At First Glance

First Baptist Church

September 2018

Volume 15, Issue 2

My final chemotherapy treatment is scheduled for September 11. The prayers and support of this church have sustained and encouraged Gay, the kids and I through this battle with cancer. Yes, there are more tests to come, but my last scans indicate the "hot spots" are no longer present and the cancer has been defeated. I am humbled by this news and praise the Lord for His grace, mercy and healing. Thank you for your ongoing prayers as September 11 approaches and my body begins to recover from the grueling effects of 5 months of chemo.

In addition to your prayers and cards, many of you signed-up to provide a meal or gift card for our family to enjoy dinner. The blessing of our family being able to gather around the table without the stress of preparation and clean-up has been an incredible gift to us. I have been reminded how essential it is for families and friends to enjoy dinner fellowship with each other. (There is still time to sign-up for Dinner with Friends!) Not only is the body strengthened, but the heart, mind and soul are strengthened as we pray together and share the joys and struggles of our day. The teasing, laughter and heart-felt conversation around the table have been wonderful medicine. Thank you for this gift.

In many ways worship is the opportunity we have each week as the family of First Baptist to "gather around the table." We come together at 10:30 each Sunday morning to "sup" at the Lord's Banquet Table. We hear the stories of God from Scripture, we tell the stories of how God has changed our lives and we offer our praise and thanksgiving. We bring our gifts of worship and discover that we are nourished spiritually, drawing near to God and to one another.

It is concerning that so many families and churches no longer make the effort to gather around the table with one another. Families that want to improve the quality of their home life will find a way to share a few meals together during the week. Likewise, a church that wants to grow and improve its life together will commit to worshiping together.

Over these next weeks, the *Draw Near* worship series, based on Hebrews 10:19-25, invites us to renew our commitment to *Draw Near* to God and to one another in worship. The Scripture simply says, "do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together, as is the habit of some." I believe worship is the critical issue for our church. Many are out of the habit of coming together in worship, forsaking the assembling of ourselves together. I believe God is on the verge of doing something new at First Baptist and that worship is the catalyst. Will you renew your commitment to worship? Will you *Draw Near* to God and to one another as we gather around His Banquet Table each Sunday morning? #DrawNearFBCNorman

On Sunday, September 30, Dr. Matt Snowden, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waco, Texas, will be our pulpit guest. Dr. Snowden invited me to preach at FBC Waco when Morgan was a freshman at Baylor. As the Baylor Bears come to town this month, we are blessed the Snowden family will be able to join us in worship. I know that you will welcome them to our church family.

Finally, one of the opportunities that chemo provides is time to rest and be still. Thank you for the many books and reading suggestions that have come my way. If you enjoy biographies, let me encourage you to consider the works of Eric Metaxas. His biographies on Martin Luther, William Wilberforce and Dietrich Bonhoeffer are excellent. In addition, N.T. Wright's biography, Paul, may be the best historical theology I have read since seminary. I believe most of these works are in the church library. You will be blessed and enriched by these stories.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

9-1
Game Day Parking

9-2
University Lunch
11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall

Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

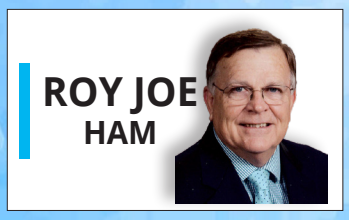
Clothes Closet
4:30 p.m.

9-3
Labor Day, Church Office and Family Life Center Closed

9-4
WMU
12:00-1:00 p.m.,
Church Conference Room

9-5
Family Night @ First
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Hands for Harvey Mission Trip Planned in October



It is time to gear up and plan our next trip to Refugio, Texas, to continue our work in helping to rebuild the community and return people to their homes. Hurricane Harvey made landfall along the Texas Coast on August 25, 2017, leaving devastation that will take years to overcome.

Countless residents continue to be displaced from their homes and we have committed to being part of their restoration. In fact, I have been told there are hundreds of homes that have not been touched for restoration. **Will you prayerfully consider going with us?** Do you know of a friend or co-worker that might like to join in on the work? Do you know others in our church who can pray, prepare food, or go on a trip like this? If you do, please share this information with them.

I can't tell you what we will be doing at this point, as we develop the team and determine the skills that God has drawn together we will communicate that. The work will probably include hanging drywall & insulation, painting, light framing, exterior repairs and other requests, to get people closer to being back in their homes.

We will leave Norman early on **Sunday morning October 28** travel to Corpus Christi, Texas, where we will stay. We will partner with groups in Refugio, about 45 minutes NW of Corpus. The plan will be to return on **Saturday, November 3**.

The cost of the trip is $125 each. Scholarships may be made available on request.

Accommodations: The above cost arrangements have been made to stay in dorm-style facilities at First Presbyterian Church of Corpus Christi. There are bunk beds provided, but please note the dorms are on the third floor and there is no elevator.

