



At First Glance

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

The gong sounded and the cheers went up as the first 1,000 meals packed for an orphanage in Guatemala were completed. This scene was repeated 19 more times in our Family Life Center as 144 volunteers packed, weighed, sealed and boxed meals for **Stop Hunger Now**.

In providing these vitamin enriched meals, our SHN representative shared how boys and particularly girls would have a greater opportunity to focus on their education, instead of having to scrounge for food to survive. Access to education is one of the key factors that allows these children to escape the streets and poverty when they leave the care of the orphanage.

Through your tithes and offerings First Baptist was able to offer this gift of love and grace. In addition, it was pure joy to watch the generations of our church work and fellowship together in this fun, yet significant ministry. I look forward to packing meals with you in the future.

The annual **Block Party** is scheduled for Sunday, October 25. Again, this is one of the ways we join together generationally to enjoy fellowship, but also to reach out to our community. I hope you will find a place to serve with your LifeGroup or by calling the office.

We finish our **Catalyst** worship and LifeGroup series on October 4 with the Lord's Supper. Over the last weeks we looked at ways to be *Catalysts* for Christ in our work and through good stewardship of our talents. We considered the practices of gleaning, tithing, and sowing as specific ways that God instructs and invites us to be *Catalysts*. But, the question remains. Are we *Catalysts*? Or, do we simply hand over our leftovers to God, the

church, and the poor? What if, together and individually, we invited the Spirit of God to make us *Catalysts* through our serving, giving, and living?

To continue the conversation, a *Catalyst* devotion guide will be available on October 4. This guide shares stories of how giving and receiving have been *Catalysts* in the lives of church members. It also contains information about the FBC Ministry Plan and how our tithes and offerings are used. I pray that it will be a *Catalyst* in your life.

The ***Streams of Psalms*** begins on October 11. In looking back through sermon notes, I discovered that I have yet to preach on some of the more familiar Psalms. I have read them, taught them, prayed them, and referred to them, but not focused a sermon on them.

Streams will invite us to be *firmly planted by the quiet waters* of the Psalms, *as we thirst for the living God*.

We are blessed by the servant-leadership of our **Deacon Ministry Team**. Many of our deacons serve through the deacon shepherding ministry. Others serve our church through visitation, hospitality, prayer, and by offering leadership and presence in many of our ministries.

One of the things I cherish the most from our deacons is their wise counsel. Serving the Lord's Supper is an important, yet symbolic, ministry that our deacons offer. Through this



Dr. Wade Smith

visible act, we are reminded of the spiritual and often "invisible" ministry they offer.

Over the next weeks we will receive nominations from the congregation for the office of deacon. Please prayerfully consider the men and women that God may be calling to serve our church as deacons.

Our early and late worship services continue to go well. One of the things I grieved through the years of simultaneous worship was the disconnect I felt from running back and forth between services or in only being in one service on any given Sunday. It's a blessing to worship in both services each week.

Several have inquired about our next combined service. As we seek to honor the early/late worship times, we also understand the value of bringing together our congregation on specific Sundays. We are in the midst of finalizing plans to respect both of these concerns as the annual **Run the Race** service on November 8 draws near.

Communication is always a challenge and our ministry team strives to provide timely information about the life and ministries of First Baptist. The newsletter, hall monitors, website, blog, Thursday email, and worship bulletin are some of the ways that our ministry team tries to get the word out. Here's how you can help us better communicate: participate with us on Facebook and Twitter. "Liking" and "Retweeting" are highly effective ways to communicate to members and non-members alike.

I'm looking forward to the change of seasons and opportunities we will have to be the presence of Christ in the coming weeks.

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Wade Smith

Change of season means a chance to revisit your giving options

As we move into fall, I hope you are enjoying the change of season and increased activity. I also hope you see and are involved in the great things that God is continuing to be about among this people known as First Baptist Norman and those we impact.

