Baptist University, the Bisonettes, will lead worship in the 10:30 a.m. service at First Baptist Norman on Sunday, November 4.

Established in 1954, the Bisonettes are celebrating 64 years of performing quality women's choir music. This year's edition of the ensemble features 60 undergraduate students, majoring in music, religion, art, nursing, biology, physics, psychology, communications studies, and other degrees. Members of the ensemble are from Oklahoma, Colorado, Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Alaska, Spain, and Haiti. The group sings in numerous settings each year and will be doing a tour of North Texas in the Spring of 2019.

The group is performing a diverse collection of music this semester, including works by Martin Shaw, Gwyneth Walker, and OBU graduate Donna Butler. The group will be accompanied by senior Piano Performance major Rachel Foote and junior Piano Pedagogy major Emilie Griffin. The Bisonettes are directed by James Vernon, OBU Professor of Music.

FALL YOUTH AND PARENT LUNCH

NOVEMBER 4
FOLLOWING WORSHIP IN YOUTH HALL

PARADE OF NATIONS

AND WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

THIS YEAR'S GOAL IS \$65,000



NOVEMBER 4
10:30 A.M.

NOVEMBER 11

CHURCH CONFERENCE AND LUNCH

FOLLOWING
WORSHIP
IN HALLOCK HALL

BAKED POTATO BAR
WITH CHILI AND SALAD

\$2 per person: \$10 family max
Bring a dessert to share

Hanging OF THE Green

NOVEMBER 25
10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

7 Upward Basketball Evaluation
6:00-8:00 p.m., Family Life Center

8 Fall Women's Dinner
6:30 p.m., Hallock Hall

10 Game Day Parking
4 hours before Kickoff
\$10 Donation Benefits Youth Ministries
Family Life Center Closed

11 Veteran's Day
Church Conference and Lunch
Following worship, Hallock Hall

12 Upward Basketball Evaluation
6:00-8:00 p.m., Family Life Center

13 Painting 101
6:30-9:00 p.m., Family Life Center
Cost: \$25

17 Game Day Parking
4 hours before Kickoff \$10 Donation
Benefits Community Ministries
Family Life Center Closed

18 Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall
Food Pantry and Devotion
4:30 p.m.

19 Thanksgiving Basket Party
6:00 p.m., Family Life Center

21-24 FLC, Church Office Closed For
Thanksgiving

25 Hanging of the Green

30 Birthday Bash
11:30 a.m., Family Life Center Cost: \$5

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1: Lisa Raiber, Hayley Redwine, Ronald Williams

November 2: James Hale, Mary Ruth Higgins, Al Silkey

November 3: Kallie Smith, Pat Vann, Steven Wilson

November 4: Linda Tiller

November 5: Annette Valentino

November 6: Dan Baily, Joe Bob Weaver

November 7: Johannes Buyten, Amy Cherry

November 8: Debbie Neal

November 9: Stephen Callison, Bryan DeLuca,

Anna Grace Nava, John Reddell, Pat Shafer

November 10: Jack Harp

November 11: Sandy Lewis

November 12: Annetta Brown, Staci

Koutsoukos, Marian Lalli, Paula Morton, Willie Neal

November 13: Sam Hale, Michael Raiber, Gary Schaffner, Phil Warren

November 14: Eric Fredericks, Allen Moore, Jenny Wright

November 15: George Durham, Greg Ellis, John Fox, Philip Redwine Jr., Samantha Rose

November 16: Dianne Daniels, Tom Deplois,

Steve Jimerson, Janice Masters

November 17: Elaine Hale, Renee Mungle, Dominic Strevett

November 18: Fran Burgess, Nancy Gardner, Patty Jimerson, Mack McGuckin, Jack Wright

November 19: Roy Blasius

November 20: James Callison, Mark Lassetter, Bill Marley, Deb McLain, Leon Ragland, Sarah Sheldon, Sammie Theige, Drew Wright

November 21: Betty Burris, Marie Hunter, Lisa Portwood

November 22: Denise Wright

November 23: Cathy Adams, Valerie Ladner, Kim McElroy

November 24: Arletta Fink, Leela Golden-Wade, Betty Higgins, Emma Maggard, Vicki Stewart, Scott Storm, Carl Wimberley

November 25: Joslin Rigney

November 26: Margaret Cullins

November 27: Joyce Filipski, Gail Moore, Ruby White, Barbara Woodruff

November 28: Kenneth Smith, Beth Wilson

November 29: Christina Rehkop, Gail Schwabe

November 30: Carlos Elwell, Liv Harper, Paige Hudson, Frank Small, Gary Storm

At FIRST Glance
First Baptist Church
211 W. Comanche St.
Norman, OK 73069
Address Service Requested

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Buzz & Connie Jensen, Lisa, Josh, Luke & Cole Edge at the passing of their father and grandfather.

Shannon, Angela, Isaac & Grace Atkins at the passing of their father and grandfather, Jim Atkins.

Ellen Wood in the passing of her brother-

in-law, Larry Stacy

Lori Wright; Josh, Jenny, Josie & Jack Wright and Sarah & Brian Hartsock at the passing of their husband, father and grandfather, Larry Wright

Tara, Chad, Ainsley and Addison Smith at the passing of their great aunt, Peggy Kindt

Bruce & Marilyn Naylor at the passing of his sister.

Tickets for Fall Women's dinner still available in church office

A fall women's dinner is being planned for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 8, in Hallock Hall. Cost for the dinner is \$10 and the evening will feature Certified Life Coach Lynelle Zandstra.

Lynelle speaks nationally for FamilyLife, a ministry of Cru, to women's groups, and at conferences. Lynelle is the author of *Choose Words, Choose Life, 51 Life Changing Dates to Take with Your Children*.

"Join the women of FBC for a delightful evening, delicious food, music and, a wonderful speaker. Invite a friend to join you," Suzette Mason, Minister of Discipleship and Children, said.

Tickets are available in the church office.



Lynelle Zandstra



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