First Baptist Church At Second Glance

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RSVP to crystalb@fbcnorman.org by Feb.22

CRRUARY **DEACON BANQUET** •5:00 P.M. Hallock Hall•



And Matthew gave a big reception for Jesus in his house (Luke 5:29). Matthew's immediate response to leaving everything behind to follow Jesus was to invite his friends and neighbors to celebrate and meet Jesus. When was the last time you celebrated with friends and neighbors?

As we continue to ask the question, **Who** is My Neighbor?, let us open ourselves to the practice of celebration. Is there anything in your neighborhood worthy of celebration? Then, celebrate!



Dr. Wade Smith

Thank you for your generosity on Souper Bowl Sunday as we collected an offering of \$2,400 for Feed the Children in their work both locally and internationally. Let's celebrate!

Worship is also an act of celebration! Our next Worship Together Sunday is March 5. Thank you to Chad and our Worship Arts Ministry for the beautiful music that brings us together in spirit and in praise on these special Sundays.

Following worship on March 5, we will enjoy a \$2 baked potato lunch and enter into a church conference. As mentioned in the Annual Sermon, it is time for us to take an important look at our Ministry Plan/Budget.

I have been meeting with the chairs of our major administrative committees to better understand the issues we face. The initial steps to addressing these issues and shortfalls will be presented.

Let us be in prayer as a church family during this important season. And, let us continue to give our tithes and offerings faithfully for the work God has called us to.

Do you need a reason to celebrate!? As of February 8, we have \$2,800 remaining on our Ignite debt. Could today be the day the countdown reaches \$0? Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in paying off this \$3.2 million dollar capital campaign that began in October 2013.

Let us rejoice in the generosity of God's people and the blessing of God's provision through this season of Ignite. Let's celebrate!



Finley selected as Young Leader to Know

Erin (Raiber) Finley was recently selected as one of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's *25 Young Leaders to Know.* This recognition coincides with CBF's 25th anniversary.

"When I found out, I was very surprised! I had no idea I had been nominated," Finley said. "It definitely made me feel appreciated and humbled."

Finley was nominated for the honor by Jill Hatcher.

"When Jill told me she nominated me, I felt very loved. Jill has always been a mentor to me so it was extremely humbling to know she felt this was something for me," Finley said.

In the world of ministry Finley, who has called First Baptist Norman her church home for 15 years, turns to music.

"Music is my passion and my best

Souper Offering

form of worship. Sharing that with children has been the highlight of my career, " Finley said. "My goal has always been to teach children how to share their love for Christ through music and to help them teach others to do the same."

Finley attributes First Baptist Norman for the person she is today, leaving her forever grateful for her church family.

"Growing up here, singing in the youth and adult choirs, teaching children's choir, and getting married here have made this place home. The connections made with the members of this church have helped shape me into the person I am."

Finley, and the other honorees, will be introduced and celebrated during the CBF's 2017 General Assembly in Atlanta, Ga., from June 29-30.



On Souper Bowl Sunday, we collected an offering of \$2,400 for Feed the Children in their work both locally and internationally. Thanks to everyone who provided soup as well as monetary donations for our World Hunger Day.

Dawnings Update

Since last September, our Dawnings Team has gathered for a total of six sessions in our process. During these sessions the 20 of us have discovered and practiced several spiritual disciplines, all geared toward helping us listen for God in different ways.

We have studied together through the concepts of visioning, forming, and engaging. We have listened to each other and to God as we have realized how FBC Norman has lived out visioning, forming, and engaging. So far, as we have gone through this process we have been listening and paying attention to the dreams we have for FBC Norman.

The goal for this Dawnings Team



is to end our process with 3-4 items that FBC Norman should be doing, or should change the way we are doing, or should stop doing altogether. This list is beginning to come together.

Please continue to pray for our Dawnings Team as we gather for four more sessions.

Looking ahead

Feb. 16	January/February Birthday Bash 10:00 a.m. Koinonia Room
Feb. 24	February Ladies Day Out 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$2 plus lunch Enjoy shopping at Urban Farmhouse, Farmers Market and the Paseo. Contact the FLC for more information. Sweetheart Night 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Feb. 26	Deacon Banquet 5:00 p.m. Hallock Hall
Feb. 28	Night Out to Cattleman's 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Cost: \$2 plus dinner. Contact the FLC for more information.
Marc 24	A Ladies Day Out to Pawhuska Pioneer Woman Mercantile Signup has already begun. Cost: \$25 plus lunch. Contact the FLC for more information.

foundations

Beginning Wednesday, February 15 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Encountering the Old Testament facilitated by Chris Canary

In this survey course, participants will gain better understanding and appreciation for Old Testament history, literature and theology.

Using the Bible as our primary textbook, we'll swim in the primordial waters of Creation, sojourn alongside the Patriarchs, participate in the Exodus, mourn with those sent into Exile and celebrate the restoration of God's people.

Together we'll meet villains and heroes, experience tragedy, laugh at comedy, hear cosmic narratives in which the whole earth shakes, and eavesdrop on the most intimate of Psalms. Most importantly, however, we will seek God together in the pages of Hebrew Scriptures.

Come, join us on this journey and encounter the Old Testament for yourself.