Alternate plans have been made at the Holiday Inn Shoreline/Marina if you prefer or require other accommodations. These rooms will be at a reduced rate of $119 per night plus applicable taxes and at your expense.

Items provided: Transportation in a FBC Church van. You may travel on your own if you prefer. One Hands for Harvey T-shirt. Additional shirts can be purchased at $10 each. Breakfast, lunch and dinner on most days and a good supply of tools in the disaster relief trailer will be at your disposal.

You provide: One or two meals in Corpus Christi, bedding, work clothes, personal tools, if you prefer, and lots of energy and willingness to work hard as a team.

Please respond your interest in going as soon as possible with a deadline for confirmation of your participation by September 30. If you need more information, call or come see me. I am looking forward to what God will do for all who commit to go be Jesus Hands and Feet as the Hands for Harvey.

It is a joy to serve with you.

Foundations

Dr. Mike Wilson has agreed to teach and lead "A Survey of Christian History," 5:30 p.m. Sundays in Room B20 beginning on Sunday, September 9.

"Christian History Made Easy," by Timothy Paul Jones will be the text. It is available to purchase for $12 in the church office.

Rhine River Cruise planned

You are invited to travel with First Baptist on our Rhine River Getaway Cruise, June 3-13, 2019.

We will travel from Basel, Switzerland, northbound to Amsterdam on the Expression, one of Avalon Waterways riverboats.

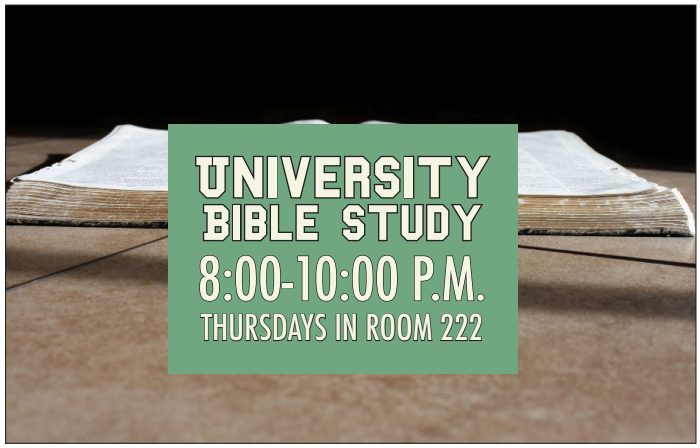
Cost for our River Adventure:
You may choose from two categories

• **Category E:** Indigo Deck (Lowest Deck); 2 to a room, double price per person: $5,530; 1 to a room, single price: $7,580. Limited spaces available.

Category A: Sapphire Deck (Middle/Upper Decks); 2 to a room double price per person: $6,910; 1 to a room single price: $9,440.

Cost includes: Cruise, air, port taxes, pre-paid gratuities and transfers, in addition to meals on the boat and designated shore excursions.

For more information or to register, contact Vickie or Lisa at the Family Life Center, 405-360-5300.



Church Conference And Lunch

Sept. 9

Following Worship

Menu: Potato soup and salad

Bring a dessert to share

$2 per person / $10 family max

Registration for Dinner With Friends Continues

It is time to register for Dinner With Friends for the fall 2018 session. Those interested can find registration forms in their LifeGroup folders or in the church office.

Organizing Dinner With Friends this session is Lydia Ham and Karen Reddell. Dinner With Friends is how FBC Norman celebrates its multi-generations through fellowship and fun, the ladies explain.

"This group is a way to connect to others outside your area of the church. It is a nice relaxing time of fellowship," Karen said.

Dinner With Friends groups will consist of no more than eight people. And participants are not obligated to just dinner.

"Be creative and meet for breakfast, share a picnic or have dessert and coffee. There is no obligation to host the group in your home. Try to meet a couple times a month, October through December," Lydia said.

Dinner With Friends encourages everyone to participate, singles and couples are welcome. There is a group for anyone in the church who would like to get to know others outside of their circle of friends.

"I think the biggest benefit is the opportunity to fellowship with people of all ages. So many times we gather by age for activities and this is different," Lydia said.

Registration forms can be found in LifeGroup folders or the church office

To register, return the form to the church office or put it in your LifeGroup folder. Registration will continue until Sunday, September 9.

A Kick-off luncheon, where Dinner With Friends participants will meet their group members, is Sunday, September 23, in Hallock Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Karen Reddell: kreddell86@aol.com; or Lydia Ham: lydiat_ham@yahoo.com.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

7
Senior Seminary With Dr. Roark
9:30-11:30 a.m., Family Life Center Cost: $5, includes lunch

8
Game Day Parking/Shuttle
8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
$10 Donation benefits Youth Ministries

9
Final Day to Register for Dinner With Friends

Worship/Lord's Supper
10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Church Conference with Lunch
11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall; Cost: $2 per person, $20 family max

10
Deacon Ministry Team Meeting
6:30 p.m., Hallock Hall

11
Painting Class
6:30 p.m. Family Life Center
Cost: $20, Register at the FLC

16
Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Food Pantry and Devotion
4:30 p.m.