Our pews in worship and chairs in LifeGroups have been filled with many visitors, many looking for a family to join. I hope you have done your part to welcome them, involve them and invite them in.

You may have noticed: In the last months there has been a concerted effort to clean up the clutter on the walls of our facility. I hope you have noticed the poster hangers spread throughout the buildings, and remember that this is where you can find information about current and upcoming activities. These announcements are scheduled in order to promote all that we have going on.

If you have a program or an activity you would like to have promoted, please bring it to the office and we will do what we can to have it included. PLEASE do not hang them yourself, move the information on the hangers or tape them other places. We discovered that many kinds of

tape removes paint, so please join us in keeping the walls in our church clean.

SMART Team:

The Supplemental Maintenance And Response Team comes out of the Iron Men Ministry of FBC with the intent to assist our members with small tasks of repair and maintenance around the house.

Everything does not fit into this category but we evaluate them to see if we have skills necessary to assist. As a result of the request in my August article, Randy Reist responded and has agreed to take the lead in coordinating this ministry. We need to build a team around Randy that will help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, contact me at 321-1753 and we will get you together.

If you have a need you believe this ministry could help with, contact the office and we will get the information to the SMART team.

IGNITE: Can you believe it has been three years since we began giving significantly to our capital needs projects through IGNITE? The



Roy Joe Ham

results of your commitments to give allowed for the remodeling of the East Wing along with the elevator and new ground level entrance, the new steps, and the foyer of the sanctuary.

Your generosity was significant and we are nearly to the finish line of having the project paid for. Out of a \$3.2 million project we now owe about \$370,000. This is a major accomplishment but we need to finish well. Some have given well beyond their commitments while others continue to give and strive to finish well. Now is the time, again, to invite all of us to evaluate how we can be a part of finishing well. I pray that you will join me in this goal.

Ministry Plan (Budget): As normal, the summer season has been a challenge in giving to the ministry plan. It is always a high ministry and cost season, but we come out of the summer and are challenged to catch up. We have had some great vacations, family time, and now we return anticipating a great fall.

If you are concerned that you may be behind in your giving plan, please call the office. Sheila will be glad to provide you with an update. Thank you for your faithful generosity.

Roy Joe Ham

FRIENDSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Thursdays 9:15 to 11:00 a.m.
First Baptist Church

- Free English classes • Free transportation
- Free refreshments • Free child care for preschool children

For more information, call Beth Wilson: 405-314-7344

ignite
PASSION FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Contributions to date: \$2,891,980
Loan Balance: \$371,486

Smile!

Are you one of those people who just always seem to smile? I thought so.

I wish I were like that. Many days I wake up wondering if a smile will ever find its way to my face. Sometimes it does... sometimes it doesn't. Some days I force a smile to appear. Here's what usually happens when I do that: the smile stays there.

Did you know that there are several benefits to smiling?

1. Smiling **lowers your heart rate**, also reducing blood pressure temporarily.
2. Smiling **releases endorphins**, which leads to several benefits, not the least of which is the reduction of stress.
3. Here's how it affects me: Smiling **puts us in a better mood**. Even when we "force" a smile at the beginning of the day, those same endorphins do

this for us as well; **AND...**

4. Here's why I brought this up: **SMILES ARE CONTAGIOUS!** I'm not sure how scientific this polling is, but it's said that about 50 percent of the people who see your smile will smile back. We should keep track of that.

If you are one of those who knows the benefits of smiling, we need you! As more and more new folks are joining us on Sunday mornings, we need the first person they come across to have a smile on their face.

If you know anything about me, you know I'm an introvert, but when I go out to the parking lots on Sunday



Kirk Hatcher

morning to welcome those who are arriving throughout the morning, I can't help but find a smile. Guess what, they smile back! Don't you want to be a part of that? We need you!

We need you in the parking lots, at the two Comanche Street entrances, in the Sanctuary, and in the halls. With three separate arrival times now, we need more Welcomers!

