



At First Glance

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

Norman is talking about resurrection. The recent Norman Transcript "author error" opened the door for many of us to talk about the meaning and significance of resurrection.

When the "Palm Sunday Weekend Devotion" hit the streets of Norman, many of you received phone calls from church members and community friends. Several called, texted and emailed me seeking clarification. Others called the Transcript to express concern. One local pastor addressed the error in a blog article on his church's website and another referenced it in their sermon that weekend.

I appreciate the Transcript's response in running a front page retraction and publishing my actual article the next day. I visited with the editor and he was very apologetic and while not making excuses explained how he believed the error occurred.

I look forward to writing articles for the Transcript in the future. I consider these devotionals a significant way to build bridges to our community. The devotionals are pastoral and confessional in nature and not intended to be theological treatises. My prayer is for them to encourage believers, inspire faith and hope for the hurting, and introduce unbelievers to the life and teachings of Jesus.

Through this recent experience, I learned that many people read and look for these articles. One Sunday a lady approached me with a devotional in her hand. She said "Thank you. I haven't been in church in years." The devotional was on forgiveness. These devotionals also are published on the FBC blog, accessed through our website. Please share them with your friends and family.

So, what is the meaning of

resurrection?

Resurrection is "now and not yet." Through Christ, resurrection is possible today!

Relationships can be resurrected. Broken lives can be resurrected. Moral failures can find resurrection. The Kingdom of God is evidenced through the resurrections that take place in our lives every day. Don't be so heavenly minded that you miss the power of resurrection in the "now."

But, resurrection also is "not yet." Some are so focused on the "now" they forget that resurrection is also in the future. The Apostle Paul writes "if we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." (I Cor. 15:19) Resurrection points to the promise of life after death. For Paul, the physical resurrection of Jesus is the key to our hope for eternal resurrection.

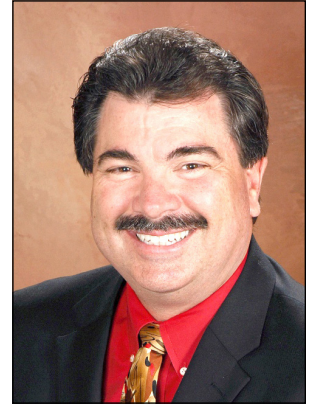
Of course the follow up question is "What does resurrection look like?" In the New Testament (Mark 12:29-30) Jesus proclaims that the greatest commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. We understand this to mean that we are to love God with everything that we are.

So as I anticipate the "not yet" of resurrection, I am fascinated as to the experience of heart, soul, mind and strength that awaits. Indeed there is mystery here.

Sunday, April 3, Dr. Todd Still, Dean of Truett Seminary and acting Provost of Baylor University, will be our pulpit guest. Dr. Still is a good friend and mentor/teacher to several of our ministers who are Truett graduates. He will preach in both services. We have three FBCN students, Nick Napoli, Laura Robertson and Lauren (Jones) McCoy, at Truett with two preparing to enroll this fall, Madison Harner and Connor Knudsen.

Sunday, April 10 at 5:00 p.m. we will ordain Carter Sanders and Carol

Kellison to the office of Deacon. We also welcome David Dillon, ordained at a previous church, to our Deacon Ministry Team as well. Childcare is provided and a brief reception will follow the service.



Dr. Wade Smith

The Deacon Ministry Team will meet before the ordination service at 4:30 p.m. to approve the FY 16/17 Deacon Leadership Team. I want to thank Beverly Theige for her leadership as Deacon Chair and look forward to Phil Moss serving as Deacon Chair for the coming year.

We finish our Easter, *Come and See*, series on April 10. As we commit to building bridges with our community and inviting others to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry, it is important to peek in on Jesus and His disciples at the Sea of Tiberius.

On April 17, we begin a short series called **Face to Face**. During these weeks we will walk with Jesus as he comes *Face to Face* with a variety of people in the Gospel of Matthew. Each encounter is unique and all find grace, except one.

