



# FIRST BAPTIST *At First Glance*

First Baptist Church / 211 W. Comanche, Norman, Oklahoma 73069 / 405-321-1753 / Fax 405-321-2087 / [www.fbcnorman.org](http://www.fbcnorman.org)

**H**appy 2015! The New Year starts with a significant milestone as Rev. Jim Stewart retires after 30 years of ministry at First Baptist.

Jim has served with integrity, faithfulness and steadfastness during good and difficult times. We take time to say “thank you” to Jim and his family in a combined service on Sunday, January 4. Jim will preach and lead in worship through baptism and the Lord’s Supper. A special retirement lunch and program will be held in Hallock Hall immediately following worship to express our appreciation. Please invite those who have been part of Jim’s ministry to join us as well.

With Jim’s retirement, Rev. Kirk Hatcher begins his responsibilities as Minister of Spiritual Formation. With Kirk’s transition, we will welcome Rev. Rich Lubbers and his wife, Stacy, to our ministry team on January 11. Rich accepted the call to serve as Minister to Youth on December 14. I am thankful for the work of our Youth Ministry Search Team in leading us to Rich and the prayerful consideration of our congregation in calling him. May God bless both Kirk and Rich as they transition and minister among us in new ways.

Continue to pray for our Minister of Worship Arts/Music Search team. They are working hard to discern who God is calling to lead our Worship Arts/Music ministry. Over the last weeks they have been contacting potential candidates for more information and initiating exploratory conversations. While making progress, the search team is still uncertain as to the length of the search process. With this in mind, the ministry staff, with the support of the Deacon Leadership Team, would like to continue to wait

to transition our worship services and times until the new Minister of Worship Arts/Music joins us. Until then, we will enjoy the interim leadership of Don Gilmore and Chris Canary for our two worship services.

On January 11, I will bring the Annual Sermon during a combined worship service. We will reflect on 2014 and turn our hearts and thoughts to the coming year. These are important days for our church and I will share the challenges and opportunities that lie before us as we seek to fulfill our mission to Love People, Teach the Word, and Live the Journey as Christ-followers. We must commit to strive for unity across the generations and allow our diversity to be our greatest strength. This is an important day for our church and I hope that you will be in attendance. Our Classic and LifeSong services will resume on January 18.

The start of a new calendar year means preparation for our new fiscal year, beginning April 1. Our Budget Administration Committee, working with our ministry staff, will begin work on the 2015/16 Ministry Plan in the next weeks. Our Committee on Committees will begin their work to nominate church members to serve on administrative committees and as ministry team leaders. Our congregational model requires that church members take an active role in leadership and service. I am thankful for those already serving. Imagine what First Baptist would be if every member found a place of service on a committee or ministry team.



*Dr. Wade Smith*

If you are not already involved, please take these next weeks to explore and find your place in the Body.

I received a phone call recently from a member of our Friendship community. I had not seen her in a while because she was caring for one of her friends who

was slowly dying from a number of causes. The hospice nurse told her that he only had a few hours to live and she wanted me to come by. I arrived to find him surrounded by friends, some of whom our church serves through our community ministries. As we gathered around his bed, we entered holy ground. We read Psalm 23 and thanked God for His grace and promises. I listened as they told me how he invited Jesus into his life in the last months. I encountered Jesus in that holy moment. I’m not sure if He was lying in the bed, holding the hand of the dying or the Friend who was too upset to stay very long. All I know is that Jesus was there. Within a few hours, the individual was gone. Life had passed from his wrecked earthen vessel. A new body awaited him in eternity. Have you been with Jesus lately?

I’m looking forward to a new year of life and ministry. I pray that together we encounter Jesus on a regular basis. God is in our midst, may we have the faith and courage to see Him.

Grace and Peace,  
Dr. Wade Smith

## Jim Stewart reflects on 30 years at First Baptist before retirement

When Jim Stewart was about 12 or 13, his grandmother told him he was going to be a minister.

"I just laughed," Stewart said. "Over 40 years later, here I am."

Stewart's ministry will come to a close at First Baptist Church on December 31 when he retires as Associate Pastor of Education and Family Life.

"I never imagined in 1985 that I would still be here in 2015," Stewart said.

Stewart admits the decision to retire wasn't an easy one, but he feels that God has called him in another direction. Stewart's retirement plans include staying in Norman and offering his clergy skills on a part-time basis to churches who are without a minister. Stewart also plans to minister at an area children's home.

"I'm looking forward to the next chapter of my life. I have been behind the stained glass windows of the church and it's time for me to go outside and to the rest of the world. I don't have any grandiose ideas of traveling around the world. My vision of that is going back to a faith-based children's home to work with families and children and single parents trying to rebuild their lives, pouring a little bit of myself into them," Stewart said.

