

At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN



MAY 2020 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 9

May 1 marks the day we begin the slow return to “normalcy” as the Governor and Mayor’s orders to stay home expire. (Please be reminded that the President’s “Opening Up America Again” guidelines for Phase 1 still call for adults 65+ and for those with underlying health issues to continue to stay at home.) Businesses and offices will open with strict regulations for social distancing and keeping groups to less than 10. Employers may require PPE (face masks, etc.) for their employees and for their customers as the “new normal” unfolds

Of course, the question many are asking is when will we be able to return to church? As guidelines are released by our city leaders, we will better know how to navigate the return to worship, LifeGroups, resume ministry gatherings, and open the FLC. I anticipate all of these will resume with some kind of phased plan.

In the meantime, I am so thankful for the opportunities we do have to love, serve, and connect with one another through our online worship services, social media outlets and, yard/porch visits. And while it is not the same as being together, Zoom has provided an opportunity for LifeGroups, Evening Prayers, and Ministry Teams/Committees to continue their work. Let us not grow weary for creative and needed ministry continues to happen through the life and ministry of the people of First Baptist.

Romans 8:28-29 is one of my favorite scriptures. It provided the hope and encouragement I needed during a difficult season of life. It teaches that even in the midst of difficult days we

can be confident that God is working all things together for His good. Verse 29 tells us that “His good” is that we become conformed to the image of Christ. In other words, God is working in the midst of the good and bad of our lives to make us more like Jesus. None of us want to experience seasons of Covid-19, but it is comforting to know that whatever comes our way, God is working to shape and form us more and more into the image of Jesus.

Over these last weeks, we have lamented not being able to worship together in our beautiful sanctuary. Yet, **God has worked to show us the impact and value of broadcasting our worship service online.** We have heard from people around the country and the globe of how much they have been impacted. We have heard from those who can no longer attend worship and have been able to worship again with us. God is redeeming and working good out of a difficult thing.

For some time, God has been stirring in our leadership the importance of sharing our worship service beyond the walls of our sanctuary. The Covid-19 crisis has made this a reality. The challenge for us now is to make sure that we are able to continue to share worship online in the future. This means that we must invest in the equipment necessary to



DR. WADE
SMITH

livestream. We must also recruit and train those who will be willing to make this ministry happen each Sunday. Chad and the Worship Arts Team will soon be presenting the Trustees with a proposal to make this happen. We look forward to sharing the proposal for your approval when it is finalized.

Finally, May is the month of graduations. In many ways, the Class of 2020 has been robbed of some of the celebrations and “rites of passage” that the importance of this milestone brings. Within the pages of this newsletter, you will meet our high school graduates. When we are able to return to worship, we will have a special service to recognize them and to present them with their Bibles. Indeed, that will be a wonderful day. **Congratulations Class of 2020!**

EVENING PRAYERS

ON ZOOM

WEDNESDAY
AT 6:00 P.M.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL
OFFICE@FBCNORMAN.ORG

Class of **2020**



SAM HARP
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



SCOTT HAWKINS
MOORE NORMAN TECH
DATA MANAGEMENT



TITUS HAWORTH
OCCC
GRAPHIC DESIGN



ANNA NAVA
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



LAUREN RIGNEY
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
MODERN DANCE



WILSON SMITH
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

A different kind of Mother's Day

One event that our church family enjoys together each year is our Mother's Day Brunch.

Hallock Hall is typically decorated with pretty flowers and filled with delicious breakfast bites as we visit and celebrate together. It is on Mother's Day that we take a few moments as a church family to acknowledge our amazing mothers and grandmothers and express our gratitude.

Yes, this year will look a bit different. Even though we won't gather together at the church building, Mother's Day will not be forgotten. Special porch packages will be delivered just a few days before Mother's Day to help our FBC kids and families celebrate with their mothers and grandmothers.

Do you remember an older childhood game called Mother, May I? Our porch package will help families play an expression of this game together at home.

Mothers/grandmothers will receive

a bag filled with everyday items on their porch. Family members will choose different numbered items from the bag throughout the weekend and ask the question, "Mother, May I use this item to serve and help you feel special today?"

Simple objects like kitchen sponges, tea bags, bottles of nail polish, and even worry stones will become catalysts for giving our mothers/grandmothers some special TLC.

These items will also encourage our families to do some activities — take a walk, read a book, watch a movie, or even bake a yummy dessert together.

As you spend this Mother's Day worshiping at home, it is our hope that your family may discover some fun, meaningful ways to love and serve Mom together.



**SUZETTE
MASON**

FBC MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT ELAM MINISTRIES

Elam has been working in and around Iran since 1990. Their vision is that all the people of the Iran region would have the opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him as a disciple and that Iranians would be instrumental in taking the Gospel to other Muslims. To achieve this vision, they:

- Train leaders for fruitful, effective ministry in the Iran region.
- Equip the Iranian church with Bibles and resources for evangelism and discipleship.
- Send the Gospel into the Iran region through trained evangelists, church planters, and Christian media.

