Easter 2016 is a season of Come and See at First Baptist.

Come and See the mighty works of God! Come and See what God is doing in worship. Come and See what God is doing in LifeGroups and Bible study. Come and See what God is doing in ministry and fellowship.

Easter proclaims that God has and continues to do mighty things. We must be faithful to tell our stories and to invite others to know the power of His resurrection.

Come and See what God is doing in Norman to bring the Body of Christ together. The annual noon Lenten services are underway. This year Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Christian, Presbyterian, and Church of Christ churches and pastors are giving witness that what we share in common is greater than our differences.

First Baptist will host Father Jim Goins of St. Thomas More Parish on Wednesday, March 2. Let's be great hosts and welcome our brothers and sisters in Norman to worship. I will be preaching at NorthHaven Church on March 23. I hope to see you there as well.

In addition, I recently met with several young evangelical pastors to pray for our churches and community. I believe God wants to do some new things in Norman to strengthen and unify the Body of Christ.

Come and See what God is doing in worship during Holy Week. On Thursday evening, March 24, our worship choir and orchestra will present Requiem for the Living. This beautiful and powerful music will be presented in Latin, with English interpretation.

On Good Friday, our **Secret Church** service at Common Ground will take us to the Upper Room and

the Lord's Supper. And on Easter Sunday, we will combine our praise team, choir, and orchestra for a majestic celebration of worship at 10:50 a.m. We are still planning



Dr. Wade Smith

the 8:30 a.m. service, but it will be uniquely different from the late service. You may want to attend both!

One of the things I am increasingly aware of is the number of people who regularly attend First Baptist outside of Sunday morning. We have literally hundreds of people who come to First Baptist during the week through our community partnerships, fee-based ministries, playground and Family Life Center activities.

Many of these folks have no church home. Or, better said, we are their church home. As such, we must be more committed to welcoming and reaching these folks and inviting them to Come and See the wonderful things God is doing among us in worship, spiritual formation, and ministry. The Mission Field is here!

MissionFest is on Sunday, March 6 during the LifeGroup hour. Breakfast will be available beginning at 9:15 a.m. in Hallock Hall. Tables will be set up to highlight the work of some of our ministry partners. Beyond our denominational partners, FBC supports and participates with likeminded ministries and ministers in sharing and living out the gospel.

About 9:45 a.m., we will have a brief report from our Missions

Team. Then, at 10:00 a.m., we will enter into Church Conference. This conference is important because we will vote on recommendations from several committees on issues like our Ministry Plan and Nominating Committee Report. This will be a fun and informative morning. Please make plans to participate.

One of the recommendations on March 6 will come from our Deacon Nominating Team. With the support of the Deacon Ministry Team, they will recommend three new deacons: David Dillon, Carol Kellison, and Carter Sanders. All three offer a strong witness of faith in Christ and support the ministries of First Baptist through their servant-leadership and generosity.

David was ordained before moving to Norman. Carol and Carter will be ordained upon their affirmation from the church. As a church we are blessed by the service and wisdom of our deacons. I look forward to David, Carol, and Carter becoming part of our Deacon Ministry Team.

Easter is the most significant day of the year! I look forward to worshiping with you as we prepare for and anticipate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. The emotions from Palm Sunday to Easter are striking and conflicting. The celebration of Palm Sunday, the despair and betrayal of Maundy Thursday, the hopelessness of Good Friday, and finally the joy and victory of Sunday morning. All of these are necessary. Let us be present with Christ each step of the way. It is our sin He carries. It is our death He experiences. It is His life we receive on Easter Sunday. Christ the Lord is Risen! Indeed! I can't wait!

> Come and See! Dr. Wade Smith

March holds many events, changes for FBC

March is an exciting time in the life at FBC and in the community around us. This year it seems that it may really be an earlier Spring, but consider all that happens this March.

On March 6, we will have a church conference to consider the Ministry Plan for the coming year, consider the recommendations of the Committee on Committees, new Deacons, Trust Committee report, etc. We need you to mark that morning during LifeGroups as a priority for your day of worship and fellowship of our faith family.

