

FIRST BAPTIST *At First Glance*

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

One of the most humbling and exciting moments in the life of a church is issuing a call to ministry. It is a call that acknowledges at least two things. First, our belief that the Spirit of God is leading a minister and his/her family to be part of our church family. In offering a call, we commit to welcome them into the fellowship and to love, support and nurture them as they live life and serve the Lord as part of us, what I call "incarnational ministry." Second, we believe that God calls ministers that are uniquely gifted, prepared and experienced to serve and lead at unique times and seasons of church life.

In short, when we issue a call to ministry, we are saying "we invite you to be part of our family because we believe that God has uniquely prepared you to serve and lead us at this time."

During the first days of May, the Minister of Worship Arts/Music search team will introduce Chad and Tara Smith as their candidate to lead the Worship Arts/Music ministry of First Baptist. I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunities to meet the Smiths and their twin daughters. An introductory brochure with a schedule of events is available in the office. Chad will lead and share his call to ministry in both worship services on May 3. Immediately following worship, we will enter into a time of Church Conference to consider a call to ministry for Chad.

I am thankful for the faithful work of our search team to bring us to this point and pray that each of you will take part in the important task of discerning the Spirit's guidance as we meet and hear from the Smiths.

The start of May means that Mother's Day is near and that our high school seniors will graduate in just a few weeks. To honor mothers, we will host a Mother's Day reception from 8:45-9:30 a.m. on May 10, in Hallock Hall. Everyone is invited. Men are invited to be in the Men's Choir that will sing during the Classic service that morning.

Graduate Sunday, May 24, will be a combined service to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors. Before the 24th, everyone is invited to go by the library to leave a word of encouragement and a favorite Bible verse in the graduate gift Bibles. Our Minister to Youth, Rich Lubbers, will bring the sermon on that special day. Congrats to our graduates and their families!

On Monday, May 4, our Deacon Ministry Team will meet for the first time this year. The DMT comprises of all deacons who have been ordained and asked to serve the FBC family. Above and beyond their normal servant-leadership roles as church members, our deacons also serve in specific ministries, including shepherding and mentoring. The Deacon Leadership Team works with all of our deacons, offering leadership to these specific ministries. This year's DLT is chaired by Beverly Theige. Let's pray for Beverly and all of our deacons as they begin a new year of service.

We begin our summer worship



Dr. Wade Smith

series, "Upside Down: The Wisdom of James," on Sunday, May 31. We will share the Lord's Supper in both services that day. I look forward to us walking through the Book of James this summer, learning from its wisdom and practical insights.

The summer is a busy time of life and ministry for all of us. Falls Creek, CrossTimbers, FLC Camps, SummerScope, Vacation Bible School, and mission trips reflect just some of the things that will be going on at First Baptist during the summer. These are all important ministries that impact the lives of children, youth and families in our church, community and across the globe. In an effort to focus our hearts on these things and to ask the Spirit of God to empower us to effective and life-transforming ministry, we will host "Pray First" on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30. Over these two days, we ask every church member to participate in a one hour prayer journey at the church. Watch for details and let's covenant to "Pray First" as we begin the summer.

Finally, let me share how blessed I am to be called to serve as your pastor. Our ministry staff is a wonderful blend of ministers with unique talents and strengths. We enjoy serving together and look forward to God's ongoing formation within our team. We believe that God is doing significant things in our church and humbly anticipate with excitement the days before us.

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Wade Smith



To Norman with Love Wrap Up

During our To Norman With Love week, there were approximately 170 people participating in group projects and 100 individuals at the FBC and Food and Shelter cookout on April 12 at Andrews Park. Thank you all for your participation. Keep giving and serving those around you each day.



May is a time for students to pause and re-center their faith

The month of May is finally upon us. It's the month of flowers, as the result of April showers, according to the old saying. It's the month of graduations, provided that our students finish their final assignments. And it's the month of ramping up for summer.

As the month of flowers, I wonder if you've taken time to stop and smell the metaphorical or real roses recently. One thing that we will ask our students to do this month is take time to pause and re-center on their faith. As they grow, we want them to take ownership of faith matters, having a faith that seeks understanding. This will be rooted very clearly in faith, but it also will allow for sincere and genuine attempts to understand how God might be acting in the world

around us.

