

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

Have you ever been *Surprised by God?* This is an interesting thought that I have been pondering lately. God surprised me a couple of Wednesday nights ago at the *Big Summer Cookout*.

It was a beautiful evening (an August miracle in itself) and at one point, I simply stopped and looked around. I was amazed and inspired as the Spirit of God offered a glimpse of our church. There in that sacred moment was an intersection and integration of fellowship and ministry. It was a picture of what it means to *Live the Journey of Life and Faith* together. Around those tables sat the Body of Christ – internationals, the homeless and hungry, families with children and youth, choir members, volunteers and an assortment of church members.

Around those tables people were eating, laughing, meeting new people and sharing their lives. It was a holy moment. There was no doubt that God was present. So, why the surprise? I just thought I was going to a picnic.

Oh, for a heightened awareness of what God is doing around us. Oh, for the faith to be surprised by God on a regular basis. God surprised me again at the *Family Bowling Bash*. Twentyfour lanes filled with children, students, parents and even a couple of lanes of Baby Boomers. Amidst the laughter, encouragement, and celebration of strikes, spares and gutter balls, there were conversations of faith, hope and love. *Surprised by God*. I just thought we were going bowling.

What if God, in His perfect timing and wisdom, is inviting us into a season of "holy surprises?" I wonder if we would have the courage to see and the faith to believe that He is doing new things in our midst.

Both our early and late services are doing well. Our worship attendance

has reflected a significant growth in just these few weeks. We are seeing a variety of visitors each week. Chad's leadership has brought a unity to worship that has



Dr. Wade Smith

opened avenues of sharing across the generations.

Many have commented how they are enjoying both services. Some are attending both on the same Sunday, saying they enjoy the variety of music so much that they don't want to choose. Even the sermon has its differences from service to service. *Surprised by God*. I just thought we were going to church.

On September 6 we begin a new sermon series, *Catalyst*. A *Catalyst* is an agent of change and over these next weeks, we will consider how God desires to use us individually and as a community of faith to bring change to the world in which we live.

Catalyst also will be the emphasis of our LifeGroup studies over the next weeks. In addition, a devotion guide is being created to share stories of how generosity changes lives.

The Stop Hunger Now Project on Sunday, September 20, is one way that God can use us as a *Catalyst* in fighting hunger. How is God calling you to be a *Catalyst*?

The start of school means the return of two ministries that I want to invite you to consider. *The Brown Bag* lunch is an opportunity for me to meet at OU one Monday a month to enjoy lunch and conversation with students, faculty and staff. Our first *Brown Bag* is Monday, August 31.

MannaFest is our downtown lunch that meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Common Ground. MannaFest is our opportunity to invite the downtown community to enjoy food and fellowship. You are invited to join us as we welcome our downtown guests. Josh Edge, Vice President of Commercial Lending at Republic Bank, is our speaker on September 2.

The next New @ First lunch is Sunday, September 27. If you are a new member or have been visiting First Baptist, we invite you to join us for this opportunity to meet staff members, ask questions and learn about First Baptist. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

I ask you to continually pray for our ministers. God has blessed FBC with a wonderful ministry staff. The addition of Chris Canary in August as University Minister means that our ministry staff is complete for the first time in two years. Praise the Lord. Pray for our staff and their families as they serve you and minister in the numerous opportunities they have.

Pray for our deacons as well. These servant-leaders serve in many different ways in our congregation. The Deacon Ministry Team picnic is Sunday, September 27. I hope that all of our deacons and their families will attend. In October, we will begin receiving nominations for new deacons.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor. I believe God is doing new and surprising things in our midst. Let us have the courage to see and join Him in this work.

> Grace and Peace, Dr. Wade Smith

Understanding that you can never put your foot into the same river twice

It seems that no matter your age when you live in Norman the academic years of our schools, including the university community, defines seasons.

Summer seems to get shorter, traffic builds sooner and renewed structure seems to become a new normal. In many ways summer seems to have been so short this year even in life around FBC.