Spring Break will involve the FirstFamily RoadTrip, vacation time for some and time to take a deep breath before the dash to finish the academic year.

Then, it's Holy Week with special worship services, the celebration of resurrection and an opportunity to invite, even bring, visitors to *Come and See* what God is doing in our midst.

I am excited about what our new church year will bring as our family considers the Ministry Plan and approves our lay leadership for the next year. Sometimes you just have to say thank you God, and thank you to members who are ready to serve.

Many of you have served on our Committee on Committees in the past and know at times it is a very long, painstaking and sometimes



Roy Joe Ham

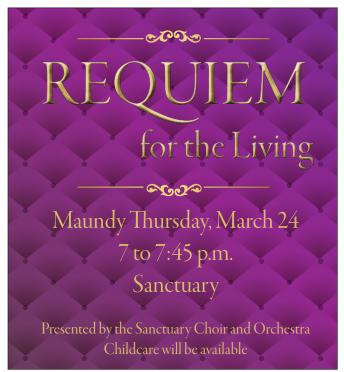
frustrating season to find people to fill necessary leadership positions. I want to say thank you to this year's team, you the members, and express gratitude for a God movement in our church.

All the committee work was accomplished in two weeks. Thank you to all who so readily responded with a resounding yes. To me, it is a sign that our church is ready to serve, ready to act, ready to be about what God has for us, and that is exciting. Are you ready to be a part of God's action among us?

I also want to thank our ministers and their ministry teams for the hard work in evaluating our financial needs to conduct ministry here. I can assure you that the Ministry Plan you will consider on March 6 has been prayed over, considered and necessary to complete the ministry vision for the next year. Certainly it not only requires your approval, but it requires God's blessing and your continued faithfulness to continue your great generosity as a people.

God seeks a response from all in this family to be about the ministry and its support. I hope you will assume your appropriate role and find your place of ministry this year. We need you, we need all of you, to find your place. *Come and See*, but, also, come and become!

Finally consider these words penned by Richard Wilkins: *Miracles start to happen when you give as much energy to your dreams as you do to your fears.* In our case, possibly better placed, miracles start to happen when you give energy to God's call through faith, as you do to your fears and doubts. Join with me in the steps we need to take to give our energy to God-sized plans. It is a joy to be on that journey with you.





The art of the gift

We are in the midst of our season of Lent... the season of repentance, reflection, and finding our way back to the God who waits for us. It is during this season when I think most about whether or not I'm doing any good in this world.

Have you ever received that perfect gift? The one you weren't expecting... and didn't even know you wanted until you saw it and then you knew that it was indeed the perfect gift. What a great feeling!

Have you ever given the perfect gift? When Jill and I became parents for the first time nearly 20 years ago, I am not sure we had ever realized the joy that can be found in giving until we saw our Britton open a present and completely lose his mind because of what he discovered. I was terribly sad when he ran out of presents to

open on that wonderfully joyful day. I discovered a new giggle, both in him and me, that I hadn't previously heard.

Obviously, when I think about gifts, I go straight to remembering



Kirk Hatcher

those presents from a Christmas or a birthday. BUT what about our everyday giving? What if we were to treat every day as a gift... and then became stewards of that gift and tried our very best, with God's leading, to give that gift away. When we make another's day a little brighter we have given a gift. When we pay for the family in line behind us at the fast-food restaurant, we have given a gift.

When we sit down to a cup of tea with someone just so they can say what is on their mind, we have given a gift.

And believe it or not, when you share your smile with someone, it's a gift!

If we could, for a moment, imagine how God might use us if we decided that we are going to be gift-givers, I think we would forever be changed.

During this Lenten season, won't you join me in setting aside our own needs for the needs of others? Let's create a world where we are all desperately trying to give a gift to everyone we meet. Sound impossible? I'll answer for us... yes! AND we can start heading that direction by finding creative ways to share one gift today. I promise, if you offer me a gift, especially of your time, I will gladly accept.

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC,

As the song reminds us: How can we say thanks for the expressions of love our church has shown to our family?

