

At First Glance



First Baptist Church

December 2017

Volume 14, Issue 5

Calendar of Events

12-4

Brown Bag Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Wagner Hall, OU Campus

12-5

WMU

11:30 a.m.

FLC Conference Room

12-9

Norman Christmas Parade

5:00 p.m.

12-10

Sounds of Christmas Concert

6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

12-11

Sounds of Christmas Concert

7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

12-13

Gingerbread House Family Fellowship

6:30 p.m.

Hallock Hall

And the Word became flesh and dwelt *Among Us*. In these words from John 1:14 we find the meaning of Christmas.

The simple, yet profound, truth of Christmas is that God became a person and lived *Among Us*. Isaiah was the first to prophesy this when he declared the Lord will provide a sign: a virgin will bear a son and call His name, Immanuel (God with us). In the first verses of Matthew's gospel, an angel appears to Joseph and quotes this prophecy as being fulfilled in Mary, his fiancée.

On the four Sunday mornings of Advent, we will celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth and the implications of God's *peace, hope, joy and love* dwelling *Among Us*.

The *Sounds of Christmas* concert by our Worship Arts Ministry on the evenings of December 10-11 will be a beautiful evening of music. Our annual *Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service* at 6:00 p.m. is a memorable way for families to rejoice at the good news that a Savior has been born! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us for these special worship services.

A special thanks to our 2017 Advent Devotion writers. The *Among Us* Advent Devotion Guide is available at the church and contains a devotion for each day of Advent, family activities, and our calendar of Advent events.

Please take extra guides to share with others. I am amazed each year to hear from those in our community who are given a devotion guide by a member of our church and how it blessed and ministered to them. Don't miss out on this simple way to share the good news of Christmas with someone.

On Sunday, December 10, we have the opportunity to say thank you to Kirk and the Hatcher family for 10 years of ministry at First Baptist. As you are aware the Hatchers have been transitioning to Waco over these past months. Kirk will preach on this special Sunday and we will have a reception for the Hatchers immediately following worship in Hallock Hall, featuring Dr. Pepper floats. Please bring your notes and cards of appreciation for Kirk, Jill, Britton, Caeden and Dylan.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Yes, the busyness and commercialism of the season can be a distraction, but the *peace, hope, joy and love* of the season always win out. And the reason for this is because Christmas is about the miracle of the *Word becoming flesh and living Among Us*. This is the story of Christmas! And this is the story that we must tell and sing about over these next weeks. Jesus Christ is Born!

DR. WADE SMITH



Dr. Wade Smith

Finishing well

I know that most of you are just like me, if you start something

you want to finish it well. We are about to finish 2017 and I have to wonder how we will finish it. In our individual lives, as well as our life of faith together. Stronger than we began, hopefully!

November and December are historically our largest giving months. Once again it appears that our need to finish well in 2017 will be around \$300,000 in budget giving for December. Join with me as we seek God in meeting this faith goal in appropriate response to all He provides us every day.

There is not enough room here to provide my complete thoughts about our recent trip to Houston to offer support of the restoration process following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. Twenty-two went because we felt God calling, and God did miraculous work in our midst.

God changed 22 members of FBC. God allowed us to make a difference in two families lives in Houston to help in their process of rebuilding! Please seek out a member that went on this mission trip and listen to their stories and listen to God's call for you to go on the next trip.

We now have two trips scheduled to go to the Corpus Christi area to assist where Harvey initially made landfall and the area devastated by the wind.

January 14-20 will be a church wide emphasis and call to go. March 18-24 will provide an emphasis for our university students to participate in the rebuilding. I challenge all to seek God in prayer and determine if His call is to you to go.

Will you respond *Here I am, send me?* If not for the whole week, can you get to Corpus on your own and be there for half of the week? God can use that amount of time also. Come be a part of what God is doing in our midst to restore hope following a disaster.



**ROY JOE
HAM**

A farewell from the Hatcher Family

Friends...

With a sense of gratitude and expectation, I write to let you know that Sunday, December 10, 2017, will be the Hatchers' final Sunday at First Baptist Church, Norman.

