

First Baptist Church / 211 W. Comanche, Norman, Oklahoma 73069 / 405-321-1753 / Fax 405-321-2087 / www.fbcnorman.org



O ne of the most influential seasons of my life was the opportunity to serve in Panama as a Journeyman Missionary after completing my degree at OU. Panama introduced me to an international culture and people beyond the influences of Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas where I had spent most of my life. The exposure to Christian people beyond my comfortable Baptist roots opened me to a new season of fellowship and theological reflection in which I grew to cherish my Baptist heritage and to appreciate and respect the larger Body of Christ. During the two years I lived in Panama I began to learn more about Cuba from Panamanians who had family or other interests there. I began to pray for the opportunity to go someday to preach and be a minister of the gospel there. Twenty-five years later, the Lord is answering that prayer. In February I will be traveling to Cuba with Reaching Souls International to teach and preach to Cuban pastors. I am told that there is a great work of the Spirit of God in that country and that these pastors are hungry to study and learn from God's Word. Our flights will take us through Panama on the way to Havana, connecting the dots of life and ministry for me. Please pray for us as we serve the Lord and encourage the Body in Cuba.

We continue in February with our worship emphasis *Practice, Practice, Practice.* The apathy and ineffectiveness of the church is so often connected to our understanding of the Christian life. Too many view Christianity as a passive life in which we have no responsibility before God. Our theology says that God saved us and one day we are going to heaven, so it doesn't matter what I do now. As the Apostle Paul said, *May it never be!* Yes, we are saved by grace through faith, not

of works. But, the scriptures are also clear that we are to *work out our* salvation and press on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. In other words we are called to practice our faith in very real and practical ways. Spiritual practices place us before God in ways that open our hearts and minds to Him. These interactions or encounters then become the catalyst for inward transformation which always leads to outward change. This may sound spiritually intimidating, but it is actually very logical. For example the Psalmist says to be still and know God. The implication is that if we are never still, our ability to know God is limited. Thus, we develop practices like prayer, meditation, and solitude because they place us quietly before God to hear from and know Him in deeper ways. Let us Practice these things before God.

Souper Bowl Sunday is the one time in worship we focus on the complicated, yet tragic reality of hunger in our world and our community. As Christians we must be aware of this issue and learn how we can respond in ways that effect immediate relief and long-term solutions. After worship we enjoy a fellowship lunch together in Hallock Hall. We invite you to bring a crock-pot full of your favorite soup to share. The lunch is free, but we ask you to give an offering that day to hunger relief efforts. The Smiths will give what we would spend on lunch at a favorite restaurant. How will you and your family share generously and compassionately on Souper Bowl Sunday?

On Souper Bowl Sunday we will also come together and *Worship as One*. While combined services are not uncommon for us, the purpose of coming together on Feb. 2 is to see what it would look like to bring the strengths and generations of both services together long term. Then, we will come together during the Easter season beginning March 9 to worship as one, continuing our conversation and seeking God's direction. Worshiping as one creates its challenges, but it also creates opportunities. I have visited with some who have expressed their concerns and fears about worshiping as one. I have also visited with others who are excited about the journey and praying that this will lead to a season of worship and spiritual renewal. As we move forward during these weeks I ask for your prayers and always welcome your conversation. May we have the faith to discern how the Spirit is moving and the courage to join Him on the journey.

Grace and Peace, Dr. Wade Smith



Volume 9, Issue 7 February, 2014

From the Pulpit

Sermon Series: Practice, Practice, Practice, January 19 - March 2, 2014 February 2-Worship as One Souper Bowl Sunday Practice Compassion February 9 Practice Obedience February 16 Practice Simplicity February 23 Practice Community

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All Church News

February 2 Worship as One 10:30 a.m. in the Church Sanctuary

The Souper Bowl! February 2



On Super Bowl Sunday we will meet after the morning worship service to enjoy a free soup-lunch together.

