

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

As First Baptist gathers to worship on November 1, Kelly Henderson and I will be traveling to Santa Clara, Cuba, to participate with Reaching Souls in their Leadership Development Institute with over 300 Cuban pastors.

The LDI is an intense training conference of 20 one hour classes over a four day period. I will teach the courses on doctrine and pastoral priorities. Kelly will teach the courses on marriage and personal devotion. Each pastor will receive their own Bible, a possession we take for granted in our country. For many, this will be the first complete Bible they can call their own and the most formal theological education they will receive.

In addition, I have the privilege of preaching the opening night's worship service. Please pray for us as we travel, teach and minister among these brothers in Cuba.

As we travel to Cuba, we will be praying for you. The early service on November 1 will include the Parade of **Nations** flag processional that begins our Lottie Moon and Global Missions giving season. Our Missions Team will announce our world missions offering goal as part of the service. I pray each of us will consider an offering to support our missionaries as they share and live out the gospel in the nations of the world. Minister to Youth Rich Lubbers will preach in both services.

Run the Race Sunday on November 8 is one of the most unique worship services we host each fall. Run the Race celebrates the work and ministry of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Norman. Several of our members have and continue to participate in significant ways with FCA in our state and community, including Lori Couch who serves as the business administrator for Oklahoma FCA.

Under the leadership of Jeremy Tims, FCA Norman reaches into our middle schools, high schools and OU with the message of Christ.



Dr. Wade Smith

Abraham Wright, chaplain of the OU football team, will be our pulpit quest in worship. Additionally, athletes that make a difference on and off the field will participate as worship leaders. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to worship.

Run the Race is the first time to bring our worship leadership (choir, orchestra and praise team) together in one service since beginning our early and late worship services. At this time, the ministry staff feels it is important to honor the early worship time and those members and guests who value that worship time. We are planning a shorter early service (8:30) that will feature the piano and organ instrumentally and a sermon reflecting on my experience in Cuba. It will be a wonderful worship service and I suspect that many will want to be part of both services that day.

A LifeGroup fellowship will begin at 9:15 a.m. in Hallock Hall, inviting us to fellowship with one another across the generations. LifeGroups will begin at 9:40 a.m. and the Run the Race worship service at 10:50 a.m.

One of the significant annual worship services we host is the Service of Hope. This service takes place on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, offering a time of preparation and Lord's Supper as the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons begin.

The Service of Hope also provides the opportunity to remember those who have passed over the last year, allowing family and friends to acknowledge their grief and embrace their hope in Christ. The Service of Hope will return to its more traditional format this year. A special snack-supper will be hosted by the Bereavement Team prior to the service.

Have you ever considered what Christmas sounds like? The Sounds of Christmas will be our Advent theme this year drawing from Zephaniah 3:17. Beginning on November 29, we will explore the sounds of hope, peace, joy and love that inspire and give life during the Christmas season. Our Advent Devotion guides will be available that Sunday. We will come together that evening to light the Christmas Tree and Nativity on Main Street before joining together in fellowship at the Family Life Center.

Be in prayer for our ministry team as we retreat to Falls Creek for a few days to pray, plan and talk with one another. This will be the first opportunity for us to spend extended time together since the addition of Rich, Chad and Chris to our ministry team. These are always significant times for our ministers and our church.

Finally, it's hard to believe the holidays are here. I am thankful to be your pastor and that my family has the opportunity to share our lives with you. You are a blessing. May God lead us in new and courageous efforts as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus and live it faithfully in our community and world.

Love People. Teach the Word. Live the Journey.

Finding ways to lead and participate in the changing streams of life

With November here it looks like we might actually have some fall weather before winter impacts our lives. It seems to have been a strange fall so far, but isn't that a reality when it comes to transition seasons in our lives? Whether it be the weather, the transition from being single to being married, to being married with children, to empty nest, from stability to mobility, and you can add to the list.

Certainly it seems we must always look within the church and know that the church transitions in season as well. Many times we anticipate, even celebrate, change in our lives as great milestones, but I wonder what it is about transition at church that challenges us so much?

Just as the old saying goes that you can never put your foot in the same river twice, so it is with life in general and also in the church. As God moves among His people, there are transitions. As ministry needs change in Norman and around the world, there are transitions. As life moves on, there are transitions. I pray that you are seeing the God movements in our congregation and you can find great excitement in the transitions.