Thanks to Chad, choir, orchestra and all those who made the *Requiem for the Living* service possible. Thanks to all who attended the Good Friday Secret Church service. Thanks to all who volunteered and attended the Sunshine Celebration. The culmination on Easter Sunday was a wonderful time to meditate on and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Christ the Lord is Risen! Let our lives reflect this truth!

Dr. Wade Smith

Beginning of Fiscal Year allows for renewed commitment

April is a month of transition in the life of FBC, and there is a lot that comes with it.

As we begin a new Fiscal Year with our Ministry Plan, we need a renewed commitment of support. Support with our talents, our prayers, our attendance and certainly the need to support it financially with great generosity. I hope that each of you will join with me in a commitment to all these areas.

Finishing well is a necessity in most places in our life. Finishing the race, ending a career or any job transition, a volunteer opportunity that we take on, and in finishing a Fiscal Year we must look at finishing well. This newsletter is expected to arrive in your mail prior to the end of the month of March, so it tends to beg the question, have we individually or as a church ended this year well? There is still time for each of us to impact that finish if we need to. I hope you will join me in that journey and help us all finish well together.

Thank you to all of you who have served in leadership positions over the last year in our journey to be what God is calling us to do and be at FBC Norman. I offer a special thank you to those who have completed a three year term and are rotating off of their current position of responsibility

and leadership. Without your time, effort, prayers and willingness to serve, our work together would not be successful.

Pews

In our March church conference, the Trustees announced the removal and sale of 15 pews from the sanctuary to allow flexible space for worship arts events in the sanctuary. There are still several of the pews available for purchase for \$100 each. Please contact me if you are interested in one of these for a memorial keepsake or as a useful addition to your furnishings. Come and sit up front and enjoy the comfort of the chairs!

New beginnings

Finishing well, and good endings, leads us to fresh new beginnings. Deborah Linn has served as a faithful staff member at the Family Life Center for the past 20 years. Deborah has announced her plan to retire on April 29. We certainly want to celebrate, along with Deborah, this decision to take a new step in life.

On behalf of the church staff, and



Roy Joe Ham

the congregation, thank you Deborah for the countless hours of sacrificial labor of love you provided through the years.

Ignite update

Thanks to your faithful and continued generosity, we have reduced our loan balance to under \$200,000. That is certainly a God sized work in our midst, but with that comes a challenge again to finish well. I pray we can stay on the journey together and lead to a day we can say, yes we did finish well!

Prayers are needed for our world. I write this on Tuesday, March 22, a day of what I would call senseless violence and apparent terror attacks that occurred in Belgium. Lives have changed forever because of these acts. Certainly we must pray for the victims, but we also are called to pray for our enemies, and the perpetrators of evil. Yes, it may be difficult for some, it may even seem impossible, but we must! Please join me in this new season of prayer.

As we experience the resurrection through our Easter celebrations, may we truly become resurrection people with a desire to impact the world around us.

Peace for this journey of life together!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE: \$3,073,184

LOAN BALANCE: \$196,610

4/10/2016

DEACON ORDINATION
 Carol Kellison and Carter Sanders
 Deacon affirmation for David Dillon

4:30 p.m. Deacon Leadership Team, B-20
 5:00 p.m. Ordination, Sanctuary
 Reception follows in HH
 Childcare provided

The yard is back

Well, it has happened! My yard is back. I wasn't ready for it, but somehow, it happened anyway.

I am now in the mode of refusing to pull out my lawnmower or weed-eater or shovel or RoundUp or anything having to do with what is going on around our house. It's been a while since I've spent any quality time in denial, so I thought I might enjoy it a little bit longer.

Most years, I approach spring and get a tad excited at the yard work ahead. I do really "enjoy" the mowing, the edging, the caring for something so that it looks just right. Maybe it's more about the discipline of the process.

Once the grass comes in I will spend some time each week making sure it's cut and looks just as it needs to look. AND if I don't, I get that nice letter from the homeowner's association that asks me why I'm so lazy.

