



First Baptist Church

Volume 12, Issue 7
February 2016

At First Glance

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

***We must know Jesus Christ
before we can imitate Him.***

**Charles Sheldon
(In His Steps)**

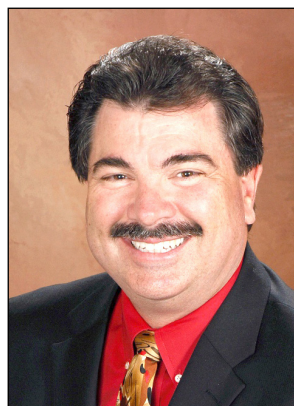
In describing Christian discipleship as imitation, it seems that Sheldon invites us to ask the question: ***What does it mean to "know Jesus Christ?"***

At a recent **First Steps** gathering we talked about the ways we grow in our knowledge of Jesus. Bible reading and study were first to be mentioned, followed by prayer (talking and listening). We know Jesus as we learn His story, understand His mission, witness how He lived (and died) and see His impact upon those who followed Him. The depth of our knowledge of Christ grows as we obey, serve and even suffer on His behalf. Practicing our faith nurtures imitation. How are you growing in the knowledge of Jesus? How are you imitating Him?

We also talked about the necessity of community in knowing Jesus. We experience Jesus through our encounters and relationships within the Body of Christ – the Church. We learn as we pray with, worship with, talk with and hold one another accountable. Statements like, ***I see Jesus in you when...*** are tangible ways to encourage and recognize in one another the imitation of Christ. Where do you see Jesus in those you encounter at First Baptist? Why not offer them a word of encouragement?

First Steps is the opportunity to gather on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. to pray, reflect on the morning sermon and enjoy spiritual conversation. Please join us!

It is hard to believe the Easter season begins on February 10. Our **Ash Wednesday** service is a self-paced worship experience culminating in the Lord's Supper and is a very meaningful way to prepare your heart and mind for Easter.



Dr. Wade Smith

The Norman Lenten worship and lunch series, **Together to the Cross**, begins on February 17 at Alameda Church of Christ. These services offer a picture of the ecumenical spirit of Norman, celebrating that which we share in common over our differences. We will host the Lenten service on March 2. Let us be good friends and hosts through our participation in these services.

Our Lenten worship series, **Come and See**, begins on February 21. Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus and his disciples continually offer *Come and See* invitations. *Come and See* Jesus. *Come and See* the wondrous things He does. *Come and See* always leads to the ultimate invitation: *Come and Follow*. Lent 2016 will be a season of *Come and See*. *Come and See* Jesus. *Come and See* what God is doing at First Baptist.

This year's **Deacon Banquet** is Sunday, February 28. This is a special evening to celebrate the ministry of our deacons and to honor those they shepherd and care for during the

year. If you are a retired missionary, minister, or widow/widower and have not received an invitation to the Deacon Banquet, please contact Vickie Riggs, 360-5300 or Robin Nipper in the church office, 321-1753.

March 6 will be a special morning for our church as we gather for **MissionFest and Church Conference** during the LifeGroup hour. Both worship services will take place at their regular times, but we will gather in Hallock Hall for fellowship and breakfast instead of LifeGroups. Our Missions Team will host a Missions Fair with booths and information about many of our mission partners. At 10:00 a.m., we will enter into a time of Church Conference to approve the 2016/17 Ministry Plan, Nominating Committee report (Ministry Team and Committee leadership), Deacon Nominating report, and a report from our Trustees. Discussions concerning the Ministry Plan will take place during the month of February.

There is still time to join our October tour of the **Holy Land**. Contact Vickie Riggs for the cost and trip details. In preparation for the trip, we will begin meeting on the third Sunday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in room B-20 to talk about the places we will visit along with the biblical, historical and political issues of the region. Everyone is invited to these sessions. We begin on February 21.

The *In His Steps* worship series concludes on February 14 with the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Our worship theme will be the *Excellence of Love*. Let us walk in His love!

The Greatest of These is Love!

Dr. Wade Smith

Thank you for your faithful generosity

As most of you know December has always been our largest month in support of the Ministry Plan. Your generosity through the year is necessary for the church to continue its ministry, and December is that catch-up month for not only your contributions but also for the expenses of the church.

December 2015 is a year to celebrate as a record high giving month (in the last eight years). I would imagine that record would go back much further. We had a great need to have that kind of year, as we had unpaid missions and expenses that needed to be made up.