While enjoying our abundance, we will take up an offering for world hunger. *(See article on page 7)*

Please call the church office to let us know if you will bring a soup on that Sunday morning. 321-1753



FIRST SUNDAYS 4:30 p.m. Clothes Closet and Food Pantry



THIRD SUNDAYS 4:30 p.m. Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

Music Ministry

What a new year this is shaping out to be, right? Sometimes we head into a new year with fear and trembling not knowing what the future holds. As I think about the stories of scripture, I can't recall any occasion where God lays out a 10 year plan for his people. Well, planning does help you set goals and lay out a step-by-step path to reaching them. But, what if our goal was simply to be following the Spirit in the next 10 years? What if we prayed and sought daily his presence with us for the future? What if we committed ourselves to a community the way Christ commits himself to us? What if we were more ready to die for the people I call my church family than to put up walls between us?

I would love for us as a church to put preferences aside as we move into this new season. Instead of mine, think about ours. Instead of me, think about us. How big is our church? Is FBC Norman only a Sunday School class? Or only the youth? Senior adults? College students? LifeSong? Classic? Let's imagine a church that is all of these aspects and more!

Did you know FBC Norman is a thriving church of young families all the way up to senior adults? Our nursery is bursting at the seams. Our senior adults have laid an incredible foundation of faith and leadership that future generations will glean from, continue to grow, and develop. FBC Norman is blessed to have the wisdom of 125 years of life and ministry and the fresh, growing faith of children.

Coming together into one worship service will show us how God has worked in the past and how he is still working today as we move forward with modern and historical expressions. Coming together musically will show us how big, beautiful, new, and old our church is.

We worship as one. I look on with hope as God continues to transform my heart (and ours) into his likeness.



Sincerely, Joey Armstrong University and LifeSong Worship Minister

February, 2014

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Family Life Center



Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Friday

Saturday

 FITNESS CENTER ORIENTATION: Mon at 6:00 p.m.

 (Required before using Fitness Center)

 Randy Praytor

 LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE:
 T / Th 10:00-10:45 a.m.

 Parkinson's/Arthritis approved
 Mary Higgins

 PILATES:
 M / W / F 8:00-9:00 a.m.
 Rebecca Darrow

 AEROBICS:
 M / Th 5:20-6:20 p.m.
 Darla Miller

 ZUMBA:
 (FREE)
 Wed 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 Tori Collier

 STROLLFIT:
 M / W / F 9:00-9:55 a.m.
 Sarah Smith

 Fitness for moms, fun for their child.
 Hitter
 Hitter

Call 360-5300 for more information on programs offered at the FLC.

The FLC **ROCKS** every Saturday with

Upward Basketball!

Practices are held on M,T & Th evenings. Games are all day Saturdays.

Contra Dancing - February 7

Winter Exercise Programs:

LOW-IMPACT: T / Th 10:00-10:45 a.m	. Mary Higgins
<u>PILATES</u> : M/W/F 8:00-9:00 a.m.	Rebecca Darrow
AEROBICS: M / Th 5:20-6:20 p.m.	Darla Miller
ZUMBA: (FREE) Wed 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Tori Collier



New exercise class for winter! 9:00-9:55 a.m. They meet in the gym on Monday & Wednesday. They meet upstairs in the FLC on Friday.

ARE YOU READY TO GET FIT?

Join Randy Praytor for a free Fitness Center orientation.

Monday evenings, 6:00 p.m.



FBC Family News

The FBC Family wishes to extend sympathies to...

Glen & Marty Hubbel at the passing of Marty's mother Tarren & Tana Shaw at the passing of their father, Terry Shaw

Delores Allen at the passing of her mother

Dan, Nancy, Jamie & Jade Noles, Bob, Judi, Blake, Jake, Brian & Sarah Hartsock at the passing of Nancy & Judi's father, Harold Clyde 'PaPa'' Liddell

Deborah Allen at the passing of her son, Adam Johnson Frank, Carolyn, Jon, Jan, Ashton & Alyssa Seratte at the passing of Frank's sister, Floye Hlad