As the month of graduations, I'm reminded of the need to finish strong. While this might be something we hear at these cliché times of our lives, I wonder if we could apply this more broadly. What kinds of things in our lives after school can we finish for the glory of God? What kind of witness might that show those around us, that we finish what we start, and finish it well?

As the month of ramping up for summer, I wonder if you would mind praying for our students? We begin the summer with Falls Creek, a time-honored tradition that would



Rich Lubbers

make it easy for us to be on autopilot. Instead of doing that this year, will you commit to praying for us to have renewing encounters with God while there? And will you ask us about it and celebrate what God does in each person's life?

We are blessed. Thank you for loving our students. Will you keep it up as we enter a pivotal month?

Rich Lubbers

Music Ministry plans Mother's Day service

On Mother's Day, May 10, the Men's Chorus will lead in Classic Worship.

There will be one rehearsal at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, in the choir room.

"If you don't read music and are a 'melody' singer, I've got a song just for you," Don Gilmore, Interim Minister of Music and Worship Arts, said. "Come join us to honor mothers and the women in your life."

Family Life Center

Fitness Center Orientation

with Randy Praytor

6 p.m. Monday

Required for use of Fitness Center

Low-Impact Exercise

Free

10 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday

and Thursday

Parkinson's/Arthritis approved

Pilates

With Rebecca Darrow

8 to 9 a.m. Monday,

Wednesday and Friday

Aerobics

With Darla Miller

5:20 to 6:20 p.m. Monday

and Thursday

Pray First

a time of prayer for
FBC Norman

Friday, May 29

12:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30

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

Friendship Sunday Supper

1st and 3rd Sundays of each month

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

First Sundays

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Clothes Closet

Third Sundays

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Devotion & Food Pantry



The Discipline of Sacred Reading

By way of reminder... last month we began a series of articles about the spiritual disciplines and our involvement in them. Were you able to find your way into the discipline of silence? I would love to hear about your experiences!

This month we are talking about the discipline of sacred reading, or as it has been known throughout Christian history, *lectio divina*.

Truth be told, when we read anything, we are usually reading to be entertained or to be informed. Whether we are reading magazines, books, newspapers or the Bible, we usually read in one of these two ways. In order to fully participate in the discipline of sacred reading, we must set these two ways of reading aside. We must begin to learn to read differently. **THIS WILL BE DIFFICULT.** If you have spent time dissecting verses or passages or books of the Bible in preparation for Bible studies, this way of reading will seem strange. You will have to decide to take the time to read scripture differently. Rather than reading for information, we are choosing to read for formation.

First, find a Bible that is distraction-free. No study notes, no cross references, no pages of life

application. We should use a translation of the Bible that uses the poetic form for poetry and paragraph form for the prose. I would suggest you try a translation like Eugene Peterson's *The Message* for *lectio*. You might also want to find a Bible that doesn't have any of your previous underlines or markings. We really want to focus on what God is trying to tell us today.

After finding the place for you to read, the selection of a passage is important. I would suggest that as you begin *lectio* it would be wise to choose a psalm, or a passage from the gospels, or the letters of John. Then there are four basic movements through the scripture.

1. Read: after finding the Bible and the place in which you can read, the first step is just that. Simply read. BUT read slowly. One of the things I like to do is to take a breath after every other word. This slows down the reading to a snail's pace...and that is the point. As you read, notice the word or phrase that seems to "jump off the page" or grabs your attention



Kirk Hatcher

in some way.

Read the passage again. Slowly.

2. Meditate: take time to consider the word or phrase that has grabbed your imagination. Read the passage again, slowly, paying attention to this word or phrase. Why has this word or phrase jumped off the page at you?

Read the passage again. Slowly.

3. Pray: Even though *lectio* is a prayer from beginning to end, at this point in the process, it is time to have a conversation with God. Ask questions like, "Father, why this word? What are you trying to tell me?" Keep in mind this is a conversation. This requires listening, too. Ask God to provide illumination into the scriptures.

