

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

The story is familiar, maybe too familiar to impact us the way it did the first time we heard it. But, let us invite the Spirit of God to open our ears and listen again for the first time....

Jesus was dead: Betraved, crucified and entombed. Hopes, dreams and possibilities shattered. It was Sunday morning, the start of a new week. Jesus' followers were still numb to a life without Him. The women left at dawn for the tomb to anoint His body with spices. That's when everything changed. When they arrived, the tomb had been opened and an angel of the Lord proclaimed, "Jesus is not here, for He has risen." The angel instructed them to tell the other disciples to go to Galilee, where they would see Him. When the Jewish authorities heard the reports, they offered the guards a bribe and an alibi. "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we were asleep." The guards agreed, taking the money and spreading this story among the Jews.

What do you believe? Risen or stolen? If Jesus is risen, the good news of Scripture is the power to save and transform. If His body was stolen, the story of the cross and resurrection is foolishness. If Jesus did not rise from the grave, the Apostle Paul says our faith is vain and worthless. "We are of all men most to be pitied." But, if it is true, the power of the gospel is a reality for today and for eternity.

Because we believe He is Risen, we set apart Easter Sunday from every other Sunday to celebrate, to remember and to anticipate. Resurrection. New Life. Grace. Love. Eternity. Forgiveness. Easter explains Christmas. Easter creates hope. Easter fosters courage in the face of death and evil. Easter Sunday means we can face the world, no matter how bad Good Friday is. And for those who

believe, Easter is not just a day on the calendar, but a life filled with daily experiences of Easter love and resurrection. I look forward to worshiping with vou in our combined Easter service on April 5.

As part of our Easter Sunday preparation, please join us for Holy Week services and activities. On April 1, we will host the Norman Ministerial Fellowship Lenten service at noon. Pastor Rusty Tugman of Alameda Church of Christ will be our pulpit guest. Lunch follows worship at 12:35 p.m. Let's be good hosts and welcome our community in worship and fellowship. On April 2, our choir and orchestra will lead in a Tenebrae and Lord's Supper service in the sanctuary. This will be a powerful worship experience that leads to the cross and tomb of Jesus. On April 3, we will gather at Common Ground for Secret Church, worshiping in solidarity with those who suffer and die for their faith. Sonshine Celebration begins at 11 a.m. on April 4 on the playground for children and their families. May God prepare our hearts for Easter resurrection.

Our Minister of Worship Arts/ Music search team announced on Palm Sunday that they have invited a candidate to come in view of a call. I have been blessed to see how God has brought this diverse group from within our church to a place of unanimous agreement. Now, it is your turn. We are planning a special week of activities to meet this candidate and his family. He will spend time with worship leadership from both services including the choir, orchestra and praise band. We will have a special



Dr. Wade Smith

meet and greet fellowship for the extended church family. Finally, he will participate in both worship services before we vote to extend a call to ministry at the conclusion of those services. We will announce the "Call Weekend" as soon as those dates are finalized.

April 2015

The call of a Minister of Worship Arts/Music

allows us to move forward with our worship transition during the summer months. Moving to early and late services, in contrast to simultaneous services, is a significant step in this process as God invites us to share and experience worship together across the generations. There is always a sense of angst or loss when change comes, but there also is opportunity for good and new things as well. Many are excited about the possibilities in front of us. Let us be in prayer as the Spirit of God leads.

Finally, To Norman with Love will take on a different form this year, reminding us that acts of kindness and service are more about a lifestyle than a day on the calendar. We are encouraging individuals, families and our Life/Sunday school groups to set aside time during the week of April 11-17 to serve one another and our community. Join us on April 12 at Andrews Park for a cookout and picnic immediately following worship. Our Community Ministry team has offered some service project suggestions, but don't be afraid to explore your own creative ideas as you reach out to serve vour neighbors. I can't wait to hear how God ministers through you to make a difference in the lives of others. Pastor Wade o Norman with Love is our annual focus on community wide service.

