

At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN



JULY 2020 · VOLUME 16 · ISSUE 11

I enjoy the July 4th holiday, especially when our family is able to spend a few days in Broken Arrow with our extended families.

We gather for fellowship, food and the family fireworks show. It has been fun to watch Wilson embrace and seize his role as the *fireworks master* for the family. He watches fireworks videos, negotiates a budget with his grandfather, purchases and puts together a beautiful show for the family to enjoy. He has definitely grown out of the *sparkler phase!*

In many ways, this holiday has become our summer family gathering to catch-up and celebrate life with each other. There is always cake for the summer birthdays and this year we will celebrate my niece's upcoming wedding with a family wedding shower.

Of course, Independence Day celebrations offer the opportunity for us to celebrate and reflect on the freedoms we share as Americans. These last weeks have been difficult for our nation and the coming elections will continue to stir the polarization that has become the norm for so many.

Let us remember that *Liberty and Justice for all* is the final line of our nation's Pledge of Allegiance. We must continue to grow and live into the truth of this pledge. Certainly, we have not arrived, but many have sacrificed and committed their lives to enable us to progress to this point. So, let us remember, give thanks and never step back from our declaration of *Liberty and Justice for all*.

Freedom and liberty are spiritual quests at their heart. Galatians 5:1 says that *it was for freedom that Christ set us free*. Thus, we are to keep or continue to stand in that freedom, not returning or placing ourselves again in a yoke of slavery to sin.

Later in verse 13, Paul says, *do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another*. Here is the spiritual challenge of freedom, that we not use our freedom as a license to exploit one another and seek selfish gain and pleasure. Rather, freedom flourishes and matures when its focus is on serving others, not-self. The fate of those who turn liberty into license is described in verse 15 as those who bite, devour and consume one another.

The church in America must return to these spiritual roots of freedom by serving one another and our neighbors in love. The reality is that far too often we witness liberty in America turn to license with people biting, devouring and consuming one another. As the people of God, we must lead the way in serving, not in consuming one another.

During this season of Independence, let us reclaim the freedom we have in Christ Jesus to serve others. And in so doing, may God bring healing to our nation.

During July, we will continue the worship series, *A Wandering People*. On July 19, we will recognize our 2020 high school graduates with a special youth service. We will present them with their Bibles, please go by the youth area to sign the graduate Bibles before July 19. Clint Taylor will preach and our youth will help lead the service.

July also is the month of VBS. COVID-19 has certainly caused us to *switch tracks* for VBS, but we are still excited about the opportunity for our



DR. WADE SMITH

children and families to learn and be together.

Suzette and her team will offer Wednesday VBS classes beginning July 8. Parents and grandparents, please register your children as soon as possible. Due to COVID-19 restrictions space is limited.

We continue to offer worship in the sanctuary and online. It is wonderful to see many of you returning to worship on Sunday mornings. It is also a blessing to know that so many of you faithfully worship through our online services.

We are no longer asking for you to RSVP to let us know you are coming on Sunday. We do continue to ask that you wear face masks upon entering, leaving, and transiting the church; as well as during the singing. We look forward to the day when we can all be together in worship, embracing one another and seeing each other — face to face. Until then, let us be faithful to worship, to serve, to give and to nurture the fellowship of the Spirit of God at First Baptist.

Thank you for your love and support for Gay and our family as she endures chemotherapy. Her last infusion is scheduled for the second week of July. We look forward to completing this journey of healing and resuming her day to day activities cancer-free. The cards, meals and expressions of love encourage and strengthen us for each step and each day.

Youth and Graduate
SUNDAY

10:30 A.M. JULY 19

Family Life Center ready for your next celebration

The Family Life Center is open and ready for you to plan your next celebration with us. Contact Mendi, mendid@fbcnorman.org, if you would like to reserve a time for a

- Birthday party
- Anniversary celebration
- Tailgate party
- Family reunion or dinner
- Baby shower or wedding shower
- Lifegroup theme night
- Graduation event

We have four party rooms, two kitchens, gymnasium, racquetball courts, volleyball, pickleball, wallyball and game room.

Pickleball is back!

Every Monday and Friday from 4:00-6:00 p.m. you and your friends can gather together on the Pickleball court at the Family Life Center. You can also make reservations for additional times during the week by calling the Family Life Center office, 360-5300.

Facebook

Did you know the Family Life Center has a new Facebook page? Visit the page for upcoming events, new programs, photo contests and questions of the week! The FLC reopening hours for July will also be posted on the page.

