

FIRST BAPTIST *At First Glance*

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

It could be that no other month reminds me of the passing of time more than August. As a new school year begins, I am confronted with the reality that I am getting older — I will be the father of a college junior, two high school seniors and an eighth-grader. Where do the years go?

To mark this important season of transition, FBC's children and youth will promote in their Sunday School classes on August 16. Then, during worship on August 23, we will acknowledge the significant milestones of entering first and sixth grades by presenting these students with Bibles. Additionally, we will offer a prayer of blessing for students and educators as they begin a new year of education and instruction.

August also is a significant month for our University Ministry. I am pleased that our Personnel Committee has brought Chris Canary onto our ministry team as University Minister beginning August 1. Chris is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and of Truett Seminary. He most recently served our church as the interim LifeSong Worship Leader and as Bible teacher for the Sanctuary LifeGroup. Pray for our University Ministry as Chris engages students, develops his leadership teams and leads us in ministry and outreach to college students.

As a transition between summer and the start of school, we take the first two Wednesday nights of August as a Sabbath rest and resume our Wednesday evening activities with the International Cookout on August 19. This year's Wednesday Sabbath, however, will bring change in our

food service ministry. Summer Judkins, who has served as our cook for the last three years, is leaving Norman to pursue new opportunities. Thank you Summer for your hard work and good food. John Harkey will return to FBC's kitchen, where he served as our cook several years ago.

The first weeks of our worship transition have gone well. As pastor, it has been a blessing to preach and worship with the entire congregation each Sunday. I believe having both worship services in the sanctuary offers many benefits to us and to our worship guests. And even in these early weeks, Chad's worship gifts and leadership have positively impacted both services. Let us continue to pray for Rev. Chad Smith as he works with our worship teams, choirs, musicians, vocalists and tech team. Is God stirring your heart to be more involved in worship?

The recent worship transition creates the opportunity for us to improve safety by limiting the use of our east and west doors as exits. By not entering through these doors we provide better security for our children and youth areas. In addition, with everyone entering the church through our Comanche Street entrances, we are better able to see and greet everyone who enters our church on Sunday morning.

The new Sunday schedule means that we have people arriving at three different times on Sunday mornings. Those arriving for Sunday School



Dr. Wade Smith

or late worship may find that our handicap and closer spaces are already occupied. If you are able, I invite you to join me in parking toward Eufaula Street in our main parking lot or in the FLC parking lot on Sunday mornings. This courtesy will free up parking closer to the building and shorten the

walk of those in need.

I have mentioned two things recently that I want to follow up on. First, in August we will have initial conversations with leadership teams about our Main Street properties and how we can best use them to minister and be the presence of Christ in the downtown area. There are many wonderful possibilities, so let's be creative and sensitive to the movement of the Spirit of God. Second, I am planning an initial conversation to listen to you about the questions and concerns you have about the cultural issues of our day. I will keep you posted on both of these.

It's hard to believe that summer is almost over. I look forward to hearing the stories of ministry, learning and fun that you and our mission teams had over these months.

This is a wonderful time of the year to reconnect with First Baptist or to invite a new friend or family member to join us in worship and ministry. I look forward to sharing life together as this new season approaches.

Grace and Peace,
Dr. Wade Smith

Sunday morning hall monitors, SMART Team leader needed

Finally, the heat of summer has come, but hasn't this been an awesome summer? I can hardly believe that the landscape is so green and lush. God's rainwater does so much more than we can ever do with sprinklers. We have been blessed with abundant rain, cooler temperatures and pleasant surroundings.

As I consider all of this, I am also reminded of the abundance of showers of blessings that God is pouring down on First Baptist Norman. I hope you can join me in celebrating all that God is about in this season.

And speaking of seasons, that time is approaching for most vacations to end, the beginning of football and the busyness of a new school year. It also is a focus of new things at FBCN. I hope you are excited for this season to change and you find your place to be involved and support the ministries of your church.

Because many asked: As we moved all of our worship services into the main sanctuary the Trustees have closed the east and west end

doors to enhance building security. In these days the reality is that we do not need a main traffic pattern to go through our education spaces, especially close to our children and youth areas. We ask all who attend Sunday morning services to use one of our Comanche Street entrances. Thank you for your support and understanding.

We need your help. In many areas of the church we need additional volunteers to step up and assist in regular ministry opportunities. Two of those areas are:

Hall monitors: To make our church as friendly and safe on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, we like to have two people walking the halls, grounds and parking lots to meet those who may be visiting and need direction, to assist in monitoring for suspicious activity and to assist with locking doors and shutting down lights so we can be better stewards.



