



At First Glance

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

Almost 19 years ago Gay and I brought our twin daughters, Jennifer and Alyssa, home from the hospital.

A friend advised us to take lots of pictures those first three months because we would be so exhausted we wouldn't remember very much. They were right! One of my favorite pictures is of the girls swaddled in Gay's brother's basketball shoes, a very vivid reminder of how small and vulnerable these two beautiful baby girls were.

On May 26, Jennifer and Alyssa will receive their high school diplomas from Norman North High School. As with most parents, we wondered if this day would ever arrive. And now that it is here, we marvel at how quickly the years have gone.

We will celebrate with family and friends. We also will celebrate with our church family on May 29 during a special combined worship service at 10:50 a.m. and graduate lunch afterward.

The girls were in third grade when we moved to Norman and we are so thankful for the support and encouragement they have received from you. From Sunday School teachers, to choir directors, to "grandparents," friends and mentors you have loved and blessed them as they have grown up in your midst.

One of the formal ways First Baptist symbolizes and lives out spiritual community is through our high school senior prayer partner ministry. Each senior is given an anonymous prayer partner that prays for and encourages them throughout the year. The prayer partners are revealed during a special moment in the graduate service.

The cards and gifts our girls have received from their prayer partners

have been a great source of joy and encouragement. They can't wait to discover who their prayer partners are!

In addition, each graduate will be presented a study Bible from the church during the service. These Bibles are located in the church library. You are invited to highlight a Bible verse, sign, and offer your words of blessing to our graduates. This is another way we are building bridges across the generations of our congregation.

The graduate worship service on May 29 will bring together choir, orchestra, and praise team for a wonderful service of celebration. On combined worship Sundays in 2016, we host a Meditations worship service at 8:30 a.m.

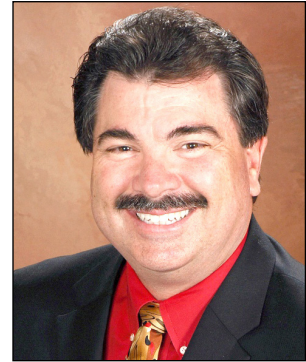
This abbreviated service will feature the organ, piano, scripture, prayers, silence, and a brief homily. Dr. Lavonn Brown will lead our meditations homily on May 29. With it being Memorial Day weekend, I have asked him to share *Meditations on Remembering*.

To Norman with Love is May 1-7. I want to thank Angela Atkins and her leadership team in helping to promote and put together the ministry opportunities. Step out with your LifeGroup and find a service project as we love Norman with our good works.

The month of May not only means graduations and the end of school, it also is the time when final plans and details are being made for our summer ministries. Be in prayer for Crystal, Rich and their teams as they prepare for camps and Vacation Bible School. Be in prayer for Clint and his staff as they prepare for FLC camps.

Pray for our Summerscope

team as they prepare for another summer of day camp. Pray for Chad and our choir and orchestra as they prepare for our Patriotic concert.



Dr. Wade Smith

Pray for Chris and his team as they welcome new college students. Pray for those in our church participating in summer mission trips. There are many ways to serve this summer. *Where will you get involved?*

On Sunday, May 1, we will recognize Deborah Linn in worship for her 20 years of service at the Family Life Center. She will retire as the Family Life Center Operations Manager. Deborah has served wonderfully and been a significant part of our FLC ministry. We congratulate her on her retirement and look forward to celebrating this new season of life with her. Thank you Deborah!

Mother's Day is May 8. In honor of our mothers we will host a come and go breakfast from 9:15 to 9:40 a.m. in Hallock Hall. Join us for this special time of fellowship as we say "thank you" to our mothers.

We continue with our *Encountering Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew* worship series during May. As we read and study the scriptures, may we encounter Jesus in real and transforming ways. As we live each day and encounter people in need, may we respond as Jesus would.

We have good words and good deeds to share. Let us be faithful!

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Wade Smith

God invites us to participate in His movement

Welcome to May! Our April showers certainly brought about the onset of a beautiful spring. While we have enjoyed a much beneficial rain, many parts of our country have suffered from devastating floods and severe storms. Even as I write this we are in the crosshairs of our first enhanced weather risk.