Instead of a one-day event, this year To Norman with Love will be a week-long event with multiple ways to help others as an individual, family or group.

Group Project Ideas

• Assemble "welcome baskets" for homeless in new housing (\$55- \$60 per basket)

- Games, manicures, etc. at assisted living centers
- Spend time at Among Friends Activity Center
- Clean up a public area
- Make and deliver care baskets or meals to shut-ins
- Host a neighborhood block party
- Assist with the church-wide Sunday cookout
- Help a neighbor with house maintenance

Email Angela, angelaa@fbcnorman.org, for more details, pick a group project or to get a \$10 T-shirt. Proceeds help fund projects and events.



Week of Service for our Community April 11-17, 2015

Daily Ways to Participate

April 11 Public Servant Appreciation Night at the FLC

April 12

Church-wide / Food & Shelter Cookout at Andrews Park at noon

April 13 Leave a thank you note on your mail box for your mail carrier

April 14 Make cookies or other treats and share with a neighbor

April 15 Kids & Youth: Create and deliver flower pots for our senior adults

> April 16 Teacher/Boss Appreciation Day

> > April 17

Attend Center for Children and Families' Hands & Hearts Fundraiser Luncheon or donate a children's book (age 0-5)

Minimize the noise and take time to really listen

The following are thoughts from a newsletter article published by Joseph Martin, director of Church Music Publications for Hal Leonard and Shawnee Press.

Following a musical triumph at Carnegie Hall, our friend Joseph Martin was caught up in appropriate afterglow with family and friends.

Along with his wife, Sue, and his two teenage children, Aubrey and Jonathan. Joe headed toward their New York City hotel after a celebrative dinner. They passed through Times Square and passed what appeared to be a homeless man, playing his guitar and singing. Joe is a generous person; he tossed a few bills into the man's guitar case.

After walking a bit farther, Joe realized that Jonathan was not with the rest of

the family. With a little frustration, but also no small amount of parental concern. Joe retraced his steps and found his son at the entrance to the alley where the man was singing.

of the man, listening to him sing. Joe asked if the man was bothering his son, but Jonathan assured his dad that this street musician was a really nice guy.

"I was just bothered that everybody gives this man money, but no one ever stops to listen to his song. I just wanted to really listen to his music," Jonathan told his dad.

May God grant us the sense to minimize the noise of our world and to really listen — really listen — to the songs and stories of those around us.

Don Gilmore

Family Life Center announces summer camps, enrollment dates

Enrollment for FLC summer camps begins April 6 for church members and those in FBC programs. Enrollment starts on April 20 for the community.

May 26-28 Jr. Hoops (4-5-year-olds) Time: 9-11 a.m. Cost: \$50

June 22-26

Gymnastics Camp (3-14-year-olds) Three class times: 3:15 p.m.; 4:15 p.m. or 5:20 p.m. Cost: \$40/\$45

June 22-25 Jr. Science Camp (4-year-olds to first grade)

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

Time: 9-11 a.m. Cost: \$75

Science Camp (Second-fifth grades) Time: 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Cost: \$75

July 6-9 Upward Basketball Time: 6-8-year-olds, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; 9-12-year-olds, 1-4 p.m. Cost: \$75

July 27-30 Jr. Chef's Academy (4-year-olds to Cost: \$75

Chef's Academy (Second to fifth grade) Time: 1:30 -3:30 p.m. Cost: \$75





Don Gilmore

Jonathan was kneeling in front

first grade) Time: 9 -11 a.m.

The Spiritual Discipline of Silence

I'd like to take the next few months and use this space to write about some of the spiritual disciplines that have helped shape Christians throughout the years, and invite all of us to participate in some of these. The first of these disciplines is one we often forget or find too difficult to do: SILENCE. But first...