Thank you: You may have noticed that the flower boxes at the sanctuary front steps and the flower boxes in front of the FLC have transitioned from summer to fall/



Roy Joe Ham

winter flowers. Thanks to Judy Hixon's LifeGroup, and others who took on the challenge, for planting these flowers.

Ignite: We are approaching seven years since we first began talking about the capital needs of our facilities. From those who came before us, we received a tremendous legacy of facilities that have served this congregation well. But, with age, the need for major repairs and renovations, made the demands more evident that the transition needed to be made in order to meet current ministry needs.

More than 100 members led us through the discussion process which led to a capital long range plan being adopted by our church. That led to phase one renovations, repairs and upgrades to the east wing and entry to our sanctuary. A project that came in just over \$3 million that was fully covered by commitments known as Ignite, was an exciting venture to begin. Three years of funding through your generosity have provided for \$2.9 million given so far. That leaves us with a balance of just over \$300,000 to finish this race well.

Certainly we must celebrate the great support that has been given so far, but we are called to be faithful and finish well. I hope each of us will prayerfully consider what God would have us do to be a part of that goal.

It is truly my prayer that we will be bold in following the transitions, seek the face of God and see all that He is about through His people at FBC Norman. Would you seek ways to be involved, and be a part of finishing this race well? But even more would you join the journey to find, lead and participate in new days of transition and enjoy the ever changing streams of life.

Roy Joe Ham

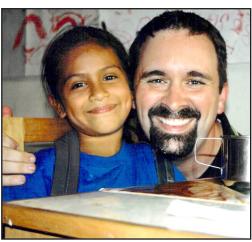


Reaching beyond the walls of First Baptist Church

A few weeks ago I returned to Lima, Peru, for my 13th trip to the same area. When I say the same area, I mean that we stay in the same hotel, drive the same routes each day, serve within the same 10 blocks in an area called Collique, and get to share a bit of our lives with the same people.

When we began Operación San Andrés (OSA) a little over 10 years ago, a young girl named Annie stole my heart. She was 5 years old. Each trip I make sure to get at least one photo with Annie. She's now 15 years old. I have been able to be a part of her life all these years because I continue to return to the same place. Something occurred to me during this most recent trip.

On our first few trips, on our last day as we were saying our goodbyes, the children and families would come out to our bus, some with tears. We'd give our hugs, shed our own tears and then drive away slowly. The children would try and outrun the bus as if by doing that they might be able to keep us there a little longer. For quite a few years now, the kids and their families do not do that any more. We will tell them goodbye inside the OSA house, and then we will get on our bus and begin the journey back to the hotel in



Lima. There's no racing after the bus, there's no tearful goodbyes. This year, it occurred to me why: They know we're coming back.

OSA is committed to feeding, clothing and educating the children and families of Collique, Peru. Over the past 10 years and 13 trips, we have seen it grow to be a catalyst for change as OSA has hired educational consultants, psychologists and teachers. Recently, OSA has begun a campaign to teach females of all ages about the dangers of domestic violence.

After 10 years, a church has been born out of OSA, named "Luz de Esperanza" (Light of Hope). On this most recent trip, I had the privilege of being part of baptizing four new



Christians in this church and then leading in the sharing of Communion with these brothers and sisters. We are thousands of miles away, yet we are one church. AND they know we're coming back.

Thank you for being a church who encourages its ministers to continue to develop relationships in areas throughout the world. Thank you for encouraging each other in serving others in brand new ways.

May we continue to reach out beyond the walls of First Baptist Church in order to love God and love our neighbors...not only in Peru, or in Uganda, but on Comanche and Main Street.

Kirk Hatcher



Downtowners Lunch November 4 Noon - 1 p.m.

Speaker: Mike Lang, General Manager Reynolds Ford

Menu: Pecan crusted tilapia, steamed broccoli, coleslaw, dinner roll and dessert





A legacy of faithfulness and excellence in music

October 1, 1995, was a significant day in the life of First Baptist Norman. On that Sunday a group of instrumentalists from within our church gathered together to help lead in worship and on that day the First Baptist Norman Sanctuary Orchestra was born.

For more than 20 years now the Sanctuary Orchestra has been an integral part of our musical worship experience. From accompanying our congregational singing and Sanctuary Choir anthems to featured orchestra songs, concerts and mission trips, our Sanctuary Orchestra has had a significant impact in the life of our church, community and to people literally around the world.