Roy Joe Ham

We will provide you training for the task. If you can assist, please contact me.

SMART Team leader: We have a wonderful ministry called the SMART Team which offers a great service to those needing minor repairs around their home. Several individuals provide the ministry, but we need a leader to evaluate the service request and schedule those to assist. Let me know if you can take the lead in this area.

Ignite: Following the receipt of June contributions to Ignite, our loan balance is \$475,915. It is exciting to continue to see the balance fall as we anticipate completing the capital emphasis on the east wing. If you made a commitment to participate, please check and see how you are doing on meeting it. If you are a new member or could not participate three years ago, maybe God has opened a way for you to do so now. Thank you all for your generous support of this much needed project.

It is a joy to serve alongside you.
Roy Joe Ham

August 30 Church conference and lunch

Cost \$2 per person
bring a salad or
dessert to share

Menu:
Baked potato bar



Contributions to Date:
\$2,756,487

Loan Balance:
\$475,915

Church library hours

Sunday
8:00 a.m.- Noon

Wednesday
1:00 - 8:00 p.m.

And during the week
whenever workers
are present

It's time to open our eyes and see 'God Sightings' that surround us

When you look around, what do you see? If you're like me, most of the time we are so busy that our looking around consists of trying to make it from one place to another without falling. We may notice the largest of items, and we will most likely miss the smallest.

I would like to propose that we develop the Spiritual Practice of Open Eyes. This practice involves not just paying attention to what is right around us, whether it be in our way or not, but also watching for where God is working.

During last month's Vacation Bible School, Rev. Crystal Byrd asked our children every night to tell their crew about their "God Sightings." The kiddos were asked to pay attention to where they saw something that reminded them of

God. Answers were plentiful. They saw God...
in their parents,
in nature,
in their friend who was nice to someone else,
when someone welcomed a new person into their crew.

It impressed me so much that these children taught me how to pay attention to what God is doing. And they are right. In our weekly staff meetings, we take time to notice ways in which we see God moving in our church. This time of sharing with each other helps all of us know that we are not alone. It helps us know that God is indeed working in the



Kirk Hatcher

midst of a group of people known as First Baptist Church, Norman.

Rather than sprinting through our daily routines paying attention to only those things that are directly in our paths, I wonder what might happen if we were to develop the Spiritual Practice of Open Eyes. What if we decided to watch for where we see God working — from the biggest to the smallest of circumstances? What if we decided to share with each other where we see God working in each other's lives? This has the potential to change the way we are the family of God in this place.

It's time we learn from our children and share with each other these "God Sightings." Let me know where you see God working.

Kirk Hatcher

LifeGroup Leadership Luncheon

12-1:30 p.m. • Hallock Hall • August 9 • RSVP by Monday, August 3

If you are a leader during a Sunday morning Bible study, you and your family are invited for lunch and learning from each other



Ministry Needs

Shampoo and conditioner

Deodorant

Soap

Canned goods (fruit, veggies, meat, beans, soup)

Toothpaste

Razors and travel size shaving cream

Feminine hygiene items

Toilet paper

Bike locks

On a mission

*First Baptist members
reflect on their recent trip to Peru*

Three First Baptist Church members, Trenton McMillen, Michelle Durham and Kim Marks, recently reflected on their time in Peru which was spent working closely with Operación San Andrés, a Christian organization committed to combating the effects of poverty in the community of Collíque.

A group of about 25 FBC members traveled to Peru in July.

While in Peru, Trenton McMillen said that he expected to see a lot of new things and experience a completely different culture. This was his first time out of the country.

"I also expected to see a fairly poverty-struck area in Collíque. Those expectations were indeed met," Trenton said adding that his favorite and most meaningful part of the mission trip was meeting one of the workers at OSA named Noe.

"He was an amazing light on the OSA house and is also the worship leader at the new church in Collíque. We connected immediately through music, and it's something I will not soon forget," Trenton said.

Michelle Durham said she did not have any expectations when she went to Peru, which was her first mission trip.

"I couldn't choose one moment that is my favorite, but rather every moment at OSA. Spending time with those kids and the staff at OSA was the best part. I loved getting to know them and loving on them. They were always so happy to see us and so joyful," Michelle said.

During the mission trip, FBC members played music, did crafts, played games and offered Bible studies. Some members visited a few of the homes in Collíque and met members of the community.

"It was so interesting to see where and how they live. Everyone was sweet and proud of their homes," Michelle said. "We were bid goodbye with a kiss on the cheek and smiles."

The lasting memory of the trip for Michelle, she said, was seeing how excited the kids in Peru were to see the FBC group.