Camps, mission trips, new schedule for worship, changes in our staff and life in general brought about a season of change. For many that wonderful six letter word brings thoughts of fears, loss and uncertainty. While in reality we live a life of constant change.

I love the old saying that reminds of how quickly things change when you understand that you can never put your foot into the same river twice. And yet, we enjoy putting our feet in that changing water. It is my prayer that you can find the peace of the changing river as our world continues to move along as well.

Because you asked: Many of you have asked about the disappearance of the recycle bin that was on the corner of Eufala Street and Santa Fe Avenue. We received word in the late spring that the old company had been bought out and the recycle agreement was going to change. I understand that like agreements with other churches and schools also changed.

The former owners actually placed those bins as a public service



Roy Joe Ham

and we received a small check every time it was emptied for the volume of materials in the bin. The new owners changed that agreement to a monthly fee for the privilege to have the bin and no payment for the recycled materials. The Trustees agreed that paying the fee was not good stewardship and we discontinued the agreement. Please utilize your curbside recycling or the public bins scattered around town.

Thank you for your response to leadership needs in hall monitors and SMART team leadership. We have had responses to both of these needs and are grateful for those who volunteered. However, we need to grow our hall monitor team, so if you have interest, let me know.

Catalyst is a word and concept you will hear a lot about in September as we enter into a season of Stewardship emphasis.

Thanks to the Stewardship Team in asking for this time, and for the staff in supporting it. *Catalyst*, certainly a great word to think of Christian Stewardship in considering giving of time, energy, talent, relationship and of course financially. Please pray for God to do great work through this series. Consider what *catalyst* you can and maybe should be.

Ministry Plan Update: The Ministry Plan (MP) of First Baptist is what many would call our church budget. But the MP is really much more than that. It certainly is a financial plan but it is a plan that supports ministry objectives that the staff and ministry teams believe God is leading us to during a fiscal year. Certainly your prayers for and financial support of the MP are needed. Everything you do touches lives in ministry. Thank you for being a generous and responding church family.

Thank you Mark Rhea: After eight years as a full time assistant at the FLC, Mark is changing directions in his life. He resigned to begin new career opportunities. Pray for Mark and Amanda as this new life journey begins.

Thank you Mark for your faithful service.

Roy Joe Ham

The church office and Family Life Center will be closed on September 7 in honor of Labor Day



"Love is not patronizing and charity isn't about pity, it is about love. Charity and love are the same – with charity you give love, so don't just give money but reach out your hand instead."

Mother Teresa

FBC Norman is a church who serves. We serve our community in a variety of ways... Friendship Supper, Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, Bike Ministry, Norman Public Schools uses our facilities for any number of events throughout the school year, MannaFest – a lunch for folks who work downtown, SMART Team that helps out with small repairs and projects that some just can't take care of themselves, and Kids Hope mentors at Lincoln Elementary. The list could go on. The point is that FBC Norman is a serving church.

As you know, there is a difference, however, between our church serving in all of these ways and each of US finding our place to serve.

If you have ever been on a shortterm mission trip you know what it feels like to serve alongside others

How's your serve?

in some kind of work. What is so wonderful about these trips is that for a brief moment we get to experience what life could be like if we were to live our lives serving wherever we are, not just when we



Kirk Hatcher

are in Uganda or Peru. Serving others helps the focus get off of us and onto someone else, anyone else.

You might ask, "Is service really a spiritual discipline?" I'll give you a resounding yes. When we choose to lay aside our comforts, our routines, our habits and focus on the wellbeing of others, we are allowing God the opportunity to change our heart. Remember, the purpose in all spiritual disciplines is that we are creating the space for God to change our heart more into the heart of Christ. Service does that for us.