22
Game Day Parking
2:00-6:00 p.m.
$10 Donation Benefits Community Impact Ministries

23
Dinner With Friends Lunch
11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m.
Hallock Hall

27
Norman High Football Dinner
6:00-8:30 p.m.
Family Life Center

29
Game Day Parking
$10 Donation Benefits Children's Ministries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1: Wanda Blake, Frank Gatewood, Jackson Holderby, Amy Rifenburg, Valerie Robinson, Rhonda Roe, Alana Turley
September 2: Naomi Nakamura
September 3: Al Bass, Barbara Ferris, Chuck Lawrence, Heather Murphy
September 4: Greg Alexander, Olivia Bedwell, Monica deFee, Melissa Kelly, Mary Nipper
September 5: Katherine Brooks, Greg Ferguson, Emmalone Sullivan, Darci Tucker
September 6: Kelley Ann Blackman, Barry Brown, Stacy Davenport, Maddie Farris, Mark Lenington, Adrienne Rust
September 7: Laini Akram, Jordan Busse, Luke Edge, Marilyn Naylor, Haley Price, Susan Warren
September 8: John Antonio, Brandon Arrington, Elizabeth Clancy, Connie Doss, Bobby Hare, Lara Mason
September 9: Josh Bibb, Terry Boehrer, Pablo Calixto, Jillian Campbell, Kerri Hudson, Blanche Johnstone, Sean Judy, Morgan Rogers, Whitney Rose Upchurch, Jerry Warden
September 10: Michael Gray, Larry McDade
September 11: Lorraine Baugh, Carol McDade-Conley, Alley Morrison, Connie Norton, Carolyn Sigler, Laura Woods
September 12: Ethan Dvorak, Leslie Haxel, Doris Johnson, Mike Lang, Steven Sheldon, Mark Wright
September 13: Victoria Bugg, Paige Portwood, Brandon Rehkop
September 14: Ashley Christian, John Lesser, Amos Nunnally, James Philemore, Tracy Reddick, Cathleen Sullivan-Russell, Alicia Turley
September 15: Bill Conner, Lynn Etter, Julia Lee, Lesley Turner, Douglas Vollgraff, Scott Weaver
September 16: Gary Campbell, M'Lynn Emanuel, Marilyn Leflore, Dennis Schwabe, Wilson Smith
September 17: Brad Badgett, Janice Hodges, Erin Linn, Leanne Warren
September 18: Olushola Fatola, Benn Riddles III, Courtney Singleterry
September 19: Dino Koutsoukos
September 20: Sandra Brown, Shirley Glitsch, Payton Henson, Traci Mullinax
September 21: Lee Cory, Janie Dilks, Kerry Ann Etter, Mary Hale, Hannah Jones-Harp, Jill Hunt, Kyle Jones
September 22: Jeff Annesley, Mary Hartsock, Jennifer Marcum, George Wilson III
September 23: Sarah Brown, Addy Deering, Linda Dill, Al Graham, James Odell, Ryan Small, Boston Tan
September 24: Lauren Adkins, Vicky Busma, Sue Matheny, Sally Wade
September 25: Jim Couch, Kathy Howell, Carl Ketner, Ron Kirkpatrick II
September 26: Marco Fisher, Chester Ketner, Shelba McGowen, Olivia Raiber, Elmer Roberts, Charissa Smith
September 27: Judith Conklin, Cullin Faison, Beth Glabas, Victoria Haxel, Cheryl Love, Katie Love, Betty Northcutt, Zeke Zachary
September 28: Brent Briscoe, Stephanie Croft, Lesa Dale, Nina Patterson, Rachelle Zachary
September 29: Johnny Blaul, Sue Carrell, Amen Holman, Lester Jensen Sr., Andrew Lawrence, Nolan LeBlanc, Emily Thompson,
September 30: Troy Adams, Daniella Fatola, Christianne King, Kin Pirtle

DEAR FBC...

Dear FBC,
Thank you Chad Smith, Mike Raiber and FBC Norman for their support in the loss of my father, Lawrence Jobe.

Mary Ellen Davis

Dear FBC,
My Children and I live at Baptist Children's Homes, Oklahoma City, and we want to thank you for sponsoring our 2018 bike ride. You helped us raise more than $1,700, the largest amount in our 18 year bike ride history!

As a result of your generosity, my family and I are tremendously blessed. We hope you will continue your support in 2019.

Sincerely,
Shaina W. and Family,
Courtney H., Ashley and Family

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

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Kathryn Malthaner at the passing of her daughter, Marilyn Garman

David and Kim Hopper; Josh, Jenny, Josie and Jack Wright at the passing of their wife, mother and grandmother, Linda Hopper

Mary Ellen Davis at the passing of her father, Lawrence Jobe.

Patty, Jay & Sue, Jeff, Steve & Sandy Jimerson & their families at the passing of their husband, father, brother and grandfather, Don Jimerson.

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