What is a spiritual discipline? According to Richard Foster, author of "Celebration of Discipline," a classic book in the area of spiritual disciplines, these "Disciplines of the spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths... The purpose of the Disciplines is liberation from the stifling slavery to self-interest and fear." [1] These disciplines are the activities by which we can experience spiritual growth, and as I talk with so many who are seeking for this type of growth, I get the sense that by introducing, or re-introducing these disciplines to FBC Norman, we can walk this path together.

Have you noticed how difficult it can be to find a moment of silence? From the time I wake to an alarm to the time I hit the pillow again at night, noises surround me. Some of these noises are fine... some I look forward to... others I could live without. The point is we have to want to make room for si find us accidentally



Kirk Hatcher

to make room for silence. It will not find us accidentally.

Through the example of Jesus, we can sense the importance of this discipline. Immediately after his baptism, Jesus withdrew to the wilderness for 40 days to prepare for the ministry that would soon follow. Elsewhere in the gospels, we see Jesus pull away from the crowds and the 12 that he had asked to follow him so that he could pray, so that he could experience this silence. We, too, are asked to pull away from the noise of our lives and to find those moments of quiet, peace and reflection. The question will remain, though...

What do I do once I create this space for silence? My first advice is to

just be there. Sit in this new silence. You can talk with God. If you find that evening is a good time for you to withdraw a bit, find 10 minutes and read your devotional book of choice OR reflect back through your day noticing where you saw God working. This discipline is geared to help us slow down, sit silently and listen for the heartbeat of God so that eventually our heartbeat might follow His.

Finally, a simple idea that has been shared with me by one of our own FBC Norman-ites (is that what we call ourselves?) is to not turn on any sound in my car for the first few minutes of any drive. This proved to be painful...at first. I love to listen to all kinds of things in my car, but once I realized how precious those few moments of complete silence were I knew this idea would work for me. Maybe it will work for you.

If you find that the discipline of silence works for you, I would love to hear about it. Please jot down your experience and email it to me. I look forward to seeing how God works in all of this.

Kirk Hatcher

A child's spiritual development doesn't stop at church

I've been a Sunday school teacher at First Baptist for eight years. In that time it has been my pleasure to share the love of Christ with many children and their families. Also in that time, I've noticed a large problem facing many of our students.

Our children do not have enough time to grow in Sunday school. It isn't that Sunday school is somehow bad or that Sunday school should be all day. The problem is that, after about 15 minutes of exposure to a developmentally appropriate lesson, they leave, not to return to or think about the curriculum until the next week.

Imagine for a moment that someone had tried to teach you algebra once a week for 15 minutes. No homework, no quizzes or tests, just your 15 minutes of algebra. By the end of a year, with only 13 total hours of education, how well do you think you would understand algebra?

Christ's love is more intricate and relevant to your child's life than algebra. While 15 minutes a week is plenty of time to introduce a specially geared lesson, it is not enough to develop a long lasting faith. As teachers, we are vested in your child's emotional and spiritual development. Our biggest need is for the lessons we teach to go home and follow your child throughout their week. Talk to them about their lesson on the way to school, on the way to practice or at the dinner table. Use that conversation to share your own faith and spiritual growth.

In order to have a relevant, lasting faith that can withstand the storm of doubt that is the world, your child needs you. They need you to share your faith, your stories and, most importantly, your time with them as they ask questions and search to learn more than what they can find on their own. Be the parent who invests in your child's spiritual development. Be the parent they need to inspire and grow their faith.

Talk with them, read with them, pray with them and, most importantly, pray for them and their faith journey.

> Russ Cole, 4th grade Sunday school teacher, co-chair Children's Ministry Team

Looking forward to a refreshing season of spring

April brings on many new things around FBCN. Certainly, spring is in the air, and many of you are expressing great excitement about the "greening" of spring.

Recently, Lydia and I were in Central Texas and saw Bluebonnets bursting with color, trees fully abloom and other signs that spring is headed north.

April also brings a transition in our Administrative Committees and Ministry Teams. Many who have served faithfully for two or three years will be resting for a while, and new members will take on the tasks. Thank you to all of you who have faithfully served; for the prayers, input and guidance to the ministries of First Baptist.