Perhaps the passage of scripture that speaks to this discipline the best is John 13:1-20, the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Look at these few verses:

And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

A task usually reserved for the servants in each home, Jesus showed who he really was as he did the unthinkable and washed the feet of those who had chosen to follow him. And through this action Jesus showed that his followers were going to serve. Period.

If you have been looking and cannot find your place to serve, let's create a place for you. If you have not been looking, allow me the opportunity to help you find your place.

Can't wait.

Kirk Hatcher



Sermon series begins September 6

September 6 Work as Catalyst

September 13 Talents as Catalyst

September 30 Gleaning as Catalyst

September 27 Tithing as Catalyst

October 4 Sowing as Catalyst



Sunday, September 27 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Hallock Hall

ATTN: all newcomers to FBC Norman

Lunch will be provided. Enjoy time spent sharing a meal with new faces at FBC Norman. Come and learn about what FBC Norman has to offer you, as well as discover ways that you can participate in the life of FBC Norman.

> For more information, email kirk@fbcnorman.org or call the church office

Church partners with Norman Schools to offer all day pre-kindergarten classes

The west end of First Baptist Church has once again come to life during the weekdays. Heard from down the hallway are the little giggles and small voices of FBC's littlest, guests.

Most of those guests are at FBC thanks to a pilot program offered by Norman Public Schools to host two all day pre-kindergarten classes.

"This is the first year that Norman Public Schools has offered all day pre-k. There are five classes in Norman. First Baptist Church has two out of the five, and we feel very lucky to have them," Marlene Hoyt, executive director of FBC's Fee-Based Ministries, said. "The classes are through the Norman Public Schools, First Baptist Church just provides space to them." The two classrooms have students from Adams and Wilson elementaries and house a total of 40 kids.

"Norman Public Schools handles all of the enrollment. I know they had a lottery system going because this was such a novel concept that everyone wanted in the all day pre-k," Marlene said.

The students also can come early and have breakfast in Hallock Hall prior to the beginning of classes.

The pre-k classes also created a need for a second after-school program since most of the children's parents work at least until 5:00 p.m. Also launched this year is Kaleidoscope Jr., an expansion of the already established Kaleidoscope program,

Between both programs there

are a total of 66 children, which is a far greater number than last year, Marlene said.

"Right now we have 30 children enrolled in our Kaleidoscope Junior program, which for our first year is phenomenal," Marlene said.

Since the majority of children in the Kaleidoscope programs come from other schools, Marlene has had an urgent need for van drivers to pick children up at schools and bring them to First Baptist.

"We desperately need van drivers that are 21 or older and have a clean driving record and pass a background check," Marlene said.

Those interested in becoming a driver for the Kaleidoscope programs can email Marlene a marleneh@ fbcnorman.org.

Deacon Ministry Team Picnic

September 27 Watch for details

Parent's Night Out

Babies through fifth grade September 11 6:00-9:00 p.m.

\$5 per child and bring a sack dinner

Reservations required with Crystal Byrd at crystalb@fbcnorman.org. Deadline to RSVP is September 9

Growing In Christ

Third - fifth grades only September 13, 20, 27 and October 4 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sign up your child today with Crystal Byrd at crystalb@fbcnorman.org



OU Gameday Parking

September 5 - Youth September 19 - Comm Min/FLC October 3 - Youth October 24 - Adult/UM November 7 - Children November 21 - Youth

Brown Bag Lunch

August 31 noon Wagner Hall on the University of Oklahoma campus



Downtowner Lunch

Wednesday, September 2 Time: Noon-1 p.m. Place: Common Ground Speaker: Josh Edge, Vice President of Commercial Lending at Republic Bank, Cost: \$5 Menu: Apricot glazed pork loin, spinach salad, dinner roll and white chocolate cheesecake

Norman CROP Walk a way to help with community ministry

This month our church will participate in Stop Hunger Now, a ministry to help end hunger around the world.

On October 18, we invite you to participate in a local hunger awareness/food drive called the Cleveland County-Norman CROP Hunger Walk.

