



At First Glance

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

I was in St. Louis on a recent Saturday in preparation for the SBC Pastors Conference beginning Sunday afternoon. I decided to venture out Sunday morning to the nearest FBC. I googled their website and found what I needed to know.

As I approached the church that morning, I turned into the first parking lot I came to, not sure where to go. There were several spots available, but I quickly surmised that I was in the back of the church and not in the main parking area. I parked and not knowing where to go, followed a couple into a hallway with several classrooms, guessing the stairs would take me to the sanctuary. At the top of the stairs, I approached an usher who gave me a bulletin and said, "Good morning."

I made my way into the fan-shaped sanctuary, sitting in one of the center sections about a third of the way down in the middle of a pew. I was about 10-15 minutes early and watched as the congregation of 500-600 entered for worship. I noticed folks of all ages.

The fellowship was rich with laughter and conversation. People greeted each other with warmth. The multi-generational family in front of me filled the entire pew. They were glad to be together in worship.

I enjoyed a meaningful morning of worship, but I'm not sure that I would go back. With the exception of the usher, who I approached, not one person spoke to me the entire morning. I was surrounded by people talking, laughing, embracing, and worshipping, yet not one word. I wondered if anyone cared that I was there. The warmth of their fellowship was visible, but came off as exclusive instead of inclusive.

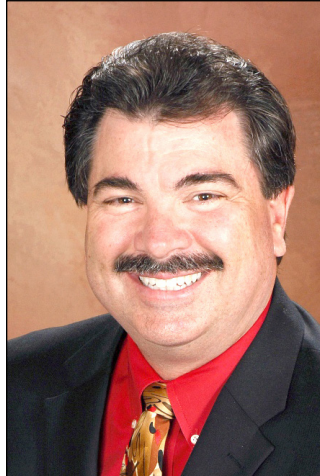
With the final "Amen," I made my way out of the sanctuary, down the stairs, into the parking lot, invisible to the folks around me.

I wonder how our guests experience FBC Norman? Do they find our website informative and inviting? Is parking convenient? (I appreciate our staff and others who intentionally park at the back of the parking lot so that our closer parking is available to seniors, guests and families with small children.)

Do people know where to go when they arrive? (I am grateful for greeters and ushers who welcome and assist everyone who enters the church and sanctuary.)

But, still, these are the expected systems that all churches should have. The difference is found in the sanctuary, hallways, classrooms and parking lots when hospitality and friendliness are not programmed, but a natural expression of community. Visitors discern fairly quickly if they are genuinely welcome and if there is a place for them.

How do visitors experience FBC? I hear from many of our guests how friendly we are and how they were welcomed with open arms. I also hear stories of folks that have similar experiences to the one I had in St. Louis. One week I received a note from



Dr. Wade Smith

a visitor who was told by two of our members that he was sitting in their pew.

The truth is, you determine how a visitor experiences FBC. Take a few moments before worship to greet those around you. Introduce our guests to a staff member or friend. Together we can make sure that everyone who comes to FBC is welcome and feels part of this family, even if for a week.

On July 3, Independence weekend, we will have a wonderful worship service at 10:50 a.m. with baptism and music led by our choir, orchestra, and praise team.

The abbreviated Meditations service at 8:30 a.m. will feature a short Meditation on Liberty by Chris Canary. Everyone is invited to a fellowship breakfast on the front lawn at 9:15 a.m. before LifeGroups begin at 9:40 a.m. Please join us.

The Patriotic Concert was a wonderful evening of fellowship and outreach to our community. We were all disappointed about the thunderstorm cutting short the concert. Thanks to Chad and the Worship Arts team of musicians, vocalists, readers, and technicians. A special thanks to those who helped us pack and load everything during the downpour.

July marks the midpoint of summer. Vacation Bible School begins July 11 and our high school youth leave for Mountain Camp on July 16. SMAK begins August 1. I trust you have found your place to be involved.

We continue to read daily and preach weekly through the Proverbs, seeking Wisdom for Life. Let's be faithful during these hot days of summer.

Reflecting on eight years at First Baptist Norman

As I sit here writing today, I celebrate the beginning of my ninth year of ministry at FBCN.

As I reflect on the last eight years, I understand how quickly time passes before us. God has been, and continues to be, active in our very presence. Yet, I wonder how much we miss in the busyness of life.