Adults 55+ Update

Join our Tale-gating party by writing a story about where you have traveled, an experience with family or friends, a devotional thought, or stories from childhood. Email them to vickier@fbcnorman.org or mendid@fbcnorman.org.

We have a Curbside Bookshelf at the FLC. Would you like to check out a book or two? Call the Family Life Center to see what books we have available.

Update on Summerscope
Summerscope and Summerscope Junior is the summer, all-day version of Kaleidoscope, our after school program.

The program is under the leadership of Staci Rhea. This summer we have 50 children enrolled.

Their days include field trips, water adventures, games, Bible story/devotional time, playground, arts and crafts, special guests, and much more!



VICKIE RIGGS

FAMILY LIFE CENTER SUMMER CAMPS

REGISTER AT FBCNORMAN.ORG

GYMNASTICS CAMP

July 13-16

ALL LEVELS

Ages 3-6: 3:15 - 4:00 p.m. (\$40)

Ages 4-13: 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. (\$45)

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED

Ages 7-14: 5:25 - 6:25 p.m. (\$45)

For more information, email Miss Carol at Carolgymconley@aol.com.

CHEF'S CAMP

August 10-13

Cost: \$80

Ages 4 years - First Grade

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Second - Fifth Grades

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Kindred Spirits

WIDOWS CONNECTION LUNCHEON

HAVE LUNCH WITH VICKIE IN THE GARDEN OF EATIN'

WEDNESDAYS
JULY 1 TO
AUGUST 26
11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH

NUMBER OF GUESTS AT EACH LUNCH ARE LIMITED

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED, CALL THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER 360-5300

Meet our Counselors In Training

I am more than excited to tell you about our C.I.T.'s. This summer's Discipleship program is made up of 10 rising sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders that serve as Counselors In Training for Kid's Ministry.

The program involves weekly Bible study, team building, working with children, and a desire to grow through serving others. They are quickly becoming an amazing service team.

Our Bible study is based upon the Christian film, *Overcomer*. Traci Mullinax is leading a strong Bible study for the students.

On Wednesdays, the students work with the children for all HI 5 activities and VBS. On Thursdays, the students gather for Bible study, snack, and the setting up process for the next kid's event. COVID-19 precautions have added the wearing of face masks, constant sanitizing, assisting children with handwashing, etc. to our everyday requirements.

Our key Bible verse is Colossians

Suzette Mason



Addison Mullinax, Bella Sullivan, Cara Kao, Chloe Kelly, Emerson Mullinax, Grace Atkins, Grant Cherry, Jessie Wong, Joslin Rigney and Marley Rogers (not pictured).

3:23... *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for people.* I am grateful to see this verse become part of them in both spirit and actions.

Singing and COVID-19

One of the most important elements of corporate worship is singing. Whether it be a solo, ensemble, choir, or the entire congregation, singing helps us engage our hearts, minds, bodies, and emotions with God and each other in ways nothing else can.

One of the things I have lamented most during the pandemic is not being able to gather together for choir, or as a congregation, to lift up our voices in song to the Lord.

You've probably heard or read how singing in groups can be particularly perilous. Some experts warn singing is as dangerous in spreading the virus as coughing or sneezing.

Physiologically, singing increases airspeed and lung pressure generating many more aerosols and droplets which can spread further. This poses an extremely difficult problem with regard to group rehearsals and singing.

Currently, the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland are researching the aerosols we create when singing or playing a wind instrument. The entire music community, especially the music education community, is very anxious to see the results of the studies. Preliminary results should be



CHAD SMITH

available by the end of June or beginning of July. I'm very grateful that our orchestra director, Dr. Michael Raiber, is on the front lines of the conversations happening about this subject among the music education community.

For FBC Norman, we will continue to approach vocal and instrumental music with wisdom and caution. Our choir and orchestra will continue their COVID-19 sabbatical until further research is available that will help us make wise and informed decisions about group singing and playing.

We will continue to ask everyone in the congregation to wear a face mask while singing. We will also keep the front center section of pew chairs out of the sanctuary to keep at least 12 feet between the platform and the first row of pews so our worship leaders can lead without face masks. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to me.



ROCKY RAILWAY VBS IS SWITCHIN' TRACKS!

WEDNESDAYS IN JULY

EACH DAY INCLUDES A BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, SNACK AND A FUN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE! SESSIONS WILL BE 1.5 HOURS WITH GROUPS OF 12 KIDS

JULY 8

JESUS' POWER HELPS US DO HARD THINGS!

