

At First Glance

First Baptist Church

February 2019

Volume 15, Issue 7



Growing Young as We Grow Old Together. With these seven words, the theme of this year's Annual Sermon can be summarized. For some reason, many churches have determined that these two efforts are in opposition to one another. I believe they go hand in hand. You cannot grow young if

you are not growing old well. And, you cannot grow old well if you are not nurturing and empowering the younger generations.

The question immediately follows, *How can a church grow young as its members grow old together?* I believe the scripture speaks to this possibility in Galatians 6:7. The principle of *Sowing and Reaping* says, *Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.* Thus, if we want to *grow young*, we must *sow young*. We must better understand the

needs of the young families and adults in our congregation and community. We must not only listen to them, but provide places of leadership, ministry and influence for them. As I mentioned in the Annual Sermon, only one person under 45 serves on our three major administrative committees.

Hospitality is a specific way that we must do better at *Sowing Young* and *Growing Old*. Specifically, I am speaking of Sunday morning hospitality. We have a small group of greeters and First Impressions volunteers that are already helping with some hospitality. They have a wonderful ministry, but as a church we must do more. At a recent staff meeting we talked about how intimidating our facility can be as guests arrive in our parking lots on Sunday morning. In addition our senior adults and families often need extra help in the parking lot.

What if a new Lifegroup formed committed to the ministry of hospitality on Sunday mornings? Instead of meeting at 9:15 a.m. for Lifegroup, they would greet people in the parking lots, sidewalks and doors helping and directing as needed. Their Lifegroup could meet earlier Sunday morning, after church or one night during the week. This is just one possibility, but I am convinced that hospitality is a key to helping us *Grow Young as We Grow Old Together*. Send me an email or text if you would like to be part of this conversation.

Souper Bowl Sunday is February 3 and at First Baptist that means a wonderful soup lunch and fellowship after worship. In addition, Souper Bowl Sunday is the Sunday we receive our annual Hunger Relief offering as well. Would you consider giving the cost of a meal for your family at a favorite restaurant?

KidsFest is Saturday, February 9. This is a new opportunity for families to look ahead and register for our summer kids ministries. I hope you will plan to attend and invite your friends and neighbors. There will be information about Summerscope, VBS, SMAK, FISH Camps, and FLC camps.

Psalm 65:9 says, *The stream of God is full of water.* The Psalmist goes on to say that from this stream water flows into the furrows, ridges, pastures, meadows, and valleys to bring a rich harvest and healthy flocks. I believe that the stream of God is full of water in this season of worship at FBC. I am thankful for Chad and the ministry of our Worship Arts teams as they prepare and lead us each Sunday. I see the living water of God flowing from the sanctuary to water the ministries, Lifegroups, and our witness of Christ to the world. Everything we do at First Baptist springs forth and is nourished in worship. May the stream of God continue to be full of water and may each of us commit to being nourished and refreshed by it each Sunday as we gather to worship the Lord.

DR. WADE
SMITH



FEBRUARY EVENTS

2-3

Souper Bowl Sunday

11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall

Oberammergau Trip Meeting

12:30 p.m., B22

Friendship Sunday Supper

4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Clothes Closet

4:30 p.m.

2-4

Hands for Harvey Trip Meeting

6:30 p.m., B20

2-5

WMU

11:30 a.m., Family Life Center

2-9

Kid's Fest

9:00 a.m.-Noon,
Family Life Center

A Look Back On 2018

Closing 2018 As we look back on the last calendar year it was definitely a transition year for FBC. All of the changes planned in 2017 were implemented, a right-sized staff and budget were implemented, we welcomed Suzette Mason as our Minister of Discipleship and Children, updated the children's area with paint and carpet, replaced flooring and began painting the FLC, we even sold surplus property along Eufaula Street to fund some of these capital needs.



More importantly, we have seen new faces come to worship and study with us, we have been active in mission work in helping people recover from Hurricane Harvey, and planning to address more maintenance and capital needs in our campus. Your generosity historically as well as last year provided for this. We concluded the year with \$1,860,800.44 in budget giving with an additional \$60,000 in extra income to cover all expenses for the year. We did not quite meet our budget goal, but we have finished the year in a favorable financial position.

Hands for Harvey Feb. 24 – March 2: As of this writing we have 29 volunteers who have committed to going on this important mission work trip. The deadline for committing to go is January 31. If God is tugging at your heart to be part of this work, please contact me and let's talk about what it may be that God desires. I can tell you lives are being changed there because of our going, but God is changing the lives and visions of all who have gone and participated.

Please consider going on this trip or one in the future. Certainly, we need your prayers. It is a long trip and it is hard work that most of us do not regularly do. We get sore and tired, but we want to come home with no injuries. Pray for our spirits and for those who we do not know yet, that they will be receptive to our work, and the message that God offers them hope!

Things Ahead: 2019 is an open book before us! Have you considered what that book may hold for you individually or for us as a congregation? We must grow this year spiritually, numerically and financially to be the people God is calling us to be.

We will have roofs and some of our HVAC systems replaced through an insurance claim. The trustees are continuing to work on additional capital needs to take care of the legacy of facilities we have.

Be on the lookout for more information as we target an April 1 roll-out of a new church management software (because our old system is being phased out). This will bring a new online payment system, a new look of our website and other great things. Pray for us as a staff to be able to get all of this change together for a smooth transition.

There is much to look forward to! Please look for a place for you to fit in, maybe in new ways, maybe ways that you used to be involved. Be in worship, be in Bible study, find ways to fellowship, bring your friends and neighbors because you see God at work here. God is desiring to do great work in this place! Will you be a part of that Great work?

Kid's Fest To Focus On Summer

Summer is only a few months away and, as always, First Baptist Norman has many fun camps, Vacation Bible School, SMAK Camp, and Summerscope planned for your children.