Family and friends of Carolyn Hayes at her passing

Lynn and Barbara Foreman at the passing of their son, Josh Forman

Carroll and Jerry McConnell at the passing of her mother, Verna Lucille Stine

Letters to the FBC Family

Thank you to my First Baptist Church family who supported me with prayers throughout all of 2013 as I cared for my mother. I felt that support and it made my job as caretaker a blessing and easy to bear in the grief at her death on 11/19/13, a sweet reward for I know Jesus welcomed her home. She is healthy now and can hear and sing again so I know she's really happy in her corner of heaven. Happy New Year and peace to all. I'll see you again mid January 2014. Carol Chausse

Staff Anniversaries This Month

In February, we celebrate the eighth anniversary of Becky Leon, FLC Office Manager.

Orchestras from First Baptist Norman, and Quail Springs Baptist Church will perform in two joint concerts.



February 9, 5:30 p.m. *Quail Springs Baptist, OKC* **February 16, 10:30 a.m.** *FBC Classic Worship* Childhood Ministry

FEE-BASED ENROLLMENT TIME IS HERE!

In-house enrollment begins Feb 3 for our 2014 Summer Program and 2014-2015 School Year Programs. In-house includes all church members and current fee-based families. Programs fill up fast! Register your child early! Public enrollment begins March 3. Contact Marlene Hoyt at marleneh@fbcnorman.org or 579-7571 for information. At time of enrollment, bring completed enrollment form, current shot records and registration fee.

> Parents Night Out: <u>Kids Sweetheart Night</u> Feb. 7, 2014, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Birth – Grade 5 \$5 per child, \$15 Family Max Reservation Required by Wed. Jan 29



MARK YOUR CALENDARS SPRING BREAK KIDS RETREAT

March 17: Elevation, Cost \$5, Ages 2 and Up K-5th transportation offered. Preschool must be driven by a parent.

March 17-18: Sleepover, Cost \$5, K-5th only

March 18: Jasmine Moran Children's Museum, Cost \$5, Birth-Grade 5 K-5th transportation offered, Birth-PreK families: Please drive & join us! Child and Parent Registration Required for Elevation and Museum Transportation Waiver Required, Elevation Waiver Required K-5th attending all three events will be fed dinner, breakfast and lunch.

Reminder: Return Bread Bank on Feb 2 during bread bank worship offering



<u>Growing In Christ Class</u>

Feb 9, 16, 23, and Mar 2 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. 5th grade welcome to sign up

Sign Up Today!

Adult Ministry

"Sweet Thursdays"

Ladies, join us on February 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Common Ground for great fellowship and light snacks.

IRON MEN I.S.I. BREAKFAST TO RETURN FEB. 8!

Guys, if you enjoyed the early Saturday morning breakfast, fellowship and inspiration we began several years ago, please take note! The I.S.I. breakfast is returning to our

church event calendar, every other month, starting Feb. 8 at 8:00 a.m. at the FLC, for the



modest cost of \$5. Dale Wade, representing our IRON Men ministry, is the new I.S.I. breakfast coordinator and has enlisted a team of men to assist him with this event throughout the year.

Our guest speaker for this first I.S.I. breakfast is Major Gary Dill, who is currently an officer in the Fire Prevention Division of Edmond Fire Department. Major Dill has served with that department since 1998, personally assisted in the 1995 Murrah building search and recovery, and responded to the 9/11 tragedy in New York City with pastoral care to survivors and workers. Gary will share how his Christian faith has helped him deal with the adversities we face in our culture.

SEARCHING FOR GOOD BIBLE STUDY AND A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS?

If so, then let us help you find a small group Bible study on Sunday mornings or in homes on Sunday night. Get connected with others, and, more importantly, to God. Let us help you find a place where you're *known*, *loved* and *accepted* by others. Contact Jim Stewart for assistance. There's a place for you at FBC, Norman.

NEW @ FIRST LUNCH COMING FEB. 9!