Your prayers during these months, phone calls, loving cards, wonderful meals, memorials in Bob's memory and the beautiful flowers, express to us such love of Jesus in you. Through Christ we can say "To God be the glory."

Ellen Wood, Doug and Cecilia Crews' family

John and Katrina Young's family

Dear FBC,

Thank you very much for your church's contribution. Your gift aids Baptists worldwide in their mission to spread the Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Thanks to your congregation, we are able to provide relief to refugees and to equip widows and young women with skills they need to earn a living. You are giving a voice to the oppressed and dispossessed through BWA's consultative status at the United Nations.

Your partnership is making a real difference in the world, wherever Baptists

minister in the name of Jesus.

Neville Callam, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary

Dear FBC,

Thank you to all who have so graciously helped us in dealing with our house fire.

Your gifts, prayers, advice and encouragement have been such a support. I think we have been a little overwhelmed with all that you have done.

Thank you so much, Beth and Mike Wilson



Associational Disaster Relief Ministry Training

March 12 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Regency Park Baptist Church, Moore 2001 N. Janeway Ave. Cost: \$5 for new volunteers (includes lunch, cap and ID badge)

Must be at least 18 years old
New volunteers are required to attend Introduction
to Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and Feeding Unit Training

Holy Week activities announced

Holy Week activities at First **Baptist Church** will begin with a major musical work, **REQUIEM** for the

Living, on Maundy

Thursday, March 24, from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

The event will be held in the Sanctuary and is presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra. Childcare will be available.

Secret Church will be held on Good Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m. at Common Ground.

This year's Sonshine Celebration will be March 26,

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The celebration is in FBC's Playground and will include Easter eggs and a provided lunch.

On Easter Sunday, March 27, worship schedules will change slightly.

Early worship will be at 8:30 a.m. At 9:15 a.m. there will be a fellowship time, leading into the 9:40 a.m. LifeGroups. Late worship will be at 10:50 a.m.

For more information about Holy Week services at First Baptist, visit fbcnorman.org.





Services begin at noon. A \$5 lunch is served at 12:35 p.m.



March 2 First Baptist Church 211 W. Comanche St.

Guest Pastor: Jim Goins St. Thomas More University Parish



March 16 First Christian Church 220 S. Webster Ave.

Guest Pastor: Jeannie Himes St. Stephens United Methodist



March 9 St. Joseph's Catholic Church 211 N. Porter

Guest Pastor: Tracy Evans Memorial Presbyterian Church



March 23 NorthHaven Church 4600 36th Ave NW

Guest Pastor: Wade Smith First Baptist Church of Norman

At the conclusion of each worship service, an offering will be taken for Cleveland County Habitat For Humanity, a faith-based organization working toward the goal of eliminating substandard housing in Cleveland County.

Candidates for FBC Deacons announced, voting to be March 6

The following bios are those that belong to First Baptist Church Deacon candidates. During church conference on March 6, members will be asked to affirm these individuals as Deacon.

Carol Kellison

Carol Kellison was born in Fort

Worth, Texas, living in Fort Worth, Houston, and Tulsa prior to coming to Norman to attend the University of Oklahoma.

She accepted Christ as her Savior while her family attended First Baptist Church



Carol Kellison

Bellaire, Texas. A few months later, her public profession of faith was made when her parents and sister transferred their membership to Memorial Baptist Church, Tulsa. At OU, Carol earned a BS in nursing and an MBA. She worked for Griffin Memorial Hospital for 35 years, retiring February 2015.

Carol was widowed in 2005 and has one son, Wesley, who lives in Los Angeles.

Carol joined First Baptist Church Norman in 1993. She was a member of the Mary James Class and was blessed by the mentorship Mary provided to her "girls."

Carol has served FBC through the Food Service, Personnel and Strategic Planning Committees. She has participated in short term mission trips to New Orleans and Chiang Mai Thailand. She is a member of the Discover First Life Group.

"It is an honor to be nominated for service to FBC as a deacon and recognized for God's gifts and call to serve. Being called to the Deacon Ministry of FBC provides an opportunity to enrich my personal journey with Christ Jesus through service to His Church," Carol said.