This wonderful, family-friendly community walk is sponsored by

Food and Shelter. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. in the lot south of Food and Shelter, 104 W. Comanche St. The walk begins at 2:00 p.m. and ends with games, entertainment, hot dogs and



Angela Atkins

snowcones. Bring your friends and family and walk to end hunger here at home.

A New School Year

Try working one-on-one with atrisk students at Lincoln Elementary. Just one hour a week is all it takes to change a life.

For more information, contact me at angelaa@fbcnorman.org.

Angela Atkins

A small peek inside upcoming youth activities at First Baptist Church

I feel like a little kid at Christmas who found the stash of presents ahead of time and knows what's coming.

This fall, we're going to be doing some really great things in our ministry for 6th to 12th grade students.

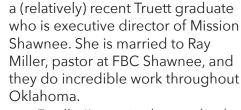
First, we're launching our student leadership team, a project that will give our students additional say and influence over their ministry. While this is a really great opportunity in and of itself, it also requires our students to be mentored weekly by a caring adult who is a little bit further along the faith journey. This is one of the things that most excites me, as we seek to be an intergenerational congregation, but it is also something that I want you to begin praying about – while our leaders all have mentors, many of our students do not. Would you be willing to find one of our students and spend an hour a week with them? Second,

we're going on a camping trip in October. While this is something that people do all the

Rich Lubbers

time, I am excited about going with students because it reminds us of the need to disconnect from everyday life, to retreat from things for a focused period of time so that we might engage with God and each other in a different way.

Third, I am looking forward to our Fall Retreat in November, where we will be hearing from Sarah Miller,



Finally, I'm excited to get back into our routines with our students. We have some of the best students in the world, and they are constantly amazing me with their disparate interests, while still maintaining their ability to come together to impact their campuses with the love of God.

Thank you for being the kind of church who has nurtured this in them so far, and thank you for continuing to support them. Continue to partner with us as we love people, teach the Word, and live the journey together. Rich Lubbers



September 2015

First Baptist Adults 55+ stay on the move this fall

Adults 55+ activities coming in September include:

• Wellness/Fitness 101 with Michael Wigington from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on September 3. Join us in the Garden of Eatin' for a light, healthy lunch and wellness/fitness tips, plus fitness center demonstrations on our FLC equipment. Register at the Family Life Center.

• Let the artist come out in you with Cheryl the Artist from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on September 15. Cost is \$15. An example of the painting is on display at the FLC office. Register for your space at the FLC by September 14.

• It is time to share your story. Make plans now to join us at the FLC Conference Room for the beginning session of "Writing Your Life Story." Plan to give this special gift to your grandchildren, great-grandchildren and beyond at 10:00 a.m. on September 16.

• Let's go to the State Fair from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on September 23. Cost is \$2 per person

• Flu shots will be offered from 10:00 a.m. to noon on September 26 at the Garden of Eatin'.



Vickie Riggs

• October Fall Foliage Adventure October 20-21. Itineraries available at the FLC. The trip includes: Amish farm lunch in Springdale, Ark., and a train ride through Boston Mountains to Van Buren, Ark. Transportation will be offered by Motorcoach.

Vickie Riggs





All Church Meal Packaging Event September 20

We need 100-plus volunteers of all ages to sign-up by September 13

Sign-up at the church office, Family Life Center or with a minister

From the F.CC

We would like to thank Mark Rhea for eight years of ministry at the Family Life Center.

We will miss the way he worked daily with a gracious spirit and made everyone who walked in the building feel special and important. We wish the Rhea family the best of luck in their new adventure.

There are still a few spaces in the gymnastics classes for the fall. The first Friday class is September 4, and Tuesday classes begin September 8.

Time to support our high school football players by feeding them the best home cooked meal in town. Norman North will be our guests on Thursday, September 10 and Norman High will join us Thursday, October 1.

If you missed the sign-up to bring food in your small group, you may contact Becky at the FLC.

