



# At First Glance

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

In the 2016 Annual Sermon I spoke of the importance of building bridges. Bridges create connections and relationships that otherwise would not be possible. Bridges heal and bring together that which has been separated. Sometimes we are aware of the gaps and separations in our lives. Sometimes we are not. While we may not always understand how gaps came to be, gaps create distance.

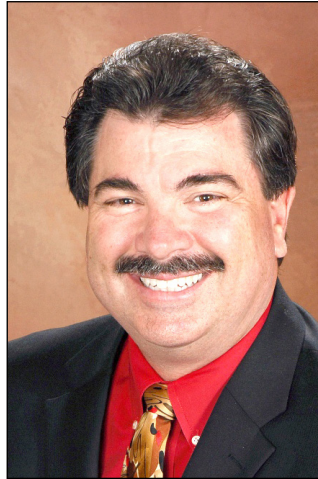
The ultimate bridge-builder was Jesus, the God-Man. Jesus bridged the gap between God and people, creating the possibility for a present and eternal relationship. Likewise, we are to build bridges to each other and to our community. The ultimate purpose of our bridge building is to link others to Jesus.

Bridge building must be intentional. Bridge building is hard and bridge builders are often misunderstood. Bridges use tension to connect and sustain their connections. These tensions can be difficult to manage, but without tension bridges collapse. Are we willing to stand in the tension?

The world needs bridges. Norman needs bridges, especially at I-35 and Lindsey St. Many long for the day when connections can be made with those on the other side. Yet, some don't want bridges built. The question for us is will there be a bridge available when those who don't want a bridge need a bridge? It is joyful and necessary to build bridges to those who want to be connected? But, will we have the courage and endurance to build bridges that may remain unused for a season, but may become a lifeline in the future?

I recently led a funeral service for a family that has not found a church home in Norman. As the family visited about who would officiate the service, they remembered their connection with Gay and that her husband was a pastor. One of the family members remembered reading some of my Transcript articles and how meaningful the Advent Devotion guide was Gay had given them

a couple of Christmases ago. They reached out to Gay, crossing a bridge that had been built over the last years, allowing me to share words of grace and comfort as we celebrated and grieved their loss.



*Dr. Wade Smith*

Yes, we need to build the obvious and necessary bridges to the hungry, hurting, and oppressed. But, we also need to build bridges of friendship and relationship that may not be fully utilized until some point in the future.

Through our relationships with Norman Public Schools, CCFI, LoveWorks, Salvation Army, and Classical Conversations we are building bridges. Some of these bridges impact lives immediately. Others may not be crossed for years, but they are being built and will be ready to cross when the need arises.

We had a wonderful response at The Big Summer Cookout. We ate hamburgers, played games and built bridges with each other. We built bridges with police officers. We built bridges with internationals. We built bridges with our Friendship community. We built bridges across the generations. Good things happen when gaps are bridged.

How is your bridge building? Who are you reaching out to? Where are you purposefully bridging gaps with those who are separated from God? From others? How are you building bridges that will be ready when someone has a crisis and needs to get to the other side?

MannaFest is one of the ways we

are bridging the gap to the downtown community. MannaFest is a lunch for those who live, work, or enjoy coming downtown. We host MannaFest on the first Wednesday of the month during the school year. This year MannaFest will be in Hallock Hall. Cost is \$5. September 7 is our first MannaFest of the new semester. Ty Darlington, Big XIII Scholar Athlete of the Year, will share part of his faith story.

We began the new school year with a wonderful Connection Sunday. It was a blessing to see our first and sixth graders receive their Bibles. Our children and youth promoted to their new classes and our University LifeGroup has grown into Hallock Hall. A new young couples LifeGroup began with 18 in attendance. Our Men's and Women's Bible study groups have resumed on Wednesdays and Foundations begins on September 7. I invite you to find your place to connect in fellowship and Bible study.