As I've said many times, I am from a dry, arid, yet highly productive agricultural region of Southwest Texas that always had challenges in weather that brought about challenges in life. I've heard it said many times after great spring rains, even flooding rains, when the rain quit the fears of the next drought began. I see that same kind of thing occurring in Oklahoma, reminding me about home. But God is faithful and in His time rains fall again!

It leads me to ask the question of living life with a glass half empty; or a life half full? I can tell you I much prefer it to remain at least half full, because it allows me to recognize much easier when it becomes overflowing.

I see this in our Christian life, and

certainly in the life of the church. God is busy around us, sending us spring rains of blessing, sometimes even floods of blessing. Are we ready to recognize the floods of blessing and the sweet aroma that comes from them? Or do we find ourselves only living in the seasons of drought?

At First Baptist Norman we have been and continue to be blessed with floods of blessing. If you miss a blessing or fail to see God at work, are you inclined to say I (or we) have entered into a season of drought in relationship with God? Or can we say together that God is always at work, and we need to join Him in that work.

As God moves He invites us to participate in that movement, and in that participation we continue to be blessed. If we withdraw, if we deny He is at work, it is easy to enter into a



Roy Joe Ham

season of spiritual drought and doubt.

As we move into May, we look at a very busy season with school ending, graduation and life changing choices and decisions that face us. Some of those decisions are about our worship attendance, and regular giving of tithes and offerings through the summer. The church needs both from you through this season. Even if your journey leads to drought, look for the blessings around you.

When you are in town make it a priority to worship together here in this place. Bring your guests when they are in town. Don't forget to support your church financially and with your prayers as we move into summer. Look around, smell the sweet fragrance of God's abundant blessing and rejoice, for HE IS GOD!

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:10

Peace and blessings to you all!

Graduate Sunday

May 29
10:50 a.m.

Combined service
To celebrate our high school graduates.
Lunch to follow in Hallock Hall for graduates and families.

Senior Bibles
Will be in the church library until May 27. Leave a note of encouragement or mark your favorite passage.

Meditations...
On
Remembering

Early Worship
May 29
8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary
Dr. Lavonn Brown

Where has the time gone?

Here we are in May. April showers bring May flowers, but all I can seem to find is anxiety because school is nearly out, summer is upon us, and I'm not ready to wear a swimsuit!

It's such a strange phenomenon how time seems to disappear. Some say when we are having fun time flies by. I think that may be true, but I have come to realize that even when we are not having any kind of fun the second hand keeps moving. Some are fine with the quickness of time, others are not. After all, have you ever wished that time would, in fact, stand still?

Not long ago, I found myself at a concert, and I wished that time would stop (as long as those performing could keep going). I was swept away by the music and did not want it to end. A few weeks

later, as we were driving to Waco to see our oldest child, I would have preferred that those four hours could have been skipped as we simply "arrived" in Waco. Time is a never-ending cycle...

So, the question begs: what are we doing with the time we have? Rather than convince us that we are not busy enough and that there are so many other ways that we should be spending our time, I will assume that we are all busy – and some, if not most, of us are way too busy. What if we took an inventory of our time? Do these headings cover your time inventory?



Kirk Hatcher

- sleep
- work
- volunteer
- recreation
- entertaining
- family
- Sabbath

Once upon a time I did this exercise with our students to help them see that they should not wait to begin a practice of Sabbath - a practice of rest in the midst of the hectic. Have you experienced Sabbath?

Over the summer, I hope to be able to walk through several aspects of this idea of Sabbath in this newsletter. The more time I have spent looking at this idea of Sabbath, the more I am understanding how little I know... and how little Sabbath I have actually experienced.



May 4
Noon - 1 p.m.
Cost: \$5

Speaker:

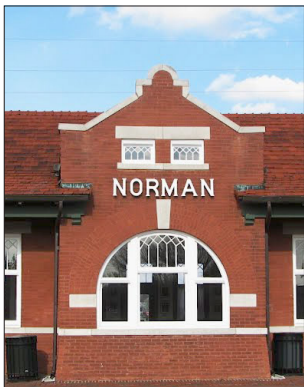
Rev. Roy Joe Ham
Minister of Administration

Menu:

Potato soup, ham and
cheese on croissants, chips



New Worship Series
The Proverbs:
Wisdom for Life
June 5 - August 14



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
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Wednesday
- 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 6:45 p.m. Missions and Discipleship

Nanas and Grampies Adventures are back

Spring is here and Summer is getting closer each day.