The Family Life Center will be closed Labor Day, September 7.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship

8:30 a.m. Early Worship, Sanctuary 9:40 a.m. LifeGroups 10:50 a.m. Late Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday

5:15 p.m. Meal
6:15 p.m. Adult Bible Studies
5:45 p.m. Mini Musicians, Praise Kids
6:45 p.m. Missions and Discipleship
6:00 p.m. Fellowship Time, youth
6:30 Youth Wednesday
6:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Preparing ourselves to have a 'holy moment' with God

I will never forget the moment I was standing at the altar next to Pastor Wade anticipating my soon-to-be wife's entrance into the sanctuary.

I can describe to you with great detail who was there, the music that was playing, the smell of the room, what my best man said to me, how I was feeling and what I was thinking in that moment. My heart was beating harder and faster than it ever had.

Tears of joy and gratitude were welling up in my eyes. The butterflies in my stomach were literally about to lift me off of the ground. The organist and trumpeter began playing Clarke's "The Prince of Denmark's March."

The moment I had been expectantly waiting for had finally arrived. The most beautiful bride in the history of humanity emerged from the stairway and began walking toward me. When we made eye contact it's as if time stood still and we were the only two people in the room. It was a "holy moment."

I tell you this story because that same sense of expectancy I experienced on my wedding day should be experienced by each of us as God's children when we prepare ourselves for corporate worship each week.

Much like the groom anticipates the moment his bride steps through

those doors in the wedding ceremony, we, the Bride of Christ, should anticipate experiencing the powerful manifest presence of God when we come together for worship.



Chad Smith

If the truth were told, many of us do not come prepared for worship Sunday after Sunday after Sunday. Unknowingly, we have let corporate worship become a religious duty that we check off of our to do list each week. And unfortunately we get exactly what we came expecting: absolutely nothing.

We walk out of the sanctuary unchanged. We leave with bad attitudes. We analyze everything that took place. We return to life as usual and tragically, we miss the "holy moment" that occurs when God's children worship together in spirit and in truth.

As I read about the early church in the book of Acts, I cannot help but come to the conclusion that they must have been a prepared and expectant group of worshipers. Their worship experiences were powerful. They were filled with awe and were



unified. They were a sacrificial and generous people. They had glad and sincere hearts. They enjoyed the favor of all the people. God poured out His blessings. They experienced a multitude of "holy moments" together. I wonder what would happen if we truly prepared our hearts for worship each week and came to worship expecting to have a "holy moment" with God?

I challenge you to think about and evaluate your personal and corporate worship lifestyle. When was the last time you experienced a "holy moment" with God? Do you prepare your heart before coming to worship? Do you come to worship each week expecting to experience the manifest presence of God? When was the last time you walked out of the sanctuary different than when you walked in?

I pray as we ponder these questions together the Holy Spirit will bring about worship renewal in our lives and in the Church. Soli Deo Gloria!

Chad Smith



Fitness Center Orientation with Randy Praytor

6 p.m. Monday Required for use of Fitness Center

Low-Impact Exercise

Free 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday Park/arthritis approved

Pilates With Rebecca Darrow

8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday

> Aerobics With Darla Miller 5:20 to 6:20 p.m. Monday and Thursday

September Birthdays

Sullivan-Russell, Alicia Turley

September 1: Wanda Blake, Frank Gatewood, Jackson Holderby, Amy Rifenburg, Valerie Robinson, Rhonda Roe

September 2: Claudia Griffith, Naomi Nakamura, Ryane Ratzlaff

September 3: Al Bass, Barbara Ferris, Chuck Lawrence, Heather Murphy

September 4: Greg Alexander, Monica deFee, Melissa Kelly, Mary Nipper

September 5: Katherine Brooks, Greg Ferguson, Darci Tucker

September 6: Kelley Blackman, Barry Brown, Stacy Davenport, Mark Lenington, Egawati Panjei, Adrienne Rust, Josie Wright