## THE MYSTERIES OF EPHESIANS

**September 4:**

**The Mystery of Salvation**

**September 11:**

**The Mystery of Christ**

**September 18:**

**The Mystery of the New Self**

**September 25:**

**The Mystery of Submission**

**October:2**

**The Mystery of  
our Spiritual Struggle**

# Ignite balance nears under \$100,000

It seems just like yesterday that we closed for the last day of school and entered into a busy summer. Today, we are finding ourselves in the reality of a new school year, with an abundance of traffic navigating torn up streets no matter where you want to go.

I hope it has been a good summer for each of you, even in the midst of a short season that you were able to find some renewed peace and rest. For those who are experiencing more change in life than you would like, I pray for abundant peace.

Many have moved, students are leaving home to go to school or find a job elsewhere, some have experienced loss in family, changes in job, possibly loss of a job, and yet the seasons move forward.

As we enter this new season, I hope we will be aware of the needs, feelings, concerns and burdens that those around us are experiencing. Be a source of peace, grace and comfort as we minister to each other.

**Ignite:** I am writing this article in mid-August so I am anticipating a joy of celebration in announcing that we should be under \$100,000 in the balance of our building debt from our East wing Ignite capital project. It has been a wonderful "new" space that we have

enjoyed since we returned to its use in July 2014.

Thank you to all of you who have given sacrificially, prayed abundantly, worked to see it come to a reality, and now enjoy using it. Now, we must finish well. My prayer and belief is that we should and can accomplish this prior to the end of this calendar year.

Those who have helped us get this far won't you help us finish well? Those who have come into our family since this all began, can you become a vital part of finishing well. Designating gifts to Ignite is the way to accomplish this challenge. Let's celebrate each dollar that has been given, each family or individual who has contributed so generously, and let God be glorified in the victory and in its use in impacting the world for the sake of Christ.

**New Fiscal Year:** In June the church voted to support a change in our designated fiscal year to begin January 1, 2017. We believe this move to a calendar/fiscal year will become more manageable for our church.



Roy Joe Ham

To accomplish this transition, ministry teams and administrative committees will be hard at work the next two months developing our financial plan to move forward, as well as adding new members to our leadership teams.

Pray for those who are preparing all that has to happen to facilitate this change. Pray now as you seek God in how and where you need to be serving.

Respond positively as you may be contacted by the Committee on Committees as they seek God's direction in selecting new team leadership.

Remembering that together WE are First Baptist Church Norman, it is a joy to serve alongside you.

## foundations

### conversations in scripture and faith

An option for those who want to dive deeper into scripture/theology/church history

beginning  
Wednesday  
September 7,  
6:30-7:30 pm

**Sept. 7**  
**Noon - 1 p.m.**  
**Cost: \$5**  
**In Hallock Hall**



**Faith Story:** Ty Darlington  
Big XII Football-Scholar  
Athlete of the Year  
Bobby Bowden Award Winner

**Menu:** Chicken tenders,  
mashed potatoes with gravy,  
green beans, roll, dessert



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE: \$3,155,314**  
**LOAN BALANCE: \$117,533**

## Foundations

Once upon a time, our family lived in a house where doors began to slowly shut on their own, and marbles tended to very carefully roll across the floor all by themselves.

Clearly, something was amiss. Upon inspection it was clear that the foundation of the house was having some issues. Bricks were beginning to have gaps in the mortar. Small pieces of the foundation were coming off on one of the corners of the house.

We were terrified...until a wonderful person told us that we were not in danger of anything drastic happening to our home. Yet. The time would come when we would need to make some repairs, but according to those we trusted it wasn't an immediate need. Whew!

Occasionally foundations crumble. That which holds up our homes, OR holds up our understanding of the way the world works. Sometimes we need to go through a time of adjustment so

that the doors stop shutting and the marbles stop rolling.

This fall we begin a series of courses that will enable all those who participate to think through the "foundations" of faith and living a life guided by that faith.

Our first course is titled, "Biblical Hermeneutics: Reading the Bible Wisely," and will be co-facilitated by Mike Wilson and Chris Canary.

Our goal for this course, and the ones to follow, will be to enable discussion that is somewhere between youth camp and seminary.

For instance, we will have a textbook that each person will need to purchase, either from the church or from your bookseller of choice. Each week's



*Kirk Hatcher*

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foundation [foun-**dey**-shuh n] noun.  
the basis or groundwork of anything

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session will be to consider the reading from the book as well as our own experiences in our understanding of scripture.