Have you recently joined FBC? Are you currently visiting our church and considering us as your church home? Would you like to know more about First Baptist? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then we invite you and your family to the

event we call "New @ First" lunch on Sunday, February 9, immediately following our morning worship services. It will be our pleasure to serve you a complimentary lunch,



as well as answer any questions you might have about our church, its ministries, staff, facilities and other important information. If you are interested in attending New @ First, please contact Jim Stewart, Associate Pastor, in the church office.

Ignite Challenge



Roy Joe Ham Minister of Administration

From Happy New Year to, now here we are in 2014! It is my prayer that each of us can see this year as a great opportunity! God has continued His great work in and through His people at FBC! To complete 2013 we had a tremendous season of Advent and a whole host of activities that drew us together as Family. As we begin 2014 God is blessing FBC with many that are visiting our church for the first time, or have begun to claim this as their new church home! Praise God as He continues to bless us with these new great blessings! I hope you will see the need to invite or bring friends and neighbors to worship with us.

Thank you seems to be a great word for the beginning of 2014! First, thank you again to Judy Hixon's Bible Study Class who took the lead in having our sanctuary dressed for the Christmas Season. Didn't it look great through the season! Also, this year thank you to Mike Beery and those he recruited for taking care of our Main Street Christmas Tree. Mike and his team found donations to install a new center pipe and all new lights to make this a more significant tree as a statement for Christmas to the community. Thank you to all that assisted in both of these important works of service!

Thank you church family for your tremendous year end response in your generous giving! With your faithful response to the financial needs late in the year, December of 2013 recorded the largest year end giving season in the last several years. We must all celebrate this as \$296,346 was given to the Ministry Plan (budget); \$191,091 to the Ignite Capital drive; \$36,518 directly to International Missions causes; with other miscellaneous gifts to bring our total December giving to \$526,715. PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR FAITHFUL RESPONSE! As we move to the final three months of our current fiscal year, I pray that this will be a foundation for us to finish well! As our financial needs continue, regular faithful giving is necessary. I thank you in advance for your faithful generosity.

February 2 we will celebrate our annual "Souper Bowl" Sunday with an emphasis on World Hunger issues.

We will have a unified Worship service and share in a fellowship meal. I hope you are looking forward to that time together. Also, we will open the doors from Hallock Hall into the East Wing construction area to allow those who want to be able to enter the area, write a scripture, prayer of blessing or simply sign the back side of drywall that has been installed. This will be a great moment for our church family, as we continue to ask God to bless the ongoing work and the ministry opportunities it will offer when we complete the work. I look forward to seeing you on February 2.

> It is a joy to serve with you, Roy Joe





Youth/University Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 2, 2014 5:00-9:00 p.m., FLC

FALLS CREEK DATES:

HS Falls Creek: June 9-13 MS Falls Creek: June 16-20 iheartfbcym.com

Friday, February 21-23, 2014 (including WUWE for Parents)

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Community Ministry

Starting this month, we will offer the food pantry and clothes closet distribution on both the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 4:30 p.m. in conjunction with our Sunday Supper. We have been blessed with plenty of these donations (thank you!). Offering it each time we have Sunday Supper may also increase participation and will simplify the schedule for our guests.

As we approach a new fiscal year, our community ministry team is looking for more ways we can work together as a church to help alleviate the struggles of poverty, as well as ways to partner with other organizations to help people get out of poverty. Some possibilities include expansion of our apartment ministry, financial or job training classes, and family service days. We ask for your prayers as we make decisions about these opportunities and brainstorm ideas.

Angela Atkins

Clothes Closet Needs: Blankets Sleeping bags Coats Men's and boys' clothing and shoes Socks

Food Pantry Needs: Peanut butter Jelly Canned fruit Packs of spaghetti sauce mix

Bikes and Bibles Needs: Bike locks (u-lock type) Bibles

Our Kids Hope USA mentors work one-on-one with at-risk students at Lincoln Elementary for one hour each week. Our current mentors are:

Russ Cole Allison Taylor Allen Morain Hannah Jones Crystal Byrd Annie Harrington Kevin Hall Barbara James Cindy Ramey Brenda Goodspeed Angela Atkins Joe Bob Weaver

Sarah Garder Josh Edge Trish Rigney Julie Myers Steve Myers Lisa Stegner Lydia Ham Cathy Gilmore Sue McAlister Erin Clancy **Catherine Lesser** Sallie Kennedy



Adults+55

What's coming up in February? February 3

First Monday Game Day Noon to 3:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and invite a friend!