Now our challenge is to finish our fiscal year (end of March) well. Historically, giving to FBC falls, sometimes dramatically, in the first quarter where we lose what was gained in December. Join with me in committing to regular, continuing generosity as we seek to fulfill our call of ministry at FBC.

Winter weather effect on worship: When severe weather comes in on

Saturday night or early Sunday morning, it always presents a challenge to make the appropriate call to be wise in our decisions to have or cancel worship.

The church policy is for the Pastor, Minister of Administration, and Deacon chair to be involved in making the decision. In recent years we have also consulted church members at the National Weather Service to help make sense of forecast information. Generally, we are inclined to follow our regular schedule unless an event is occurring or is immanent. However, travel safety of members and staff must be considered.

With the current worship schedule including an 8:30 a.m. service, our previous policy of making a Sunday morning decision does not provide adequate time to notify members,



Roy Joe Ham

especially our worship leadership of choir and orchestra.

Until further notice we will follow this new schedule for decision making and notification: If there is a high chance for sufficient weather to effect early worship, a decision will be made and notification given by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday. Generally this decision will only effect the 8:30 a.m. service, due to the fact that we know that forecasts are not 100 percent accurate. A final decision on LifeGroups and late service will be made and notification given by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Sources of notification: All local television stations; the FBC website; Facebook; Twitter; and the church telephone, 321-1753, message will be updated when the decision is made to close.

If the decision is made to continue with services, there will be no notification. However, as in all circumstances we ask and assume that our members will use their own good judgment about being out in whatever weather comes in.

FBC Norman Book Club

Join an online discussion group with our ministry staff.

facebook.com/FirstBaptistNormanbooks

Fitness Center Orientation

6:00 p.m. Monday, FLC
Required for use
of Fitness Center

Low-Impact Exercise

10:00-10:45 a.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
Parkinson's/arthritis approved
Free

Pilates

with Rebecca Darrow
8:00-9:00 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday



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

The season of Lent is upon us

Ash Wednesday, February 10, will begin our journey through this year's season of Lent. This season lasts for 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter, where we will enjoy Resurrection Sunday.

As writer Rachel Held Evans reminds me each year, Lent is a time for reflection, penitence, and preparation. Some people like to use these 40 days to give up something... the idea being that instead of doing that which has been given up, we will focus our attention on reflecting and preparing.

Maybe you will choose to give up watching TV, instead spending that time serving someone. Maybe you can give up what some have called the "consumption of people," where we flip through our Facebook feeds or Twitter timelines just to consume those people, rather than really get to know them.

Some, instead, prefer to add something to their lives. For example,

some might read certain books, or pray through the Psalms. Below are some ideas that will benefit you during this year's Lent, should you choose to make a Lent commitment.

- Practice the prayer of examen each day. For more information on this, visit the link below to read an article with an explanation, as well as a plan for the practice. <http://thewell.intervarsity.org/spiritual-formation/examen>.

- Pray the offices for 40 days. The Daily Office consists of four times of prayer each day: morning prayers, midday prayers, evening prayers, and nighttime prayers. If you are not accustomed to praying in this way, I think a good starting point is Phyllis Tickle's *The Divine Hours, Pocket Edition*.



Kirk Hatcher

- Read a book that challenges you. Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* comes with high recommendations.

- Give up something creatively. I recently read of someone giving up sleeping in for Lent. For some of us that would be more difficult than others. Could you give up sugar? Or caffeine? What about gossiping? Perfectionism? Legalism? Cynicism?

However you choose to spend your season of Lent, let this be between you and God. This is not something by which we judge those around us: "He's not doing nearly as much as I am during Lent," or "I wish I could be like her. Look at what she's doing." Lent is a season of reflection, penitence and preparation. Preparation for what? Resurrection. Let us continue to be made new.

I hope to see you at our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 10, 6-7:30 p.m. (as you are able, and it should take 20-30 minutes) in the Sanctuary.