On January 4, Stewart will preach in a special combined worship service that will feature the Lord's Supper and a very special baptism.

"As a minister, I have gotten to baptize all three of my children. And, God willing, on January 4, I'll get to baptize my granddaughter," Stewart said.

There is something sobering, Stewart said, as he moves closer to his retirement.

"You think 'Have I done all that I've wanted to do?' And I think the answer will always be no. I don't



Jim Stewart

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ever want to be accused of doing everything I set out to do. I'm not sure that's healthy," Stewart said. "I think there will always be a point where your dreams exceed your grasp. There is always something else out there."

Stewart believes that his time at First Baptist has allowed groundwork to be laid for future members of the congregation.

"I like the model that I'm planting trees the shade of which I'll never enjoy. That's kind of the way I've approached my ministry," Stewart said.

Stewart said that retirement has a surreal feeling.

"Just to think that you have been here long enough to have had kids in summer camps and sports programs at the Family Life Center, and then you have been here long enough to have their children (in camps)," Stewart said. "Some of those kids that I had that were in the summer camps when I was at the FLC then worked in our camps. Then they went away to school somewhere and then they got married and a few of them have come back and asked me to do their wedding. That's pretty gratifying."

Stewart admits that his career wouldn't be possible without the

support of his wife Vicki.

"I raised my stock considerably when I got married. She always said she wanted to marry a minister. She had no idea that would mean she would have to give up aspirations of being on one of the top 10 financial wizards list. But she didn't care," Stewart said.

The relationships he's built over the years at First Baptist will be what Stewart misses most when he retires.

"Probably the biggest part of a minister's job is empowering other people to use what gifts they have and to serve in whatever capacity God is calling them in. It has been very gratifying to see people over the years step up to the plate and say, 'I can do that.' Not everybody says yes, but for those that do, I think they are the ones who really end up being the winner in that deal because they see a part of themselves that they didn't see," Stewart said.

The best days in the history of First Baptist are yet to come, Stewart adds.

"God is still going to do some things here. I'm going to try to support the staff and the church the best I can," Stewart said.

A reception honoring Stewart will be held at First Baptist in Hallock Hall on January 4.

# Thank you, Guido of Arezzo for giving us the beauty of music

Guido of Arezzo (Italy) was a Benedictine monk and music teacher in the 10th century. His early career was spent at the monastery of Pomposa where he quickly became aware of the difficulty that singers experienced remembering the choruses — called Gregorian chants — that were used in their worship services.



Don Gilmore

He thought that there had to be a better way to learn and participate in music singing and playing since learning by rote was such an inefficient and ponderous way to learn. He went out on a limb, thinking, “I’m going to move music reading into the 11th century and find a better way to save and share the music.” He created the precursor of our modern musical notation — notes, words, rhythms, on a group of parallel lines that we call a musical staff.

The availability of notated music enables singers and players to literally be on the same page. We can instantly share in the God-given

gift of creativity — the excitement of making music together — and be much more efficient about our work. Printed music allows quick participation rather than just having to listen along.

In Norman, in the 21st century, we are so very fortunate that the learning

and performing of music of all sorts is still honored in schools and churches. Parents, keep encouraging your kids in their choir participation at school and at church and they’ll continue to learn — not only how to read, but also how to use the music that we read to worship God together.

One member of our Sanctuary Choir told me recently that he doesn’t “read” music, but he can tell by looking when the notes go up and down. Well, that’s a pretty good start. If you worship in our Classic service and can tell when things go up and down, you are fully qualified to join our choir for the new year.

Our new Minister of Worship Arts/Music will be pleased to have you



on board.

Speaking for the choir, our worship leadership on Sundays is our sacrifice of praise. We sing to God, first and foremost and always. Soli Deo Gloria! — to the glory of God alone.

Thank you, Guido!

Don Gilmore



## DOWNTOWNER LUNCH

Wednesday, January 7

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Place: Common Ground

Speaker: Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer for the City of Norman

Cost: \$5

Menu: Homemade lasagna, salad, breadsticks and dessert

# Friendship Sunday Supper

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

**First Sundays**  
4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Clothes Closet

**Third Sundays**  
4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Devotion & Food Pantry



# Family Life Center offers many programs for the community

The statement on the front of our Family Life Center brochure says: Our mission is to provide a place to come together, build healthy relationships and bodies, grow together and connect people with Jesus Christ.