Read the passage again. Slowly.

4. Contemplate: This is perhaps the most difficult piece of the process. This step involves asking God to lead you to live out what you have heard from the scripture. Is there something that you need to do? Is there someone you need to talk to? We are now at the point of moving beyond the words on a page to the living out of our faith.

This may seem like a long process. It can be, but it doesn't have to be. As you begin to read your Bible differently, I'd love to hear how God is using these spiritual disciplines in your life.

Kirk Hatcher

Summer kids activities at FBC

June 5-8: CrossTimbers

Children's Camp

Third-fifth grades, spots are limited. Cost is \$160. Register online today.

FBC KIDS Summer Theme Nights

Begins May 27 from 6-7:30 p.m.

and will continue weekly on Wednesdays.

July 13-17:

VBS Thailand Trek

From 6-8 p.m. for ages 4 through completed fifth grade. Online registration begins on May 1. Volunteers are needed, email crystalb@fbcnorman.org.

Summer Parent's Day Out

9 a.m.- 2 p.m. on June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, and Aug. 10.

SummerScope June 1-Aug. 7

Completed kindergarten through completed fifth grade. To register, email marleneh@fbcnorman.org.

Spring means being prepared for severe weather

There is no doubt that spring weather in Oklahoma brings the potential of severe weather. We want to let you know that at FBC we are prepared in case a severe outbreak approaches Norman.

A couple of years ago, the church adopted a recommendation of the Emergency Management Department of Norman, that we are NOT AN EMERGENCY STORM SHELTER. Our facilities do not meet standards for a shelter. We encourage all of our members and guests to shelter in place. Please do not leave wherever you are to come to the church in severe weather.

However, if you are at an event at the church, including our many ministries, we will shelter in place as storm situations dictate. All of our ministers, and ministry leaders, are aware of our plans, and locations in our buildings that will be the best shelter locations for those who are here.

The main building and the Family Life Center have televisions so we can connect to local weather updates during severe weather and we will respond accordingly. If a local storm is imminent, everyone in the building will be moved to previously designated safe areas and wait for an

all clear.

Please use your best judgment in coming to church for activities when there is an imminent weather situation. We ask that if the storm is in the area that you not call your children who can drive to leave the safety of the church. We also ask that you don't take your family out in the weather if you are at the church. Again, shelter in place is the recommendation of the experts in the field. Please stay safe and weather aware.

Ignite: We have been enjoying our newly renovated East Wing, new elevator and new entry to our sanctuary for about 10 months. It has proven to be a great new space. We have been able to accomplish this work through your generosity, and in many instances, sacrificial giving. Our original commitment period concludes in October of this year. Some of us have extended our giving an additional six months. We have about \$600,000 in construction expenses to be paid. However, we have considerably more than that in anticipated commitments



Roy Joe Ham

that were made to support this project. Please be encouraged in what God has accomplished in your generosity, and continue to support it through your continued financial support.

Summer season: The month of May brings a season of anticipated transition from the school year to summer camps, vacation and much needed time away for a variety of reasons. Join with me in planning our faithful giving to the ministries of FBC even if we are away. It is critical to the continuing ministries through the year!

Finally, I am excited about the first weekend of May as the Minister of Worship Arts/Music Search Team presents Chad Smith as their recommendation to be our next Worship Arts/Music Minister. Please pray for God's presence through the weekend, and for your committed time to come and meet Chad, his wife Tara and their two girls. Your search team has worked diligently to seek the individual that God has to lead us in worship, which led them to recommend Chad. This is a vital step to take for the future of First Baptist.

I am excited to join with you in all these areas as we see God working in so many ways around our church.

Roy Joe Ham

Mother's Day
reception

Sunday, May 10
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.
Hallock Hall, Come and Go
Everyone invited!

ignite
PASSION FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

Pledges \$3,127,007
Received \$2,693,290

Call of Ministry anticipated on May 3 for Chad Smith

On Sunday, May 3, we will be called into Church Conference following both services to vote on issuing a Call of Ministry to Chad Smith as FBC's Minister of Worship Arts/Music. Chad also will lead worship in Classic and LifeSong services on that Sunday

Chad, Tara and their identical twin 5-year-old girls, Addison Grace and Ainsley Faith, are originally from Texas. Chad was raised in Whitewright and Tara in Houston. They have been married for seven years and are residing in Bryant, Ark.