TOGETHER TO THE CROSS



Through the Eyes of Peter

Offering to support Habitat for Humanity of Norman
Worship at Noon, \$5 lunch following

Feb. 17

Alameda Church of Christ,
801 Alameda St.
Guest Pastor: James Taylor,
Christ's Church of Norman

Feb. 24

McFarlin United Methodist Church,
419 S. University Blvd.
Guest Pastor: Steve Graham,
Cooperating Baptist
Fellowship of Oklahoma

March 2

First Baptist Church,
211 W. Comanche St.
Guest Pastor: Jim Goins,
St. Thomas More University Parish

March 9

St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
211 N. Porter
Guest Pastor: Tracy Evans,
Memorial Presbyterian

March 16

First Christian Church,
220 S. Webster Ave.
Guest Pastor: Jeannie Himes,
St. Stephens UMC

March 23 (Holy Week)

NorthHaven Church,
4600 36th Ave NW
Guest Pastor: Wade Smith,
First Baptist Church

Upward Basketball season in full gear at the Family Life Center

We have started Upward Basketball once again.

We currently have 175 students signed up for Upward this season. Our games began January 9 and go through February 27.

We have 31 coaches and they are doing a great job teaching the players about basketball and about a relationship with Christ.

Please pray for our players,



Clint Taylor

coaches, referees and staff as we continue into our season.

We have 73 players that indicated they do not have a church home. What a great opportunity we have, as a church, to build relationships with these families over the next two months.

Please pray that the FLC will build a bridge to our community, as we share the love of Christ through this ministry.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry opportunity, come to the FLC on Saturday. I would love to hang out with you.



Rediscovering the art of dramatic worship

First Baptist Norman has a rich history of using the arts to share the gospel with our community. Through concerts, musicals, pageants, drama, our Fine Arts Academy and worship services, many lives have been impacted over the years.

This wonderful legacy continues today through a very diverse and growing Worship Arts/Music Ministry. One of the areas of this ministry I'm excited about rediscovering is our Drama ministry, Images.

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of meeting with our current drama ministry leadership team. We talked about how we live in a very visual culture and how drama can effectively communicate valuable life and spiritual lessons in many ways the



Chad Smith

other arts cannot.

As we prepare to re-launch our drama ministry, I hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this team. No experience is required and anyone middle school age and older is welcome to be a part of the team.

For more information, contact Amy Williams or myself. We would love to share with you the vision we have for drama ministry at FBC Norman and how to get involved.

ignite
PASSION FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Contributions to date: \$3,047,351
Loan Balance: \$219,892

*First Baptist
would like to thank
Becky Leon
for her 10 years
of service
as Administrative
Assistant to the
Family Life Center.*



Becky Leon

Prayer appreciated for FBC youth, teachers, leadership

I must say a huge thank you to the outpouring of support for our students as they participated in WakeUpWeekEnd. We had students spending the night at five different houses, led by 15 young adults, doing a service project and hearing faith stories at 10 homes, eating snacks provided by countless folks who demonstrated a gift of hospitality.

This kind of setup helps us. First of all, it reminds our students that they are part of a much larger community. It always is an incredible reminder that what adults of all ages experienced as youth is pretty close to what they experience today.

Secondly, we are able to stay local, recognizing that God works in far off places, but also right here and now, in this place, among these people.

Finally, it affords us the opportunity to invite back some of the voices that we want for our students to hear, those who attended this church when they were in school, and are willing to see this as the investment that is necessary.

I wonder if you'd be able to help our students in a couple of ways. First, I'm still needing people who are willing to tell a faith story on a Wednesday night to a group of youth. We can talk about what that means, but we want to get to know you, and ask you to get to know us. If you're interested in this, contact me and we'll



Rich Lubbers

get you on the schedule.

Second, I wonder if you would be willing to pray for a specific group of students. You might commit to an entire grade that you have a connection to, or just one of our students. Either way, they will benefit by the relationship that will grow, and I believe that you will too.

Last, I wonder if you might be willing to pray for our teachers, leadership, and me? Would you be willing to be a part of the youth ministry conversation at FBC Norman so that we will continue to help them love people, teach the word and live the journey?

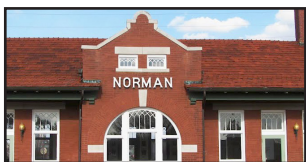
May God bless us as we build bridges together this year. And may we not lose sight that we're in this together. Amen.

Ash Wednesday
6-7:30 p.m. February 10
in the Sanctuary

Downtowners Lunch
February 3
Noon - 1 p.m.