Courses that will follow in spring and fall semesters to come are:

- Old Testament Survey
- New Testament Survey
- Introduction to Church History
- Introduction to Theology
- Ethics - what all of this means for our lives

We are so excited for this opportunity to build, or re-build, our "foundations" together. If you want to sign up for this fall's course, head to [fbcnorman.org](http://fbcnorman.org) and click the Foundations link.

## University Ministry in full swing for fall

Fall 2016 Semester is in full swing and I'm pumped about what's going on in our University Ministry here at FBC.

First off, you may have noticed during Sunday morning LifeGroups — as well as late on Wednesday evenings — that college students now haunt the area around Hallock Hall's stage. Not only has this change provided us room to grow, but its centralized location gives you, your family and your LifeGroup a more profound opportunity to stop by and say, "hello." In fact, if you're bold enough join us for Bible study on any-given-Sunday, we'd love to have you.

Second, this semester we're kicking off our discipleship group initiative called Link. This Christian life was

never meant to be done in isolation; so, we set out to provide students the opportunity to do the following in community with one another: (a) embrace a life of Christian discipleship, (b) engage a small group of other believers seeking to live like Jesus lived, (c) equip themselves with tools helpful for cultivating a vibrant spiritual life, and (d) encourage one another to practice spiritual disciplines.

Finally, I want to give a shout out

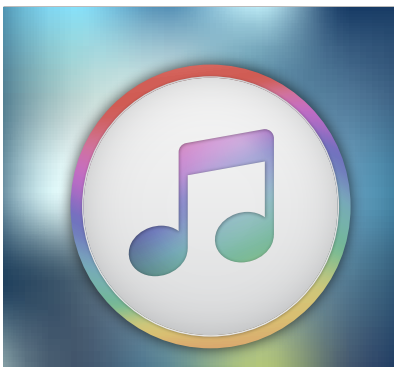


*Chris Canary*

to the Foundations class taking place on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 beginning September 7. It's not technically a University Ministry event, but Mike Wilson and I will co-teach a course on Biblical Hermeneutics, which is the art & science of Biblical interpretation.

To use less pretentious language, the course seeks to help us all study our Bibles with more care, intentionality and seriousness. I'd like you to come and join us each week; it will be well worth your time.

As always, continue to pray for us as we work diligently to love people, teach the word, and live the journey together.



Subscribe  
on iTunes to  
***FBC Norman Sermons***

**Deacon Ministry  
Team Picnic**  
September 25  
5 p.m.



# SMAK CAMP 2016



## Prayer partners needed for students

Back to School is always one of the most/least exciting moments for students, their parents, and their ministers.

Students are excited to see their friends at school again, parents are excited to not have their students laying around the house, and student ministers are conflicted about not having students show up unannounced to their house at all hours of the day or night.

As our students begin the school year, we'll be looking for some mentors for our students, as well as some prayer partners.

Mentors are important for students of all ages, as they impact not just spiritual growth, but also emotional and social growth. Hopefully, you remember

someone who spent dedicated time with you as you were growing up, helping you to grow into all the good things to which God was calling you.

Prayer partners are needed for students of all ages, but especially for those on the extremes of our ministry.

Students in their senior year of high school are facing massive transitions, dealing with major life questions, and doing so with hormones continuing to rage.



Rich Lubbers

Sixth-graders are facing massive transitions, dealing with major life questions, and doing so with hormones that are just kicking into full gear.

Both groups, as well as everyone in between, could use someone who is thinking about them and praying for them continually.

Some of you have asked how you can be involved. I don't need one person to do everything, but I will approach some of you in the coming days and weeks, asking you to do something. Will you be available? If not, will you continue to serve our church in the ways God has called you, even if it's not in one of these ways in the youth area? Will you hold me accountable to that too?

The Church office  
and FLC  
will be closed  
Monday, Sept. 5  
for Labor Day

**DAWNINGS**  
First Baptist, Norman

**Dawnings** is a process of spiritual conversations and prayer that leads to congregational renewal. Over the next year, we will identify 3-4 things that our church *could be doing... could be doing better...or could stop doing.* Decisions which require church action will go through the appropriate channels.

