



# FIRST BAPTIST *At First Glance*

First Baptist Church / 211 W. Comanche, Norman, Oklahoma 73069 / 405-321-1753 / Fax 405-321-2087 / www.fbcnorman.org



Dr. Wade Smith  
Pastor

**Y**ou are familiar with the story as told through the generations. Shepherds watched over their sheep outside of the little village of Bethlehem. In the stillness of the night, behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel told them that the Savior had been born. Suddenly, a multitude of angels appeared saying *on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased*. Into the darkness of the night, the *Light of the World* was born. Into the oppressive and violent rule of Herod and the Roman Empire, the *Prince of Peace* came.

Two thousand years later, I can't imagine a more timely message than **Peace on Earth**. The headlines are frightening. ISIS continues its acts of evil against innocent men, women, and children. Ebola claims the lives of its victims. Domestic abuse and violence shatter the safety and security of home and relationships intended to provide shelter and nurture for life. And in

recent weeks all of these have traveled from distant lands to Moore, Dallas, and Norman. We need peace. We need Christmas.

I invite you to join us during the Advent season as we worship, wait for, and welcome the *Prince of Peace*. Invite family, friends and neighbors to prepare with us. Share copies of First Baptist's Advent Devotional Guide with others. Bring them to a worship service, the Christmas concert, parade or Christmas fellowship. **Peace is the need of our world**. Your initiative could change someone's life: for those who go to the manger on Christmas morning discover *Peace*. And His name is Jesus, Christ the Lord.

**What do you think of when you hear the word *dawnings***? Sunrise. New awareness. Beginnings. Renewal. Hope. Christmas is a dawning. Certainly, the birth of any child is a season of dawnings as new life enters the world and transforms the lives of parents, families and friends. Dawnings are an important part of lives and relationships. We all need seasons of new insight, beginnings and renewal.

I believe we are in a season of dawnings at First Baptist. The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend was a powerful experience of dawnings for us. The addition of new members and baptisms are signs of dawnings. New and renewed facilities announce dawnings. The retirements, transitions and coming additions to our ministry staff anticipate dawnings. Church dawnings are revealed as we discern and respond to the Spirit of God together. We respond through faith, unity and praxis. Let us pray and prepare for the continued dawnings of a new year.

As you are aware, our church is in a season of prayer and discovery as two search teams lead us in discerning who God is calling to serve our church as Minister of Worship Arts/Music and Minister of Youth. The Worship Arts/Music team is in the early stages of exploring. Please continue to pray for them as they research and begin having conversations with candidates.

**The Youth search team is ready to make a recommendation to our church for Minister of Youth.** Information about our prospective youth minister will be provided on Sunday, December 7. Then, on the weekend of December 12-14, we will present him and his wife to the youth and church with several gatherings. On Sunday, December 14 at the conclusion of worship, we will vote to issue a call. Please pray and participate in this important weekend for our church and youth ministry.

Christmas is a special time of the year. The Smiths look forward to sharing Advent with you and are blessed to serve and be part of the First Baptist family. We wish you a Merry Christmas filled with peace and dawnings.

A Savior is Born.  
Dr. Wade Smith

## ***From the Pulpit***

### ***Peace on Earth***

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*

- Luke 2:14

November 30:	Let There Be Light
December 7:	Let There Be Peace
December 14:	Let There Be Joy
December 21:	Let There Be Hope
December 24:	Let There Be Love
December 28:	Let There Be Praise



## All Church News

### Vickie celebrates 30 years of ministry

Vickie Riggs doesn't hesitate when she says that the last 30 years of her life have been nothing but a blessing.

During her time at First Baptist Church as the senior adult minister, Riggs has enjoyed traveling, building new friendships and enriching the lives of others.

"I think what I like best about my job are the relationships. And they are long-term relationships so not only do I know my senior adults, I also know their children and their grandchildren. That's a real blessing to be involved in their lives. When you are involved in their lives for 30 years, you get to know them. They become my family," Riggs said.

When Riggs first came to Norman it was to work on her masters degree.

