

At First Glance

First Baptist Church

January 2019

Volume 15, Issue 6



Happy New Year! The first Sunday of the New Year is January 6. I can't imagine any better way to begin the New Year in worship than by celebrating the Lord's Supper together. I hope you will join us and renew your commitment to the Lord and the Body of Christ at FBCN in 2019.

The Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 13:5 challenges us to examine ourselves and to

recognize that Jesus Christ is in us, that is, unless we fail the test. The start of a New Year is a wonderful time to examine ourselves. Does Jesus live in and through you? In what areas of your life do you need to grow and experience the presence of Christ more? Will you commit to growing in those areas in 2019? Will you commit to worshiping more faithfully as part of

the Body of Christ at First Baptist? Will you commit to pursuing a deeper relationship with the Lord and others by investing time and relationship in a Lifegroup? Will you commit to loving your neighbor by getting involved in a ministry that shares the love of Christ with those in need? As you examine your life at the beginning of this New Year, what commitments do you need to make?

On January 13, I will share the *Annual Sermon*. The *Annual Sermon* is an opportunity to examine the past year and to anticipate the coming year of life and ministry together. In reflecting on our mission and core values, we make sure that we are focused and committed to *Love People, Teach the Word, and Live the Journey* of life and faith together. I believe 2019 will be a significant year in the life of our church and look forward to sharing with you on the 13th.

Have you been by the Family Life Center lately? Over the last weeks we have been able to update the flooring and paint throughout the building and refinish the gym and racquetball courts. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help with the painting. It is amazing how many people pass through the FLC each week for re-creation through the ministries and facilities provided there.

As the New Year begins, I want you to be aware of 2 significant ministries that will take place in January. First, our Upward and NYCBL basketball leagues begin playing games on January 5. These two leagues impact many families in our church and community. Upward teams practice each week pausing to share scripture and spiritual truths with players. At halftime of each game a devotion is offered to encourage and share Jesus with each person in attendance. The NYCBL basketball league welcomes youth teams from area churches to enjoy competition and fellowship with one another. I invite you to pray for these ministries. You may even consider stopping by the FLC one Saturday to support and welcome these families to FBC.

Second, Disciple Now is scheduled for January 25-27. This is one of the most significant weekends of the year for our youth and is made possible because church members are willing to open their homes and provide the resources, food, and support needed. Pray for Clint, our host families, youth and leaders as they prepare for this weekend of discipleship, fellowship and service. Make sure to enroll your youth early in the month and invite their friends to join them.

Many of you have taken advantage of *Foundations*, study courses designed to offer a deeper look at Christianity, the Scripture and theology. This semester we will offer two classes. First, Dr. Mike Wilson will lead *Judaism, Christianity, Islam: the Abrahamic Faiths?* on Wednesday nights at 6:15 beginning January 9. Second, I will offer *Foundations in Christians Ethics* on Sunday evenings at 5:30 beginning January 20. A textbook will be recommended for each class. As 2019 begins, maybe you are ready to strengthen your faith and understanding of scripture through *Foundations*.



DR. WADE
SMITH

JANUARY EVENTS

1-1

New Year's Day

Church Office and Family
Life Center Closed

1-5

Upward Basketball
Games Begin

1-6

Lord's Supper

Registration begins
for Dinner with Friends

Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Clothes Closet

4:30 p.m.

1-9

Wednesday Evening
Activities Resume

1-13

Annual Sermon

1-17

Friendship International
Resumes

A New Year

As we enter into this New Year, I would challenge each of us to reflect on 2018!

How have we exited the year? What experiences do we need to follow? What are you still working through and what do we need to leave behind? I like these words posted and attributed to George Strait: *If you don't leave the past in the past, it will destroy your future.* Look what's in front of you, not what yesterday took away. The best is yet to come!

My prayer for each of us is that we can look ahead and experience the best that is yet to come! Happy New Year!

Hands for Harvey trip February 24 - March 2. It is time to make final plans for the trip that is two short months away. In order for us to plan what we will do on this trip and how many we can assist, the deadline to volunteer is January 31. Please confirm with me in the church office at 321-1753, or by email royjoeh@fbcnorman.org.

As I have written many times God has placed us in a call to respond to the desperate needs of the people of Refugio. Here we are 16 months after Hurricane Harvey and there remain hundreds of families that we have found to be without hope that they will ever get back in their homes. Not only are we repairing their homes, but we are also touching their lives for the sake of Christ.

For the last 14 months, 65 of our members, friends, and family have either been to work already or have committed to going in February. Many others have prayed, prepared food for the team, made nap blankets for the children and given financially for the materials that are needed. That has been an awesome response to God's call to get up and go!

God has used these experiences to not only affect and change the lives of those in Texas but also to those in our congregation! It is amazing that this has really turned into a full church project and for that, I am grateful to be a part of what this great team has accomplished.

If you have questions about the trip in February, the work that has already been accomplished or how you may become a part in one of the areas listed above, please come see me!

I pray that as we move into this new year, that we (all of us) can look at what is in front of us, and experience the best that is yet to come!