You have loved our family well. Our kids have grown up in front of your very eyes, with the help of your hands and your prayers. Each of the boys will long consider Norman to be home. This was their first experience with the full four seasons of the year and with cheering for a university different from Baylor (don't worry, we'll continue to cheer for OU when they're not playing Baylor).

Professionally, you have encouraged me in too many ways to recall in my ministry journey. I have been lifted up, prayed up, picked up, and led by you. You have challenged me, expected much from me, forgiven me, listened to me, learned with me. I have been forever changed because of you. You called me as your Minister to Youth and then allowed me

the freedom to discover new avenues to which God was calling me. With trepidation, I walked this road with you for 10 years. Your kindness continues to astound me.

Personally, it's difficult leaving the place where deep friendships have been forged. We are thankful that technology will make the distance between us seem not quite so far.

As we make our way to Waco, know that the lessons learned here will be held tightly for years to come. Our prayer for FBC Norman is that she will continue to find new and creative ways to explore what it means to love people, teach the word, and live the journey of life together.

See you soon,
The Hatchers

Kirk, Jill, Britton, Caeden, and Dylan



**KIRK
HATCHER**

Giving Tree ministry continues at FBC

The holiday season can be a joyful time, full of family, friends, and love. But for many at-risk families in our community it also is a stressful time as they try to provide extras for their families on already too small budgets.

First Baptist has several opportunities for you to help children in Norman. Please be aware of your options, prayerfully considering each of them as you make your holiday plans and budgets.

Our annual Giving Tree ministry began as a way to help at-risk Lincoln Elementary students and their siblings have a better Christmas. This year we also will add 35 students at Dimensions South alternative school for ages elementary/middle school.

The school counselors provide gift information for each child, allowing you to select a child and purchase gifts at \$25 to \$30 per child. The Giving Trees are located outside the church office and media library. The deadline to return

the gifts is Sunday, December 10.

As part of our new ministry with Dimensions South, we

will host a Christmas lunch for the students and their staff on December 13, delivering their wrapped gifts to them for the party.

One final opportunity is our annual Christmas Eve service gifts for Baby Jesus. We are collecting diapers (all sizes) and wipes. These will be distributed year-round through the church food pantry and Center for Children and Families.

Thank you so much for your heart for families and children in our community. Working together as a church, with each one doing what they can, we can make a huge difference in the lives of many.



**ANGELA
ATKINS**

HATCHER FAMILY Reception

11:30 A.M. • DEC. 10 • HALLOCK HALL

Bring notes and cards of appreciation

COMMUNITY MINISTRY *Basket Party*



On Nov. 20, FBC provided a free family meal, games and crafts, and a basket of food to take home for Thanksgiving for 50 families with children under 18. This was the sixth year that First Baptist has provided Thanksgiving baskets to the community.

First Baptist Church security addressed

Due to recent events across the country many of you have asked what are we doing about church security.

We recently met with current and retired law enforcement officers, along with our Sunday on-duty officer, to develop a plan for our church.

We recognize the plan will need to be modified as situations change. Please

know that we are aware of your concerns and always work to have our worship and workspace as safe as possible.

Please express your appreciation to each of those who have assisted in this plan, we are very fortunate to have them involved in this season.

— Roy Joe Ham

HANDS FOR HARVEY

CORPUS CHRISTI

JANUARY 14-20



COST IS \$100 EACH FOR FOOD AND LODGING
HOTEL AND FOOD ACCOMMODATIONS CAN BE MADE
AT PARTICIPANT'S EXPENSE

SEE ROY JOE HAM FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE SOUNDS OF *Christmas* CONCERT

The Word Became Flesh
December 10
6 p.m.

December 11
7 p.m.



DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

16

Deacon Breakfast
8:00 a.m.
Hallock Hall

20

Carols and Cocoa
5:00 p.m.
Family Life Center

24

Worship
10:30 a.m.
Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 p.m.