During this season God has brought many new lives and families into the FBC family who have found a home and become involved in many exciting ways. Certainly God has called home, what seems to us, far too many who had impacted us personally as well as the life of our church. Many of us experienced new life in our families and all the joy that brings.

Many also see new aches and pains, as well as new challenges of life as we age. I invite you to join me in a season of reflecting on the many ways God is, and has been, active in our lives, and acknowledge how He is at work. As we reflect on this together I also pray that we can understand that we need to share what God is doing here, bring our friends and neighbors, and welcome visitors as we invite

them to become a part of that excitement. This is the opportunity, even the call, for each of us.

One of the ways God has moved and allowed us to partner with Him has been the facility upgrades that have been made possible with your response to Him in your generosity through Ignite. Three years of discussion among more than 100 members who were actively involved in evaluating our facility needs, family meetings with the larger congregation, and your faithful generosity. All of that led to four years ago this August when we had our Ignite kickoff events, followed by a season of commitment and generous giving.

You pledged funds to complete the east wing renovations, including the new elevator tower, youth hall updates, general safety upgrades, youth, adult, choir suite and office upgrades. Since we began Ignite,



Roy Joe Ham

\$3,125,190 has been given (end of May) and that is above a stable giving record to our regular ministry plan (budget). Praise God for your faithfulness.

Today we continue to give toward the construction loan balance of \$146,295. The generosity and faithfulness of the many who made this possible is more than exciting. I hope in the coming weeks that we can gain a vision to join God in completing the task that He began among us, and allow us to acknowledge His faithfulness exhibited through His people and see that loan amount paid in full. I hope that you will be one of the many who can say, *I responded and joined with this family of faith in response to what God is about here in this place.*

As you go about your summer activities I pray that you find time and space to worship God. There are many more ministry opportunities here for you to find a place to serve, great worship to participate in, and a need to grow together.

The last eight years have been a blessing to journey alongside you. I look forward to all that God still has in store for us together.

Volunteers still needed for SMAK musical camp

SMAK 2016 is quickly approaching. It is sure to be an awesome week full of fun music and activities.

We still have room for several children, completed kindergarten through completed fifth grade, to register for this camp which is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. August 1-5. The general registration deadline is July 18.

The registration deadline for those who would like to audition for a drama role or solo is July 11. You may register online or at the Family Life Center.

As we prepare for SMAK, we

still need several volunteers to serve on the leadership team. We currently have leadership needs in drama, choreography, props, set design/ construction, kitchen/snacks, costuming, Bible study, daily check in/out, group leaders/helpers and afternoon activity helpers.

If you'd like to be a part of the leadership team or have any SMAK



Chad Smith

related questions, send an email to chads@fbcnorman.org or call the church office.

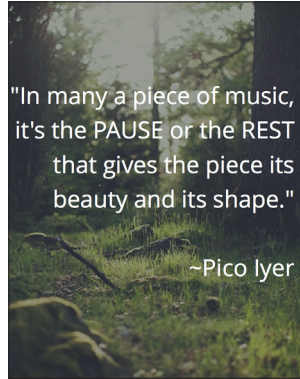
CONTRIBUTIONS TO DATE: \$3,125,190
LOAN BALANCE: \$146,295

Technology and Sabbath

For some of us, removing the phone from our hand remains a near-impossible task. Think about it... in our very hand, we are able to get information quickly... almost too quickly. We can check OU scores, we can see movie times and then purchase the tickets to the movie to which we want to go, we can communicate with our families, and we can turn on and off our lights. These phones are handy.

If you've spent any time around me, you know I may have the hardest time of all setting down my tech. While I feel like most of what I'm doing when I use my tech is helpful, not just for me, but for others, I realize that I have to learn to set these things to the side on occasion.

What we're learning through research is that the more time we spend using our tech, the more capable we become in analyzing large amounts of data quickly. We are learning that our brains change as we continue to use our tech like this. We are training our brains to see a headline or a title and know immediately if it's helpful or not. Because of this we are having difficulty spending any amount of time in deep thought or in reading anything longer than a few minutes. Herein lies the problem...