JULY 15

JESUS' POWER GIVES US HOPE!

JULY 22

JESUS' POWER HELPS US BE BOLD!

JULY 29

JESUS' POWER LETS US LIVE FOREVER!

COST IS \$5 PER SESSION PER CHILD \$20 FAMILY MAX

A VBS BAG WILL BE PREPARED FOR EACH FAMILY THAT INCLUDES VBS MUSIC CD, T-SHIRTS, AND LOTS OF FAMILY FUN! SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

FBC LIFEGROUP KIDS REGISTER BY EMAILING SUZETTEM@FBCNORMAN.ORG

SIGN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE BIBLES IN YOUTH HALL

SUNDAY MORNING
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SCHEDULE TIME DURING THE WEEK

JULY YOUTH EVENTS

JULY 10: YOUTH AND FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
JULY 14-17: HIGH SCHOOL CAMP EXPERIENCE
JULY 19: YOUTH FOCUS WORSHIP SERVICE
JULY 30-AUG 1: MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP EXPERIENCE

FOLLOW FBC YOUTH ON INSTAGRAM: FBCN_YOUTH

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1: Joyce Johnson, Rhonda Price-Dewell
July 2: Mendi Dawley, Hillary Hawkins, Wilma Minyen, Alyssa Smith, Jennifer Smith
July 3: Chris Lewis
July 4: Tommy Craighead, James Harp, Chad Smith, Ina Snyder
July 5: Shelley Wilson
July 6: Cathleen Clough
July 7: Jeff Jones
July 8: Jean Allen
July 9: Vivian Holt, Isabella Nava
July 10: Ruth Carr, Johnny High
July 11: Don Burgess, James Estes, Ann Terrell
July 12: Flora Ionescu, Susan Knight, William Leber, Shirley McCormick, Deanna Pruitt, Pat Tucker
July 13: Zeke Croft, Anna Ho
July 14: Trenton McMillen
July 15: Gabe Cherry, Hannah Gordoni

July 16: Glenn Bowles, Wayne Parrish
July 17: Doyal Hedrick, J.D. Mick
July 18: Nita Bill, Ginny Cecil, Andrea Hale, Noah Hodges, Loretta Ketner
July 19: Russell Estes, Madison Rigney, Wade Smith, Ed Spann, Tiffany Sullivan, Ethan Wilson
July 20: Tracy Foor, Eleanor Mullinax, Wilson Mullinax, Warren Osburn
July 21: Gloria Lamar, Ben Shiau, Jack Smith
July 22: Claud Dill, Jeffrey Dismukes
July 24: Pat Allen, Jen Tek Kao
July 25: John DeLany, Estelle Evans
July 26: Kathy Golden, Pete Walker
July 27: Jane Kroeker, Leslie Singer
July 28: Glenn Adams, Robin Antonio, Charles Douglas
July 29: Huwanta Blasius, Laurie Foor
July 30: Lynn Murdock, Lise Simpson
July 31: Donna Dye

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

The Family and Friends of Wanita Salyer at her passing

Suanne, Joel and Spencer Carlson at the passing of their husband and father, Steve Carlson

Pat Tucker at the passing of her sister, Vicki Smith-Rosson

Ron and Kay Mercer at the passing of his sister, Laura Scribner

Jack and Camille Pinion at the passing of their daughter, Shana Leeds

Greg, Ann, Scott & Robbie Terrell and Joe, Tracy, Jacob & Alison Reddick at the passing of their mother and grandmother, Peggy Terrell.

The Family and Friends of Bonnie Penny at her passing

Craig Kanske and the Pacesetter

Travelers at the passing of his wife and their friend, Lois Kanske



COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS

CLOTHES CLOSET

NEW MEN'S AND WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR (ALL SIZES)

MEN'S ATHLETIC SHOES

MEN'S JEANS (ESPECIALLY SIZES 32 AND 34)

FOOD PANTRY

- SPAGHETTI • SPAGHETTI SAUCE
- CANNED FRUIT • LARGE CEREAL BOXES
- CAKE MIXES/PIE FILLING AND CRUST FROSTING
- BOXES OF JELLO OR PUDDING

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HOW WE GIVE



ENVELOPE

211 WEST COMANCHE ST.
NORMAN, OK 73069



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



ONLINE

FBCNORMAN.ORG/GIVEPAYMENT/