"Seeing them smile and laugh was the best part and just being able to love on these kids is something that cannot be replaced. I will never forget those kiddos," Michelle said.

Chair of FBC's Missions Team, Kim Marks, had never been to South America before, but she said that she was hoping to connect with the Peruvians who run OSA as well as those who benefit

from its ministry.

"As someone who has vague memories of once being a youth, and who also has raised only cats, but no children, I was initially hesitant about making a long trip with 25-plus people not of my generation," Kim said.

Kim goes on to mention that one expectation she had before the trip was to find a mission that assisted the poor and needy.

"What I found, however, was so much more. Operación San Andrés empowers the local people, not by giving handouts, but by training and equipping them to break the chains of poverty while providing for their spiritual needs. I truly respect the thought and prayer that has been put into this ministry," Kim said. "As for my expectation of connecting with FBC youth, I will say this, the youth of FBC Norman is the future of our church, and we are in good hands. These young men and women work and play well together. They are also bright, talented, energetic and fun. I am so glad I took the opportunity to connect with them. They are totally worth it."

Her favorite part of the trip actually happened on the last day the group was in Peru, Kim said.

"I was part of two small groups who traveled up into the foothills of the Andes Mountains to assist our two FBC-sponsored workers, Morgan Smith and Krystal Harrington, regarding a water filter project sponsored by Operación San Andrés. I walked the streets of Collíque, closely observing the impoverished homes and destitute conditions I had previously only seen from afar, through the safety of my camera lens. These were the actual homes of the children we met earlier in the week. Reconciling those children with these conditions absolutely moved me to tears. It also sealed in my heart how fervently our prayers are needed for the Lord's work in Peru," Kim said.

From Elvis to Branson adventure, many activities planned for Adults 55+

There are still spaces available for our September 8-10 Branson adventure. Updated itineraries are available at the Family Life Center.



Vickie Riggs

Our trip includes "Jonah" at the Sight and Sound Theatre.

Blue Plate Specials in August will be on August 5 and August 12.

Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$6.

On August 7, join us for a special Senior Seminary with Dr. Bobby Kelley from Oklahoma Baptist University. Cost is \$5 and the lecture will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for weekday Bible study.

Other August Adults 55+ activities include

August 14

An evening at the Yellow Rose Theatre with Elvis. Cost: \$38 per person

August 20

July, August, and September Birthday Bash Luncheon at 11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$5 unless you are a Birthday Baby and your lunch is complimentary.

August 28

Gospel Night at the Family Life Center. Snack Supper served at 6 p.m. Cost is \$5. Guests for the evening will be Broken Vessel gospel quartet.

Vickie Riggs

FLC adds chef's camp, begins gymnastic enrollment in August

The Young Chef's Camps were so popular that two more camps were added in August. There is still space available in the afternoon camp.

Camp is for ages 4 to completed fifth grade and will be from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. August 3-5. To enroll your child, visit the FLC.

Gymnastics enrollment begins

August 3. To enroll, visit the FLC.

Classes are available for beginners, intermediates and advanced gymnasts. Five classes are offered on Tuesday, and four classes are available on Friday.

Costs range from \$36 to \$40 a month for one hour a week, and \$65 to \$70 a month for twice a

week. Schedules are available at fbcnorman.org and at the FLC.

Classes will start Friday, September 4, and Tuesday, September 8.

The FLC will once again be cooking for both high school football teams this fall. Please sign-up in your LifeGroups to bring food.

First Baptist Church is traveling to the Holy Land October 2016

*An informational meeting
will be at 6:00 p.m. on August 30 in B-22*

Shaun Groves in concert

August 29 at 7:00 p.m.
at Common Ground.

The concert is free and
open to the public



First Baptist
welcomes
Chris Canary

as
University Minister

#PeruOrPeru

It's always fun when you get to go on mission trips with students. The way that they experience new places is fun to watch, learning a new normal for a set period of time, finding their place in it, and figuring out how to share God's love in it.

For our students, it was the same kind of thing this year. When we were leaving, we were all uncertain what exactly we would end up doing — mission trips have a way of requiring you to be flexible — but we were certain that our task was to share God's love.

As we were on our first flights, we figured out that there were a handful of students who had never been on a plane before, and most had never been out of the country. All of the experiences were new.

And yet, all of the experiences were old. After all, sharing God's love is something that our students have learned to do at our church. They do it in Vacation Bible School. They do it by sharing their time in local community missions. They do it by working with the Baptist Children's Home. So when we stepped off the plane in Peru, we were anxious about how things were going to work out, but were confident that we had been properly prepared by God for this work.