"So I always say that the Lord called me to Norman, but not to First Baptist Church. A lot of ministers get called to a church and a position but I felt a call to Norman," Riggs said.

When Riggs did finally get called to FBC, she began working as the recreation associate doing senior adult activities and children's activities.

"There's always been this thread of senior adult ministry. After a point, the personnel committee asked that I would do just senior adults, so we hired someone else to be the recreation associate," Riggs said.

It was in the late '90s that Riggs said she really felt like God had touched her life, causing her ministry to take another turn.

"People always say that we are a mission minded church but I realized as a senior adult group, we'd never gone on a mission trip. After much prayer and thought, we went to Bland, Va., to the Bland Ministry Center. We went there four times. Through that, we worked with the food pantry and clothes closet, and they said, 'Why aren't we doing this in Norman?' So virtually the senior adult mission trip caused senior adults to start our community ministry program. They started the Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet

and then we started the Bikes and Bibles Program," Riggs said.

Riggs admits that she's enjoying her ministry too much right now to consider her own retirement.

"I really love doing ministry so I'm going to keep going as long as I feel like I can be effective. I've always said I've been enjoying my senior adult's retirement so I don't know what to do when I retire. I've got to go so many places with them. We've traveled in all the Provinces of Canada and Hawaii twice, Alaska three times, England, Australia, and

I've just been able to enjoy them enjoying those trips. I just love it," Riggs said. "For the next few years, I want to continue to be creative in ministry and I really want to impress upon the senior adults how important it is that they pass on their wisdom to other generations and just develop relationships with them. I want to lead the senior adults into being involved in all ages and let them know that they still have value no matter what age they are."

Riggs said that she often has the children of her senior adults come up to her and thank her for her ministry work, something she finds not only rewarding but heartwarming, too.

"It's good when children come up to me and say 'Thank you, my mom or my dad having what they have had at First Baptist with the senior adult ministry has meant the world to them and has made a difference in their life.' I've just been really blessed and I know that," Riggs said. It's one thing to be invited to the senior adult birthday parties and anniversary parties but when the family invites me in when the senior adult is ill, even when the senior adult is dying, it's those precious moments, it's really meaningful for me. I can have some sad times, because I do lose a lot of my folks, that's the nature of life. There's so many blessings, it's just special."

Shana Adkisson



Vickie Riggs  
Senior Adult Minister

### Mentors needed for Kids Hope

Would you like to be a faithful, loving role model and friend to an elementary student?

Four to six mentors are needed to work with at risk fifth-graders at Lincoln Elementary School.

According to Angela Atkins, director of community ministries, mentors meet with their students one hour a week when school is in session.

"Most sessions are after school, from 2:40 to 3:40 p.m., but the teachers are flexible to allow mentoring during the school day if the child or mentor cannot meet after school," Atkins said.

Mentors benefit by getting to share their love with a child who needs a little more attention, Atkins adds.

"The kids love them. They also get to play games, draw and other fun things that they might otherwise get to do in the middle of the work day," Atkins said.

Ways students can benefit from having a mentor include getting extra help in subjects like reading and gaining more confidence in what they can do.

"The student gets an hour of one-on-one time with someone who truly cares about them and is willing to devote that time each week to just them," Atkins said.

For more information about becoming a mentor, pick up one of the Kids Hope volunteer information packets from the media rack outside the church library, or from Atkins, and submit the volunteer application.

"A mentor will need to pass a background check and get a referral from a reference. Mentors must also participate in a two hour training session. Then they are ready to start," Atkins said.

Shana Adkisson



## Family Life Center



Hours:

Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

**FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATION:** M at 6:00 p.m.  
(Required for use of Fitness Center) Randy Praytor

**LOW-IMPACT EX: (FREE)** T / Th 10:00-10:45 a.m.  
Parkinson's/Arthritis approved Mary Higgins

**PILATES:** M / W / F 8:00-9:00 a.m. Rebecca Darrow

**ZUMBA: (FREE)** W 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tori Collier

Call 360-5300 for more information on programs.

