



First Baptist Church *At First Glance*

211 W. Comanche St. • fbcnorman.org • 405-321-1753

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1	SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
9:40 a.m. ONE LifeGroup (no child care)	9:40 a.m. LifeGroups
10:50 a.m. worship	10:50 a.m. Worship

mannafest

COST: \$5
January 4 NOON
IN HALLOCK HALL

GUEST SPEAKER
NEWS 9 CO-ANCHOR
STAN MILLER

Deacon Ministry Team
January 8
4:30 p.m.
Hallock Hall

**WHO
IS MY
NEIGHBOR?**
JANUARY 15

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2017. The Christmas season has passed and *Immanuel* has come. Let us rejoice and live in the truth that God is with us every day of the year.

Thank you to everyone who *Prepared the Way of the Lord* through worship, concerts, devotion writing and candle lighting.

In addition, First Baptist prepared the way for friendship through fellowships, gingerbread house building, Christmas caroling and parade watching. Thanks for a great Christmas season!

January 1 is on a Sunday this year. We will come together at 10:50 a.m. for worship and the Lord's Supper. Rev. Rich Lubbers will be our pulpit guest. LifeGroups will meet as one in Hallock Hall as Jane (Roby) Kroeker leads our Bible Study.

Join us for MannaFest on January 4. Stan Miller, the co-anchor of News 9 This Morning with Lacie Lowry, will be our speaker. MannaFest is the place where good food and good neighbors come together in downtown Norman.

The *Annual Sermon* will be on January 8. We will worship together at 10:50 a.m. (There will be no 8:30 a.m. service on January 8.) The *Annual Sermon* offers the opportunity to reflect over the previous year and look ahead to the coming year. Please make every effort to attend on January 8. There are several key issues that will be addressed.

The Deacon Ministry Team will meet on the afternoon of January 8 to elect their Leadership Team for 2017. I appreciate the servant-leadership of our deacons and invite you to pray for them as they serve our church.

A special thank you to Phil Moss for serving as Deacon Chair over the past months. Phil's servant heart is seen through his ministry with our children, choir, and deacons. Jerry Chenoweth will serve as our Deacon Chair for the coming year. Please be in prayer for him as he serves and leads our deacons.

Who is my neighbor? This is the question asked by a lawyer in order to justify himself to Jesus. Through the power of the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus gave an answer that continues to redefine our understanding of neighbor.

Jesus boldly described "my neighbor" as the person who needs a neighbor. There are people all around us that desperately need a neighbor. Beginning on January 15, we will begin a worship series around the theme of *neighboring*. Together, we will ask the question: *Who is my neighbor?*

As 2017 begins, let us commit to being a people that love and serve our neighbors.



Dr. Wade Smith

Happy New Year!

It seems like only yesterday we said goodbye to 2015 and entered 2016. As I consider that reality, I am challenged anew to make the very most of every moment and certainly every day.

However, I have to wonder, how many moments of life and ministry did I miss last year? I would encourage you to consider that in your lives as well. May we all live this year moment-to-moment, seeking what God would have us be about, to share with our family and friends, to grow personally and spiritually, to make a difference in the world around us. Will you please join me in that challenge?

I am writing this in the middle of December and I cannot answer today how we did in the challenge to *Finish Well Together*. For the sake of the church, and it's ministries, my prayer is that we did well and we will begin the new year, which also becomes a new fiscal year, in great shape. I can assure you that every gift to the ministry to which we have been called to be about is considered as

a gift as precious as the widow's mite!

Certainly we are a church that believes in the tithe. That is our privilege to give back to God only 10 percent, which we are then blessed with being good stewards of the other 90 percent. Are we truly being faithful with what God has blessed us with?

Recently I received a call where the person was saying, "I have been out for a couple of months and my family failed to let the church know. I have a check for my tithe, will you please come get it?"

When I got there we had a great visit. We talked about the challenges of life and how they affect her being in church like she wants to. She handed me a check and said, "it's not much, but it is what I want to do for my church, consider this my



Roy Joe Ham

widow's mite." I do not know the amount, but I can tell you it came from a full and grateful heart.

Yes, I was very grateful for the call that day, but I have been thinking, how do I (we) feel about our church? Do we miss not being here for whatever reason that keeps us away? Are we faithful with our generosity when we are here, or even more when we miss? What gets in the way of coming to corporate worship, and in the way of faithful generosity?

The new year is here. May this be a time to allow us to start over, to commit to life and ministry as a part of FBC Norman, and support our ministries together, both in our presence and in our generosity.

Please join me in this challenge to start a new year, newly committed to God and His church! Let this be a year to celebrate out of the good news of great joy that the angels proclaimed at the birth of Christ.

It is a joy to serve and minister with you!

January Highlights

To see more events and details, visit our online calendar at fbcnorman.org

1 New Years Day
ONE LifeGroup
led by Jane Kroeker (no child care)
9:40 a.m.
Hallock Hall
Worship with Lord's Supper
10:50 a.m.
Sanctuary

2 Church Office and FLC Closed

4 MannaFest
12:00 p.m.
Hallock Hall
\$5 donation
Speaker: Stan Miller, News 9

8 Deacon Ministry Team
4:30 p.m.
Hallock Hall

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

NEW SERIES JANUARY 15

13 WakeUpWeekend

16 Martin Luther King Day
Interfaith Breakfast
7:00 a.m.
McFarlin Memorial
United Methodist Church

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

On Chaos, Christmas, and Caroling

Our students are fantastic. I tell you this as one who is grateful to you for letting them be fantastic, while calling them into more and more fantastic-ness (ten gold stars if you find me with the noun form of fantastic without using a dictionary).



Rich Lubbers

We had our annual Christmas party,

and it was pure chaos. We played games together, ate Christmas-themed food together, and made a mess together. We even cleaned up that mess, eventually.