**Dawnings** will help FBC Norman see her ministries in the world with fresh clarity and purpose. Rather than offering a new program to try, **Dawnings** will help us develop skills that transform how we focus our ministry and mission efforts.

## Volunteers Needed



Kids Hope USA, a national program that trains caring older teens and adults how to befriend children and help them learn.

For more information, email Angela Atkins, Director  
kidshope@fbcnorman.org

**Growing in Christ**  
Classes  
Sunday, September  
11, 18, 25  
9:40 - 10:40 a.m.  
Room 209  
3rd-5th Grades  
RSVP by Sept. 9 to [crystalb@fbcnorman.org](mailto:crystalb@fbcnorman.org)

**Parents' Night Out**  
Sept. 9  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Babies through 5th grade  
RSVP with Crystal by Sept. 2  
[Crystalb@fbcnorman.org](mailto:Crystalb@fbcnorman.org)  
Bring a sack dinner

# Kid's Hope USA mentors needed for Lincoln Elementary

As school kicks off, so do our Kids Hope USA mentoring sessions. We start this year with 16 mentors at Lincoln and three continuing to meet with their student at middle school.

I hope to have at least six more mentors available this school year to be able to match with elementary students as needs arise.

Providing mentors for at-risk students at Lincoln Elementary is just one way we partner with this school. We provide in-kind donations for their Curriculum Night at the beginning of the school year. We provide teacher appreciation treats or gifts each quarter. Many of you provide gifts

each Christmas for children in 25 families at the school.

We are able to provide bags of food to families as needs arise. Some years we have helped with school supplies and other teacher needs.

Our Kids Hope families also are invited to participate in our Thanksgiving Basket Party and Block Party each year.

As the school year begins, I will work with the principal and teachers



Angela Atkins

to learn other ways we can partner together, such as art work displays and participation in their week of kindness.

If you would be interested in sharing your gifts in support of this local school and the families there, please contact me in person or by email, [angela@fbcnorman.org](mailto:angela@fbcnorman.org).

**THE GETAWAY  
YOUTH RETREAT  
SEPT. 23-25**

**NNHS Football team dinner  
Thursday,  
Sept. 8**

If you missed the sign-up sheet to bring food, call the FLC at 360-5300

**Gymnastics start the  
Tuesday and Thursday  
following Labor Day**

There are a few spots left!  
Call the FLC for more information,  
360-5300

**FREE Zumba classes  
6 p.m. Tuesday  
at the FLC**

**FBC Norman is accepting applications for these positions:**

**Van Drivers**  
Needed Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for Kaleidoscope. Must be 21 years old. For more information, email [crystalb@fbcnorman.org](mailto:crystalb@fbcnorman.org)

**Part-time cook**  
Experience with banquet meal prep a must. Approximately 25 hours per week, must be flexible with scheduling. Those interested can email [Robinn@fbcnorman.org](mailto:Robinn@fbcnorman.org)

**GAME DAY  
PARKING @ FIRST**

**FOUR HOURS  
BEFORE KICK-OFF**

**INCLUDES SHUTTLE RIDE TO THE STADIUM  
DONATION: \$10**

**2:00 P.M. SEPT. 10**                      **2:30 P.M. SEPT. 17**

**Wednesday evening**

**Dinner**

5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

**Sanctuary Choir**

6:30 p.m.

**Adult Bible Studies**

6:30 p.m.

**Kids' Ministries and**

**Youth Wednesday**

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**Beginning Sunday, Sept. 11**

**Kids and Youth Choirs will practice Sunday evenings**

**Kids' Choir**

5:00 p.m.  
Youth Hall

**Youth Choir**

5:00 p.m.  
Choir Room

**ADULTS 55 +**

*Senior Seminary*

**DR. MACK ROARK**

SEPTEMBER 2

9:30 A.M. — NOON AT THE FLC

COST: \$5

INCLUDES LUNCH AND HONORARIUM

10:00 a.m. September 21

**WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY CLASS**

FLC Conference Room

LUNCH AND LEARN  
WITH JAY WILKINSON

September 23 at the FLC  
Cost: \$5  
Includes lunch and honorarium

Holy Land  
**Bon Voyage**  
Dinner

September 26

6:30 p.m.