**ROY JOE
HAM**

Kid's Fest planned for February

With the holidays over and a new year just beginning, it's time to turn our sights to summer!

Summer is always a special time at First Baptist with Family Life Center camps, Vacation Bible School, musical camps and, of course, Summerscope. All of the summer programs offered at First Baptist Church will be outlined during Kid's Fest from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 9 in Hallock Hall.

"Kid's Fest will be a chance for families to pick up our summer brochure that will outline all of our summer kid's activities for 2019 at FBC. Also at Kid's Fest, parents will be able to register their child for summer camps and Vacation Bible School," said Suzette Mason, Minister of Discipleship and Children.

Summer wouldn't be summer at FBC without Summerscope, a day camp for kids. This year's theme is *Summer Road Trip*. Full-time and part-time spots will be available. The first day of Summerscope 2019 is June 3.

Another summer of F.I.S.H camps are planned in June and July, and SMAK Camp, a Bible story-inspired musical camp for kids, will be held the week of August 5.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 22-26. This year's theme is *Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good*.

"We can't wait for you to see what we've planned for families this summer at FBC Norman," Suzette said.

HANDS FOR HARVEY CALL TO SERVE MISSION TRIP

**FEBRUARY 24
MARCH 2**



**REGISTER WITH ROY JOE BY
JANUARY 31
COST: \$125**

DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY

Birthday Bash

JANUARY 25

**11:30 A.M.
FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

COST IS \$5
UNLESS IT'S YOUR
BIRTHDAY MONTH
AND LUNCH
IS ON US!

**MAKE
RESERVATIONS
AT THE FLC**



ANNUAL

SERMON

JANUARY 13

THE SOUNDS OF *Christmas*



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Last Day to register for Dinner with Friends

20 Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Food Pantry and Devotion
4:30 p.m.

22 First Christian Church Bean Lunch
220 S. Webster, Norman

Youth: DNOW Weekend

25 Dec., Jan., Feb. Birthday Bash
11:30 a.m., FLC

27 Dinner with Friends Kick Off Lunch
11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall

SAVE THE DATE

VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 22-26



LORD'S SUPPER

10:30 A.M.

JANUARY 6



CLOTHING
CLOSET NEEDS
COATS,
CHILDREN'S
WINTER CLOTHING



COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS

CANNED VEGGIES

JELLY

BEANS

TOILET PAPER

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1: Marjorie Lewis, Donna Queen, Judy Spearman

January 3: Hope Turley, Luke Whitney

January 4: Maxine Cunningham, Lawrence Keith, Robin Nipper

January 5: Stacy Strevett

January 7: Buddy Williams

January 9: John Bedwell, Genese McCoy

January 10: Justin Mullinax

January 12: Martha McCourry, Max Singleterry

January 13: Carrol McConnell, Carmen Sinclair

January 14: Steve Graham

January 15: Lauren Arrington, Christian Buffington, Mark Long

January 16: Mary Haning, Jay Jeon, Ada Sewell, Kathy Vollgraft

January 17: Betty Buyten, Alice Coker-

Camp, Nancy Roley

January 19: Lisa Edge, Mary Elwell, Mary Gorton, Pat McCoy

January 20: Gaitha Milligan

January 21: Marva Meador, Nicole Papac

January 22: Joyce Marley, Amsie Singer, Madeline Storm

January 23: Francine Barnard, Kyle Logan, Kenny Sullivan, Neva Weaver

January 24: Barbara Anderson, Robyn Briscoe

January 25: Alan Thrower

January 26: Sallie Kennedy, Grace Chau Le, Wanda Reid

January 27: Geary Hunt, Emily Lenhardt

January 28: Selah Lee

January 29: Sue Brown, Vicky DeLany

January 30: Becky Leon

January 31: Jodi Beery, Don Farris

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

DEAR FBC...

Dear FBC,

Thank you for the very generous donations you made to Kaleidoscope Grief Support! This gift enabled us to provide a delicious catered meal for our annual Christmas party.

Thank you for the space to meet on a regular basis, and thank you for the financial donation!

Suzie Price, Founder/Director

Dear FBC,

Thank you! It is hard to put into words how much we appreciate your continued support.

The students and staff at Bridges are grateful for you.

Thank you for helping us remove obstacles so our students can succeed.

Stacy Bruce, Bridges

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

The Friends and Family of Brandy Pepperman-Dougherty Dr. William Johnson at the passing of his wife, Dorothy Johnson

The Friends and Family of Evelyn Parker at her passing. June and Ben Shiau at the passing of June's father Mr. Lin

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D N O W

DISCIPLE NOW YOUTH WEEKEND

JANUARY 25-27

REGISTER AT FBCNORMAN.ORG
COST: \$50

foundations

BIBLE STUDIES

JUDAISM,
CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM:
THE ABRAHAMIC
FAITHS?

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.
beginning Jan. 9

FOUNDATIONS IN CHRISTIAN ETHIC

Sundays at 5:30 p.m.
beginning Jan. 20