Cost: \$5

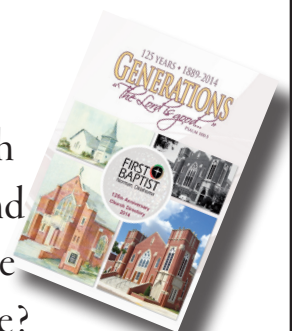
Speaker: Darryl Stacy,
Cleveland County
Commissioner, District 2
Menu: Chili, cornbread,
spring salad and dessert



COMMUNITY
MINISTRY
NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

NEW ADULT UNDERWEAR
MACARONI AND CHEESE
TOOTHPASTE

Have you
picked up
your church
directory and
photo in the
church office?



Many activities planned for February

Adults 55+ activities coming in February include:

Writing Your Life Story Class, February 10 at 10 a.m. in the FLC Conference Room.

Enjoy an evening with Cheryl the artist on February 15 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. A sample painting is available at the FLC office. Cost is \$20.

The January, February and March

Birthday Bash Luncheon will be on February 18. This month's bash will include musician David Brewster.

Cost is \$5 per person, unless you are a birthday



Vickie Riggs

baby and your lunch is free. Make reservations at the FLC office.

On February 21, Discover the Holy Land with First Baptist Church as we host the first in a series of Biblical studies of the Holy Land led by Dr. Wade Smith.

The evening also will be an informational meeting and updated itineraries for our 2016 trip will be available. Join us in B-20 at 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed

We still need volunteers for the Foster Parent's Day Out. The event will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 5.

Fee based enrollment for in-house and church members begins at 8 a.m. on February 1 in Hallock Hall. Public Enrollment begins on March 1. Enroll for SummerScope 2016, and 2016-2017 Parent's Day Out, Kaleidoscope After-school, and K-Jr After-school.

Bring the completed enrollment form, a copy of current shot records, and the registration fee. Fee is \$50 for one child or \$75 for more than one child.

For more information, email Crystal Byrd at crystalb@fbcnorman.org or Brenda Gass at brendag@fbcnorman.org.



Crystal R. Byrd

Easter Worship Series

Come and See

February 21: Come and See!

February 28: Pulpit Guest: Rev. Kirk Hatcher

March 6: Finding Nathanael

March 13: Leaving our Waterpots

March 20: Inviting Jesus to our Tombs

March 27 (Easter Sunday): Believe

April 3: Pulpit Guest: Dr. Todd Still, Dean of Truett Seminary

April 10: Come and Have Breakfast

Baptism

and

Lord's Supper

February 14

Sweetheart Night

February 12

6:30 — 9:30 p.m.

Birth — Grade 5

\$5 per child, \$15 Family Max

RESERVATION REQUIRED

Sign up with Crystal by February 7

For more information, email crystalb@fbcnorman.org

University Ministry is a bridge ministry

At its very core, a University Ministry is a bridge ministry.

There exists a growing trend for non-traditional students, and more people than ever are obtaining advanced degrees. The typical college student begins their undergraduate studies right after high school and will take roughly four to five years to complete their degree program.

For many students, especially for freshmen, this can be a confusing time. In our church, we are blessed with a vibrant, wonderful Youth Ministry with a strong sense of community and camaraderie. Once

graduation strikes, however, everything changes.

Seniors get a diploma and their roles shift. Expectations are different. They're not high schoolers any more, and for some, they may start to question where – or even if – they still have a place in the church at all. For this reason, the faith of many students doesn't survive the transition out of youth



Chris Canary

and into college.

As it's already February and graduation is right around the corner, I believe it is of utmost importance that we as a church, and especially I as your University Minister, make every effort to help our high school graduates transition to and find their place within the University Ministry and church at large.

Pastor Wade said it well in his Annual Sermon, that 2016 will be a year of building bridges. Let's help our students span the gap by encouraging, nurturing and supporting their faith during these times of transition.

Holy Land trip

DISCOVER THE HOLY LAND
WITH FIRST BAPTIST
OCTOBER 4-14

LED BY
WADE AND GAY SMITH

An informational meeting
will be at 5:30 p.m.

February 21 in B-20.