Does this sound familiar to you? It seems that I go through seasons in my spiritual formation as well. There are seasons when I feel so close to God that it's like I can reach out and touch God, knowing that every prayer is heard.

During other seasons I wonder if I've found myself in another world where God is nowhere to be found. My prayers aren't heard, and I'm not anywhere near touching God. My heart is hard. My eyes are dimmed. My ears are closed. Those seasons are tough.

But then... in the midst of the wandering I see a fresh sprig of green jumping up from the dirt. Hope. Possibilities. God reaches out to touch me. I aim back in the direction



Kirk Hatcher

of the disciplines that allow me the opportunity to return wholeheartedly to a God who loves me. Disciplines like silence, reading scripture, service, worship, and giving all help me see things differently.

Even while I tried my best to wander away from God, God never left me. When I realize that, I can't help but think about how I miss time alone with God.

Just as the grass peeks through the earth each and every spring, these spiritual seasons come and go. While they are difficult to maneuver through I feel they have been essential to my spiritual formation.

Do you find yourself in the middle of these kinds of seasons? Do you live into these seasons or do you try and rush through them? The next time you find yourself wandering, stop and take a breath, and look around for the new green growing up all around you. It's there.

**April 6
Noon - 1 p.m.**

Cost: \$5

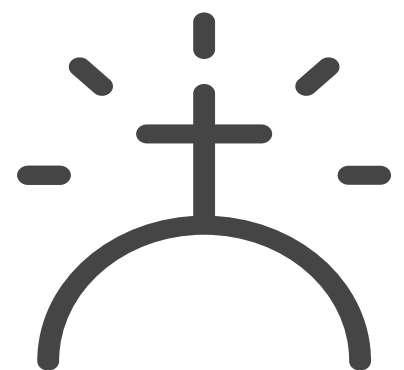
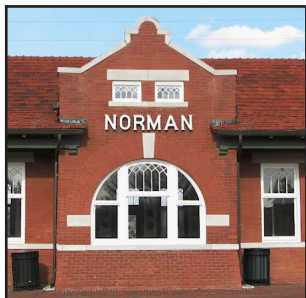
Speaker: Phil Rice

Executive Director

Norman Prayer Furnace

318 E. Gray St.

**Menu: Lasagna, salad,
breadsticks and dessert**



New Worship Series

*Face to Face: Encountering Jesus
in the Gospel of Matthew*

April 17 Encountering Need

April 24 Encountering Forgiveness

May 1 Encountering Emptiness

**May 8 Encountering
Faith and Courage**

May 22 Encountering Guilt

Painting, Holy Land, Playground Pals offered for Adult 55+

Have you ever wanted to be an artist? Now you can if you sign-up for the April 18 or April 19 Painting 101 class.

The instructor will be Cheryl McKean. Class begins at 6:30 p.m. and the cost is \$20. Spaces are limited.

The FBC Holy Land adventure will be October 4-15. Whether you are a Holy Land traveler or not you are welcome to join us on the third Sunday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in B-20 for the Holy Land Bible study led by Pastor Wade. Our next meeting will

be April 17.

We need Playground Pals on April 23 from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. What are Playground Pals? On designated days our Adults 55+ Ministry serves snacks and drinks to families who are enjoying our FBC playground. It is a great outreach and mission field just across Comanche street. If you are



Vickie Riggs

available to volunteer, contact me at the Family Life Center.