## Upward Basketball

**Practices begin December 15.  
Games start on January 10, 2015  
and finish on February 28, 2015.**

## Norman Christmas Parade

10 a.m. Saturday, December 13.  
Join us at 9 a.m. at Common Ground  
for hot chocolate and treats.

## Contra Dancing

**Friday, December 5**



New exercise class for winter.

9 to 9:55 a.m. Class is in the gym on Monday and Wednesday.  
The class meets upstairs in the K & K rooms on Friday.

The FLC will close at 4 p.m. on December 24; and will be closed all day on December 25 and 26. We will be open on December 27.

We will close at 4 p.m. on New Year's Eve, December 31. We will be closed January 1 and January 2 and open on January 3.

## FBC Family News

*The FBC Family wishes to extend sympathies to...*

*Marge Morton and the passing of her brother, Marvin Brady.*

*Sandra Gourley at the passing of her husband, James Gourley*

### *Letters to the FBC Family*

*First Baptist Church staff and church family,*

*The Sue McAlister Family sincerely thanks the church staff and church family for the outpouring of sympathy, cards, food, flowers and memorial contributions to the church building fund.*

*The church was Sue's strength and sanctuary during her many years of membership. The blessings you provided will never be forgotten.*

*Also, please accept our thanks for the family dinner and the beautiful service at the church.*

*Sue McAlister family, Joe McAlister, Cynthia Williamson, Kimberly McElroy*

**Advent Devotional Guides will be available beginning November 30.**

**Please take extra copies to share with your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors.**

## World Missions Offering



During November and December, we invite you to give a special offering for world missions. These gifts go directly to our Cooperative and Southern Baptist mission partners to support the work of our

missionaries. Moneys received are divided equally between the Lottie Moon (SBC) and Global Missions (CBF) offerings, unless you designate your World Mission Offering to one or the other. Last year, we received just over \$41,000 for World Missions. Our goal for World Missions this year is \$50,000. Through the end of November we have received just under \$8,000. How is the Lord leading you to give?

## Childhood Ministry

### **FBC KID'S Missions Christmas Gift Making**

Wednesday, December 10, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Pre K - Grade 5

Gifts will be distributed at The Mansions,  
December 17, during FBC KID'S  
Christmas Caroling



## **FBC Kid's Christmas Caroling**

### **The Mansions in Norman**

Pre K - Grade 5

December 17

5:45-7:30 p.m.

**Transportation Waiver Required**

## Christmas Concert



Mini Musicians and  
Praise Kids will perform  
at the Christmas Concert  
December 14 at 6 p.m.

**FBC Kid's Holiday  
Wednesday Night Closure  
December 24 and December 31.**

## Adult Ministry

For the past 10,950 days, I have navigated the ever changing three and one-half mile landscape from my home to downtown and Comanche Street. During these 30 years I've had only *one* home address to remember but *thousands* of memories of people, places, trips, ministries, events and exciting God-moments with you.



Jim Stewart  
Associate Pastor  
for Education  
and Family Life

Vicki, Bryan, Joy and Brad have embraced this long tenure of ministry alongside me. They have been my encouragers, my advocates, my support system, my confidants. The great people with whom I've served, called FBC Norman, have enriched my life, reminded me why I was originally called to vocational ministry, and have allowed me to share the abundant life we have together in Christ.

How does one say goodbye after 30 years? It seems terribly inadequate, awkward and uncomfortable to me. But to state the obvious...I have attempted to pour myself into this community, to invest my time and energy in this fellowship of saints, spanning these past three decades, with the best that I had to give. Certainly, my dreams exceeded my grasp, for no doubt there are yet some unfinished tasks I wanted to complete, some friendships I still wanted to cultivate, more impact for the Kingdom that I still wanted to make.

In the midst of it all, I trust that I have learned more about God through you and because of you. My future is sealed with deep, loving relationships, having partnered with you in ministry for these many years. Thank you for embracing me, enduring me, challenging me...but most of all, for loving me, through it all.

As the apostle Paul said it much more beautifully and effectively than I ever could, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you."