More important than the chaos of games and food was that we read the Christmas story. We read the story of a baby coming in the midst of chaotic times, a family desperately searching for a place, knowing that there was going to be no bed to be found.

And then we caroled. Oh, how we caroled. We made a joyful noise to the

Lord, spreading Christmas cheer to some of our very favorite folks. This was chaotic as well, but it almost seems like should be.

A real life Christmas is never simple for our families. We always end up needing to get one more thing, go see one more family member, or go to one more Christmas concert.

I'm thankful for the Christmas chaos of youth work and caroling. And I'm thankful for a church that realizes that our students are fantastic.

December at First



First Baptist Church Norman was recently granted the Hope and Homes Award for its contributions to the Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children ministry. Pictured, from left, are Angela Atkins, FBC minister of Community Ministries, and Scott Conrad, OBHC campus administrator. The Hope and Homes Award was given to FBC for its support and volunteer work with OBHC.



December 11 and December 12.

Operation Christmas Child 2016 involved the efforts of 32 plus volunteers packing cases, donating 515 shoeboxes, packing 3,200 boxes at the relay station, and 12 FBC members traveling to Dallas to the Operation Christmas Child process center.



Christmas gifts for 60 children were delivered to Lincoln Elementary.

January Birthdays

January 1: Marjorie Lewis, Donna Queen, Judy Spearman
January 2: Elvis Mahan, Megan Myers, Hope Turley
January 3: Sally Arrington, Max Murphree, Luke Whitney
January 4: Maxine Cunningham, Lawrence Keith, Robin Nipper, Arlando Reed
January 5: Rick Miller, Stacy Strevett
January 6: Sue Overton
January 7: Joy Satterlee, Buddy Williams
January 9: John Bedwell, Floretta Logan, Genese McCoy, Haydn McDade, Cynthia Reed
January 10: Melanie Jonason, Jennifer Leber, Kim McDade Torres, Justin Mullinax, Jack Shadle
January 11: Cody Caddell, Rusty Grice, Marques Vontress
January 12: Shirley Haskin, Martha McCourry, Max Singleterry
January 13: Patti Barr, Carrol McConnell, Carmen Sinclair, Courtney Soltero
January 14: Jamie Fields, Steve Graham, Joshua Holderby, Anita Reed
January 15: Lauren Axton, Caden Long, Mark Long
January 16: Stephen Durham, Steven Graham, Mary Haning, Alison Horstkoetter, Andrea Neal, Ada Sewell, Kathy Vollgraff

January 17: Kevin Bloss, Betty Buyten, Alice Coker-Camp, Lynn Foreman, Nancy Roley
January 18: Eli Adams, Loretta Smith
January 19: Sophie Dillon, Jacob Dvorak, Lisa Edge, Mary Elwell, Mary Gorton, Leslie Jones, Pat McCoy
January 20: Kathy Bills, Luke Davis, Priscilla Fennell, Andrew Marang, Gaitha Milligan
January 21: Nicole Antonio, Marva Meador
January 22: Joyce Marley, Madeline Storm, Cassidy Sullivan
January 23: Francine Barnard, Kyle Logan, Kenny Sullivan, Neva Weaver
January 24: Barbara Anderson, Robyn Briscoe, Kara Hill, James Hirst, Beth Jackson, Colin Marang, Sheila Myers
January 25: Alan Thrower
January 26: Sallie Kennedy, Wanda Reid, Shanda Scott
January 27: Peggy Alexander, Geary Hunt, Emily Lenhardt, John Smist
January 28: Cody Williams
January 29: Sue Brown, Vicky DeLany, Clay Pattison
January 30: John Cole, Becky Leon, Jordan Probst, Sage Rasmussen
January 31: Jodi Beery, Chris Carlson, Don Farris, Caeden Hatcher

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

Letters to FBC

Dear FBC Family,

The Henderson family wishes to express their gratitude for the many thoughts and prayers at the passing of our father and grandfather, Dallas Shelton. Our church family has been so supportive through this difficult time and we appreciate each and every one of you.

Kelly, Palla and Krista Henderson,
 Kelsey and Blake Randall, and Linda Heinlein

Dear FBC Family,

With grateful hearts we would like to give special thanks to all who helped us plan and carry-out our memorial for Johnny Barnard, Bobby's brother who lived in Gallup, New Mexico, but grew up in Norman.

To Robin Nipper, who gave her time and expertise for our programs. To Roy Joe, for his time with us planning & giving a wonderful message at the memorial. And then there's Vickie (that special lady) who provides so much, we could not name it all. To Linda Dill and Chesca Baily who served our lunch.

There is no church anywhere that loves more than our First Baptist Family.

Bobby & Francine Barnard
 and Lisa Robinson & family

Dear FBC,

Wishing you holiday cheer and best wishes for the new year.

I appreciate all the wonderful things FBC does for the community, Getting Ahead program and for me and my family. Thank you.

Rachel Kenney



Sympathies

The FBC Family wishes to extend sympathies to:

José, Jenny, Isabella & Anna Grace Nava at the passing of Carolyn Robertson

Claud & Linda Dill at the passing of Ronnie James

Joe & Ginger Shockley at the passing of Deanna Griffith

Phil, Leanne, Ben, Jessica & Charity Warren at the passing of Dorothy Mixon

Cheryl, Justin & Katie Love, Jack & Gynonne Smith, Nathan, Staci, Sarah & Steven Sheldon at the passing of Oza Della Moore

Bobby & Francine Barnard at the passing of Gailon Godwin

Joe, Beverly & Sammie Theige at the passing of Jan Spann

Kathryn, Mark, Anne & Zac Malthaner at the passing of Kathy Malthaner.

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