We also are looking for LifeGroups to commit to serving as Welcomers at the Breezeway entrance one Sunday a month. Does that sound like something your LifeGroup can do? You should see what your LifeGroup thinks and then let me know!

Even if you are not able to commit to being a part of the Welcome Team, you can still show up to FBC with a smile. I'm certain yours is **contagious!**

Kirk Hatcher



October 18

Food and Shelter,
104 W. Comanche

- 1:30 Registration
- 2 p.m. Walk

Join our FBC team

Watch for details at
fbcnorman.org



*Kick off begins
October 25*

*Watch for displays
to find out more information*

**Men's
BREAKFAST**

**guest speaker:
Chris Canary**
University Minister

Saturday, October 31
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
2nd Floor FLC
\$5 donation

Enjoy October

October is my favorite month of the year. Pumpkins, cool weather, the leaves begin to change color, we pull out our sweaters and boots; there are so many heartwarming activities and traditions that begin this month.

October also is the last breath before the holidays. It is a time of rest and peace before the busyness of Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, all the extended family gatherings and travel. November and December seem to arrive and then leave before you know it.

Before you begin your plans, trips, eats, sweets and activities for the holiday season, take time this October for some peaceful reconnections as a family. Take your kids on a nature walk, and try to collect all the different colors of leaves. Decorate some pumpkins by carving or drawing silly faces on the front. Take a Saturday to bake something yummy for your neighbors, delivering them door-to-door. Make a family autumn wreath, adding each of your family members photos to the wreath that you will see during the holidays. Then pray for a different family member during the week. The main goal of these family activities is to just BE.

November and December also can add stress to some marriages due to budgets, family aggravations, or travel stress. If you think this might

be you and your spouse this year, let's be proactive. In October, before the chaos begins, make a promise list to your spouse. It could include things such as:

- I promise to debrief our days or pray together every night no matter how busy the day.
- I promise to help you decorate the house this year.
- I promise to listen when you ask me questions about what to get the kids and family members.
- I promise to keep to our holiday budget.
- I promise to help you with Thanksgiving clean up.
- Or even, I promise to stay present at the house while family is in town, so you aren't the only one dealing with everything.

Talk with your spouse, tell them what you need from them this holiday season and give them an opportunity to help and promise their involvement. Then (and this is the most important) KEEP THOSE PROMISES. Put them on your nightstand or the bathroom mirror to remind yourself of your commitments.

This month, let's be proactive as



Crystal Byrd

we think of ways to stop the stress before it starts. As followers of Christ, Paul urges us all throughout 1 Corinthians to, "Let all that you do be done in love." This would include your mindset and emotional state during the holidays. If you are prone to getting lost in the holiday chaos, take October to create a game plan, make commitments, and enjoy this time of peace with your children. Time is never wasted when you are spending it with your children or creating strategies to help you and your spouse. Help yourself out and create opportunities for you and your family to enjoy the upcoming months, as we try our best to share with the world our joy, love, and thankfulness for Christ.

Crystal R. Byrd

**Student Choir
begins October 4
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Choir Room
Grades 6-12**

There is still time to sign up
for Christmas Choir
and Orchestra

See Rev. Chad Smith for details

OU GameDay Parking at First Baptist

\$10

**Parking begins four hours before kick-off
and includes shuttle to the stadium**

- October 3 • October 24
- November 7 • November 21



**October 7
Noon - 1 p.m.**

Common Ground

Cost: \$5

Menu: Chicken parmesan, pasta salad,
garlic bread and dessert.

Many volunteer opportunities exist through Community Ministries at FBC

If you are looking for ways to get involved at First Baptist, you can join by helping others through our community ministries.

Those who love to work with children can volunteer in our Kids Hope USA mentoring program, working one-on-one with at risk students at Lincoln Elementary.