David Dillon

David Dillon was born in Lorain,

Ohio. He grew up in Albuquerque, N.M., and El Paso, Texas.

David accepted Christ in Texas in August 1979 and was baptized in October 1994.

David and Chong Hui were married September



David Dillon

26, 1987. Chong Hui runs a daycare in Norman. They have two daughters, Christy, 27, and Sophia, 22.

David retired from the U.S. Air Force in May 1998. He served five years in South Korea and 15 years in California, Texas, and Oklahoma.

For more than 30 years, David and Chong Hui have served the Lord at 10 different churches. David served as a Deacon at two churches performing various Deacon duties.

David and Chong Hui joined First Baptist Church Norman in 2012. David sings in the choir, serves on the Hospitality Team, attends the Upper Room Sunday school class and is involved in the Korean Church.

David's interests are family, sports and exercising with his Chihuahua.

"Serving as a deacon gives me an opportunity to be more involved in helping the church pastors and church staff, to lighten their heavy load and grow the body of Christ. Also to serve others through duties pointed out in scripture and imitate Christ, being an example to believers and unbelievers," David said.



Carter Sanders

Our family moved to Norman in

2009 and quickly made FBC our church home.

My wife, Pascha, our four kids, and I have been involved in our Sunday schools and served throughout the church.



Carter Sanders

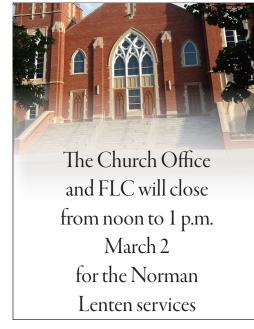
year we've begun providing foster

In the last

care and look forward to integrating that into our service at FBC.

At FBC the Lord has given us a strong community of believers that have been great witnesses to the Gospel and taken great care of our family.

"Being nominated to become a Deacon is a great honor. While at FBC I've gotten to witness how integral the Deacons are to the mission of the church. They serve in many capacities but the ministry that interests me the most is shepherding. Shepherding is working one-on-one with individuals and families in our congregation that need additional assistance, and is one of the most basic calls in the Gospel." Carter said.



Spaces still available for October Holy Land trip

First Baptist Church is traveling to the Holy Land in October. This trip of a lifetime will be led by Wade and Gay Smith from October 4-15.

Your itinerary includes a sunset on the Mediterranean Coast at Caesarea, a morning visit to Mt. Carmel, walking the streets of Nazareth, experiencing a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, enjoying a time of prayer at the Mount of Beatitudes, traveling the Jordan Valley to Jericho, bathing in the Dead Sea, baptisms in the Jordan River, visiting the place of Christ's birth, standing at the Garden Tomb, and



Vickie Riggs

exploring the city of Jerusalem.

There are still spaces available. For itineraries and additional information, call the Family Life Center, 360-5300.

Plan to join us March 20 at 5:30 p.m. in B-20 for our second Holy Land Bible Series with Pastor Wade.

The Holy Land adventure is sponsored by Adults 55+ ministry but is open to all adults.

Spring Break should be a time of spiritual renewal for students

I remember looking forward to Spring Break when I was a student. The biggest thing I looked forward to was not having to go to school.

Some years, that meant I was going skiing with my church group. Some years, that meant I was sitting on my couch for an entire week, watching the NCAA tournament. Some years, that meant I was going on a mission trip.

I appreciate the rhythm of life of a student, because it takes serious commitment for students to stop and take a break. John Stott said that he needed an hour a day, a day a week, and a week a year set aside for the purposes of spiritual renewal. For some students, Spring Break is their week every year.

Life for our students has changed. With the expectations of our



students increasing by the year, many of them have become overstretched and overcommitted in their activities and jobs. Whereas church used to be

the place that was the center of the community's schedule, today it is an afterthought by those who schedule activities. While closing Pandora's box might sound like an enticing activity to attempt, it will most likely be unsuccessful.

Instead, I wonder if we can call our students to be God's representatives in their schools in a very focused manner for 51 weeks of the year. Then, we help them have one week for focused spiritual renewal. Will you pray for them, that they would find God in this week?