In order to fulfill this, we offer many programs and plan several events to bring our church family together both to have fun and fellowship, and to serve side by side. Many events are designed to bring the community through our doors so we can witness to them as servants of the Lord. It takes a lot of volunteer time, prayer and sometimes food to reach these mission goals. Therefore, we are so very grateful for all of our church members who are willing to roll up their sleeves, get on their knees or bake those goodies to stand beside us in these endeavors time

and again.

We begin the year with our Upward Basketball program that reaches hundreds of children, parents and volunteer coaches.

On any wintry Saturday in January and February you will find almost a thousand people coming through these doors, having fun and hearing about our Lord and Savior. And don't forget that "Chicken Dance" song at the beginning of gymnastics during the week that always brings soft giggles.

With Spring comes the Public Servant Appreciation Dinner, Spring Break family retreats and basketball leagues. Summer starts




Clint Taylor

with camps, cross country bicycle groups and those coming to do mission work. Not to be outdone, fall bustles with high school football dinners, an October Block Party, the Tree Lighting/Western Night and a Christmas Parade.

The back of our brochure says, "We hope you leave here refreshed, renewed, and re-energized for the ministry that awaits you." January is a great time to take advantage of our many exercise programs that will help you get re-energized. Pilates, aerobics, Baby Boot Camp (for moms and their tykes), low-impact exercise, walk the track and, of course, the fitness center awaits you, too. Join us in getting ready, both physically and mentally, to take on the servant tasks of 2015.

Clint Taylor

**Welcome Reception  
for the Lubbers!**  
New Minister to Youth



**Sunday, January 11, 2015**  
**9:00-9:30 a.m.: Come and Go**  
**Light breakfast foods/drinks**  
**Youth Hall**

Bring gift cards to your favorite Norman locations!

**Family Life Center Holiday Hours**

The FLC will close at 4 p.m. on December 31  
And will be closed all day January 1 and 2

The center will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
on January 3

*Jump back in January*

**Fitness Center Orientation**  
with Randy Praytor  
6 p.m. Monday  
Required for use of Fitness Center

**Low-Impact Exercise**  
Free  
10 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday  
Park/Arthritis approved

**Pilates**  
with Rebecca Darrow  
8 to 9 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

**Aerobics**  
with Darla Miller  
5:20 to 6:20 p.m. Monday and Thursday

**Zumba**  
with Tori Collier  
Free  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

**Baby Boot Camp**  
with Sarah Smith  
9 to 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

# New year brings new beginnings to First Baptist Church

Happy New Year! I pray that you all had a wonderful season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas with time to reflect on the bountiful blessings God provided you in the past year. If you have not taken the time for those reflections I would encourage you to slow down long enough to spend some time with God, so you will be fully open to the new beginnings of a new year.

The more seasons of new beginnings that I experience the more I learn to anticipate the goodness of God! That is based on the reality of the experiences in the past. I know that even when I fall short, God is always steadfast; when I doubt, God is always faithful; when my vision is blurred, He guides me through my unbelief; when I fail, He picks me up!

Many new beginnings continue to be our reality as the family of faith known as First Baptist Norman. As we step into this new year we will say goodbye to a solid fixture of our ministry staff as Jim Stewart steps into that wonderful land of retirement. Jim and Vicki you have blessed so many in your season of ministry, I pray that you will be

richly blessed in your season of retirement.

Kirk Hatcher, steps into the new calling of Minister of Spiritual Formation. You have known him as our Minister to Youth for the past seven years. I have known him as a minister and friend for more than 20 years and am excited for all of our church to get to know Kirk and Jill better. I hope we all open ourselves to the benefit of his leadership, and pray for them daily as he steps into this new doorway of ministry.

I am excited to soon welcome Rich and Stacy Lubbers to our FBC family and Rich as our new Minister to Youth! God led the path for a very faithful search team to Rich as that one to follow Kirk to lead, and grow our youth. I enjoyed getting to know them as they came in view of a call, and I hope each of you will take the time to know them, encourage them and welcome them to the family.

I ask that you continue to pray



Roy Joe Ham

for the Minister of Worship Arts/ Music search team as they continue this very important search. Pray for God's great vision, wisdom and understanding in coming to the place of understanding who God is preparing to lead our worship arts/ music ministry.

Finally, our faithful Financial Assistant, Marcia Farris, has submitted her letter of intent to retire. Marcia is looking forward to spending time with her family and especially the grandchildren, the second of which is due to be born in March. Marcia has been a faithful, trusted staff member for the past 13 ½ years. The exact date of retirement is not known as we prepare for the time of transition. We will keep you informed when we schedule a time to appropriately say thank you to Marcia. For now, Marcia, thank you for your faithful and tireless service to FBC. You will be missed.

