

At First Glance



First Baptist Church

January 2018

Volume 14, Issue 6

Happy New Year! We made it, 2018 is here! As we look back over the past 12 months, it is hard to imagine all that we have been through. The difficult work and transitions of the

past year, however, have brought us to a place of new beginnings and opportunities. We are poised to grow and deepen our ministries and outreach during the next year. Thank you for your faithfulness. God is preparing us for a new season of life and ministry.

The Minister of Discipleship and Children's search team has been busy over these past months. This minister will provide overarching leadership for all discipleship ministries with specific focus and leadership with our children and families. With unanimous support, the search team will bring a candidate for our consideration January 11-14. Please take note of the scheduled gatherings for you to meet and hear from her. We will vote to offer a call to ministry immediately following worship on January 14. This is a significant moment for our church. Let us be faithful to pray and participate in this process.

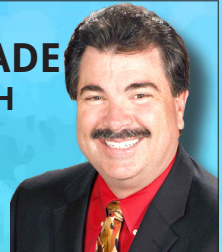
The beginning of a New Year means that our committees and ministry teams are transitioning. Thank you to everyone who served this past year and to everyone who has agreed to serve this year. A special thanks to Deacon Chair, Jerry Chenoweth, and Personnel Chair, Doug Upchurch, who have completed their year of service. Their leadership, support and wisdom have been critical in guiding us through these last months.

January marks the beginning of our sixth month of worshiping together. God continues to be faithful in helping shape our worship expression. I look forward to experiencing God with you each time we gather. The New Year of worship begins on January 7 with the Lord's Supper. I hope that you will join us as we recommit ourselves to the Lord and to each other for the coming year. On January 14, I will bring the Annual Sermon in conjunction with the call weekend for the Minister of Discipleship and Children's candidate. I look forward to sharing with you the areas of life, growth, and focus for our church in 2018.

Our next church conference will be on January 21 following morning worship. Our Trustees will bring a recommendation concerning the sale of property on Eufaula Street. This is an important decision for our church, so please make plans to attend.

Finally, be in prayer for Clint and our youth as Disciple Now Weekend takes place January 5-7. What a great way for our youth to begin the New Year! Pray for our host families and leaders as they spend time with our youth in Bible study, worship, and fellowship.

DR. WADE SMITH



Calendar of Events

1-1

New Year's Day

Church Office and FLC Closed

1-3

Wednesday Evening Activities Resume

1-5

Disciple Now Begins

1-7

Friendship Sunday Supper

4:00 p.m.

Clothing Closet

4:30 p.m.

1-9

WMU

11:30 a.m.

FLC Conference Room

1-13

Upward Basketball Season begins

FLC

1-14

Hands for Harvey Mission Trip

Corpus Christi

Dr. Wade Smith

Finishing Well

With an earlier mailing target this month I want to encourage us as a congregation to Finish 2017 Well!

I wonder if the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 4 could be our words this year? *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.* The final drops of this year are being poured out, and yet these words are always a challenge to consider because I wonder, have I fought the good fight and is my drink offering pleasing to God?

Too often I have the great desire to limit God. Too often I want it my way. Too often I have doubts! But in reality don't we all? Do we really ever evaluate our response and faithfulness to God's call?

I am writing this on December 19 so I have questions on how we will finish the year. How will we finish the year financially? How will we finish the year in seeking God's call to be His church? How will we look with anticipation to the coming year?

This year has brought many challenges to our First Baptist Family and yet God has never failed. Have we been the generous stewards that He calls us to be? Have we met the stranger graciously, have we been involved with God in this year? Today we are less than half way to the needed goal of December budget giving, and yet I have faith that we will respond and have God say, *oh ye of little faith, see what happens when God's people follow my call.*

We have the opportunity to be in better condition financially at the end of 2017 than we have been in several years. But, that will take all of us responding generously as He would have us respond. I look forward to reporting that indeed we finished well!

On January 14, we have a group of 20-plus headed south for a week of ministry to those impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Please pray for our safety, for energy to accomplish much, and that the families we offer assistance to will be responsive to the message of God in their lives. I am excited to work with this great team!

As we look to the closing of another year, I pray that 2017 can resound with fond memories that will lead you to great anticipation and excitement as we move into 2018! Have you seen God move in your life and those around you over the last year? What are you anticipating... even expecting God to do in 2018?

Let us go on the journey seeking God with great anticipation and expectation together next year.



**ROY JOE
HAM**

Minister of Discipleship and Children call weekend planned January 11-14

The Minister of Discipleship and Children search committee is excited to announce a candidate for the church's consideration in view of a call the weekend of January 14.

Due to confidentiality issues in the church she is currently serving, she will be fully introduced to you at that time. Know she comes with great experience in children's ministry and is excited about the potential of leading our discipleship and children's ministry into a new and exciting season ahead.

Please note the following schedule for opportunities to get to know the candidate so you can make an informed decision as we consider the vote to call.