In His Love,  
Jim Stewart

## **Cocoa and Carols**

A family Christmas gathering  
5:45-6:20 p.m. on Thursday, December 11  
Pizza and dessert at Common Ground  
Caroling to FBC member's homes  
from 6:30-7:40 p.m.

RSVP to Cheryl at 321-1753

Sponsored by FBC Adult Ministry

## Minister of Administration



Roy Joe Ham  
Minister  
of Administration

As we prepare for this season of Advent, please consider Luke 2: 8-14.

When the angels came to present the news of the birth of Jesus, God chose the lowly shepherds with whom to make that announcement. **Fear** was their first response, but the angel responded, **“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.”** Then the multitude of heavenly host appeared and closed the announcement with, **“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men with whom He is pleased.”** I wonder if the question that might best be asked about our celebration of Christmas would be, where have we lost the good news of great joy and peace in this season? Or, has fear overtaken our reality?

As in many of the recent Christmas seasons, Christmas 2014 seems to be coming with many questions and doubts about our world situation. In light of that, how will you prepare for Christmas, and what will Christmas be for you, your family and those with whom you have contact? Advent is that time of Christian preparation. I hope the journey is a powerful one for you.

**Cold weather sheltering:** We are excited to partner with Food and Shelter to provide a warm place for our homeless population to get out of the cold this winter. We have contracted with F&S to use the west side of the Korean Church building for a warm place to sleep from now until the end of March. This is answering the concern expressed by many last year when the bitter cold

challenged so many. Please pray for those that this ministry will provide potential life-saving warmth through the season. We will seek ways to provide Hand of Christ moments for those coming into the building as well. Please look for those opportunities and pray about your involvement.

**Year-end Generosity:** As most of you know, the generosity you share with the church during November and December greatly impact our ministry plan (budget) giving. It provides an opportunity for you to catch up on giving and for the church to catch up on ministry plan deficiencies. We ask that you pray about your participation in this season of giving. For your convenience, the church office will be open through mid-afternoon on December 31. May you be blessed in the journey and in your generosity.

May this truly be a season for you to enjoy and celebrate the Joy and Peace that the birth of the Christ child ushered into the world.

Merry Christmas,  
Roy Joe

**ignite**  
PASSION FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Pledges	\$3,127,007
Received	\$2,437,929

## Youth Ministry

### Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 10

Youth Hall

6:30-7:30 p.m.

(look for details in your inbox or mailbox soon)

.....  
**theartfbeym.com**

### Fall FreezeOut 2014



## Community Ministry

### Giving Tree



From November 24 to December 16, select a tag from the tree on display outside the media center. Return the gifts to the tree by December 16. The gifts will be delivered to Lincoln Elementary students and their siblings who need a little extra love this year.

#### MENTORS NEEDED

We need three to four mentors to work with fifth-graders. This would be a six month commitment. Come try working one-on-one with at-risk students at Lincoln Elementary. Just one hour a week is all it takes to change a life.



For more information, email Angela [angelaa@fbcnorman.org](mailto:angelaa@fbcnorman.org)

THE NEW SUNDAY MEAL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE. CHECK YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL BOX IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET.

#### Year round needs:

Cereal bars or granola bars	Spaghetti sauce
Box of cereal / oatmeal	Spaghetti
Canned meat	Mac & cheese
Canned vegetables	Peanut butter
Canned fruit	Jelly
Tuna Helper or similar food item	
Deodorant	Bars of soap
Toothpaste	Razors
Shaving cream (small size)	Toilet paper
Feminine hygiene products	

Monetary donations are also welcome, and our tax exempt purchases will help your money go farther. Thank you for your constant support of the ministries of FBC Norman.

## Pacesetters Adults +55



Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a very Merry Christmas. I know the next few weeks will be very busy but my prayer for all is to enjoy the moments.

Be praying for our Adults 55+ Ministry and how we can touch lives in Norman and at First Baptist in 2015. Each one of us can do something. What would that something be for you in 2015? Will it be sending cards and making phone calls to our homebound members? Will it be developing relationships with our FBC university students and youth? Will it be delivering meals to those recently home from the hospital?

Here are a few more ideas.