As we all enter this season of New Beginnings, I will pray for you and ask you do the same for your church staff. Happy New Year!

Roy Joe Ham

*In Celebration of Jim Stewart*

We will come together in a combined service on Sunday, January 4.

Jim will preach and lead in worship through baptism and the Lord's Supper. A special retirement lunch and program will be held in Hallock Hall immediately following worship to express our appreciation.

Please invite those who have been part of Jim's ministry to join us as well.



**ignite**  
PASSION FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Pledges	\$3,127,007
Received	\$2,517,083



**BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE**

405 North Washington Street | Falls Church, VA 22046, USA  
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[bwaid@bwanaet.org](mailto:bwaid@bwanaet.org) | [www.bwanaet.org](http://www.bwanaet.org)



December 5, 2014

Wade Smith  
 First Baptist Church  
 211 W Comanche St.  
 Norman, OK 73069-5610

Dear Pastor Wade,

On behalf of families we assist, I would like to say thank you for your generous gift to Baptist World Aid. The support we receive from churches like yours makes our work possible. Your generosity will make a difference in many lives.

With your donation we are able to feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless, and empower the unskilled with training to obtain gainful employment. Your generous donation will also provide assistance to those in Central African Republic and South Sudan, as well to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon and Iraqi Christians forcibly displaced by ISIS in Iraq.

Again, thank you for being a part of the work of Baptist World Aid. Together we can help spread the love of God around the world and bring hope and joy to those in need, in the name of Christ.

Kindest regards,

Rothangliani Chhangte  
 Director, Baptist World Aid

**Annual Sermon**

The combined worship service on January 11 will feature the Annual Sermon. We will reflect on 2014 and turn our hearts and thoughts to the coming year.

Classic and LifeSong services will resume on January 18.

**Keep A Look Out**

Don't forget to pick up your Bread Bank for World Hunger.

*Return by February 8*

*Parents Night Out*

*Kids Sweetheart Night*

**February 13**

6:30 - 9:30 p.m.,  
 Birth - Grade 5

\$5 per child, \$15 Family Max  
 Reservation Required

Sign up with Crystal  
 by February 4



*PJ's and Popcorn*  
*January 2, 6-9 pm*

*1st Grade Girls - University Girls*  
*Youth Hall*

## Community Ministries looks ahead to 2015

Thank you so much for the donations, gifts and time you have given the past two months to hundreds in our community. You have blessed so many.

As we look ahead to this year, we are working and praying to strengthen our ministries and deepen those relationships we already have. We are making adjustments to our Sunday Supper to allow us to make sure we have enough items to distribute, as well as increase the spiritual focus each month.

We are developing a long term vision for our Samaritan's Inn



Angela Atkins

Housing Ministry. We are looking at ways to deepen our ministry with Kids Hope, CCFI and Sunday Supper families.

We are praying for God's guidance in how our church can make a difference in the lives of family, women and children in our community, beyond the temporary help that we offer already.

I have some ideas but I am also waiting for God's leadership and the people He is preparing for this. Please join us in prayer — and I welcome your wisdom and ideas!

Angela Atkins



### University and Pacesetter Game Day

January 7, 11 a.m. to noon  
at the Family Life Center  
Includes lunch

### Lunch and Learn

January 16, at the Redlands Community College. The afternoon will include a visit to an exhibit of Mike Wimmer, an internationally recognized illustrator and artist whose imagination comes to life on the canvas. The exhibit will showcase a variety of his work from different periods of his career.

### Coming in February

#### Birthday Bash Luncheon

February 19, 11:30 a.m.  
at the Family Life Center  
Celebrating January, February and March birthdays.

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

#### OU Faculty/Staff/Students Brown Bag Lunch With Pastor

January 13, noon  
at Wagner Hall, Conference Room, on campus at the University of Oklahoma