Service: As we begin the new church year, it is our hope and prayer that each of our members will find a special place to serve in the coming year. Being a church has much more to do than our hour of worship each week. It is about us being church together to touch the lives of folks in Norman and beyond. Much of that comes in the need to be active in telling our story to friends and neighbors. I have been told that FBCN is one of the best kept secrets in Norman. It is time to spread



Roy Joe Ham

the news and change from the best kept secret to the best story heard in Norman. We must grow our church and the best way to do that is for each of us to actively invite and bring families, friends and newcomers to worship with us. When is the last time you thought about that opportunity?

Ministry Plan/Generosity: On behalf of the Budget Administration and the Stewardship Committees, thank you for being such a generous people. The final numbers are not in yet but it appears that you will have once again shown to be a very generous people. You have offered

around \$2 million to the Ministry Plan (budget), around \$600,000 to Ignite capital giving, and \$80,000 designate above the budget giving to affect missions around the world We did miss having the extra income that we experienced the previous two years from an inheritance gift in 2013 and the sale of the BSU property in 2014, both of which helped with our budget needs. In 2014 we had larger than normal air conditioning repair bills in excess of \$70,000. With those expenses, and the lack of the special income, our budget reserve is extremely low going into a new fiscal year. The Budget Committee is asking us now to see how we might individually and corporately respond to meet the needs as we move into our high expense season of summer. Join with me in this request for prayer and giving in these days.

Looking forward to experiencing a refreshing season of spring, both physically and spiritually, along with you.

Roy Joe Ham



NEW BAPTIST COVENANT 2015

Hosted on the Oklahoma City University campus at the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel

2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Friday, April 24

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Preaching Workshop: Brett Younger
3-4:30 p.m. Future of Missions Breakout: Ryan Clark
6-6:30 p.m. Associational Meetings
7- 8:15 p.m. Celebration & Worship

Saturday, April 25

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Covenant of Action at Anadarko Campground Looking ahead to August 14 Covenant of Action with Raise The Grade in OKC Urban Schools

On a mission: Church member seeks donations for insecticide nets

For Amy Williams taking the yearly trip to Uganda not only is rewarding but also helps her feel more connected to her church.

Amy, a member of First Baptist Church and president of Bushenyi Alliance for Rural Health and Development, takes the annual trip to help provide healthcare and education in rural Uganda.

"We do malaria training. We encourage them to go ahead and get in the clinic because if you get on medication, you can stop it," Amy said.

Also while in Uganda the nonprofit delivers very high quality insecticide nets to prevent malaria.

"The nets are large. They provide protection for the whole family because the family sleeps on a palette. They don't have individual rooms," Amy said.

BARHD works with HIS Nets to raise funds for the nets that cost \$10 each. The nets are purchased in the spring and shipped to Uganda prior to



Amy Williams, right, hopes to take at least 1,000 insecticide nets when she travels to Uganda on June 19 for a two week visit.

BARHD volunteers arrival.

"We take the nets out to the areas where we do our clinics," Amy said. "These nets will last 10 years with simple care. If seven, eight or even 10 people are sleeping under them, for 10 years, that's a lot of people being protected. We always have more people wanting them than we can provide."

In Uganda, Amy said, there are

more deaths from malaria than HIV.

Amy hopes to take at least 1,000 nets when she travels to Uganda on June 19 for a two week visit. Those wishing to give money for nets are encouraged to donate through the church office.

In addition to donations, Amy said that she appreciates the prayers she knows are being made from her church family while she and other BARHD volunteers are in Uganda.

"I just want the church family to know what a difference it makes. It's keeping mothers from walking miles, with a sick baby, and probably an extra one on their backs, and maybe leaving an 8-year-old to be head of the household to the children that are left, so that she can go to a healthcare facility that is maybe 10 miles away. Many times it is an IV that has to be administered over a couple of days. Sometimes they can do a pill but sometimes they have to stay there for awhile. And that is a real strain on the family," Amy said.