Mentors help communities grow stronger

As Pastor Wade discussed in a recent sermon, children in our community face so many challenges and the issues seem insurmountable. Regardless of the issue however, one thing is constant: The impact of mentors.

Mentors help to prevent human trafficking. They help to reduce the risk of teenage pregnancies, gang involvement and drug use. They help improve grades as well as emotional and social skills, reducing the likelihood that another child will drop out before graduating. Mentors help break the cycle.

Please join with our current mentors



Angela Atkins

as we serve in Lincoln Elementary. Join with us as a mentor, and join with each of us in prayer.

Current Kids Hope USA mentors include: Scott Linn, Mary Jane Gorton, Trish Rigney, Barbara James, Kathryn Malthanar, Kathy Greb, Carol Kellison, Sharon Hoskison, Cathy Gilmore,

Julie Myers, Julie Lesser, Brandon Arrington, Randy Reist, Hannah Jones, Sallie Kennedy, Stephen Graham, Emily Lenhardt and Josh Edge. Substitute mentors are Cindy Ramey, Clint Taylor, Neva Weaver and Gail Schwabe.

SECHRET CHURCH Good Friday March 25 7 p.m. Common Ground



MissionFest

During the LifeGroup hour Breakfast will be served at 9:15 a.m. in Hallock Hall.

Church Conference
Will begin at 10 a.m.

Lent vs. Spring Break

On the academic calendar, March contains the most notorious and rowdy of all college breaks. You know the one I'm talking about: Spring Break.

For many students across the globe it's a time of indulgence, running free and throwing caution to the wind. But what if I tell you this year can be different? What if I tell you the Christian, Liturgical calendar presents an option that stands in stark antithesis to the norm of culture?

Allow me to introduce you to the season of Lent, which began on Ash

Wednesday and continues 40 days to the start of Holy Week, culminating in the celebration of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Whereas a typical Spring Break offers promiscuity, Lent seeks penance.

Where culture and peer pressure push for self-centeredness and



Chris Canary

debauchery, Lent summons prayer and fasting.

Many of us, myself included, are far beyond our college years, but I suspect there's still temptation to leave Lent behind. I wonder what will happen if we each orientate ourselves – even if it's just a little more than usual – toward Christ, the cross and the resurrection this year? And what if, perhaps, we cultivate a safe place where students can explore the tenants of prayer, penance and fasting together?

Maundy Thursday Requiem planned

One of the weeks I look forward to the most each year is Holy Week. As I study and reflect annually on the last week of Jesus's life on earth, I can't help but think about the wide range of emotions He and those around Him must have experienced.

The week begins full of joy and celebration as Jesus is anointed in Bethany and makes His way into Jerusalem for the Triumphal Entry. But that joy is short lived as the week progresses to Peter's denial, Judas's betrayal, and the Last Supper. Then there is the sentencing, torturing, beating and horrific death by crucifixion. Sadness, despair, and hopelessness begin to set in. The grieving begins.

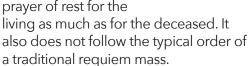
But that grieving soon turns back into joy and celebration as the women go to anoint the body of Jesus but find the tomb empty and the risen Christ appears to a number of His followers. He's alive!

Here at First Baptist Norman, we will have several opportunities to experience the events and emotions of Holy Week. The event I'm looking forward to the most is our Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra's presentation of Requiem For the Living, by Dan Forrest.

A requiem, by definition, is a token of remembrance for the deceased in the form of a musical composition.

The works have most often been used

in the Roman
Catholic Church as
a mass and many
famous composers
have composed
requiems such as
Mozart, Brahms,
Verdi, and Faure'.
The Forrest Requiem
is different in that it
was composed as a
prayer of rest for the





Chad Smith

I chose this work for our Maundy Thursday worship experience because I think it will really help us identify with the vast emotions of Holy Week as a church family. I also think it will provide hope, peace, and sanctuary for those in our church family who are struggling and desperately searching for peace in the midst of intense grief, trials, and suffering.

I hope you will make plans to attend what promises to be a very beautiful and moving worship experience on March 24 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Childcare will be provided.