In order to participate in the practice of Sabbath, we must be able to spend more than a few minutes in rest... the kind of rest that allows for meditation or deep reading or focusing on one particular person in our family for an extended period of time. We (and I'm talking to me first) need to learn how to set down our tech... to intentionally rest our eyes, our brain from scattered thinking. By the way, what we're also learning through research is that this is good for our health. We sleep better when we decide to set aside all tech for the few hours



Kirk Hatcher

prior to our head hitting the pillow.

It seems like it might just be worth it to set our tech down as a way to practice Sabbath. Rather than setting them down for an entire day, what might happen if we set them down for the two hours prior to our bedtime each night for a week? I know it may sound like an impossible task, but might it be worth it enough to at least give it a try?

Let me know how it goes.

foundations

conversations in scripture and faith

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

beginning
Wednesday
nights this
Fall!

more information will be available in August!



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.

Beginning September 2016
(Watch for additional information in next month's issue)



Patriotic Concert

First summer



*Science
Camp*



Living in the slow lane

A year ago, I was preparing to take my first group of students to Falls Creek. People had tried to explain the scale and scope of what I was about to experience, but there's no way to experience it other than in person.

The second year, I thought I knew what to expect. I thought we would take a great group of students, facilitate a great time of Bible study, worship with an incredible band, spend some great times quietly alone with God, and play some silly (but great) games along the way.

But I was reminded that camp was and is so much more than just those activities. It was in the unexpected

times that our students seemed to truly experience God and each other in a new way.

During afternoon free time, it was life-giving to watch students who are so used to a certain fast pace of life choose to hammock and read together. I asked one of them when the last time was that they had unscheduled time, and they couldn't remember. Christmas was their best guess.



Rich Lubbers

Some of our students fell in love with God all over again this week. At least one decided to commit to doing his best to follow God for the rest of his life. Another had a significant experience that was completely different than he had ever had before.

Thank you for investing in our students. And thank you for continuing to invest in leaders who sometimes need to be reminded that God acts, even when leaders are caught up in running around, hurriedly facilitating activities, sometimes failing to see God acting already in their midst.

On Vision

When was the last time you really wanted to go somewhere or really wanted to do something? I'm not talking about the general feeling of wanting to go home or get out of class early. I'm talking about something bigger. It's the kind of something that summons you deeper; the kind of something that draws you out of static life and gets you moving.

Recently, I attended the wedding of a dear college friend who I'd not seen in years. They had a beautiful ceremony, but two things caught my attention above all others. The first was the manner in which Beth, the bride, walked into the sanctuary with sole intent and purpose. She knew why she was there and I think it was that one thing that gave her such grace and confidence to climb the steps and enter into the covenant of marriage.

The second thing that caught my attention was Nick's vows. He had always had a way with pencil and paper, and his written words danced before my imagination. In a very real sense, Nick painted a picture with just the right words of what a marriage like theirs could look like.

Then I realized what had happened and why everyone in attendance held on to his every word: Nick cast a vision, clear and vivid. A vision in which the bride and groom could take pride and chase with all their might in hopes of one day taking hold of it together.

Here at FBC, our mission is to love people wherever they are and to live as followers of Jesus Christ. Most of us know that one by heart, but have you ever read the church's vision statement? It's on our website, fbcnorman.org, and reads:

We envision a thriving church, ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of all people through programs, services and facilities that help us accomplish God's plan. Living as believers in Christ, we will magnify God, teach God's word, and nurture people along their spiritual journey.

I don't know about you, but that's something to which I'm willing to



Chris Canary

commit. I want to see this church thrive; I want to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of all people; I want to magnify God, teach God's word, and nurture people along their spiritual journey. The question, then, is this: Will you join me? And will you join the University Ministry as we daily uncover what it means to be part of this church family at First Baptist, Norman?

I hope you will; now, let's go.



Kids Hope USA mentors needed for Lincoln school

As we get to the month of July, my thoughts start turning back to the upcoming school year, and for FBC Norman that means the kickoff of another year of our Kids Hope USA mentoring program at Lincoln Elementary.

Our Kids Hope USA mentors are paired with an at risk student at the school to help them socially, emotionally, and academically through one-on-one mentoring sessions for one hour each week.

Our faithful mentors build positive relationships with these children,

helping them know that they matter. They provide the extra attention they need and crave, and in return gain a new friend.