Love to talk and visit with others? Come volunteer at our Sunday Supper on the first and third Sundays of each month.

If you love organizing and have

some free time during the week, come help sort donations for our clothes closet.

Those with a passion for leading our church in finding ways to help others can serve on our leadership team.

Don't have time to commit but still want to help?



Angela Atkins

Come talk to me and we will find a place for you. Whether it's helping with an annual event like To Norman with Love or the Thanksgiving basket party, helping with special needs like our New Baby Baskets, helping with bicycle giveaway appointments, setting up a new apartment in our Samaritan's Inn Housing ministry, or even delivering Christmas gifts to Lincoln Elementary, we will help you find a place to serve.

Angela Atkins

Teaching the Word and Living the Journey while loving our youth

I wonder if you're anything like me.

When I read what our church is all about (Loving People, Teaching the Word, and Living the Journey), I wonder how each ministry fits into these statements.

Is what we're doing really worth doing? And if it is worth doing, have we adequately communicated what we're trying to accomplish with each ministry event so that it ties into what we as a church are doing? Do we have goals that help us measure how we are loving people, teaching the Word, and living the journey?

Because I'm still asking these questions, I would argue that what we do in youth ministry supports where

we are going as a church, but I'm always on the lookout for tweaks. By nature, I'm a tinkerer. I was once in a project group that was making a big presentation, and I made over 500 edits on a project in 24 hours, while the rest of the team made three. I just couldn't let it go.

And in youth ministry, I am still there. How can we work to be more intergenerational? How do we become more of a part of the larger congregation? And how can the larger



Rich Lubbers

congregation become more of a part of us?

I wonder if you'll help me. Youth ministry these days doesn't look like it did, even when I was a youth (for one thing, I got a cell phone my senior year of high school, but it was so expensive to actually use that I never took it out of my pocket). In spite of the fact that it looks different, students are still the same - they need someone to love them, teach them the Word, and live the journey with them.

I wonder if you're anything like me, seeing this need, and wondering how we can better fill it. I look forward to the conversation with you.

Rich Lubbers



Ministry Needs

- Canned goods
- Feminine hygiene items
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Deodorant
- Soap

- Toothpaste
- Toilet paper
- Razors and travel size shaving cream
- Bike locks

Fall has many events planned for the Adults 55+ Ministry of First Baptist Church

Do you enjoy driving through the countryside as the autumn leaves are falling? Do you enjoy the music of the 1940s? Or shopping for unique jewelry?

Maybe you're a writer? Or maybe you want to give your children and grandchildren a special gift for Christmas?

Our Adults 55+ Ministry is offering a variety of programs, events, travel options and ministry opportunities this fall and into the holiday season. All of our events are opportunities of outreach to your neighbors, friends and family. So plan now to invite a new friend to an event this fall.

What is coming up in October?

October 14: Writing Your Life

Story, 10:00 a.m. in the FLC Conference Room.

October 17: An evening of 1940s music with the Tinker Flying High Band in Midwest City.

October 31: International Mission Board India Jewelry Sale in Oklahoma City.

Autumn Adventure to Arkansas October 20-21

Our trip includes lunch at Miller Amish Farm, an overnight stay in Springdale, Ark., an excursion train through Boston Mountains to Van Buren, Ark., shopping and sights in



Vickie Riggs

Van Buren and more. Transportation will be provided by Motorcoach. Detailed itineraries can be found at the Family Life Center.

November events

November 6: Seminary with Dr. Roark

November 9: Lunch and Learn Can you hear me now?

November 12: Quarterly Birthday Luncheon

November 20: Stand in the Gap Ministry with Jim Stovall, author of "The Ultimate Gift."

November 30: Operation Christmas Child Trip to Dallas

December 5: Prestonwood Baptist Church Dallas for the Gift of Christmas Event.

Vickie Riggs

FLC News

Thank you to all who brought food to the Norman North football dinner. The players always look forward to these dinners.