- Join our Playground Pals Ministry Team and touch the lives of children and families in the mission field just across Comanche Street.
- Sign-up to visit a homebound person on a weekly basis.
- Join us on our Mobile Game Days when we reach out to local senior apartment complexes.
- Collect quarters and participate in our Laundry Love Ministry.
- Get to know our FBC children and families by volunteering in the nursery on Sunday or working in Vacation Bible School.
- Invite a friend or neighbor to one of our events and to church.
- Assist with Wednesday Worship in local senior centers and apartment complexes.

Such simple acts could change a life and encourage someone's spirit. Each one of us have special talents and abilities to use for His work. Be praying where the Lord wants you to serve and minister in 2015.

#### Coming in 2015

Lunch and Learn

Billy Graham Retreat Center at The Cove

Explore Oklahoma Day Adventures

Pioneers and Presidents Trip

Senior Seminary

Make reservations and payments at the FLC Office for all 55+ events and programs.

### All Church News



#### *Downtowner Lunch*

*Wednesday, December 3*

*Time: Noon-1 p.m.*

*Place: Common Ground*

*Speaker: The Rev. Jim Stewart,  
Associate Pastor, retiring December 31.*

*Cost: \$5*

*Menu: Chicken spaghetti, tossed salad, dinner roll and chocolate cake*



#### **OU Faculty/Staff/Students**

#### **Brown Bag Lunch**

**Tuesday, December 9, noon**

Wagner Hall, Conference Room

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

will be at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Bring a gift to place under the tree for baby Jesus

FBC offices will close December 25-26 for Christmas and January 1-2 for New Year's.

*Friendship  
Sunday Supper*  
**FIRST AND THIRD  
SUNDAYS 4:00 P.M.**

FIRST  
SUNDAYS  
4:30 p.m.  
Clothes  
Closet and  
Food Pantry



THIRD  
SUNDAYS  
4:30 p.m.  
Clothes  
Closet and  
Food Pantry

### Music Ministry

#### Love Divine.... A King is Born



Presented by the Music Ministry  
Sunday, December 14, at 6 p.m.  
Concert will be in the sanctuary



Sanctuary Choir,  
Don Gilmore, director  
Sanctuary Orchestra,  
Michael Raiber, director

Praise Kids,  
Erin Raiber, director

MiniMusicians,  
Gigi Nieto, director

And soloists: Emma Bruce, Gigi Nieto,  
Kevin Slavin, Elliot Ringwald



Taking the meaningful  
and making it memorable

*Weekly Schedule*

**Sunday**

Worship

10:30 a.m. Classic Worship Service, Sanctuary  
LifeSong Worship Service, CG

Bible Study

9:15 a.m. Sunday School Life Groups  
5:30 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study, HH  
5:30 p.m. Home Life Groups

**Wednesday**

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal, Hallock Hall  
6:00 p.m. Youth & Children's Ministries  
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Studies  
Choir

*Ministry Staff*

**Dr. Wade Smith**, Pastor

pastorwade@fbcnorman.org

**Jim Stewart**, Associate Pastor

Education and Family Life  
jim@fbcnorman.org

**Angela Atkins**, Director of Community

Ministries  
communityministry@fbcnorman.org

**Crystal R. Byrd**, Minister to Children

crystalb@fbcnorman.org  
@iheartfbckids

**Don Gilmore**, Interim Minister of Music

and Worship Arts  
musicministry@fbcnorman.org

**Roy Joe Ham**, Minister of Administration

royjoeh@fbcnorman.org

**Kirk Hatcher**, Youth Minister

kirk@fbcnorman.org  
@iheartfbcym

**Vickie Riggs**, Pacesetter Minister

vickier@fbcnorman.org

**Clint Taylor**, Minister of Recreation and

Community Outreach Ministries  
clintt@fbcnorman.org

**Laura Robertson**, Interim University Minister

universityminister@fbcnorman.org

**Chris Canary**, Interim LifeSong Worship Leader

lifesong@fbcnorman.org

*Facilities*

**Main Church Building**

211 W. Comanche  
405.321.1753  
Office hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Email: office@fbcnorman.org  
Twitter: @fbcnorman  
Web: www.fbcnorman.org