With May comes two week-day Bible study opportunities. Beginning May 3, Mary Lee Gossett will lead a Bible Study titled *Ecclesiastes and Me*. This study will be offered in a four-week session, on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the FLC Koinonia Room.

Also, Dr. Mack Roark is back on May 13 for our first Senior Seminary for the year. The study will be from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Family Life Center.

Plan to celebrate with us at our

April, May, June Birthday Bash Luncheon on May 19. Everyone is invited but if you are a birthday baby, your lunch is complimentary.

Yes, Nanas and Grampies are back for the summer. Our Nanas, Grampies and Grandkids day adventure is June 28. We will travel to the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks.

The day will include a visit to the



Vickie Riggs

aquarium, boxed picnic lunch and an ice cream treat at the Happy House Candy store. Detailed itineraries are available at the FLC office.

In the fall there will be two travel opportunities. Our Missouri Medley baseball is September 12-16. We will travel to Kansas City and St. Louis. If you are interested in this trip, contact me at the FLC.

Mark your calendar for the December trip to Branson from December 6-8. The Branson trip includes the Sight and Sound theatre and the production of Moses.

FLC SUMMER CAMPS

Those interested in being a camp counselor, can pick up a form at the FLC

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

Texas Rangers trip planned

The Texas Rangers baseball spring trip will be on Wednesday, May 11. The game, White Sox vs. Texas Rangers, will be a 1:05 p.m.

Cost is \$38 and includes a ticket to the game and transportation. An FBC bus will leave at 8:00 a.m.

To sign up and pay, visit the Family Life Center, 300 W. Comanche St.

For more information, call 360-5300 or email Clint Taylor, clintt@fbcnorman.org.



Oh Lord, teach us to pray

On Graduation Sunday, we will once again celebrate a group of high school seniors. Their families will be here, pictures will be taken, and tears might even be shed.

While all of this is well and good, I want to invite you to also pay attention to who else is invited to come and stand with them at the front of the sanctuary.

We'll invite their prayer partners, individuals who have been praying for them specifically for an entire year, keeping in contact with their parents for specific requests, to stand with them at the front. While this will be the only time that they stand with them in an official capacity, they've been

standing with them through what is one of the biggest developmental periods in their lives to date.

My prayer is that their prayer partners will continue to stand with them. Furthermore, my prayer is that you'll join. Maybe you don't feel like you've found your place to get involved at church. Maybe you don't want to or can't do some of the things that our church offers. I would be willing to wager that you can pray. Each day as you sit down to pray, I would be



Rich Lubbers

willing that you can pray for (at least one of our students, by name.

I would also be willing to wager that you can help teach our students how to faithfully pray. We can attempt to verbalize this. We can attempt to practice this. But seeing this demonstrated over a period of time by a more or less stranger might speak louder than our words, while also reminding them that they are part of a much larger church community.

I'm reminded of when the disciples of Jesus asked to be taught how to pray. Will you teach our student disciples how to pray? Will you commit to praying for them for a full year?

FIRST BAPTIST
Summer
KIDS ACTIVITIES

FBC KIDS SUMMER THEME NIGHTS
Begins May 25
Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Calendar of events available in the church office

CAMP SILOAM
June 20 – 24
Completed grades 3rd-5th
Cost: \$250
Register with Crystal today
Scholarships available

SUMMERSCOPE
June 1 – August 5
Completed Kindergarten – Completed Grade 5

Email Crystal Byrd to register
crystalb@fbcnorman.org

SUMMER PARENT'S DAY OUT
June 8, 15, 22,
July 11, 18, 25
9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 11 – 15
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Ages 4 through Completed 5th grade
Register online beginning May 1

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Contact Crystal Byrd to volunteer.