Sure enough, all of our anxiety melted away when our students saw the children. It's amazing how quickly they were playing with them, learning how to communicate with them, leading them in crafts and Bible stories and singing.

This trip wasn't "Peru or bust" for us. While we weren't sure exactly what to expect, we knew that God had called us to share love with them, taking the "or bust" part out of that equation and calling us to enjoy living and serving in Peru for a week. Instead of "Peru or bust," it was Peru or Peru, which became the hashtag that we used for our trip on Facebook and Twitter, if you want to read more about it. Also, our students wrote some blogs that will remain on the church website about their experiences, which I would encourage you to read.

Thanks for supporting our students as they served in Peru!



Rich Lubbers

Rich Lubbers

August Family Activities

August 19
**FBC's Big Summer Cookout, Playground,
6:00 -7:30 p.m.
Everyone welcome**

August 16
**Promotion Sunday
Baptism and Lord's Supper**

August 23
**Spiritual Formation Sunday
First and sixth grade Bible presentations**

**FBC Family Bowling Bash, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Sooner Bowling Center, 550 24th AVE. N.W.**

August 26
Fall Wednesday Night Schedule kicks off

2015

08

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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2	3	4	12	13	14	8
9	10	11				15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Wednesday Sabbath

August 5

August 12

There will be NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES for these two nights.

Df8

Dinner for 8

Kickoff Luncheon

Sunday, August 23

12 - 1 p.m.

Hallock Hall

SignUp at fbcnorman.org or turn a form into the church office by Aug 9.

Worship arts ministry offers many ways to serve

As summer begins to wind down, it is a great time to begin praying about and considering how you will use the spiritual gifts and talents God has given you to serve the Bride of Christ in the new school year. I'd like to use this article to let you know the different ways you can use your gifts and talents in the music and worship arts ministry here at First Baptist Norman.

Growing in Praise is our music and worship arts opportunity for children ages 4 through fifth grade. Directed by Erin Raiber and Gigi Nieto, this is a wonderful ministry that teaches children age appropriate music fundamentals and introduces them to the basic theology of worship and what it means to be a worshiper and worship leader. Growing in Praise has two groups: age 3 through kindergarten and first through fifth grades. Growing in Praise meets on Wednesday evenings from 5:45-6:30 in the children's (west) wing in rooms 216 and 217 beginning August 26. Growing in Praise will sing monthly in both worship services, participate in the annual Christmas presentation and present an annual musical.

SMAK (Summer Music Activities for Kids) is a new children's music and worship arts opportunity coming in summer 2016. This is a week-long, full-day camp for children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade. The kids will learn an entire musical production and present it the Sunday evening following SMAK.

Coming in mid-fall 2015 is our new music and worship opportunity for students. The student choir will meet on Sunday afternoons and will sing in worship from time to time, participate in the annual Christmas presentation and will present an annual concert. Plans are underway for a week-long student choir mission early next summer.

Our sanctuary choir meets each Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 in the music suite for rehearsal. No audition is required. The choir helps lead the early service each week, participates in the annual Christmas, Easter and Independence Day presentations and also

will participate in the semi-annual choir and orchestra mission trip. The choir will begin Christmas preparations soon. If you are unable to commit to the choir full time but would like to sing in the Christmas presentation, you are welcome to come to the first half of Wednesday night rehearsals beginning September 2.

The FBC Norman sanctuary orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Michael Raiber, rehearses each Sunday morning from 7:15-8:15 in the sanctuary. There is no audition required but the ability to read music and familiarity with your instrument are necessary. The orchestra is open to anyone high school age and older. The orchestra helps lead the early service each week, participates in the annual Christmas, Easter and Independence Day presentations and presents an annual concert. The orchestra also will participate in the biennial choir and orchestra mission trip.

We also have a worship team for our late service that consists of a band and vocal team. There is an immediate need for instrumentalists and vocalists at this time. An audition is required and the ability to read music is encouraged. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 in the sanctuary. Call or email me today to set up an audition.

If you don't consider yourself a singer or instrumentalist our technical ministry is just the place for you. The tech team consists of our audio, video, and lighting teams and is the glue that holds everything together on Sunday mornings and for special events.

Other ways to get involved include drama ministry, set/scenic design and construction, Scripture reading, leading prayers in our worship services, and costuming. As our church continues to grow there are sure to be more opportunities available.

Chad Smith



Chad Smith

Opportunities available to serve the community

A new school year is starting soon and that means new children for our Kids Hope USA mentoring program.



Angela Atkins

Would you like to try working one-on-one with at-risk students at Lincoln Elementary? It just takes one hour a week to change a life.

For more information, contact me at angela@fbcnorman.org.