Thursday, January 11

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.: Meet with ministry staff

6:30 p.m.: Meet and greet discipleship workers (focus on youth to adult leaders)

7:00 p.m.: Q & A with discipleship workers

Friday, January 12

5:00 p.m.: Dinner with children workers and leadership

6:30 p.m.: Children family fellowship

7:00 p.m.: Meeting with parents of Children (child care provided)

Saturday, January 13

4:00 p.m.: Meet and greet with full congregation

4:30 p.m.: Congregation Q&A

Sunday, January 14

9:15 a.m.: Children LifeGroups

10:30 a.m.: Testimony given in worship and consider vote to call as our new Minister of Discipleship and Children

Thank you search team for your faithful and prayerful attention to the task. Doug Upchurch, Chair, Jerry Chenoweth, Lisa Edge, Jaime Fields, Peggy Moss, Dr. Bruce Naylor, Lisa Portwood, Buddy Williams, Mike Wilson, Dr. Wade Smith and Roy Joe Ham, ex-officio.

Sounds of Christmas



A special thanks to all who were part of this year's performances of The Sounds Of Christmas concert. It was a magnificent performance and wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of everyone putting in many hours of rehearsal and preparation to help all who came be ushered into the spirit and sounds of Christmas through the arts.



**\$50 for weekend
SignUp at FBCNORMAN.ORG**



On December 13 there was some serious gingerbread house building skills happening in Hallock Hall as all ages gathered for this family tradition.

GINGERBREAD House Build



LORD'S SUPPER JANUARY 7



ANNUAL SERMON JANUARY 14



foundations

Encountering the New Testament

Dr. Wade Smith
beginning
5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 21

Intro to Church History

Dr. Mike Wilson
beginning
6:15 p.m. Wednesday,
January 31

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Church Conference
and Lunch Fellowship
11:30 a.m.
Hallock Hall

21

Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m.

Food Pantry
4:30 p.m.

23

First Christian Bean Lunch
to benefit Health for
Friends
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

28

Dinner with Friends
Kick-off lunch
11:30 a.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1: Marjorie Lewis, Donna Queen, Judy Spearman
January 2: Brad Copelin, Trey Gaylord, Elvis Mahan, Megan Myers
January 3: Max Murphree, Colonel A. Richardson, Pat Trail, Hope Turley, Luke Whitney
January 4: Maxine Cunningham, Lawrence Keith, Robin Nipper, Arlando Reed, Julie Skinner
January 5: Stacy Strevett
January 6: Sue Overton, Robert Roy
January 7: Joy Satterlee, Buddy Williams
January 9: John Bedwell, Mark Dale, Floretta Logan, Genese McCoy, Haydn McDade, Cynthia Reed
January 10: Melanie Jonason, Jennifer Leber, Kim McDade Torres, Justin Mullinax, Jack Shadle
January 11: Cody Caddell, Rusty Grice, Marques Vontress
January 12: Martha McCourry, Max Singleterry
January 13: Patti Barr, Carrol McConnell, Carmen Sinclair, Courtney Soltero
January 14: Jamie Fields, Shirely Geis, Steve Graham, Joshua Holderby, Anita Reed
January 15: Lauren Axton, Caden Long, Mark Long
January 16: Stephen Durham, Steven

Graham, Mary Haning, Jay Jeon, Andrea Neal, Ada Sewell, Kathy Vollgraff
January 17: Kevin Bloss, Betty Buyten, Alice Coker-Camp, Lynn Foreman, Nancy Roley
January 18: Eli Adams, Loretta Smith
January 19: Sophie Dillon, Jacob Dvorak, Lisa Edge, Mary Elwell, Mary Gorton, Pat McCoy
January 20: Kathy Bills, Luke Davis, Priscilla Fennell, Andrew Marang, Gaitha Milligan
January 21: Marva Meador, Nicole Papac
January 22: Joyce Marley, Madeline Storm, Cassidy Sullivan
January 23: Francine Barnard, Kyle Logan, Kenny Sullivan, Neva Weaver
January 24: Barbara Anderson, Robyn Briscoe, Kara Hill, James Hirst, Beth Jackson, Colin Marang, Sheila Myers
January 25: Alan Thrower
January 26: Sallie Kennedy, Grace Chau Le, Wanda Reid, Shanda Scott
January 27: Peggy Alexander, Geary Hunt, Emily Lenhardt, John Smist
January 28: Cody Williams
January 29: Sue Brown, Vicky DeLany, Clay Pattison
January 30: John Cole Jr., Becky Leon, Jordan Probst, Sage Rasmussen
January 31: Jodi Beery, Chris Carlson, Don Farris, Caeden Hatcher, Tom James

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

LETTERS TO FIRST BAPTIST

Dear FBC,

As we read cards from the staff, prayer meeting, Palla and friends, we felt surrounded by faces of all of you — faces that reflect God's love. God, and your prayers, has comforted us during this time of tragedy.

Rebecca and Loren have been Christians for years and very active at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Lawton, and they were faithful until death. With smiles on their faces they welcomed everyone into

their lives and reached out to all, with no exceptions.

We thank the Lord that they went to Heaven together. Their children remind us to pray for the man who took their lives, and that is difficult at times, but they would have forgiven him.

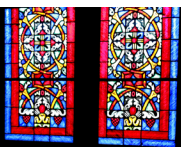
We are to be gifts to each other as Christ is a gift to us, your prayers are our gift.

Sincerely,
 Shelba and Dale McGowen

SYMPATHIES

First Baptist Church would like to extend sympathies to:
 Jim and Judy Spearman
 at the passing of Judy's sister,
 Patricia Sue Cargill.

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**Church Conference
 and Lunch**
 January 21 11:30 a.m.
 Hallock Hall



**SignUp will begin
 soon for
 Dinner With Friends***

**Formerly Dinner For 8*