My goal this year is to have at least 24 mentors and to have at least two mentors per classroom. This will not only provide extra support for children who need it most, but also will provide each teacher with two



Angela Atkins

adults to encourage and pray for them throughout the week.

To be a mentor, you must commit to one hour a week for the school year, be able to read, have a passion to help children in need, and have transportation to the school. Our mentors must also be members or regular attenders of FBC Norman and pass a criminal background check.

A Kids Hope USA information packet, which includes an application, is available in the media rack outside the church library. We would love to have you join our team.

UPWARD BASKETBALL

There are still spaces open in the Upward Basketball Camp July 25-28

- 6-8 year olds
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- 9-12 year olds
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

GOLFERS
SIGN UP FOR A GOLF OUTING

SAT JULY 9 2016

CALL THE **FLC**
FOR DETAILS
360-5300

MISSOURI MEDLEY TRIP

Sept. 12-16

DEADLINE FOR SIGNUP IS AUGUST 5
DETAILED ITINERARIES
AT THE FLC

The Church Office and FLC will be closed on **Monday, July 4**

RACE TO WIN

SMAK Music Camp
August 1-5
\$100 per camper
For more information, email chads@fbcnorman.org
Registration Deadline: July 18

FALL REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 1

GYMNASTICS

CLASSES WILL BE TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Lots of travel options headed your way

Travel, how do you define the word? Webster defines the word travel as "making a journey," "going from one place to another."

Our Adults 55+ will sponsor two journeys this September and December. We will go from one place to another. But it will be much more. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, *Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.* So as we will go from one place to another, we will make it a journey and maybe leave some trails along the way.

Our two adventures include:

September 12-16

Missouri Medley and More!

St. Louis, Kansas City, Truman and Eisenhower Presidential libraries and museums, George Washington Carver homestead, Arabia Steamboat Museum, Two Major League Baseball games plus a touch of France and Sweden.

We will explore St. Genevieve, Mo., on the Mississippi River, visit the Swedish town of Lindsborg, Kan., discover the mysteries of the Arabia Steamboat and spend time with the Cardinals, Cubs, Royals and Athletics. Detailed itineraries are available at the Family Life Center.

The deposit is due on or before July 5 and the final payment is due August 1. Transportation is by motorcoach. Cost includes transportation, six meals, five nights lodging, attractions/tickets. The cost for double (two to a room) is \$614. Single supplement is available.

December 6-8

Branson for the Holidays!

Our journey takes us back to the



Vickie Riggs

Ozark Mountains. Our trip includes Miller Amish Farm lunch, Sight and Sound production of Moses, All Hands on Deck Patriotic Show, Pierce Arrow Christmas Show, Blackwoods Gospel Show, two nights lodging, seven meals and transportation by motorcoach. Enjoy meals at Pasghetti's, Grand Country Buffet and McFarlin's Country Restaurant. Detailed itineraries available at the Family Life Center.

The deposit of \$150 is due on August 22 and final payment is due October 6. Cost per person for a double (two to a room) is \$470. Single supplement is available.

If you have questions, contact me or Amanda at the Family Life Center.

A SNEAK PEEK of upcoming journeys: New England fall foliage, Rhine River Cruise, Alaskan Adventure, Steps of Paul, Canyonlands and more.

July 11 - 15
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Ages 4 through completed 5th grade
Register at fbcnorman.org

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Contact Crystal Byrd



COME HANG WITH US AT VBS

Children's Sunday School Assistant Teachers Needed

1st grade 2nd grade 5th grade

Contact Crystal Byrd for more information



SUMMER THEME NIGHTS
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Pre K - 5th grades

<p>JULY</p> <p>JULY 6 Swimming* and Popsicles Melissa Long, 3551 Crystal Spring Dr.</p> <p>JULY 13 Vacation Bible School 6-8 p.m. July 11 - 15 Register Online, Family Fun Night, July 15</p> <p>JULY 20 Painting Night with Mrs. Brittany Room 204</p> <p>JULY 27 Swimming* and Popsicles Melissa Long, 3551 Crystal Spring Dr.</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>AUGUST 3 No Activities</p> <p>AUGUST 10 No Activities</p> <p>AUGUST 17 Big Summer Cookout FBC Playground</p>
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*If your child needs transportation to and from the pools, our van will leave the breezeway at 5:45 p.m. One signed transportation waiver is needed.
Contact Crystal at crystalb@fbcnorman.org to reserve your child's seat at least one day prior to swim night.

