



# 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)

*Are you aware of the significant things going on in missions through the life of First Baptist?*

Yes, we are all on mission and called to serve on mission in our neighborhoods and communities, but in this moment, I am thinking about missions in the historic sense — living or serving incarnationally in a foreign land or culture.

Many of you are aware that we have at least four missionary families serving with the International Mission Board that have ties to our church. Our missionary house allows us to offer the gift of rest and hospitality for career missionaries coming home on furlough. These relationships have fostered opportunities for FBC groups to serve in Thailand, Turkey, and North Africa. Over the next months, members of our church will serve on short term mission projects in Uganda, Peru, Cuba, and here in Oklahoma.

Seven students/young adults are committing their summers to serving in Asia, Europe, and Peru. At least two other students will spend the summer in Kansas City ministering through OU's Baptist Collegiate Ministries. We have students committing their summer to work at children/youth camps in Texas, Arkansas, and here in Norman. And, because of your faithful giving, we are able to support one of our former youth and her husband as they look to begin ministry with Greater Europe Mission in Manchester, England. In addition, three current/former FBC students will enroll at Truett seminary in the fall to prepare for vocational ministry. The Spirit of God continues to call the generations of First Baptist to go, to serve, and to tell the good news of Jesus Christ to the nations. *How is God calling you to serve and support this movement of His Spirit?*

On Friday and Saturday, May

29-30, the sanctuary will be open for Pray First. During this 20 hour focus, we are inviting our church family to a guided prayer journey that should take about an hour. It will be a time to listen, to intercede and to share about God's work among and through us.

With the calling of a Minister of Worship Arts/Music, the worship transition that we have been anticipating is upon us. Chad Smith's first day in the office will be June 8. He will lead in the Classic service on June 14 and June 28 and in the LifeSong service on June 21 before leading our July 5 combined worship service. These initial weeks will give Chad the opportunity to get to know us, our worship teams and to help us transition from simultaneous to early/late worship services.

Our current plan is to transition worship and Sunday School times on July 12. This mid-July date should allow us time to work through the details as we anticipate the return of students and new families for the start of the school year in August.

Don Gilmore completes his third interim at FBC in June and has done marvelous work in leading our choir, orchestra and Classic service. Working with Crystal Byrd and Erin Raiber, he has provided important leadership for our children's choir ministry. We will always be thankful for Don's vision and leadership in making the 125th Anniversary Heritage Concert a



*Dr. Wade Smith*

memorable worship and community event.

Chris Canary has led our LifeSong worship team and ministry over the past eight months. We have been blessed by his musical talents and leadership skills. Chris has always been gracious to bring his guitar and lead in worship whenever a group would ask. In addition, Chris teaches and offers his leadership to our young adult Sanctuary class each Sunday morning.

Laura Robertson will complete her interim as University Minister at the end of June. Laura has done nice work in leading and coordinating our university students over these last eight months and is preparing to enroll at Truett Seminary in the fall.

I hope that you will take time to individually thank these three ministers and let them know specifically how their ministry has impacted you.

On Sunday, May 31, we will gather in Hallock Hall for lunch and church conference immediately following worship. Important reports from our Budget/Finance and Personnel Committees will be provided. In addition to business, we will be blessed with the joy of fellowship and community as we share lunch together. Please make plans to attend.

On Father's Day, June 21, we will take an offering to support the relief and ministry efforts of CBF and SBC missionaries in Nepal. How will you financially support this work?

We begin our summer worship focus on May 31 with the sermon series: *Upside Down: The Wisdom of James*. Each week we will explore the upside down wisdom that he presents. After all, James invites us to "consider it joy when you encounter various trials." I look forward to the journey.

Grace and Peace  
Dr. Wade Smith

## Floods of new awareness of God's love and faithfulness

May 2015 has proven to be a record breaking month in Central Oklahoma and around FBC.

We began the month with a significant positive vote to call Rev. Chad Smith as our first full time Minister of Worship Arts/Music in about 15 years, and I am excited to see what God has in store for us as a church.