February 3

Learn to play Canasta Join us at the Family Life Center in the Garden of Eatin' at 10:30 a.m.

February 6 January and February **Birthday Bash**

Everyone is invited! Come, join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m. If you are a January or February "Birthday Baby" your lunch is free! If it is not your birthday month, the cost is \$5.00.



February 19 Share Your Story

It is time to share your story. Plan now to join us at 10:00 a.m. at the FLC for this special time. We will begin a journey together, step by step to tell your story. This will be a great gift for your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and beyond. We will find a creative way for you to tell your unique story. You may write it, tell it through stories or share through pictures. Make a reservation at the FLC and come, join us.

February 28 Museum Madness 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Spaces are limited for our day adventure to OKC

Our day includes:

- Unique tour of the OU Organ Institute
- Lunch on your own at Two Olives Café
- Oklahoma Museum of History

While at the museum, The Living History Interpreter will talk about Sojourner Truth, who was an African American Abolitionist and Women's rights activist. The cost is \$7.00

Missions Ministry



Dear friends,

Our mission trip to Eastern Europe is developing with six team members currently signed up. There is room for a few more if you are interested. Contact Brad for more information about cost and destination. Dates of the trip are May 31-June 11.

Brad Price

Minister of Missions

On February 2 we have the opportunity to get together as a church family and enjoy a wonderful soup lunch as we

celebrate the "Souper Bowl" on Super Bowl Sunday. We will meet in Hallock Hall after morning worship to fellowship together and enjoy this free lunch.

Each year, our members bring home-made soups

to share on that Sunday morning. While we enjoy our abundance, we take up an offering for world hunger. There will be offering envelopes provided and you can give during the service or place your offering in the pot at the meal.

Be sure to bring a crock-pot or heat-able bowl of soup to Hallock Hall on February 2, between 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. There will be attendants at the breezeway entrance to assist with your soups.

I will see you there! Brad Price



February 5 at Noon Common Ground \$5 per lunch



Good food and good neighbors in Downtown Norman.

University Ministry

UM spring calendar



UniversityMinistry.com

Take a gander at what else we are doing on our website.

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday School Life Groups

Pastor's Bible Study, HH

Home Life Groups

Sunday

Worship Services 10:30 a.m. Classic Blend Worship 10:30 a.m. LifeSong Worship

Bible Study

9:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Dinner—Hallock Hall 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Praver Meeting/Devotional, HH Youth & Children's Ministries 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Studies Choir & Orchestra

Ministry Staff

Dr. Wade Smith, Pastor pastorwade@fbcnorman.org Jim Stewart, Associate Pastor Education and Family Life jims@fbcnorman.org Joey Armstrong, University/LifeSong Minister joeya@fbcnorman.org @FBCN_UM Angela Atkins, Director of Community Ministries communityministry@fbcnorman.org Crystal R. Byrd, Minister to Children crystalb@fbcnorman.org @iheartfbckids Don Gilmore, Interim Minister of Music and Worship Arts musicministry@fbcnorman.org Roy Joe Ham, Minister of Administration royjoeh@fbcnorman.org Kirk Hatcher, Youth Minister kirk@fbcnorman.org @iheartfbcym Brad Price, Minister of Missions and Graphic Design bradp@fbcnorman.org Vickie Riggs, Pacesetter Minister vickier@fbcnorman.org Clint Taylor, Minister of Recreation and Community Outreach Ministries clintt@fbcnorman.org

Facílítíes

Main Church Building 211 W. Comanche 405.321.1753 Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Email: office@fbcnorman.org Twitter: @fbcnorman Web: www.fbcnorman.org

Family Life Center 300 W. Comanche 405.360.5300

Common Ground 324 W. Main

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Happy Birthday!