Chad received a bachelor of arts and sciences degree in Fine Arts/Church Music from Dallas Baptist University in May 2004. Additionally, he has studied aeronautical science/professional piloting at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.



Chad and Tara Smith

Chad has more than 20 years experience of serving the local church in the areas of music, worship arts, education and senior adults. He accepted Christ at the age of 12 at a Lake Lavon Baptist Youth Camp and felt a call to ministry soon after.

Opportunities to meet the Smith Family before the Call of Ministry include:

Thursday, April 30

6 p.m. Congregation Gathering and snack supper. Child care available through kindergarten.

6:30-7:30 p.m. Congregation conversation.

Saturday, May 2

9:30 a.m. Meet with Sound, Worship Teams and Drama team.

11 a.m. Coffee and Conversation with Chad.

Sheila Brumfield joins the FBC Financial Office

If you've visited the First Baptist Church office recently, you've probably noticed a few new faces. The most recent being that of Sheila Brumfield who took over for the retiring Marcia Farris in the FBC Financial Office.

Sheila answered a few questions about her time so far at FBC. Please help us in welcoming Sheila to the FBC family.

Q: When did you start working at First Baptist?

A: My first day was Tuesday, Feb. 10.

Q: What do you like to do when you are not working?

A: I spend most of my time outside of work with family and friends. We have two daughters, a son-in-law and an

adorable grand-puppy in the metro area.

I enjoy doing yard work in the summer, cooking and traveling when we have the opportunity.

Q: How has your experience at First Baptist been so far?

A: The people are great to work with and I love my job.

Q: Why did you want to work at FBC?

A: The position was exactly what I wanted to do and FBC has such a great impact on the community.



Sheila Brumfield

Summer at the FLC

May 26-28

Jr. Hoops

(4-5-year-olds)

Time: 9-11 a.m.

Cost: \$50

June 22-26

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

June 22-25

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

July 6-9

Upward Basketball

Time: 6-8-year-olds,

8:30-11:30 a.m.;

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

Cost: \$75

July 27-30

Jr. Chef's Academy

(4-year-olds to first grade)

Time: 9 -11 a.m.

Cost: \$75

Chef's Academy

(Second to fifth grade)

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

Cost: \$75

Aug. 10-14

Camp Sonshine

(Kindergarten through fifth grade)

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$110

Plan to get out and about with FBC's Adults 55+ activities

Spring has arrived in Norman, and summer is just on the horizon or maybe closer.

With spring comes a renewal, and a desire to get out and about. What better way to experience renewal than to make new friends and travel to new places? I want to take this opportunity to introduce just a few opportunities for Adults 55+ and share some things I love.

I love to travel. And I love North Carolina. I love the subtle color of the rhododendrons across the ridges of the Great Smokey Mountains and I love The Cove, Billy Graham Retreat Center in Asheville, N.C. And, more importantly, you will love it too if you make plans to travel with First Baptist Church Adults 55+ to The Cove, from June 9-16. It will renew your spirit and warm your heart. It is a peaceful place to be still and know God. Our seminar "Who Is in Control?" will be led by Steve Brown.

I love children. I love to watch them enjoy the simple things in life. Things like riding a train or picking dandelion bouquets or petting a

camel. This year we are planning three Nanas and Grampies Adventures. These are opportunities for grandchildren and grandparents to do those simple and fun things TOGETHER.

May 28-29 will be our train trip to Dallas/Ft. Worth.

Our trip will include Legoland, Sea Aquarium, Perot Museum of Science and perhaps a quick swim and picnic along the way.

June 26 will be our day trip to the camel farm in Perry. And, later in the summer, we will enjoy a production at the Oklahoma Children's Theatre.

I love gospel music. Do you? Then plan to invite a friend and come to our Gospel Night this summer.