Chad, Tara and their twin daughters, Addison and Ainsley, will move to Norman as Chad begins his ministry among us on Monday, June 8. Please pray that the move will go well for them as they transition to life and ministry in Norman.

Of course wind, rain, hail, tornadoes and more rain have been the story of the month. Many of our friends and neighbors have been affected in negative ways, and we need to be seeking ways to minister to them. For several years Oklahoma, Texas, and California, have seen severe drought conditions, and today many of those areas have seen sufficient rain to fill rivers, lakes and ponds, some to historic levels. While it has been a nuisance, and sometimes even a threatening event, there are many benefits.

In my short six decades of life, I have experienced a number

of seasons of drought. I am not a meteorologist with proof, but it seems they are always broken with severe rains and flooding. What about a spiritual reflection on the droughts that we go through in struggling with faith issues, fears, doubts and wondering where God is in our life experience?

I also have experienced floods of a new awareness of God's love and faithfulness and a refreshing new spring. I pray that our spiritual droughts will be broken as profoundly as the drought seems to have been affected in our state. Individually and corporately as a church we need to emerge from a drought and let God be God and see the many ways he is working among us. I look forward to this journey.

**Ignite Challenge:** What a positive journey it has been to pray, plan, commit to fund, build and complete our phase one capital project in an east wing renovation. Nearly four years ago as a church we adopted a strategic facilities plan which will take us a few years and a



*Roy Joe Ham*

number of projects to complete. But we were Ignited to begin phase one. Through your faithful commitments to the project we were able to begin this first phase with sufficient commitments to pay the project off within three years.

We began the giving emphasis in October 2012 and since that time you have generously given to those commitments in the amount of \$2.7 million in the last 30 months (end of April). Currently, we have \$525,000 remaining to pay for the completed project. Some of this is due to a few of you giving above your commitment amount. Some have given who were unable to make a commitment up front and for all of this, God is being praised for your generosity. There remains about \$800,000 in commitments which means that if all of them are honored, we would pay off phase one and have seed money to begin discussions about phase two.

Please join with me in praying for God to move among us and complete this emphasis in October. I have faith. I believe. I commit to pray. I commit to continue giving. Will you join me? I look forward to celebrating with you.

Roy Joe Ham

**Patriotic Picnic**  
**with choir and orchestra**  
**6-7 p.m. June 28 on the Front Lawn**



## Practicing the Discipline of Sabbath even in a busy world

Over the past two months I have mentioned in this space two spiritual practices that can help each of us more fully know God: silence and sacred reading (or *lectio divina*). I have received emails and phone calls from some who have begun to practice one or both of them. Thanks to all of you.

This month I mention another discipline that I think can be difficult for many of us — Sabbath.

Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word *shabbat*, which means “to cease.” Israel’s neighboring countries did not recognize a day away from work. After the Israelites left Egyptian slavery, God reminded them of the importance of keeping the Sabbath.

When manna fell from heaven for the Israelites to eat, they were told to gather one day’s worth each morning. On the sixth day of each week, they could gather two days worth because none would be there the next day. Everyone was to spend the seventh day inside their home, resting. This picture of Sabbath required each family to trust that God would continue to provide each day what was needed. Sabbath does that

for each of us, as well.

Soon, God delivered the Ten Commandments, with the commandment to keep the Sabbath being the longest: *Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter; your male or female slave, your livestock or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.*

In the New Testament, Jesus did not say, “Forget about the Sabbath; it’s an old, dead tradition.” With the coming of Christ, the Sabbath takes on new meaning. This, then, is how we can observe Sabbath that is true to Scripture: Obedience to God’s command that we observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy – that



Kirk Hatcher



we maintain the Sabbath as a day of joyful worship and communion, a day of rest, and a day of reliance upon God.

“To act as if the world cannot get along without our work for one day in seven is a startling display of pride that denies the sufficiency of our generous maker.” — Dorothy Bass.

So, how can we do this? Keeping in mind that truly observing the Sabbath will be a huge disruption on our crazy-busy lives. THAT’S THE POINT. In our culture, it is very easy for a day off to become the day we get things done that we could not get done during the rest of the week. The disruption happens when we decide that we are going to take the time to fully rest. And to celebrate what Jesus has done for us.