July Birthdays

July 1: Joyce Johnson, Alice Mobley, Emily Pierce
July 2: Tyler Couch, John Dwyer, Hillary Hawkins, Wilma Minyen, Alyssa Smith, Jennifer Smith
July 3: PJ Meek, Arthur Witt
July 4: Tommy Craighead, James Harp, EttaJean Hobbs, Carla Messer, Chad Smith, Ina Simpson Snyder
July 5: Dustin Horstkoetter, Shelley Wilson
July 6: Cathleen Clough
July 7: Edna Carrington, Jeff Jones
July 8: Jean Tahkofper
July 9: Isabella Nava
July 10: Doris Burleson, Ruth Ann Carr, Claire Davis, Johnny High
July 11: Don Burgess, Nicole Parrish, Ann Terrell
July 12: Tom Gallaher, Marc Hardage, Flora Ionescu, Susan Knight, William Leber, Shirley McCormick, Elijah Sanders, Pat Tucker
July 13: Rita Hilliard, Donnie Jones Jr., Steve M. Williams
July 14: Beverly Adkins, Iva Griffith, Trenton McMillen
July 15: Kara Barton, Ian Chandra, Gabriel Cherry, Lizzy Lefler
July 16: Wayne Parrish, Anthony Strevett

July 17: Doyal Hedrick, Laura Jonason
July 18: Nita Simpson Bill, Ginny Cecil, Andrea Hale, Noah Hodges, Loretta Ketner, Ralph Moulton
July 19: Nina Hopkins, Madison Rigney, Wade Smith, Ethan Wilson
July 20: Tracy Foor, Eleanor Mullinax, Wilson Mullinax, Warren Osburn
July 21: Dan Caldwell, Jenni Holderby, Gloria Lamar, Matt Robinson, Ben Shiao, Jack Smith
July 22: Claud Dill, Jeffrey Dismukes, Ashlie Mowdy
July 23: Jess Porter
July 24: Pat Allen, Jen Tek Kao, Mike Reihart
July 25: John DeLany, Estelle Evans, Colby Pace
July 27: Jane Kroeker, Kent Nicholson, Leslie Singer, Austin Taylor
July 28: Glenn Adams, Robin Antonio, Charles Douglas, Carolyn Seratte, Jan Seratte,
July 29: Huwanta Blasius, Laurie Foor, Helen Hull, Sally Lawrence, Benjamin Ray
July 30: Braxen Arnold, Lynn Murdock, Lise Simpson, Sawyer Stapleton, Stephanie Swartzendruber
July 31: Julie Bradford, Donna Dye, Kim Hopper

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

Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:
 Wayne, Kate, Nicole, Colleen & Philip Parrish at the passing of Diana Foster
 Family & friends of Louise Thompson at her passing

Sallie & Chris Kennedy at the passing of Sallie's sister, Bobbie Powell
 Gaylord, Deborah, Pablo & Marco Fisher at the passing of Deborah's mother, Phyllis Logan

Ministry Staff

Dr. Wade Smith, Pastor
 pastorwade@fbcnorman.org

Roy Joe Ham, Minister of Administration
 royjoeh@fbcnorman.org

Kirk Hatcher, Minister of Spiritual Formation
 kirk@fbcnorman.org

Angela Atkins, Minister of Community Ministries
 angelaa@fbcnorman.org

Crystal R. Byrd, Minister to Children
 crystalb@fbcnorman.org
 @iheartfbckids

Chris Canary, University Minister
 canary@fbcnorman.org

Rich Lubbers, Minister to Youth
 richl@fbcnorman.org
 @iheartfbccym

Vickie Riggs, Pacesetter Minister
 vickier@fbcnorman.org

Chad Smith, Minister of Worship Arts/Music
 chads@fbcnorman.org

Clint Taylor, Minister of Recreation and Community Outreach Ministries
 clintt@fbcnorman.org



WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

MEAL
 5:30 p.m.
 ADULTS
 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Bible Study for GrownUps, B20
 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir
 CHILDREN
 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 YOUTH
 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
 UNIVERSITY
 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.