25

Christmas Day
Church office and FLC
closed

26

Church office and FLC
closed

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 1: Allison Hawkins, Terry Hearen, Joy Sullivan

December 2: Jean Callahan, Christy Ellis, Phyllis Gage, Melissa Mills, Melany Pattison

December 3: Stephen Burris, Lindsay Crider, Benjamin Diehm, Samuel Harp, Krystal Knudsen, Jequita Uhles

December 4: Shavon Bowman, Lyndal Caddell, Frederic Ferris, Glenda Largent

December 5: Lee Bryson, Lilia Durham, Lester Snyder

December 6: Pat Brown, Bill Geyer, Anja Hale, Hudson Harris, Alan Johnson, Bob Stone

December 7: Mike Bradford, Kristian Diamond, Danny Heatly, Allison Taylor, Marilyn Vann

December 8: Cooper Caddell, Olivia Caddell, Cathy Gilmore, Darline Hobbs, Jenny Smiley-Nava, Nazia Zahoor

December 9: Ruthee Danner, Cerissa Keeler, Ron Mercer, Steve Owens, Renee Roe, Cayce Rogers, Jessica Rose

December 10: Vondell Wheeler

December 11: Hilda Buchanan, Cowan Chen, Darrel Curry, Brittany Harris

December 12: Melissa Long, Amanda Rhea

December 13: Barbara James, Joanne Stoy

December 14: Danny Foster, Marie Porter, Leon Price, Dedra Redwine

December 15: Charles Frank, Judi Hartsock, Linda Heinlein, Jennifer Morgan

December 16: Margaret Brown, Shelley Ogle, Collin Russell, Kathy Strickland

December 17: Dorothy Harp, Vincent Lobello, Kelsey Randall, Kaitlin Smith

December 18: Gabi Coleman, Roy Joe Ham, Scott Hawkins, Elliot Lee, David Martinez, Chuck Prater, Kiersten Stewart

December 19: Steven J. Graham, Tristen Krush, Katie Skeel, Rodney Smith

December 20: Lou King, Betty Klima, Casey Lawrence, Jennifer McMillen, Joe Theige

December 21: Dimple Bond, Ed Copelin, Glenda Crider, Stephany Haxel, Jamie Jinkerson, Lucille Rachal, Sam Singleterry

December 22: Steve Carter, Allen Lack, Savannah Mitchell, Dakelin Stewart

December 23: David Dillon

December 24: Mark DeBerry, Holly Lassetter, Robert Summers

December 25: Connie Hearen, Nic Nelson, Mark Rhea, Mary Ann Spaulding

December 26: Susan Caddell, Marylin Woods

December 27: Dana Morris, Marge Morton, Brad Singleterry, Avery Taylor, Douglas Vaughn

December 28: Janet Hardage, Sandra Lee

December 29: Susie Conklin, Susan Hawkins, Donna Holt, Michael Rifenburg, Dana Stacy

December 30: Dr. Lavonn Brown, Charles Holt, Gary Hunt, Maddux Rifenburg, Mary Robinson

December 31: Jay Harp, Stephanie Holderby, Lauren Satterlee, Michelle Shebester, Patrick Smith, Paul Strunk, Courtney Villanueva, Gwen Wilburn

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

SYMPATHIES

First Baptist Church would like to extend sympathies to:

Jay, Jennifer, Addison and Aubrey at the passing of Jennifer's father, Franklin Heavner.

Steve, Shawn, Hayes, Mitch and Trace Maddox at the passing of Steve's father, Miller Maddox Jr.

Friends and Family of Mickey Tyo

Josh, Lisa, Luke and Cole Edge at the passing of Josh's grandfather, Dr. Jodie Edge

Cayce, Morgan and Marley Rogers at the passing of Morgan's brother, Boyd Littell

Al and Rosemary McCord at the passing of Rosemary's sister, Sylvia Peavey.

To Shelba and Del McGowen at the passing of Shelba's sister and brother-in-law, Dr. Loren and Rebecca McKeown.

A thank you to the bereavement ministry

A very special thank you to our church family for supporting our bereavement ministry in 2017.

Our bereavement team ministered to 50-plus families this year with visits, calls, cards and meals. And you were a part of that ministry through financial support but also through providing food for family meals.

Special note, if you provided food over the last few months, you many have an

empty dish waiting for you. They are located in the cabinet in the east wing basement foyer.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the bereavement ministry, contact me at 360-5300.

**VICKIE
RIGGS**



WORLD MISSION OFFERING

FBC GOAL: \$60,000

TO SUPPORT LOTTIE MOON AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

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