Holy Week Schedule				
Lenten service at First Baptist April 1 Noon	Tenebrae Service April 2 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary	Secret Church April 3 6:30 p.m. Common Ground	Sonshine Celebration April 4 11 a.m 1 p.m. Playground	Easter Sunday April 5 10:30 a.m. Combined worship
Fitnes	ily Life Center s Center Orientation th Randy Praytor		Sonshii	ne Celebrati

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



Being a Minister to Youth

Minister to Youth.

It seems like a title that means a number of things to a number of different people.

For some, I'm the guy who loves bow ties (for the record, they are every bit as fabulous as they seem — they are stylish, they don't drag in your food when you eat lunch, they take fewer steps to tie than a double Windsor...). For others, I'm the person who walked into an incredible youth facility without having any idea how incredible it really is. And for others, I'm the one who is always asking you how you might be able to share your faith story with our students, and let them share their faith stories with you.

Oh, and do they have some faith stories. We have a bulletin board that was started by Rev. Kirk Hatcher, where students anonymously post prayer requests. While reading some of them, you get the sense that most of our students have some fairly normal struggles. Then you find the students' prayer requests that show some are dealing with incredibly difficult stuff, and you're thankful that they still have faith, although you may wonder how with all that they're dealing with.

I wonder if this intergenerational push that our church has adopted is something that makes my title insufficient. After watching you over WakeUpWeekEnd, I know that we have more than just one Minister to Youth.

That weekend, I watched the Circle of Friends, Sisters in Christ,



Rich Lubbers

and Walking in the Word LifeGroups provide food, then stick around and get to know our students. I heard how our students enjoyed getting to know all of our senior adults who stopped by for dinner, and loved our students every second that they were there.

I also appreciated the Langs and Mullinaxes for doing the thankless, but necessary, work of hosting the WakeUpWeekEnd band and speaker.

So thank you for ministering to our youth. You are all youth ministers, and that makes my job so much easier. Together, let's continue to teach them in the way they should go, love them for the students they are and the men and women God is calling them to be, and live the sometimes difficult journey with them.

Thank you, First Baptist Church of Norman, for being Ministers to Youth.

Rich Lubbers

Public Servant Appreciation Night April 11 Family Life Center

Dinner will be served at 6:30p.m.

*Volleyball *Basketball *Racquetball *Game Room available from 6 to 9 p.m.



Adults 55+ Doug Manning

When: 8 a.m. 2 p.m., April 14 What: We will travel by church vehicle to Crossings Community Center in Oklahoma City to hear pastor and author Doug Manning. Cost: \$3 plus lunch. Day includes two hour seminar plus lunch at Mimi's Café.

AARP Driving Seminar

When: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., April 13 Cost: \$15 for AARP members; \$20 for non-AARP members

Comanche Street Mission When: 2-4 p.m., April 25 What: Volunteers are needed for our Playground Pals Ministry. Volunteers will serve drinks and cookies to families on the playground. For more information, contact Vickie.

Coming in May Birthday Bash Luncheon When: 11:30 a.m., May 7 What: March, April and May.

Lady Liberty

When: May 15 What: The day includes a visit to the Vietnam Memorial Wall, A26 Bomber tour and artifacts, Musical entertainment from the 1940s, lunch and more. Cost: \$69

Bluegrass Gospel Night When: 5:30- 9 p.m., May 30, in Midwest City Cost: \$4 per person

The Cove When: June 9-16 What: Travel to The Cove, Billy Graham Training Center, in Asheville, N.C.