On Easter Sunday, more than 2,000 Persian-speaking households from across Iran and the surrounding region tuned into an Easter worship service, which was streamed through multiple platforms. That's expected to be the largest number of Persian-speaking believers that have gathered together for worship at Easter in living memory.

Such is the openness of the Iranian people that wherever there is a witness to the Gospel, individuals, families, and even communities are coming to Christ.

Over the years, Elam has given our Friendship International Ministry several Persian Bibles to share with our students. Through the mission portion of our church budget, we assist Elam in purchasing and distributing Bibles and providing Discipleship Training in the Iran region.

— FBC Mission Committee

YOU'RE INVITED TO A VIRTUAL TALE-GATING PARTY

PARTICIPATE BY SHARING A STORY FROM:

- A FAMILY TRIP • A POEM OR DEVOTIONAL
- AN ACT OF KINDNESS • YOUR CHILDHOOD
- A PLACE YOU HAVE VISITED

EMAIL YOUR STORIES TO VICKIER@FBCNORMAN.ORG
OR MENDID@FBCNORMAN.ORG



BE SURE TO LIKE THE NEW FAMILY LIFE CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR UPDATES, STORIES AND A QUESTION OF THE WEEK!

HOW WE GIVE



ENVELOPE
211 WEST
COMANCHE ST.
NORMAN, OK 73069



TEXT-TO-GIVE
TO THE
NUMBER
405-276-4200



ONLINE
AT
[FBCNORMAN.ORG/
GIVEPAYMENT/](http://FBCNORMAN.ORG/GIVEPAYMENT/)

PLEASE CONTINUE TO FAITHFULLY SUPPORT THE CHURCH
THROUGH YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS DURING THIS SEASON

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1: Betty Gatewood, Grace Singleterry
May 2: Titus Haworth, David Hopper
May 3: Alyssa Sullivan, Pat Walker
May 4: Donna Hammons
May 5: Ike Allen, Cole Edge, Chase Schwabe
May 6: Dorothy Walker
May 7: Donnie Bond, Logan Lassetter
May 8: Betty Wolfard
May 9: Adelyn Buffington, Don Gilmore
May 11: Richard Sigler, Kay Wallace
May 12: Charlotte Henson, Kate Parrish
May 13: Grace Dwyer, Shea Fredericks
May 14: Ashley Carr, Gavin Foster
May 15: Suzanne Cheshier, John High, Carrie James, Dylan Odell-Kesteron
May 16: Bailey Golden-McDaniels, Sam Weddle
May 17: Gary Wood
May 18: Cordeila Clough, Tammie Haworth,

Chuck Lester, Robbi Mullinax
May 19: Del McGowen, Jose' Nava
May 20: Sharon Hoskison, Evie Upchurch
May 21: Dot Adkins, Cheryl Alexander, Barbara Cole, Ty Farris
May 22: Azam Hakim
May 23: Betty Enox, Wyn Moss, Karen Reddell
May 24: Victoriya Lester, Marge Worten
May 25: Nona Argo, Raymie Foor Jr., Mona Roberts
May 26: Carol Kellison
May 27: Catherine Strevett
May 28: Jarred Elwell, Nolen Morgan, Trace Redwine, Hunter Turley
May 29: Alex Foster, Mary Lee Gossett, Anne Lawrence, Joanna Storm
May 30: Grace Koutsoukos
May 31: Lori Couch

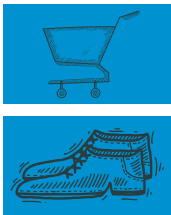
SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:
 Danny, Michelle, Nick, Jacob, Alex, Teagen, Kelsey and Gavin Foster at the passing of Michelle's grandmother, Montie Love.
 Jeff Duncan at the passing of his grandmother, Reba Duncan

The Friends and Family of Betty Nortcutt at her passing.
 Kathleen Gray at the passing of her husband, Kenney Gray
 The Friends and Family of Betty Burris at her passing.

At FIRST Glance
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 Norman, OK 73069
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COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS

FOOD PANTRY

- JELLY • PEANUT BUTTER • CEREAL • SALTINE CRACKERS
- SMALL BOTTLE OF LAUNDRY DETERGENT (40 OR 75 OZ)
- CANNED GREEN BEANS

CLOTHES CLOSET

- NEW ADULT UNDERWEAR, ALL SIZES
- MEN'S ATHLETIC SHOES
- MEN'S JEANS WAIST 32 AND 34

YOUTH

BIBLE STUDY

ON ZOOM

HIGH SCHOOL
7:00 P.M. TUESDAY

MIDDLE SCHOOL
7:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL
CLINTT@FBCNORMAN.ORG