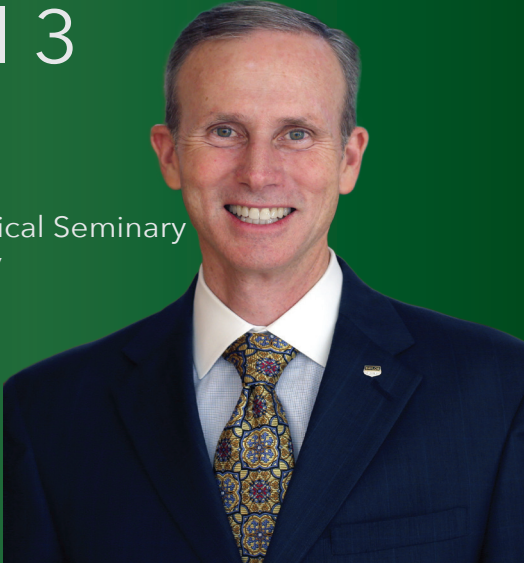

University and Senior Adult Game Day will be at noon on April 24. Senior Adults and University students will enjoy lunch together and their favorite table games. If you can join us, sign-up at the FLC.

Upcoming Travel

Opportunities include:

- September 12-16: Baseball and More. Kansas City and St. Louis.
- December 6-8: Branson Holiday Adventure.

Sunday, April 3
Pulpit Guest
Dr. Todd Still
 Dean, George W. Truett Theological Seminary
 Interim Provost, Baylor University

Accepting Applications
for Family Life Center Operations Manager

This is a full time Administrative Position. Applications available in the church office.

Please submit to Roy Joe Ham by Wednesday April 6.


FBC KIDS SPRING SLEEPOVER

*
April 22 - 23
7 pm - 8 am
Kinder - Grade 5

*
R.S.V.P. with Crystal Byrd

KEEP CALM AND STAY UP LATE!

Brown Bag Lunch



Noon, April 4

Wagner Hall on the University of Oklahoma campus

Things are going well for FBC youth

I was talking to a friend the other day about our church. He was asking how things are going, if we are growing, and what was coming up for our students in the near future.

Those are good questions.

Things are going well. Quite honestly, I'd always love to have just one more student at any event we have, but that doesn't mean that the ones who are there are any less loved.

When I was in seminary, I had a professor who reminded me that God's love isn't a zero-sum game: when someone else joins the community of faith, there's not less love to be split among more members of the group. Instead, there's more love because there are more members.

People have been incredibly kind to our students, but they need your kindness still. Some of them are facing

summers where they are attempting big things. Some are facing school transitions. Some are just trying to fight through the end of this school year. Please continue to pray for them. Find a student, and let them know you're praying for them.

We are growing. We are growing in faith, growing in size, and attempting to grow in our impact. I wonder if you'd be willing to help us? We always welcome people who are willing to share their faith stories with our students on a Wednesday night. Or maybe you feel like you would be interested in mentoring some of our students. Or maybe God is working on



Rich Lubbers

you in some other way. If you want to help us grow, let's have a conversation and see how you can be a part.

Our students have a ton coming up. End of the year tests are coming, graduation is coming for some, and then a packed summer is on the horizon.

From June 3-12, we'll be taking students on a choir/mission trip to Virginia. From June 13-17, our middle school students will enjoy a week at our cabin in Falls Creek. From July 15-22, our high school students will enjoy Mountain Camp in Colorado. And all of that is in addition to continuing to have weekly opportunities for fellowship and discipleship.

Thank you for your work in support of our students. Will you continue to help us as we seek to be people who love people, teach the word, and live the journey together?

April 16

Public Servant APPRECIATION NIGHT

Family Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Gym and Game Room: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

For food delivery, call 360-5300



First Baptist Church
Family Life Center
300 W. Comanche St.

FLC SUMMER CAMPS

May 31-June 2

Jr. Hoops

(4-5-year-olds)

Time: 9-11 a.m.

Cost: \$50

June 6-9

Jr. Science Camp

(4-year-olds to first grade)

Time: 9-11 a.m.

Cost: \$75

Science Camp

(Second-fifth grades)

Time: 1:30 -3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$75

June 20-23

Gymnastics Camp

(3-14-year-olds)

Three class times: 3:15 p.m.;

4:15 p.m. or 5:20 p.m.