March Birthdays

March 1: Maggie Brown, Darline Burris, Michael Carson, Alicia Danner, Mary Ann Hedrick, Ardyth Jimerson, Peyton Smith

March 2: Peyton Beery, Rebecca Clinton, Jim Harp, Deborah Linn, Jerry McConnell, Cody Turbeville

March 3: Jacqueline Fatola, Fred Queen, Janet Schaffner, Ann Vickers

March 4: Camryn Cheshier, Carman Dobbs, Teresa O'Neal, Jennifer Sigler, Bart Wharton

March 5: Martha Childers, Cal Milliron, Brady

Newville, Jamie Ragland

March 6: Chesca Baily, Jeff Duncan, Lydia Ham, Allison Lassetter, Brooke Redwine, Lauren Rigney, Justin Yang

March 7: Joe Provine, Dick Weaver

March 8: Benson Diehm, Bob Hartsock, Addison Mullinax, Emerson Mullinax, David Prater, Trish Rigney, Don Symcox

March 9: Lynne Chesley, Whitney Michael, Haddie Weatherholt

March 10: Sybil Foster

March 11: Harold Brooks, Ray Brown, Wayne Busma, Angelina Franklin, Lindsay LaBeau, Alexander Petts, Vickie Riggs, Ellen Simpson

March 12: Wallace Conerly, Marlene Hoyt, Wade Newville, Lea Ann Williams, Tom Wilson

March 13: Don Allen, Carolyn Ellis, Jeff Harp, Freddie Livesay, Robert Vaca, Cyndi Williamson March 14: Dean Brown, Kurt McGuire, Alison

Reddick, James Smiley, Katie Thompson, Kay Vaughan, Janann Yeager

March 15: Linda Hopper, Don Jimerson, Steve Sewell

March 16: Josie Armstrong, Kay Pirtle

March 17: Jennifer Bowles, James Callison, Jordan Heatly, Kody Hudson, Becky Lenington, Hudson Long, Janette Marks

March 18: Erin Clancy, Sarah Pool, Rebecca Vanderburg, Dan Wade

March 19: Laurie Boeh, Cory Dickinson, David Fields

March 20: Marilyn Bedwell, Jami Martin March 21: Jennifer Davis, Ken Franklin, Sharon Hemker, Stacy Matthews, Philip Redwine Sr., Manoucheh Sartipi

March 22: Taylor Lovell, James Spearman, Ellen Wood

March 23: Zach Allen, Bobby Barnard, Clay Faison, Jeremy Foor, Kathy Greb, Aaron Horstkoetter, April Vickers, Shanna Vincent, Elizabeth Windes

March 24: George Dannehl, Janice Hill, Kenneth Kelly, Madeline Smith, Pat Wilson March 25: Kendra Diehm, Omeda Lawson,

Jean Marseille, Trace Myers

March 26: Becky Dyson, Ron Minnix, Larry

March 27: Hannah Fields, Palla Henderson, Pati Huffman, David Little, Kayla Nicholson, Fran Sexton

March 28: Dawn Fisher, Dana Heatly March 29: Donnie Benedix, Ian Kelly, Jack Ladd, Tim Martin, Gayle McNitt, Allison Neal, Carter Sanders, Gynonne Smith, Jenny Storm,

March 30: Amy Arnold, James Griffith, Jennifer Jazz, Christina Owen, Robb Royse

March 31: Blake Hilgenfeld, Pablo Soltero, Ina St. John

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

At FI

Sympathies

First Baptist Church would like to extend our sympathies to the followina:

Dr. Marcus Weatherall at the passing of his mother, Gloria Weatherall

Robert Lehr at the passing of his wife, Rosalie Lehr

Lori, Tyler & Kelsey Couch at the passing of Lori's mother, Martha Kliewer

Carlos, Mary, Jarred Elwell and Meredith Elwell-Webb at the passing of Mary's mother, Patricia McMahon

Brent, Angela, Mackenzie, Brandon Marguardt, and Madison Marguardt-Symonds at the passing of Angela's grandmother, Louise Glenn

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