## MENTORS NEEDED

**For new Kids Hope students. 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!**



**Contact Angela at [angela@fbcnorman.org](mailto:angela@fbcnorman.org) for more information.**

## Community Ministry Year Round Needs

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

## January Birthdays

**January 1:** Marjorie Lewis, Donna Queen, Judy Spearman

**January 2:** Brad Copelin, Trey Gaylord, Elvis Mahan, Megan Myers, Hope Turley

**January 3:** Max Murphree, Colonel Richardson

**January 4:** Maxine Cunningham, Keith Lawrence, Robin Nipper, Arlando Reed, Julie Skinner

**January 5:** Rick Miller, Stacy Strevett

**January 6:** Sue Overton, Robert Roy

**January 7:** Joy Satterlee, Buddy Williams,

**January 9:** John Bedwell, Mark Dale, Floretta Logan, Genese McCoy, Haydn McDade, Cynthia Reed

**January 10:** Melanie Jonason, Jennifer Leber, Kim McDade Torres, Justin Mullinax, Jack Shadle

**January 11:** Cody Caddell, Rusty Grice, Marques Vontress

**January 12:** Shirley Haskin, Max Singleterry

**January 13:** Patti Barr, Carrol McConnell, Carmen Goodspeed-Sinclair, Courtney Soltero

**January 14:** Jamie Fields, Shirley Geis, Steve Graham, Anita Reed, Don Shandy

**January 15:** Lauren Axton, Caden Long, Mark Long

**January 16:** Stephen Durham, Steven Graham, Mary Haning, Alison Horstkoetter, Andrea Neal, Ada Sewell

**January 17:** Kevin Bloss, Betty Buyten, Lynn Foreman, Nancy Roley

**January 18:** Eli Adams, Byrong Tanner

**January 19:** Sophie Dillon, Jacob Dvorak, Lisa Edge, Mary Elwell, Mary Gorton, Leslie Jones, Pat McCoy

**January 20:** Kathy Bills, Luke Davis, Priscilla Fennell, Andrew Marang, Gaitha Milligan

**January 21:** Nicole Antonio, Marva Meador

**January 22:** Joyce Marley, Madeline Storm, Cassidy Sullivan

**January 23:** Francine Barnard, Kenny Sullivan, Neva Weaver

**January 24:** Barbara Anderson, Robyn Briscoe, Kara Hill, James Hirst, Beth Jackson, Colin Marang, Sheila Myers, Vanessa Trammell

**January 25:** Milam King, Alan Thrower

**January 26:** Sallie Kennedy, Wanda Reid, Shanda Scott

**January 27:** Peggy Alexander, Geary Hunt, John Smist

**January 28:** Cody Williams

**January 29:** Sue Brown, Vicky DeLany, Clay Pattison

**January 30:** John Cole, Becky Leon, Jordan Probst, Sage Rasmussen

**January 31:** Jodi Beery, Chris Carlson, Don Farris, Brittney Hall, Caeden Hatcher, Tom James

## Letters from the FBC Family

*FBC Church Family,*

*We want to thank you for all the prayers, calls, hugs, cards and visits during the recent loss of my mom, Polly Jones. A special thanks to our Sunday school class, The Upper Room.*

*Although not a member, she attended several services with*

*us and enjoyed the fellowship of FBC and singing her favorite hymn, "Because He Lives."*

*Your kindness and concern was very touching,*

*In Christian Love,*

*Donna and Delayne Dye*

## Sympathies

**Ken & Glenda Smith and Stephanie Putman** at the passing of Glenda's mother, Dicey Howell

**Jim & Vicki Stewart, Matt, Joy Beth, Lynlee & Stewart Robinson** at the passing of Jim's sister in-law, Margaret Stewart

**Emma Lou Tiffany** at the passing of her son, Samuel Tiffany

**Gary, Janet, Matthew & Timothy Schaffner** at the passing of Gary's mother, Nell Schaffner

**Betty Higgins** at the passing of her husband, Arnold Higgins

**Delayne & Donna Dye** at the passing of Donna's mother, Polly Jones

**Philip Crawford & Stacey Sulzen** at the passing of their wife & mother, Adenya Crawford

**Doris Whinery** at the passing of her sister, Beulah Jarvis

**Robert & Teri Hamra** at the passing of Robert's mother, Lenore Hamra

## Ministry Staff

**Dr. Wade Smith, Pastor**  
pastorwade@fbcnorman.org

**Roy Joe Ham, Minister of Administration**  
royjoeh@fbcnorman.org

**Kirk Hatcher, Minister of Spiritual Formation**  
kirk@fbcnorman.org

**Angela Atkins, Director of Community Ministries**  
angela@fbcnorman.org

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

**Laura Robertson, Interim University Minister**  
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**Don Gilmore, Interim Minister of Music and Worship Arts**  
musicministry@fbcnorman.org

**Vickie Riggs, Pacesetter Minister**  
vickier@fbcnorman.org

**Clint Taylor, Minister of Recreation and Community Outreach Ministries**  
clintt@fbcnorman.org

**Chris Canary, Interim LifeSong Worship Leader**  
lifesong@fbcnorman.org

**Rich Lubbers, Minister to Youth**  
richl@fbcnorman.org  
@iheartfbcmym

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

## Weekly Schedule

**Sunday Worship**  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School Life Groups  
10:30 a.m. Classic Worship Service  
LifeSong Worship Service, CG

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

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