Summer Music and Activities for Kids day camp to be offered

Summer Music and Activities for Kids (SMAK) is a day camp full of fun music and activities for children completed kindergarten through completed fifth grade.

During the week, kids will learn a full-length NASCAR themed musical called *Race to Win* that includes music, drama, and choreography. There also will be a daily Bible story and each day we will head out for an afternoon of activities that will rock the kid's socks off.

Camp will begin at 9:00 a.m. each day in the Sanctuary and will end at 3:00 p.m. Make sure and dress comfortably as we will be very active during the week. Students also need to bring a daily sack lunch. Drinks and snacks are provided.

Each family will be provided one book and CD of the camp musical. These will be available beginning Monday, June 6 at the church office. If you are unable to pick one up, let us know and we will be glad to mail it to you.

As soon as you get your book

and CD, please go ahead and begin learning the music because we will perform it completely by memory. All books and CDs will need to be returned following the performance.

For those of you who would like to audition for a solo and/or drama part, email my assistant Aubrey Chapin at aubreyc@fbcnorman.org. Students also can call Aubrey in the church

office, 321-1753, Monday through Wednesday between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Call as soon as possible to schedule your audition.

Auditions will be held Sunday, July 10 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 13 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. in 10-minute intervals. If you are unable to audition during this time, let us know and we will do our best to arrange another time.

Everyone who auditions needs to



Chad Smith

be prepared to sing a song from the musical and/or recite lines from the speaking parts. The audition does not have to be by memory. We will do our best to assign a singing or speaking role to all who audition but, understand that an audition does not guarantee a solo or dramatic role. All campers who are assigned a dramatic role in the musical will have to stay until 4:30 p.m. each day for drama rehearsal.

Dress rehearsal for the musical will be Friday, August 12 during regular camp hours and the musical will begin at 7:00 p.m. On performance night we will gather at 6:30 p.m. in Hallock Hall. Make sure all children eat something before they arrive.

For the musical, all campers need to wear their camp T-shirt (provided) with blue jeans and tennis shoes unless they have been assigned a costume.

Feel free to invite as many family members and friends you would like to the musical. There will be a short reception following the musical in Hallock Hall.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Worship Arts/Music Ministry office by phone or email.

SMAK Camp at FBC Norman
August 1-5
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
\$100 per camper
Registration Deadline: July 18

Brown Bag Lunch



Noon
May 2

Wagner Hall
on the University
of Oklahoma campus



CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE:
\$3,097,810
LOAN BALANCE:
\$172,000

Mother's Day
reception
Sunday, May 8
9:15 - 9:40 a.m.
Hallock Hall, Come and Go
Everyone invited!

Transitions

It's May and thus graduation looms large. For grads, it's a time of celebration and accomplishment. It's also a season of transition and big questions.

If you've met the UM 2016 Seniors, you know the heart this group has for one another and for this church. Some will go straight into the workforce, others will go to graduate school and each will enter into a new phase of life. Does this mean new friends? A new

church? I don't know the answers to those questions, but I do know God will be with them in the change and transition as he has been with the generations of grads who've gone before.

Now, before getting too emotional, let me point out that the end



Chris Canary

of summer and Promotion Sunday is still a long way away. Let's check out the May calendar so everyone knows the big events coming up:

May 16-20: UM Senior Trip to Colorado Springs (\$165)

May 30-31: UM Rest Retreat to Wichita Mountains (\$10)

If you'd like more information about either of these trips, just let me know. And as always, we covet your prayers.

Meeting the needs of others

Through our research into other ways FBC Norman can help at-risk families and children in our community, we have learned about CarePortal, an online tool that helps connect child welfare workers and churches.



Angela Atkins

CarePortal allows churches the opportunity to help meet some of the physical and relational needs of children and families in their care. Using CarePortal, state workers get the word out to a church's point person, who then contacts the church members to see if anyone can help meet this need. Pascha Sanders will be our point of contact, with our community ministry team working alongside her to implement this ministry in our church.

We look forward to seeing how God works through CarePortal and through the hearts of those in our church as we strive to help the hurting in our community.



May 1-7

You can help others throughout the week. It's easy to participate as an individual, family or group.