I love BABY BOOMERS. I am one. If you were born between 1946 and 1964 you are one, too. So join us June 6 for an evening of Motown music at the Yellow Rose Dinner



Vickie Riggs

Theatre.

I love surprises and mysteries. I love to spin a mystery and slowly share clues. I love to watch folks find the answers and hopefully be pleasantly surprised. So watch this summer for some mystery nights and surprise trips.

Registration for upcoming events is already underway at the Family Life Center.

May 15: Day Adventure- Liberty For All day trip

June 5: Senior Seminary with Dr. Mack Roark

June 23: Lyric Theatre with "Oklahoma"

July 7: Lyric Theatre with "Mary Poppins"

Aug. 7: Senior Seminary with Dr. Bobby Kelley

Then what about a Branson/ Eureka Springs Get-a-Way; Appalachian Mountain Mission; Alaskan Adventure or a Holy Land Experience? Watch for details.

Whatever you do, get out and about and ENJOY.

Vickie Riggs

Graduate Sunday

May 24

A combined service to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors. Lunch to follow in Hallock Hall.

Senior Bibles

Leave a note of encouragement or mark your favorite passage for our high school graduates.

Bibles will be in the church library until May 22.



MANNAFEST

DOWNTOWNER LUNCH

Wednesday, May 6

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

Place: Common Ground
Speaker: Katie Fitzgerald,
Executive Director
of the Center for
Children and Families.

Cost: \$5

Menu: Chicken salad on
croissant, fruit salad,
chips and cookies.

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

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, Jon Seratte, Richard Sigler, Kay Wallace, Michael Zellmer

May 12: Becky Holladay, Kate Parrish

May 13: Alex Antonio, Audrey Base, Grace Dwyer, Shea Fredericks, Cori Goebel, Cecilia Maruri, Erin Raiber, Erin Schier, Suzanne Cheshier, John High, Rebekah Law

May 16: Chelsea Lynn Crider

May 17: Lydia Jorgenson, Gary Wood

May 18: Tammie Haworth, Robbi Mullinax, Tom Uglean

May 19: Konner Bloss, Dylan Hatcher, Jill Hatcher, Del McGowen, Jose' Nava, Celia Phillips, Anne Pierce

May 20: Charles Atkinson Sr., Wilma Black

May 21: Dot Adkins, Cheryl Alexander, Barbara Cole, Russell Hayes

May 22: Azam Hakim, 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, 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, Kole Hudson, Miranda Williams

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC Family,

The Leroy Wheeler family would love to thank Bro. Wade for a wonderful service and to Carl Ketner for a loving remembrance of Leroy.

Thanks to the Bereavement Committee and everyone who sent cards, food, flowers and donations. All was deeply appreciated.

Vondell and Family,

Teresa and Ray Choate and Family,

Margarete Wheeler and Family

We appreciate the generosity and thoughtfulness of the meal provided after Brett's funeral. It was a load off our minds as we had received family from out of town and started processing through our grief of Brett's death.

We are certainly blessed that his death came at a time of remembering that Christ died for our sins and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus one day prior to Brett's death in this life. He now has a wonderful opportunity to be with our Heavenly Father.

Gaitha Milligan

for the Price and Dewell Families

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you for the prayers during the recent illness and sudden death of a beloved family member.

Ministry Staff

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Roy Joe Ham, Minister of Administration

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Address Service Requested

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

Larry McDade, Kim McDade Torres & Hayden McDade, Carol & Phil Conley at the passing of Dana McDade

Cynthia Avery, Mark, Amanda & Daniel Rhea at the passing of Marilyn Brannon

Frances Searcey at the passing of her husband, Boyd Searcey


Nancy Hale at the passing of her mother, Alma Hale

Elizabeth & Joe Windes, Kathy McNeal, Carter, Andrea, Will & Beth Windes at the passing of Otis Higginbotham

Leon & Carol Price and Gaitha Milligan at the passing of Brett Dewell

Jim & LaRita Couch, Lori, Tyler & Kelsey Couch, Craig, Carol, Katie Thompson and Emily Thompson Hale at the passing of Steve Couch

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