**Family Life Center**

300 W. Comanche  
405.360.5300

**Common Ground**

324 W. Main

*Happy Birthday!*

- 01: Allison Hawkins, Terry Hearen, Joy Sullivan
- 02: Jean Callahan, Phyllis Gage, Melissa Mills, Melany Pattison, Glenn Sullivan Sr.
- 03: Stephen Burris, Lindsay Crider, Benjamin Diehm, Samuel Harp, Krystal Harrington, Jequita Uhles, Frances Welch
- 04: Lyndal Caddell, Chris Canary, Frederic Ferris, Glenda Largent
- 05: Lee Bryson, Lilia Durham, Lester Snyder
- 06: Pat Brown, Bill Geyer, Anja Hale, Alan Johnson, Bob Stone
- 07: Kristina Diamond, Marlene Fowler, Matt Gentry, Danny Heatly, Gena Tarrant, Allison Taylor, Marilyn Vann
- 08: Cooper Caddell, Olivia Caddell, Cathy Gilmore, Darline Hobbs, Evelyn Parker, Jenny Smiley-Nava, Nazia Zahoor
- 09: Ruthee Danner, Cerissa Keeler, Ron Mercer, Steve Owens, Renee Roe, Cayce Rogers, Jessica Rose
- 10: Vondell Wheeler
- 11: Hilda Buchanan, Paula Cook, Darrel Curry, Brittany Harris, Ellynn Wirth
- 12: Melissa Long, Olivia Ratzlaff, Amanda Rhea
- 13: Meagan Harden, Barbara James, Joanne Stoy
- 14: Danny Foster, Aaron Gray, Dedra Redwine, Ned Thomas
- 15: Charles Frank, Judi Hartsock, Linda Heinlein, Jennifer Morgan
- 16: Margaret Brown, Shelley Ogle, Collin Russell, Kathy Strickland
- 17: Dorothy Harp, Kelsey Henderson, Kaitlin Smith
- 18: Jo Bennett, Gabi Coleman, Roy Joe Ham, Scott Hawkins, Elliot Lee, David Martinez, Charles Prater
- 19: Steven Graham, Katie Skeel, Rodney Smith
- 20: Lou King, Betty Klima, Casey Lawrence, Jennifer McMillen, Joe Theige
- 21: Amy Brown, Ed Copelin, Glenda Crider, Stephany Haxel, Jamie Jinkerson, Lucille Rachal, Sam Singletery
- 22: Steve Carter, Allen Lack, Savannah Mitchell
- 23: David Dillon
- 24: Holly Lassetter, Robert Summers
- 25: Connie Hearen, Nic Nelson, Mark Rhea, Mary Ann Spaulding
- 26: Susan Caddell, Doris Dannehl, Marilyn Woods
- 27: Dana Morris, Marge Morton, Brad Singletery, Avery Taylor, Douglas Vaughn
- 28: Janet Hardage, Sandra Lee
- 29: Susie Conklin, Susan Hawkins, Donna Holt, Michael Rifenburg, Dana Stacy
- 30: Dr. Lavonn Brown, Charles Holt, Matt Hunt, Maddux Rifenburg, Kenton Sanders
- 31: Larry Dilks, Jay Harp, Lauren Satterlee, Michelle Shebester, Patrick Smith, Paul Strunk, Courtney Villanueva, Gwen Wilburn

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

*Annual Poinsettia Sale*

**Purchase a poinsettia in memory, honor, or appreciation of a loved one.**



**The cost is \$17.50**  
 Orders will be taken in the church office until December 17

**Operation Christmas Child**



A note of celebration and thanks for our record breaking year of Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection. As a drop off site, we collected **3,261** shoeboxes. Church members donated **747** of those boxes. The boxes collected will travel to children in Peru, Eastern Europe, and Africa. Proverbs tells us that "gifts open doors." Let us pray that these shoebox gifts open doors for lives to be enriched and transformed by the Good News that **Jesus Christ is Born!** Thank you to all of the volunteers who made it possible to be a collection site again this year.