If you did not get a chance to participate in providing food for NNHS, you have another opportunity with Norman High on October 1.

Upward Basketball builds competitive athletic skills, character, confidence and spirit. Early enrollment is \$100. There is a late fee after November 16.

Forms and registration fees may be dropped off at the Family Life Center between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00

p.m., Monday through Friday.

In order to keep teams on an equal basis, everyone must attend one basketball evaluation in November.

The first practice is in December. The first game is in January and the last game is February 27.

BLOCK PARTY
2 TO 5 P.M.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
DONATE A BAG OF WRAPPED CANDY
BRING IT TO THE FLC OR OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE
BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
WORK A BOOTH
WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP
CALL THE FLC, 360-5300

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship

- 8:30 a.m. Early Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:40 a.m. LifeGroups
- 10:50 a.m. Late Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday

- 5:15 p.m. Meal
- 6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Studies
- 5:45 p.m. Mini Musicians, Praise Kids
- 6:45 p.m. Missions and Discipleship
- 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Time, youth
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Wednesday
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

What if...

For the past few Wednesdays, the University Ministry has been going through the book of Galatians, which really isn't a book at all.

You may have heard it called by its technical designation as an epistle (which is just the transliteration of its Greek root); or, you might have heard it called a letter (which is what epistle means in Greek). Both of these are right, but if we're going to be completely honest, it's mail. Authoritative and inspired mail from the 1st century that's now part of our Bible, which is pretty neat.

In this letter which Paul mailed to the churches of Galatia, the apostle explains his personal mission statement, given to him specifically

from God. He says, "I was born and called... so that I might proclaim [Christ] among the Gentiles..." (1:15-16). Should you continue on and read the rest of the letter, plus the book of Acts, plus the majority of the other epistles, you'll see Paul's entire life and efforts aimed toward this single purpose – to proclaim Christ among the Gentiles. The result? He, as commissioned by God, singlehandedly changed the direction of early Christianity.



Chris Canary

We at First Baptist have a mission statement, too. Whereas Paul was called to proclaim Christ among the Gentiles, we understand our God-given mission is to love people, teach the Word, and live the journey of faith together. Just imagine what it would look like if this mission statement was ubiquitous to everything we do as an intergenerational congregation in downtown Norman.

What if we, as an entire church – from music to missions, youth to university, children to senior adults – worked together with the singular purpose of fulfilling what God has called us to?

I dare say, God may surprise us.

Chris Canary

Brown Bag Lunch



October 5
noon

Wagner Hall
on the University
of Oklahoma campus

Family Life Center

Fitness Center Orientation with Randy Praytor

6 p.m. Monday
Required for use
of Fitness Center

Low-Impact Exercise

Free
10:00 to 10:45 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Park/arthritis approved

Pilates

With Rebecca Darrow

8:00 to 9:00 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

October Birthdays

October 1 Jennifer Godinez, Charlotte Haxel, Sarah Holden, Dakoda Kmiecik, Grayson Smith, Colby Wardwell, Diana Wilson

October 2 Bob Bell Sr., Kim Marks, Connie Matthews, Parker McMillen

October 3 Jean Cochrane, Polly Dvorak, Michelle Foster, Kimberli McCree, John Miller, Joy Beth Robinson

October 4 Amy Akram, Dax Akram, Isaac Atkins, Cindy Burgamy, Richard Glenn Foster, Haley Harrison, Mark Hyde, Morgan Smith, Sharon Vinson, Von Worten

October 5 Mikel Blaylock, Russell Burgess, Debbie Deering, Dorothy Kitchens, Dr. Bruce Naylor, Elizabeth Parrott, Alice Rose, Billy Thurman, Andre Wilson

October 6 Von Adair, Kelsey Couch, Robby Hare, Colleen Parrish, Philip Parrish, Lorraine Provine, Rachel Sherwin