Cost: \$40/\$45

July 11-14

Jr. Chef's Academy

(4-year-olds to first grade)

Time: 9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$75

Chef's Academy

(Second to fifth grade)

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Cost: \$75

July 25-28

Upward Basketball

Time: 6-8-year-olds, 8:30-11:30 a.m.;

9-12-year-olds, 1-4 p.m.

Cost: \$75

Monday, April 4, is first day of registration for church members and those in FBC Programs. Monday, April 18, is the first day for public registration.

Save the Date
for
TO NORMAN WITH LOVE
City-Wide day of Service on May 7
Watch for more information! **1-7 MAY**

Group project ideas:
Projects at OK Baptist Homes for Children

- Collect diapers for CCFI diaper pantry
- Deliver treats to workers at DHS
- Games, manicures, etc at assisted living centers
- Host a hygiene drive for our food pantry
- Yard work at Mary Abbott Children's House
- Help a neighbor

To Norman with Love scheduled May 1-7

We are in need of a driver for our Sunday Shuttle, which helps those without transportation get to church each Sunday.

Our current opening is for the first Sunday of each month. Drivers serve one Sunday a month, bringing individuals to their LifeGroups and the late worship service.

Drivers must be 21 and participate

in our van driver certification training. Want to help serve in this way? Email me at angela@fbcnorman.org.

To Norman with Love, our annual focus on community wide service, will be from May 1-7. The week-long event will conclude with our community-wide day of service on May 7.

Over the next few weeks, watch

for ways to participate as an individual, family or group.

This is just one way our church can give back to those in our neighborhoods and lives each day.



Angela Atkins

Park @ FBC

The FBC Worship Arts Ministry will lead our parking ministry during the Norman Music Festival April 22-23

3rd through 5th grades only

CAMP SILOAM
June 20-24

Cost includes camp and transportation fee

Pick up registration forms with Crystal

Registration: March 1 to May 1

Cost before April 1: \$215

Cost after April 1: \$250

End of school year activities means busy time for students

It's the time of year when students find themselves in a complicated situation. On the one hand, summer is just around the corner and can't get here soon enough! On the other hand, there's a lot to do between now and the final day of classes.

Well, lucky for students here at FBC, we have some events and outings coming up to provide reprieve to minds dealing with uncanny dialectics and existential woes.

Here's what you can look forward

to this month and next:

- April 8: Game Night with Steve Wilson and Russ Cole
- April 16: Rock Climbing at Climb Up
- April 24: Game Day with Senior Adults
- May 16-20: Senior Retreat to Colorado Springs
- May 30-31: Rest Retreat

While these things are primarily for college students, we also value the intergenerational-ness of this church;

so, if you're interested in getting involved as a sponsor, or want to serve on the University Ministry Leadership Team, or just want to hang out, or have any inclination to work with students, let's go grab a cup of coffee and see where the conversation takes us!



Chris Canary

**Men's
Breakfast**

8 a.m.
April 23
Family Life Center
\$5 suggested donation

Experience Italy
with the FBC Worship Arts/Music Ministry
July 25-August 4, 2017

Musicians and non-musicians welcome
For more information, contact
Chad Smith, Minister of Worship Arts/Music

**FIRST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SCHOLARSHIP**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS
SUNDAY, APRIL 24**

PRIORITY GIVEN TO ACTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS

**SEE CHRIS CANARY FOR APPLICATION
OR MORE INFORMATION**

CBF OK Assembly
God Plays No Favorites
The Fellowship Center, 1017 Elm Ave.