Don Gilmore, a Sanctuary Orchestra charter member as well as its first director, shares the following about the exciting beginnings of this important ministry:

"The beginning of the orchestra was incredibly exciting. On one Sunday prior to this beginning, we had two couples join the church, both of whom were in Norman to do graduate work in instrumental music. They asked if we had an orchestra program. Up until that time, we put an orchestra together for special programs



Chad Smith

Christmas and Easter. John Clinton worked us up, then everyone put their horns away until the next program.
Based on these two couples and the other instrumentalists in the church, we put out an "all-call" to gage the interest. The response was strong and the instrumentation that walked in the door was amazingly balanced."

I am profoundly grateful for Don and the vision he had many years ago to begin this wonderful ministry. I'm just as grateful for our current orchestra director, Dr. Michael Raiber. Our church is incredibly blessed to have such a kind; Christ-centered leader and distinguished musician and music educator leading this ministry.

On Sunday, November 15, we will take time in our early service to recognize Don and Dr. Raiber for the incredible investment they have made and continue to make in this ministry. We also will recognize the other charter members who are still active in the orchestra including Debbie Burcham, Jim Drennan, Fred Queen, Gary and Janet Schaffner, Doug Upchurch and Joe and Elizabeth Windes. Our main opportunity to celebrate this milestone will be a 20th anniversary Sanctuary Orchestra concert in 2016.

I hope that you will take some time over these next weeks to show your appreciation for each member of the orchestra. Whether it's a personal conversation, phone call, written card, email or text message, I know the members will be grateful for your encouragement and support.

> Soli Deo Gloria, Chad E. Smith

Service of Hope Sunday, November 22

5:30 p.m. snack supper in Hallock Hall 6:30 p.m. worship in the Sanctuary led by Dr. Wade Smith and Rev. Chad Smith.

Worship will include music, devotional, communion, time of prayer and reflection and the reading of names of those who have died.



Hymn Festival

First Baptist Church, along with the Southern Plains Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, will celebrate a Hymn Festival at

3 p.m. on November 15. Multiple organists from the University of Oklahoma organ department and the community will present their own arrangements.

Wrestling with Job

For four weeks, our students wrestled with God, right alongside Job.

I know what you're thinking: it was Joseph (who is renamed Israel) who wrestles with God, not Job. And you're right. But Job also



Rich Lubbers

wrestles with God. He recognizes that his life isn't fair, and has the maturity to put into practice a very radical faith in spite of this understanding.

I wonder if you remember the time you began to experience the fact that life isn't fair. For many of us, developmentally, we discover this at some point in our teenage years. Erik Erikson suggests that students struggle with questions of identity in adolescent years. This is a time of confusion for many, where sensory experiences merge with logic and other aesthetic perceptions, hopefully resulting in what Erikson refers to as "fidelity."

In other words, at some point in the time our students go to the second floor of the East Wing, they wonder who they are in light of what they see going on around them. For many, this leads to some wrestling and some honest conversations with God that haven't happened yet up to this point.

That's a good thing. Join me in praying for our students as they continue to seek their identity, that they would find it in what God is uniquely calling them to, while also continuing to look for which directions God might be calling you. If you've got a pulse, God isn't done with you. Hopefully, like Job, you're continuing to be in communication with God, even in those times where it seems like life is a little difficult.

Rich Lubbers

Volunteers needed for Thanksgiving Basket Party

Each year we host a party for families with children who register for a Thanksgiving food basket. It is a fun evening with dinner, games and a huge basket of food to take home. This year's **Thanksgiving Basket Party** will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m., November 23.

Food donations we need: Canned sweet potatoes, chicken broth, cranberry sauce, canned green beans, stuffing mix, canned corn, cake mix and frosting, instant scalloped or mashed potatoes. Donations are needed by Sunday, November 22.

We also need volunteers to assist guests as they fill their food baskets or help with the party. Contact me at the church office if you can be there.

Each year we help 25 families at Lincoln Elementary through our

Giving Tree. Beginning November 24 until December 13, select a tag from the tree on display outside the media center. Each gift should be around \$25. Return the unwrapped gifts to the tree



Angela Atkins

by December 13. The gifts will be delivered to the school the following day.

Mentors are needed to work one-on-one with at-risk students at Lincoln Elementary for one hour a week. Email me at angelaa@fbcnorman.org for more information.

Angela Atkins

We are all God's own sculptures

Recently the University Ministry looked at the Creation accounts of Genesis 1-2 during one of our Sunday morning LifeGroup sessions.

It always fascinates me to see the differences between these accounts because they both reveal different aspects of God's character.