Group Projects

Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children:

- Build a chicken coop
- Mulch or plant flowers
- Mowing and other yard work
- Host lunch cookout for OBHC and FBC families on site

Throughout the week ideas

- Canned food or hygiene items drive
- Collect diapers for Center for Children & Families
- Deliver plants to assisted living centers
- Make desserts for Saturday cookout

DAILY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7
Serve at our Sunday Supper	Leave a thank you note on your mail box for your carrier	Make cookies or other treats and share with a neighbor	Kids & Youth: flower pots to church members in assisted living centers	Invite someone over for Mexican food	Send a thank you note/gift to a teacher or nurse	Citywide To Norman with Love Day of Service, projects Norman

May Birthdays

May 1: Sharron Davault, Betty Gatewood, Grace Singleterry
May 2: Laura Bowen, Titus Haworth, David Hopper, Rich Lubbers, Mason Mungle
May 3: Chad Copelin, Gabriel Sanders, Pat Walker
May 4: MariLyn Beaney-Kelly, Suanne Carlson, Donna Hammons, Lisa Jordan, Maci Roesler, Grant Wade
May 5: Ike Allen, Cole Edge, Chase Schwabe, Andrew Walsh
May 6: Sandra Boger, Jeff Hager, Kori Horner, Ruben Lopez
May 7: T.K. Keller, Logan Lassetter
May 8: Benjamin Dustman, Nicole Rowlette, Lillian Thomas, Betty Wolfard
May 9: Christopher Brooks, Bob Christian, Don Gilmore, Casey Pike
May 11: Jacob Crissup, Steve DeVoss, Bill Hardage, Jon Seratte, Richard Sigler, Kay Wallace, Michael Zellmer
May 12: Becky Holladay, Kate Parrish
May 13: Alex Antonio, Audrey Base, Grace Dwyer, Erin Finley, Shea Fredericks, Cori Goebel, Cecilia Maruri, Erin Schier, Arnold Tinsley, Suzanne Cheshier, John High, Rebekah Law, Luc Lubbers
May 17: Lydia Jorgenson, Gary Wood
May 18: Cordelia Clough, Tammie Haworth,

Robbi Mullinax, Tom Uglean
May 19: Konner Bloss, Dylan Hatcher, Jill Hatcher, Del McGowen, Jose' Nava, Celia Phillips, Anne Pierce
May 20: Isaac Akram, Charles Atkinson Sr., Wilma Black, Sharon Hoskison
May 21: Dot Adkins, Cheryl Alexander, Barbara Cole, Russell Hayes
May 22: Chelsea Duke, Azam Hakim, Richard Ramsey, Betty Sullivan
May 23: Betty Enox, Florin Racolta, Karen Reddell, Marcia Roe
May 24: Victoriya Lester, Kat Roberts, Marge Worten
May 25: Nona Argo, Raymond Foor Jr., Mona Roberts
May 26: Kaydence Green, Carol Kellison, Summer McGuire, Debbie Smith
May 27: Derek Alexander, Sean Massengale, Catherine Strevett
May 28: Jarred Elwell, Glenna Huddleston, Craig Long, Nolen Morgan, Trace Redwine, Hunter Turley, Andrea Windes
May 29: Kayla Cox, Alex Foster, Mary Lee Gossett, Anne Lawrence, Joanna Storm
May 30: David Thacker
May 31: Lori Couch, Patrick Davis, Miranda Williams

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:
 Brent, Angela, Madison, MacKenzie & Brandon Marquardt as the passing of Brent's mother, Jerry Marquardt

Ellen Wood at the passing of her sister-in-law, Louise Williams
 Grace McCloskey at the passing of her son, Jimmy McCloskey
 Family & friends of Eldridge Rose at his passing

Ministry Staff

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Vickie Riggs, Pacesetter Minister
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Chad Smith, Minister of Worship Arts/Music
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Clint Taylor, Minister of Recreation and Community Outreach Ministries
 clintt@fbcnorman.org

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

Letters to the FBC Family

First Baptist Church,
 Thank you so much for your continued support of our ministry here at Church in the Park. FBC Norman is such a blessing to us.
 Church In The Park

 @fbcnorman

 fbcnorman.org

 /firstbaptistchurchnorman