When can your Sabbath be? Who will you be during that time?

Kirk Hatcher



Welcome Chad Smith  
and Family  
8:45-9:30 a.m. June 14

Bring a gift card  
to share with Chad  
and his family



## FLC Summer Camps

**June 22-25**

***Jr. Science Camp***

4-years-old to first grade

***Science Camp***

Second to fifth grades

**June 22-26**

***Gymnastics Camp***

3- to 14-years-old

**July 6-9**

***Upward Basketball***

6- to 8-years-old

***Upward Basketball***

9- to 12-years-old

**July 27-30**

***Chef's Academy***

Second to fifth grades

**Aug. 10-14**

***Camp Sunshine***

Kindergarten to fifth grades

### NEWLY ADDED SESSION

**Aug. 3-6**

***Jr. Chef's Academy 2***

4-year-olds to first grade

**Texas Rangers Baseball Trip**

**Oakland A's @ Texas Rangers**

Date: June 25

Game Time: 1:05 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per person

Includes game ticket and transportation to and from the game

Departure: 8 a.m. from the FLC

Sign-up and pay at the FLC

Everyone invited

# FIRST SUMMER

## FBC Youth

**June 1-5**

***Falls Creek for High School***

Sign-up online at [fbcnorman.org](http://fbcnorman.org)

Cost is \$200

**June 8-12**

***Falls Creek for Middle School***

Sign-up online at [fbcnorman.org](http://fbcnorman.org)

Cost is \$200

**Aug. 15**

***Frontier City / TobyMac concert***

***Bible Study and Hangouts***

Wednesdays in the summer

Check [iheartfbcym.com](http://iheartfbcym.com) for time, location and activity

***Monthly Service Projects***

Check [iheartfbcym.com](http://iheartfbcym.com) for time, location, activity and what to bring

## FBC Kids

**Wednesdays 6 – 7:30 p.m.**

***FBC KIDS Summer Theme Nights***

**June 3**

***Swimming at the Longs***

We will leave the church at 5:45 p.m.

**June 10**

***Movie Night***

**June 17**

***Swimming at the Stapletons***

We will leave the church at 5:45 p.m.

**June 24**

***Painting Party***

**July 1**

***Swimming at the Longs***

We will leave the church at 5:45 p.m.

**July 8**

***Movie Night***

**July 13 – 17, 6 – 8 p.m.**

***VBS Thailand Trek***

Age 4 through completed fifth grade

Register online at [fbcnorman.org](http://fbcnorman.org)

Contact Crystal Byrd, [crystalb@fbcnorman.org](mailto:crystalb@fbcnorman.org), to volunteer.

**July 22**

***Swimming at the Stapletons***

We will leave the church at 5:45 p.m.

**July 29**

***Movie Night***

**Aug. 7 and Aug. 12**

***No activities***

**Aug. 19**

***Kids International Cookout***

Parking lot and playground



# Summer filled with many fun activities for Adult 55+ ministry

If you were born between 1946 and 1964, you are a Baby Boomer.

We have planned a night especially for you at the Yellow Rose Dinner Theatre on June 6. Please join us for an evening of Motown music and a delicious dinner. We will depart at 6 p.m. Cost is \$38.

Summer Seminary with Dr. Mack Roark will be from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on June 5 at the Family Life Center. Cost is \$5 and includes seminar, honorarium and lunch.

An evening at the Lyric Theatre is planned for June 23. We will depart at 6:30 p.m. to see a production of “Oklahoma.” Cost is \$40.

Nanas and Grampies be sure to mark your calendars for our June

Grandparents and Grandchildren Adventures.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 19, we will travel to the Oklahoma Children’s Theatre to see “James and the Giant Peach” with lunch at Mutt’s. Cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child.

From 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 26, we will travel to Passow’s Camel Farm in Perry. While we are there, we will spend time on the farm with donkeys, miniature horses, camels and other friendly creatures. Cost is \$5 per person.