In the Genesis 1 account, God appears to be far up, transcendent, and creating from a distance simply by speaking creation into being.

The Genesis 2 account is slightly different because it paints a picture of God that's closer, more intimate and utterly immanent. Rather than creating through use of words, this second depiction of the Creator is one who isn't afraid to roll up those divine sleeves and get those godly hands dirty. I don't know what you think about this image, but I find it absolutely beautiful.

Genesis 1 may give us the idea of Imago Dei; but, Genesis 2 goes a step further. Like a potter, God forms humanity from the mud. He shapes us and molds us.

l imagine if we look at one another closely enough, we'll see more than simply a person created



Chris Canary

in God's image. If we get close enough, we might even see the imprints of God's very fingerprints. Chris Canary



Winter Clothing	Athletic/Work Shoes
Coats For Adults	Socks
Blankets	Gloves
Sleeping Bags	Canned Vegetables,
Men's Jeans and Pants	Meat and Fruit

Final Senior Seminary with Dr. Roark set for November 6

Dr. Mack Roark is coming back for our final Senior Seminary of the year on November 6 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$5 and includes lunch and honorarium.

Shannon Winter, Au.D., licensed audiologist with INTEGRIS Health will be the guest for the November 9 Lunch and Learn. The event is from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. at the FLC's Garden of Eatin' and includes a snack lunch.

Come learn about hearing health and the advancements in hearing technology. Complimentary screenings also will be available. There is no charge for the event. Register at the Family Life Center by November 6.

The Writing Your Life Story Class will meet at 10 a.m. on November 11.

The Quarterly **Birthday Bash** Luncheon is scheduled at 11:30 a.m. on November 12. Everyone is



Vickie Riggs

invited. If you're birthday is in October, November or December, your lunch is complimentary. Invite a friend and come celebrate. Cost is \$5.

First Baptist Adults 55+ will

travel to Oklahoma City from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on November 20 to St. Luke's United Methodist Church for the Stand in the Gap fall celebration. The day will include lunch with Jim Stovall, author of the Ultimate Gift. Cost is \$5.

November 2015

Coming in December • December 1-3: Operation Christmas Child Mission Trip to the Dallas Processing Center.

• December 5: The Gift of Christmas at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas

• December 18: "A Territorial Christmas Carol" at the Pollard Theatre in Guthrie.

Vickie Riggs

Early registration for Upward Basketball is \$100. After November 16, the cost is \$110.

Everyone must attend one of three basketball evaluations: Thursday, November 5; Monday, November 9 or Monday, November 16. All evaluations are from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

FLC News

Practices start in December. The first game is Saturday, January 9, 2016. An awards celebration will be on Saturday, February 27, 2016.

The FLC will be closed November 26 and November 27 for Thanksgiving.

The Christmas Tree Lighting will be on Sunday, November 29. Family Night will follow at the Family Life Center.

Brenda Gass joins FBC as fee based ministry assistant

Since September 29, Brenda Gass has been working at First Baptist Church as the fee based ministry assistant.

"Everyone has been extremely helpful and nice," Brenda said. "I was looking

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for something part-time and a close friend recommended this job to me. I love being around children and interacting with them."

When she's not at work, Brenda enjoys cooking and being with her family.



Brenda Gass

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are available in the church office and Family Life Center. Boxes need to be returned by 2 p.m. November 22.

When we pack paper, pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners in boxes, we make it possible for the recipient to attend school.

Holy Land Trip October 6-17, 2016

For more information, call Deborah or Vickie at 360-5300 or email vickier@fbcnorman.org

The church office and Family Life Center will be closed November 26-27

There will be no evening activities November 25

November 2015





CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF FCA With Athletes that make a difference on and off the field

8:30 A.M. EARLY SERVICE 9:15 A.M. LIFEGROUP FELLOWSHIP 9:40 A.M. LIFEGROUPS 10:50 A.M. RUN THE RACE SERVICE

Brunch on Bryarwood November 15

The Missions team will host an open house brunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the FBC Missionary Home, 427 Bryarwood.