Family Life Center

Trip dates October 4-15

An evening at the  
Yellow Rose Dinner  
Theatre with  
Dean Martin and  
Jerry Lewis

6:00 p.m.  
October 1  
Cost: \$40 per person

**Birthday Bash Luncheon**

October 6  
11:30 a.m.  
FLC Garden of Eatin'

October-November-December birthdays

**Branson Holiday Adventure**

December 6-8

Detailed itineraries at the Family Life Center

## September Birthdays

**September 1:** Wanda Blake, Frank Gatewood, Jackson Holderby, Valerie Robinson, Alana Turley

**September 2:** Claudia Griffith, Naomi Nakamura, Ryane Ratzlaff

**September 3:** Al Bass, Barbara Ferris, Chuck Lawrence, Heather Murphy

**September 4:** Greg Alexander, Monica deFee, Melissa Kelly, Mary Nipper

**September 5:** Katherine Brooks, Greg Ferguson, Darci Tucker

**September 6:** Josie Wright

**September 7:** Laini Akram, Luke Edge, Marilyn Naylor, Haley Price, Susan Warren

**September 8:** John Antonio, Brandon Arrington, Elizabeth Clancy, Bobby Hare, Pascha Sanders

**September 9:** Kerrie Hudson, Blanche Johnstone, Morgan Rogers, Ginger Teague, Jerry Warden

**September 10:** Michael Gray, Larry McDade,

**September 11:** Lorraine Baugh, Carol McDade-Conley, Laura Jones, Connie Norton, Carolyn Sigler

**September 12:** Ethan Fleischer, Barbara Foreman, Leslie Haxel, Doris Johnson, Mike Lang, Steven Sheldon, Mark Wright

**September 13:** Victoria Bugg, Paige Portwood, Brandon Rehkop

**September 14:** Ashley Christian, John Lesser, Amos Nunnally, James Philemore, Tracy Reddick, Cathleen Sullivan-Russell, Alicia Turley

**September 15:** Bill Conner, Lynn Etter, Douglas Vollgraff, Scott Weaver

**September 16:** M'Lynn Emanuel, Marilyn Leflore, Dennis Schwabe, Wilson Smith

**September 17:** Brad Badgett, Janice Hodges, Leanne Warren

**September 18:** Courtney Singleterry

**September 19:** Stephen Teague

**September 20:** Karyn Blackman, Sandra Brown, Shirley Glitsch, Payton Henson, Traci Mullinax

**September 21:** Lee Cory, Janie Dilks, Mary Hale, Hannah Jones-Harp, Kill Hunt, Kyle Jones

**September 22:** Mary Hartsock, Rocky Lee, Jennifer Marcum, George Wilson III

**September 23:** Linda Dill, Al Graham, James Odell, Boston Tan

**September 24:** Vicky Busma, Linda Fielder, Sue Matheny, Sally Wade

**September 25:** Janelle Borden, Dean Conerly, Jim Couch, Kathy Howell, Carl Ketner, Ron Kirkpatrick II

**September 26:** Marco Fisher, Shelba McGowen, Olivia Raiber, Elmer Roberts, Charissa Smith

**September 27:** Judith Conklin, Cullin Faison, Beth Glabas, Jamie Hart, Victoria Haxel, Ann Linn, Cheryl Love, Katie Love, Betty Northcutt, Zeke Zachary

**September 28:** Brent Briscoe, Rachelle Zachary

**September 29:** Johnny Blaul, Sue Carrell, Amen Holman, Andrew Lawrence, Nolan LeBlanc

**September 30:** Troy Adams, Christianne King, Kin Pirtle

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## Ministry Staff

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## Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend Sympathies to:

Kelly, Jennifer, Grace Ann and Maggie Marcum at the passing of Jennifer's father, Bill Rotter

Greg, Kathy, Kyle & Kody Ferguson and Janie Dilks at the passing of their nephew and cousin, Rick Tucker

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