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April Birthdays

April 1: Jaynee Bell, Paul Hawkins, Glen Hubbel, Buzz Jensen, Kubra Karim, Brad Price, Stuart Rucker, April 17: Brenda Chapman, Fern Cockerham, Marcia Jim Stewart

April 2: Jo Ann Anthony, John Bills, Wanda Curry, Josh Edge, Lillian Hall, Hazel Jensen, Doug Upchurch Jack Green, Britt Hatcher, Danielle O'Neal April 3: Ann Borden, Grant Cherry, William Windes April 4: Josh Harrison, Michelle Lefler, Cathy Little, Mike Morris, Karen Murphy, Marley Rogers, Deena Standfast

April 5: James Billings, Roy Brown, George Landreth II, Jo Looney, Cathy Storm, Lauren Weatherholt

April 6: Neal Bradley, Bennett Diehm, Bryan Porter, Jana Robins, Steve Vishanoff

April 7: Nathan Lasseter, Dan McMillen, Jay Turley April 8: Sarah Adams, Gracie Branch, Marcus

Dollard, Scott Rigney, Stormy Theiss

April 9: Buddy Combs, Janet Harp, Sandy Jimerson, Ginger Shockley

April 10: Trish Foor, Bret Stacy

April 11: Kathy Ferguson, Michelle Harmon,

Jonathan Storm, Joshua Storm

April 12: Darian Cheshier, Sherri Reece, Justin Turley, Lori Wright

April 13: Chelsea Brummer, Patti Drennan, Kort

Nicholson, Laura O'Connell, Barbara Stone

April 14: Mell Strunk, Freda Williams

April 15: David Brown, Jim Doull, Bea Luther, Chloe April 30: Conan Clough, Annette Meyers Dollard, Tadlock, Don Thompson, Mary Varner

April 16: Kendall Cunningham, Samantha Littleton Farris, Becky Graham April 18: Steve Carlson, LaRita Couch, Steve Gorton, April 19: Tiffany Burleson, Laura Stuart, Craig Thompson April 20: Lee Borden, Ann Hodges, Janette Ketchum, Jamie Musson, Connie Smith, Marcus Weatherall April 21: Amy Hooper, Scott McGowen April 22: Cecilia Bradley, Sara Hildenbrand, Jordan Williams April 23: Betty Allen, Shawn Badgett, Georgia Barnard, Judy Chowins, Gloria Murray, Olivette Sanders April 24: Penny Buchanan, Ivan Krush, Lindsay Rice April 25: Reva Fithian, Wilma McMurphy, Dale White April 26: Sandy Dismukes, Emily Drennan, Melissa Dyer, Harold Emery, Durwin Gaither April 27: April Sandlin, Timothy Schaffner, Jamie Upchurch April 28: Jon Christian, Mona Gardner, Brandi Long, Dennis Swing, Phil Webb April 29: Dolly Berry, Christine Dodd, Kenneth Hudson, Kelly Marcum, Megan Milsap, Patricia Morgan, Steve Rogers, Fleeta White, Kathryn Wivninger

Aaron Nichols, Alyssa Seratte

From the bottom of our hearts, we'd like to express to

you how grateful we are for everything you did during Art's

passing. Words cannot express how much we appreciated your

Cece, Maurice, Art Jr.

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you so much for the many prayers and cards during the past two months for our family.

Having a church family to support you through life's trials is a true blessing. We so appreciate the food and visits with the passing of Dan's mother.

Dan and Chesca Baily

and the rest of the Maruri family

Dear FBC Family,

Your love, prayers and support throughout the death of our parents cannot truly be expressed in words. Please know that we will be forever grateful for your love and support.

Cindy Williamson and Kim McElroy

Dear First Baptist Church,

love and thoughtfulness.

Dear FBC Family,

We want to thank you for your supporting the Norman The entire McAlister Family, North football team. You have helped us have a great year. Norman North Booster Club

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April 2015

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

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

Jane Kroeker, Josh, Jordan and Jenny Roby at the passing of their father and grandfather, Lewis Jordan

Vondell Wheeler at the passing of her husband, Leroy Wheeler

Family and friends of Eloise Hancock at her passing

Nona Argo, Elmer and Mona Roberts at the passing of Nona's husband, Wayne Argo

Craig, Robin, Kelly and Mary Nipper and Payton Henson at the passing of their aunt and great-aunt, Helen Alicie



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