For more information, contact
Vickie or Deborah at 360-5300



Deacon Banquet

Feb. 28

5:15 p.m.:

hors d'oeuvres

5:30 p.m.: dinner

Deacons, register
your attendance
in the church office

Men's BREAKFAST

With guest speaker Don Adkins
8 a.m. • February 20 • FLC • \$5



Brown Bag Lunch



February 1
noon

Wagner Hall
on the University
of Oklahoma campus

February Birthdays

February 1: Kim Caldwell, Lois Johnson, Jackson Love, Sharron Nelson, Robyn Stapleton

February 2: Crystal Byrd, Donald Carter, Nicholas Carter, Seth Hardage, Emily Rehkop, Frances Searcey, Ralph Wampler, John Wirth

February 3: Elizabeth Beam, Wayne Cockerham, David Glabas, Brenda Goodspeed, Delmer Hardesty, Kate Lefler, Dee Powell

February 4: Kelly Henderson

February 5: Hannahlaine Harris, Maggie Marcum, Debra Skinner, Dale Wade

February 6: Linda Bibb, Kelly Callahan, Jerry Hobbs, Savannah Scott, David Turley

February 7: Audre' Carter, Dorothy Foster, Glen Pool, Susan Williams

February 8: Angela Cole, Allen Morain, Tiffany Noble, Barbara Pennybaker, Georgette Racolta, Mary Robinson, Tyler Rohring, Rebecca Sigler

February 9: Heather Benedix, Kyle Ferguson, Nikki Kepford, Gale McMurphy, Clint Taylor, Audrey Villani

February 10: Gary Askins, Kathy Bowen, Alyene Bowers, Jack Holt, Phil Moss, Shirley Rider, Mariya Vasileva

February 11: Jessi Rigney

February 12: Jeff Jimerson, Hailey Morain, Sally Reist, Fred Vinson

February 13: Donnie Jones Sr., Ben Lane, Julie Mitchell, Anneli Walsh

February 14: Audrey Brumage, Debbie Burchfield,

Karlinda Gravel, Jim McCloskey

February 15: Robert Arrington, Patricia Askins, Reba Duncan, Tim Milliron, Sherry Moore, Curren Myers, Garrett Wood

February 16: Jerry Chenoweth, Mindy Deal, Robert Fredericks, Connie Jensen, Lundy Prater, P.R. Ramey, Tracy Ratzlaff, Mickey Williams, Beth Windes

February 17: Troy Cheshier, Ronald Edwards, Heather Moore

February 18: Dusty Hill, Don Jonason, Donna Kile, Mike Wilson

February 19: Glenn Foster, Ted Haxel, Frances Lee, Scott Linn, Stacy Lubbers, Allison Valentine

February 20: Helen Floyd, Chris Nott, Melissa Rogers

February 21: Jennifer Baker, Scott Boeh, Melissa Davis, Kelly Fisher

February 22: Angela Atkins, Russell Cole, Ann Rhea

February 23: Carol Golden, Vickie Kersey, Ashton Seratte, Caren Thurston, Elaine Tiller, Brady Williams

February 24: Gail Cotton

February 25: Karen Anderson, Kelly Fredericks, Peggy Moss, Sarah Redwine

February 26: Ann Deal, Paul Hopkins, John Lewis

February 27: Martha Axton, Marilyn Craighead, Myron Cunningham, Brian Diehm, Michael McClure, Perry Young

February 28: Lacey Cates, Alan Durham, Kirk Hatcher, Chris Knight, Megan Webb

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC Family,

I want to thank you, my church family, for the cards, flowers, visits, meals and especially the prayers during my surgery last October. I very much appreciate all of you.

I also want to thank you, on behalf of my entire family, for the same grace you extended us during my mother's hospitalization earlier last year. This church is amazing and we love you all very much.

Sincerely, Kim Marks, Frank and Janette Marks, and Robert, Kelly and Shea Fredericks

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you so much for the cards and visits during Dan's hip surgery. It is such a blessing to know you all.
Chesca and Dan Bailly

Dear FBC,

On behalf of the Salvation Army, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your gift.

God bless you,
The Advisory Board

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Community Outreach Ministries

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Address Service Requested

Sympathies

The FBC Family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Larry and Mary Varner, Jon, Jan, Ashton and Alyssa Seratte at the passing of Mary's aunt, Ruth Christian Family and friends of Curtis Fore at his passing

Family and friends of Velma Dodson at her passing

Ruth Ann Carr, Kent, Kayla and Kort Nicholson at the passing Ruth Ann's mother, Elwina Marlow

Don Burleson, Teddi Simpson and John Burleson at the passing of their father and brother, Billy Don Burleson



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