Vickie Riggs


Remember Blue Plate Specials? Well, they are back. At least at the Family Life Center on June 10 and June 17. Come enjoy lunch from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Garden of Eatin’. The menu for June 10 is roast and on June 17 we will serve chicken. Cost is \$6. All meals are catered by Catering Creations. Make your reservations at the Family Life Center. Everyone is welcome.

Learn basic strokes and shading and then complete a project of your own during Painting 101 with Cheryl the Artist at 6:30 p.m. on June 29.

For more information about any of these activities, call or visit the Family Life Center, 360-5300.

Vickie Riggs

Please be in prayer for those attending the Southern Baptist Convention June 16-17 in Columbus, Ohio and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly June 15-19 in Dallas



### Weekly Schedule

**Sunday Worship**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School LifeGroups  
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

## Family Life Center

**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

# 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



## Keep students, ministers, parents, leaders and church in prayer

I wonder if you remember what summers were like when you were in youth group? What were the things that you enjoyed most? What kinds of relationships did you gain? How were you challenged and encouraged?

This summer, I hope that you will pray for our students. As we think about what it means to follow Jesus, we'll be focusing on three different ideas: enjoying God together, building relationships with each other and growing in our faith.

For example, we'll enjoy God together at Falls Creek. I know that many have attended camp here for years, and while it's changed some

over the years, it's still a place to have fun and be reminded of God's work. As our students enjoy the various activities, we'll be remembering that God created us in his image, and we have the opportunity to worship God in more places than just the tabernacle.

As we think about building relationships with each other, we'll be asking our students to work at some



*Rich Lubbers*

service projects. We get to know each other in a different way whenever we are working hard, and this gains extra value when we are working for the good of others.

And as we grow in our faith, we'll be on a mission trip to Peru, we'll take some time to be introspective, and we'll challenge new leaders. As students lead others, they and the church will be encouraged by the way that God continues to work in the lives of those he uniquely calls and gifts.

Will you pray for our students? Will you pray for their ministers, parents, leaders and church?

Rich Lubbers

## Kids Hope USA wraps up for another year at Lincoln Elementary

On May 12, several of our Kids Hope USA mentors attended the Lincoln Elementary fifth grade celebration. Nine of the students in our program are fifth-graders. A 10th student participated until she moved away in January (she returned to Lincoln a month ago).

It was wonderful to see the beaming mentors' faces as they watched the students. Three Kids Hope students received academic awards and another received the Lincoln Spirit award.

Lives have been changed through the one-on-one time spent with these kids. Most of them spent at least three years in the program, with four of them starting



*Angela Atkins*

in Kids Hope in kindergarten. A lot has changed in their lives and families since then but through it all, they could depend on having a faithful mentor.

Each of the students are nervous about middle school. However, because of their mentors they are ready, and I have no doubt their mentors will keep in touch, ready to provide a listening ear and a loving heart.

If you would like to be a Kids Hope USA mentor for the next school year, email me at [angela@fbcnorman.org](mailto:angela@fbcnorman.org). More kids are waiting for someone to give them the care and support they need to thrive.

Angela Atkins



*Adam and Trenton Byington are pictured with Josh Edge following the Lincoln Elementary fifth grade celebration.*