<p>Friday, April 8 5:30 p.m. Dinner Catered by Ray's \$12 RSVP: 447-2471</p> <p>6:30 p.m. CBF OK Business Session</p> <p>7:00 p.m. <i>Christian Faith and Religious Pluralism</i> with Dr. Charles Kimball</p> <p>7:45 p.m. Break and Fellowship</p> <p>8:15 p.m. Worship</p>	<p>Saturday, April 9 9:00 a.m. Discussion of CBF Capital Grant</p> <p>9:30 a.m. <i>Developing Strategy</i> <i>CBF Global Missions</i> with Stephanie Vance</p> <p>10:15 a.m. Break and Fellowship</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Worship</p>
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April Birthdays

April 1: Jaynee Bell, Paul Hawkins, Glen Hubbel, Buzz Jensen, Kubra Karim, Stuart Rucker, Jim Stewart

April 2: Jo Ann Anthony, John Bills, Martha Christian, Wanda Curry, Josh Edge, Lillian Hall, Hazel Jensen, Doug Upchurch

April 3: Ann Borden, Grant Cherry, Will Windes

April 4: Josh Harrison, Michelle Lefler, Cathy Little, Mike Morris, Karen Murphy, Marley Rogers, Deena Standfast

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

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

April 7: Nathan Lasseter, Dan McMillen, Jay Turley

April 8: Sarah Adams, Gracie Branch, Marcus Dollard, Scott Rigney, Stormy Theiss

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

April 10: Trish Foor, Bret Stacy

April 11: Kathy Ferguson, Michelle Harmon, Jonathan Storm, Joshua Storm

April 12: Darian Cheshier, Gilton Cross, Avery Pace, Sherri Reece, Lori Wright

April 13: Chelsea Brummer, Patti Drennan, Kort Nicholson, Laura O'Connell, Barbara Stone

April 14: Mell Strunk, Freda Williams

April 15: David Brown, Jim Doull, Bea Luther, Don Thompson, Mary Varner

April 16: Kendall Cunningham, Samantha Littleton

April 17: Brenda Chapman, Fern Cockerham, Marcia Farris, Becky Graham, Matthew Small

April 18: Steve Carlson, LaRita Couch, Steve Gorton, Jack Green, Britt Hatcher, Danielle O'Neal

April 19: Tiffany Burleson, Laura Stuart, Craig Thompson

April 20: Lee Borden, Ann Hodges, Janette Ketchum, Jamie Musson, June Shiau, Connie Smith, Marcus Weatherall

April 21: Amy Hooper, Scott McGowen

April 22: Jordan Barton, Cecilia Bradley, Sara Hildenbrand

April 23: Betty Allen, Shawn Badgett, Georgia Barnard, Judy Chowins, Gloria Murray, Olivette Sanders

April 24: Penny Buchanan, Ivan Krush, Lindsay Rice

April 25: Reva Fithian, Wilma McMurphy, Dale White

April 26: Sandy Dismukes, Emily Drennan-Lopez, Melissa Dyer, Durwin Gaither, Erica Wirth

April 27: April Sandlin, Timothy Schaffner, Jamie Upchurch

April 28: Jon Christian, Mona Gardner, Brandi Long, Dennis Swing, Phil Webb

April 29: Dolly Berry, Christine Dodd, Kenneth Hudson, Kelly Marcum, Megan Milsap, Patricia Morgan, Steve Rogers, Fleeta White, Kathryn Winyinger

April 30: Conan Clough, Annette Meyers Dollard, Alyssa Seratte, Tara Smith

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

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear First Baptist Church,

Joe and I want to thank Randy Reist of the SMART Team and his friend Brandon Rehkop for helping us with a task we weren't able to do. I

was recuperating from broken ribs and Joe from surgery on his hand.

They came out to our house and it only took them a few minutes.

They were very polite and asked if there was anything else they could help with.

We appreciate this great service.

Joe and Elizabeth Windes

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to: Family & friends of Helen Klein at her passing

Steve, Shelley & Graeme Wilson at the passing of Steve's father, Sam Wilson

Family & friends of Alyene Bowers at her passing

Don & Patty Jimerson, Jay & Sue Jimerson & family, Jeff, Ardyth & Matt Jimerson, Steve & Sandy Jimerson & family at the passing of Melanie Jimerson

Joe, Ginger, Brent & Blake Shockley at the passing of Ginger's father, Bill Robertson

Don & Shirley Geis at the passing of Shirley's brother, Donald Dumler

Ministry Staff

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pastorwade@fbcnorman.org

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