October 7 Deby Burns, Adam Drennan, Kevin Hall, Kell Haworth, Craig Nipper

October 8 Jack Boeh, Vanessa Covey

October 9 Hillary Dicksion, Ronald Hammons, Brent Harris, Jack Lane, Charlotte Sanders, Robbie Terrell

October 10 Andrew Jimerson, Jeff Lefler, Nathan Sheldon, Randy Trammell

October 11 Kassidy Bloss, Harold Fithian, Frances Geyer, Luanne Howk, Alisa Lane, Randy Reist

October 12 Sunday Allen, Cynthia Avery, Jacquelyn Cole, Stephen Jones, Connor Knudsen, Linda Lang, Rosalie Lehr, May Morris, Jessica Warren

October 13 Aileen Allison, Dylan Beene, Jared Beene, Russ Cole, Tom Crider, Sammie Valentino

October 14 Deborah Badgett, Dwight Cagle, Jenny Wilson

October 15 Sara Adams, D'June Emmanuel, Susan Murphree, Mary Louise Symcox

October 16 Caleb Adams, Joe Brown, John Cherry, Chuck Gage, Trey Maddox, Tim Newville, Randy Praytor,

Carson Rehkop, Chase Scott

October 17 Ted Greb, Keaton Maddoux, Murlene Reynolds, Evelyn Smith

October 18 Ashley Lee, Megan Moore, Mike Weatherholt

October 19 Katy Childers, Lisa Howard, Barbra Landreth, Jim Yeager

October 20 Susan Boehrer, Austin Branch, Tony McCoy, Carrie Sherwood, Paul Spaulding

October 21 J.T. Harrison, Brent Marquardt

October 22 Andrea Laws, Anna Smist, Tommy Tiller, Gene Valentino, Steve Williams, George Wilson Jr., William Yousey

October 23 Roberto Crichlow, Tyler Haxel, Laura Robertson, Addison Smith, Ainsley Smith, Tehmina Zafar

October 24 Carlene Atkinson, Jay Baker, Jeanette Cope, William Durham, Chelsey Gravel, Barbara Hunt, Julie Lesser

October 25 Bettye Carlton, Jeremy Hager, Keith Hale Jr., Shawna Johnson, Matthew Morris, Buddy Morris, Ryan Summers

October 26 Freida Chambers, Aaron Dyer, Sue Green, Lavene Nunnally

October 27 Deborah Fisher, Lois Merritt, Paridokhte Momtazzadeh, Carter Windes

October 28 Maxine Badgett, Beth Barbour, Leah Berne, Stanley Caddell, Sherra Kirkpatrick, Katherine Lock, Aubrey McCraw, Kay Mercer, Chase Murphy, Joe Shockley Jr., Nora Weatherholt

October 29 Charles Anderson, Brandon Bratcher, Edna Carson, Colleen DeLany, Steve Shelton

October 30 Heather Henderson, Beki McReynolds Miller, Robert Outland, Mary Strevett, Greg Terrell

October 31 Barry Beck III, Mary Ellen Davis, Julie Dvorak, Don Masters, Debbie Miller, Jared Russell, Sheldon Spelman, Denise Upchurch

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

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

The family and friends of Gena Tarrant at her passing.

Carlos and Mary Elwell at the passing of his brother, Bart Elwell.

Ministry Staff

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Letters from the FBC Family

To our dear church family,

My family and I want to thank you for all the prayers, food, visits and cards.

The love you have poured over us during this time of grief was above and beyond the call of duty.

I could feel the Spirit of the Lord in the celebration of Larry's life. Thank you.

Love,

Janie Dilks and family

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful baby basket. The outfits are adorable and we love the beautiful quilt. The diapers and wipes will sure come in handy along with all the other goodies. You're amazing thoughtfulness and generous loving Spirit are truly the Heavenly Father's touch in the world.

Many thanks and much love,

Marcus, Sarah and Bella

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