Family Night

November 11 6:30–7:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible study groups of all ages

November Birthdays

November 1: Lisa Raiber, Hayley Redwine, Ronald Williams November 2: Chong Hui Dillon, James Hale, Mary Ruth Higgins, Janie Ketner, Brittney Ragland, Al Silkey November 3: Nathan Moss, Kallie Smith, Olivia Turbeville, Pat Vann, Steven Wilson, Brenda Wootton November 4: Zachary Arrington, Kristi Bloss, Roger Cooper, Brenda Hogue, Linda Dixon-Tiller November 5: Nick Foster, Ashleigh Neal, Annette Valentino, Charles Van Horn November 6: Dan Baily, Hannah Foster, Dylan Long, Steve Myers, Joe Bob Weaver November 7: Johannes Buyten, Amy Cherry, Jeanette Dubois November 8: Jobeth Buyten, Krissy Griffin, Debbie Neal, Lynlee Robinson November 9: Stephen Callison, Jon Clough, Bryan DeLuca, Anna Grace Nava, John Reddell November 10: Jeremy Amos, Jack Harp, John Montgomery, Blake Smith November 11: Dan Durham, Terry Foor, Sandy Lewis, Kent Myers, Hayley Scott November 12: Annetta Brown, Sarah Garder, Jake Haxel, Laura Horstkoetter, Marian Lalli, Laurie McReynolds, Paula Morton, Willie Neal, **Bill Pendergraft** November 13: Joel Barbour, Kathy Crabtree, Sierra Fielder-Griggs, Sam Hale, Rhonda Howk, Michael Raiber, Gary Schaffner, Phil Warren November 14: Eric Fredericks, Allen Moore, Sarah Storm, Jenny Wright November 15: George Durham, John Fox, Philip Redwine Jr., Samantha Rose, John Summers

Redwine Jr., Samantha Rose, John Summers November 16: Dianne Daniels, Steve Jimerson, Alex Kmiecik, Rebecca Kozak, Catherine Lesser, Janice Masters,

Donna Pike, Tracey Prince

November 17: Leslie Bedwell, Elaine Hale, Rhonda Morgan, Renee Mungle, Dominic Strevett November 18: Fran Burgess, Nancy Gardner, Roger Hoyt, Patty Jimerson, Mack McGuckin

November 19: Kyle Barton, Roy Blasius, Aaron Meek **November 20:** James Callison, Ann Faison, Merideth Ferris, Mark Lassetter, Bill Marley, Deb McLain, Leon Ragland, Dennis Ross, Sarah Sheldon, Sammie Theige, Drew Wright

November 21: Betty Burris, Stephanie Hixon, Marie Hunter, Lisa Portwood

November 22: Dan Hopper, Larry Rachal, Denise Wright

November 23: Cathy Adams, Dennis Etter, Jacob Foster, Becky Kendrick, Valerie Ladner, Kim McElroy, Amber Mercer, Adrian Pace

November 24: Don Bowen, Jamie Bowen, Kent Faison, Earl Finch, Arletta Fink, Betty Higgins, Emma Maggard, Vicki Stewart, Scott Storm, James Teague, Tessa Teague **November 25:** Joel Carlson, Amy Hicks, Joslin Rigney, Jeremy Spearing

November 26: Laurie Conaway, Margaret Cullins, Gordon Foor, Barbara Owens, Amber Philemore November 27: Millie Bradam, Joyce Filipski, Gail Moore, Zachary Rohring, Barbara Woodruff

November 28: Amity Curry, Toni Klemm, Kenneth Smith, Beth Wilson

November 29: Christina Rehkop, Gail Schwabe

November 30: Kat Combs, Carlos Elwell, Paige Hudson, Bradley Pettijohn, Frank Small, Gary Storm

Sympathies

The FBC Family wishes to extend sympathies to: Family & friends of R.V. Reid at his passing Ginny Cecil at the passing of her daughter, Theresa Cecil Clint, Allison, Austin, Avery & Alex Taylor at the passing of Clint's grandmother, Anna Marie Jeane Family & friends at the passing of Emma Lou Tiffany Scott, Jessi, Madison, Lauren & Joslin Rigney at the passing of Jessi's grandmother, Goldie Cunningham

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

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC family,

I would like to thank everyone for the visits, phone calls, food and prayers during my three week hospital stay. It was very much appreciated.

Murlene Reynolds

Dear FBC Family,

Over the last month and a half the love and support of FBC has been overwhelming.

While Chuck was in the hospital for nine days, a different staff member came each day and prayed with us. Friends have brought food, sent cards and flowers, called, visited and most of all prayed. We are so thankful for each of you, for your love and support and most of all we thank you for your prayers.

God is faithful and blesses us each day. Lundy and Chuck Prater

Dear FBC,

Thank you so much for supporting the 2015 CropWalk. Together we truly can make a difference.

April Heiple, Food & Shelter

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