- Kim Caldwell, Lois Johnson, Jackson Love, Sharron 1: Nelson, Robyn Stapleton
- Crystal Byrd, Donald Carter, Nicholas Carter, Ava Dyer, 2: Seth Hardage, Emily Rehkop, Frances Searcey, Ralph Wampler, John Wirth
- Elizabeth Beam, Wayne Cockerham, David Glabas, 3: Brenda Goodspeed, Delmer Hardesty, Kate Lefler, Dee Powell
- Charles Barnard, Stephanie Hall, Kelly Henderson 4.
- Maggie Marcum, Debra Skinner, Dale Wade 5:
- Linda Bibb, Kelly Callahan, Jerry Hobbs, Savannah 6: Scott, David Turley
- Audre' Carter, Dorothy Foster, Glen Pool, Susan 7: Williams
- Rick Alexander, Sage Beck, Angela Cole, Matthew 8: Mattox, Allen Morain, Tiffany Noble, Barbara Pennybaker, Georgette Racolta, Mary Robinson, Tyler Rohring, Rebecca Sigler
- 9٠ Heather Benedix, Kyle Ferguson, Nikki Kepford, Gale McMurphy, Clint Taylor, Andrew Thurmond, Audrey Villani
- 10[.] Gary Askins, Kathy Bowen, Alyene Bowers, Jack Holt, Phil Moss, Shirley Rider, Mariya Vasileva
- 11: Jessi Rigney
- Rachel Abbott, Justin Davis, Jeff Jimerson, C.E. Jones, 12: Hailey Morain, Fred Vinson
- 13: Ben Lane, Julie Mitchell, Anneli Walsh
- Audrey Brumage, Debbie Burchfield, Jim McCloskey 14:
- 15: Robert Arrington, Patricia Askins, Reba Duncan, Tim Milliron, Sherry Moore, Curren Myers, Garrett Wood
- 16: Jerry Chenoweth, Mindy Deal, Robert Fredericks, Connie Jensen, Lundy Prater, P.R. Ramey, Tracy Ratzlaff, Mickey Williams, Beth Windes
- 17: Troy Cheshier, Heather Moore
- Sarah Brooks, Pablo Fisher, Kathy Foster, Dusty Hill, 18: Don Jonason, Donna Kile, Mike Wilson
- 19: Glenn Foster, Ted Haxel, Frances Lee, Scott Linn, Allison Valentine
- Helen Floyd, Chris Nott 20:
- 21: Jennifer Baker, Scott Boeh, Melissa Davis, Kelly Fisher, Beverly Harden
- 22: Angela Atkins, Russell Cole, Eloise Hancock, Ann Rhea
- 23: Glen Glitsch, Carol Golden, Vickie Kersey, Larissa Matthews, Ashton Seratte, Caren Thurston, Elaine Tiller, Brady Williams, Cassidy Williams
- Gail Cotton 24.
- 25: Karen Anderson, Kelly Fredericks, Peggy Moss, Sarah Redwine
- 26: Ann Deal, Paul Hopkins, John Lewis
- Finn Armstrong, Marilyn Craighead, Myron Cunningham, 27: Brian Diehm, Janet Emery, Michael McClure, Perry Young
- 28: Lacey Cates, Alan Durham, Kirk Hatcher, Chris Knight, Megan Webb

First Baptist Church 211 W. Comanche Vorman, OK 73069 At FIRST Glance

Pastor's **Bible Study** Will meet on

February 2 & 16

February 9 FBC Orchestra at Quail Springs Baptist Church 5:30 p.m.

February 23 **Korean Church Dedication** 4:00 p.m.

OU Faculty/Staff/Students Brown Bag Lunch

Tuesday, February 11 From Noon to 1:00 in the Wagner Hall Conference Room (Rm 187)

All OU faculty, staff & students are invited to join Brother Wade for a brown bag lunch and fellowship.

February, 2014