September 7: Laini Akram, Jordan Busse, Luke Edge, Marilyn Naylor, Haley Price, Susan Warren

September 8: John Antonio, Brandon Arrington, Elizabeth Clancy, David Ferris, Bobby Hare, Lara Mason, Pascha Sanders

September 9: Josh Bibb, Terry Boehrer, Jillian

Campbell, Kerrie Hudson, Sean Judy, Morgan Rogers, Ginger Teague, Jerry Warden

September 10: Michael Gray, Larry McDade, Monique Uglean

September 11: Lorraine Baugh, James Chowins, Carol McDade-Conley, Laura Jones, Connie Norton, Carolyn Sigler

September 12: Ethan Dvorak, Ethan Fleischer, Barbara Foreman, Leslie Haxel, Doris Johnson, Mike Lang, Steven Sheldon, Mark Wright

September 13: Victoria Antonio, Paige Portwood, Brandon Rehkop

September 14: Ashley Christian, John Lesser, Amos

September 15: Bill Conner, Lynn Etter, Julia Lee, Maxine Loy, Lesley Turner, Scott Weaver September 16: Gary Campbell, M'Lynn Emanuel, Marilyn Leflore, Dennis Schwabe, Wilson Smith September 17: Brad Badgett, Don Geis, Janice Hodges, Eric Linn, Leanne Warren September 18: Olushola Fatola, Ben Riddles, Courtney Singleterry September 19: Stephen Teague September 20: Karyn Blackman, Sandra Brown, Shirley Glitsch, Payton Henson, Traci Mullinax September 21: Lee Cory, Janie Dilks, Kerry Etter, Mary Hale, Jill Hunt, Hannah Jones, Kyle Jones September 22: Jeff Annesley, Mary Hartsock, Jennifer Marcum, George Wilson III September 23: Sarah Brown, Linda Dill, Al Graham, James Odell, Boston Tan, Louise Thompson September 24: Lauren Adkins, Linda Fielder, Sue Matheny, Sally Wade September 25: Janelle Borden, Matthew Brown, Dean Conerly, Jim Couch, Kathy Howell, Carl Ketner, Ron Kirkpatrick II September 26: Marco Fisher, Shelba McGowen, Olivia Raiber, Elmer Roberts, Charissa Smith September 27: Judith Conklin, Cullin Faison, Beth Glabas, Victoria Haxel, Ann Linn, Cheryl Love, Katie Love, Betty Northcutt, Zeke Zachary September 28: Brent Briscoe, Lesa Dale, Nina Patterson, Rachelle Zachary September 29: Johnny Blaul, Sue Carrell, Amen Holman,

Bear Jensen Sr., Andrew Lawrence, Emily Thompson September 30: Troy Adams, Daniella Fatola, Christianne King, Kin Pirtle, Ronald Ryan

Letters from the FBC Family

Dear FBC Family,

On behalf of myself and our son, I want to thank you for the prayers, flowers, cards, calls and visits. The church staff came many times with prayers and words of encouragement. You are truly a caring church. Blessings to all of you.

Jane Close

Dear FBC Family,

Thank you so much for your prayers during our time of grief.

Krista Caton and Family

Ministry Staff

Chris Canary, **University Minister** canary@fbcnorman.org

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

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.or

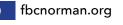
Sympathies

The First Baptist Church family wants to extend sympathies to:

Dolly Berry and Kristen and Jonathan Queen at the passing of Dolly's father, Delbert "Sonny" Berry Jr.

Janie Dilks, Greg, Kathy, Kyle and Kody Ferguson at the passing of Janie's husband, Larry Dilks





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AT FIRST GLANCE (USPS 008-741) is published monthly by the First Baptist Church, 211 W. Comanche, Norman, OK (405)321-1753. Periodical postage paid at Norman, OK. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AT FIRST GLANCE, 211 W. Comanche, Norman, OK 73069-5698.

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September 2015

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