Upcoming Community Ministry events September 19

Game day parking benefiting Community Ministry and the Family Life Center.

October 18
CROP Walk with Food & Shelter

November 23
Thanksgiving Basket Party

November 24-December 13
Giving Tree with Lincoln Elementary.

Sunday Shuttle
Would you like to help those without transportation get to church each week? Contact me to learn about our monthly Sunday Shuttle volunteer driver opportunities.

Angela Atkins

August Birthdays

August 1: Keri Cain, Randy Satterlee, Macy Young

August 2: Don Adkins, Nancy DeGraff, Chris Kennedy, R.V. Reid, Emma Lou Tiffany

August 3: Stephen Bratcher, LaDonna Hardesty, Joan Shockley

August 4: Judy Addison, Jarred Allen, Jordan Beene, Katherine Faison, Tony Pennybaker, Ricky Stapleton, Laurie Ward

August 5: Sally Elkin, Pearl Haxel, Staci Sheldon, Lynn Thompson

August 6: Bobby Jackson, Marcus Jones

August 7: Delores Allen, Lanelle Averyt, Susan Beam, Graham Roe, Willis Small, Allyson Summers, Graeme Wilson

August 8: Ethan Cochrane, Isaiah Dustman, Abbi Gravel, Yvonne Mounce, Paula Swing

August 9: Alex Taylor, Patricia Wiggs

August 10: Virjama Lassiter, Thomas Leon, Alea Smith

August 11: Carol Cawyer, Steve Dannehl, Trudy Martin, Rosemary McCord, Aaron Worten

August 12: Amy Arrington, Ellen Deal, Ben Dyson, Erica Griffin, Al McCord

August 13: Suzie Martin, Kim Milliron

August 14: Grace Atkins, Isaac Carlson, Cindy Gray, Sayre Stapleton, Theresa Strevett

August 15: Angela Caddell, Ronald Evans, Dorothy Faison, Asa Haworth, Marty Hubbel

August 16: Isla Bowles, Kandyce Lang, Joe

Roby, Mary Eve Summers

August 17: Gavin Cherry, Will McCutcheon

August 18: Beverly Bailey, Doris Whinery

August 19: Jane Close, Jennifer Graham, Fred Hilliard, Anna Hixon, Kathy McNeal, Judy Sullivan

August 20: Philip Crawford, Abel Jones, Julie Myers, Darlene Yousey

August 21: Josh Haxel, Donna Hays, Grace Anne Marcum, Jack Pinion, Betty Romero-Spaulding, Steven Stegner, Marla Valentine, Michael Vincent

August 22: Riley Beery, Christa Miles, Loyce Morain

August 23: Laura Chamberlain, Beniah Diehm, Glenda Smith

August 24: Carol Kinney, Dinny Vishanoff

August 25: Foster Hopkins, Camille Pinion

August 26: Victor Grider, Maddox Hall, Kelly Long, Barbara Reeser, Eli Weatherholt

August 27: Randy Richison

August 28: Larry Brown, Deanna Carter, Krista Henderson, Sam Knight, Tricia McCarty, Jennifer Robinson

August 29: Shannon Atkins, Darlene Cagle, Matthew Garey, Ruth Gattis, Shaylee Lucas

August 30: Ashlyn Gardner, Dawson Harris, Kellie Hopkins, Kathleen Kelly, Curt Masters

August 31: Don Hull, Candice Hyde, Anne Roberts

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

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC,

Thanks for your kindness to our family. The flowers are so beautiful. So glad Clint and Allison have such a wonderful church family.

The Taylor Family

Ministry Staff

Dr. Wade Smith, Pastor
pastorwade@fbcnorman.org

Roy Joe Ham, Minister of Administration
royjoeh@fbcnorman.org

Kirk Hatcher, Minister of Spiritual Formation
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Angela Atkins,
Director of Community Ministries
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Rich Lubbers, Minister to Youth
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Vickie Riggs, Pacesetter Minister
vickier@fbcnorman.org

Chad Smith, Minister of Worship Arts/Music
chads@fbcnorman.org

Clint Taylor, Minister of Recreation and Community Outreach Ministries
clintt@fbcnorman.org

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

Roy Joe and Lydia Ham at the passing of Lydia's brother

Clint, Allison, Austin, Avery and Alex Taylor at the passing of Clint's grandfather, Frances Taylor

Carol Halley at the passing of her husband, Doug Halley

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Early Worship, Sanctuary
9:40 a.m. LifeGroups
10:50 a.m. Late Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal, Hallock Hall
6:00 p.m. Youth & Children's Ministries
6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Studies
Choir rehearsal

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