Pledges \$3,127,007  
Received \$2,724,065



## June Birthdays

**June 1:** Charles Burris, Junie Chenoweth, Tony Gardner, Wanita Salyer, Amy Williams  
**June 2:** Mike Beery, Carol Fisher, Jay Jimerson, Becky Porter, Howard Woodruff  
**June 3:** Sandi Devore  
**June 4:** James Bryson, Richard Buchanan, Bonnie DeLany, Pamela DeVoss, Kody Ferguson, Rex Floyd, Mary Lee Foor, Benton Ladd, Jenny Roby, Ben Warren, Robert Wood  
**June 5:** Vivian Anderson, Matthew Chamberlain, Scott Couch, Pat Dickinson, Taylor Jones, Marilyn Lassetter, Molly Pattison, Beverly Theige, Zoe Zachary  
**June 6:** Melisa Lesser, Ken Spalding  
**June 7:** Amber Beardsley, Melanie Gladhill, Andy Stephenson, Sherry Sullivan  
**June 8:** Lin Copelin, Julie Richardson, Doris Thrower, Vance Worten  
**June 9:** Carol Halley, Grace McCloskey, Nathan Price, Rhonda Wood  
**June 10:** Jane Callison, Cooper Hopkins, Colleen Ryan  
**June 11:** Sheri Bower, Michelle Durham, Juni Worten  
**June 12:** Deborah Allen, Lexie Campbell, Kelli Hoyt, Charles Valentine, Brock Wright  
**June 13:** Marty Farris, Kathryn Malthaner, Leon Reed, Karl Sinclair  
**June 14:** Ann Eaves, Michael Higgins, Gwendolyn Shilling, Keith Strevett, Dondi Thompson, Lynette Vinson  
**June 15:** David Deering, Catherine Dvorak, Sarah Johnson, Robert Lehr, Tyler Tadlock  
**June 16:** Mellissa Beck, William Freeman, Judy

Osburn, Suzie Price, Michael Robins, Joshua Wright  
**June 17:** Alan Cheshier, Brandon Kelly, Gari-Leah Kmiecik, Frank Marks, Virginia Odell, John Shaw, Joe Windes  
**June 18:** Nate Ellis, Zac Ratzlaff, Loynita Spillmeier  
**June 19:** Margaret Barbour, Norma Brown, Jerry Dickinson, Mittie Durham, Judy Hixon, Kevin Murphree, Mike Rose  
**June 20:** Tollie Bibb, Sierra Brown, Billy Busse, Jo Ellen Hayes, Eric Holderby, Grant Schwabe, Kenneth Womack, Larry Wright  
**June 21:** Nyla Gibson, Laney Mullinax, Kathy Ray, Stewart Robinson, Mark Williams  
**June 22:** Delayne Dye, Teri Hamra  
**June 23:** Cathe Fox  
**June 24:** Jim Drennan, Anthony McCree, Lyn Paschal, Gay Smith, Even Wagner  
**June 25:** Lance Chapman, Doug Childers, Dorothy Claxton, Rusty Sullivan  
**June 26:** Luke Fields, Gina Fong, Samuel Hwang, Cindy Ramey, Mark Zachary  
**June 27:** Sarah Carter, Jack Davis, Ronald Elkin, James Hall, Harper Harris, Lydia Haworth, Warren Klima, Dave Lewis, Karen McCloskey, Jean Sisson, Dale Sullivan, Scott Terrell, Abbie Veal  
**June 28:** Kelsey Childers, Cheryl Jones, Barbara McGuckin, Nick Napoli, Carol Roberts, Harold Woods  
**June 29:** Phillip Conley, Kailey Diehm, Sandra Gourley, Ben Haning, Jeannie Hitchcock, Steve Scott  
**June 30:** David Goodspeed, Paula McBee, Kathy Smith, Bradley Valentino

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 Address Service Requested

## Letters from the FBC Family

**Wade, Church Family and the Higgins Sunday School Class,**

*Thank you for your concern and prayers and cards through this past two months of surgery and rehab of Elizabeth, and myself as caregiver. One does not realize the value of church staff and family until things like this happen.*

Erin Clancy

## Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

James, Jane, Eleanor, James and Stephen Callison at the passing of Frances McNeely Leonard

John, Mary Eve, Ryan, Allyson Summers and Courtney Villaneuva at the passing of Mary Blanchard

Mary and Larry Varner, Jan, Jon, Ashton and Alyssa Seratte in the passing of Richard Christian

Angela, Shannon, Isaac and Grace Atkins in the passing of Ruth Harrell



@fbcnorman



fbcnorman.org



/firstbaptistchurchnorman

## 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

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

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

**Crystal R. Byrd, Minister to Children**  
 crystalb@fbcnorman.org  
 @iheartfbckids

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

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

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

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

**Laura Robertson, Interim University Minister**  
 universityminister@fbcnorman.org