All summer programs offered at First Baptist Church will be outlined during Kid's Fest from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 9 at the Family Life Center.

"Kid's Fest will be a chance for families to pick up our summer brochure that will outline all of our summer kid's activities for 2019 at FBC. Also at Kid's Fest, parents will be able to register their child for summer camps and Vacation Bible School," said Suzette Mason, Minister of Discipleship and Children.

Summer wouldn't be summer at FBC without Summerscope, a day camp for kids. This year's theme is *Summer Road Trip*. Full-time and part-time spots will be available. The first day of Summerscope is June 3.

"We have so many fun things planned this year for Summerscope. Trips to the Oklahoma Science Museum, Chickasaw Cultural Center, the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum and, summer wouldn't be summer at FBC if we didn't spend a day at Andy Alligator's Fun Park," said Staci Rhea, Summerscope director.

Another summer of F.I.S.H camps are planned in June and July, and SMAK Camp, a Bible story-inspired musical camp for kids, will be held the week of August 5.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 22-26. This year's theme is *Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good*.

In May the Family Life Center will kick the summer off with a Jr. Hoops Camp. Chef Camps will be held in June and July and a gymnastics camp is planned for June.

Children Hear From Missionary

The First Baptist Church AMP Wednesdays For Kids recently enjoyed their first guest missionary speaker, Amy Williams.

The kids enjoyed the evening, they all listened, asked questions, and, most importantly, behaved well together.

"This semester our elementary classes are partnering together to hear from FBC guest missionary speakers once a month. We believe it is a wonderful opportunity for them to hear from people they know at FBC on how to be missionaries," Amberly Lee said.

If interested in being a guest missionary speaker, email Amberly Lee at amberlyandpeter@yahoo.com.



Oberammergau, Eastern Europe Trip Meeting Planned

An informational meeting is planned February 3 for the 2020 Oberammergau and Eastern Europe trip. The meeting will be 12:30 p.m. in B22.

The 10 days, nine nights trip is being organized by Rev. Chad E. Smith and will be July 21-30, 2020.

"Singers and non-singers are welcome on this trip that will include ministry concerts in Salzburg and Vienna. We also will enjoy the sights and scenes of the city of Mozart-Salzburg, Austria — including Mozart's birthplace, Salzburg Castle and The Mirabell Palace and Gardens," Chad said.

Participants of the trip will explore the city of Vienna, including St. Stephen's Cathedral, the Opera House, The Hofburg Chapel and many other incredible sights.

"I hope you will consider experiencing the district of Oberammergau where we will attend Passion Play 2020. You won't want to miss indulging in the culture of Munich while touring Marianplatz Square, Rathaus-Glockenspiel and other

**CHAD
SMITH**



incredible views of this beautiful city," Chad said.

Cost per participant (land only, does not include airfare) is \$3,695 for double occupancy and \$995 for single supplement.

Discount dates for the trip are available and drawings will be held at the February meeting for different amounts off the price of the trip.

The trip is being offered through Celebration Concert Tours International, visit their website, celebrationconcerttours.com, for more information.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY LOCAL PARTNER

In an effort to inform our members of the First Baptist Church Community Ministry Local Partners, each month we will focus on a local agency that receives assistance from your generous giving.

The Cleveland County Salvation Army in Norman operates an overnight homeless shelter. They also provide daily community meals, food pantry, clothing vouchers, as well as utility, ID, and birth

certificate assistance as they work with homeless to connect them to local resources. They lead an after school program for elementary students, weekly worship services and activities for youth, men, and women.

We partner with them through an annual financial donation, small group service projects, and providing classroom space as needed for their "Getting Ahead" classes.

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

10

Deacon Leadership Team
3:00 p.m., Media Conference Room
Rhine River Meeting
6:30 p.m., Family Life Center

15

Veteran's Lunch
11:30 a.m., K&K Rooms

17

Friendship Sunday Supper
4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall
Food Pantry
4:30 p.m.

23

Upward Basketball Awards Ceremony
Family Life Center

24

Hands For Harvey
Mission Trip Begins

25

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

CONVERGE

MARCH 15-17

\$110/FAMILY OR \$45/SINGLE
REGISTRATION BEGINS FEB. 3

SOUPER

BOWL SUNDAY

LUNCH AND HUNGER OFFERING

FEBRUARY 3

11:30 A.M. IN HALLOCK HALL

SIGNUP TO BRING A SOUP TO SHARE

Bluebonnets

AND BACKROADS
APRIL 1-5

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS • TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS • WACO, TEXAS
REGISTER AT THE FLC OR CHURCH OFFICE



VETERAN'S LUNCH



FRIDAY, FEB. 15

11:30 A.M.

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1: Kim Caldwell, Jackson Love

February 2: Donald Carter, Jim Jewell, Ralph Wampler

February 3: Wayne Cockerham, Brenda Goodspeed, Delmer Hardesty

February 4: Kelly Henderson

February 5: Dale Wade

February 6: Linda Bibb, Kelly Callahan, Jerry Hobbs, Maryam Singery, David Turley

February 7: Audre' Carter, Susan Williams

February 8: Allen Morain, Tiffany Noble, Barbara Pennybaker, Mary Robinson

February 9: Kyle Ferguson Gale McMurphy, Clint Taylor

February 10: Gary Askins, Jack Holt, Phil Moss, Shirley Rider

February 11: Jessi Rigney

February 12: Sally Reist, Fred Vinson

February 13: Ben Lane

February 14: Debbie Burchfield, Karlinda Gravel

February 15: Tammy Adkins, Robert

Arrington, Patricia Askins, Reba Duncan, Tim Milliron, Garrett Wood

February 16: Jerry Chenoweth, Bobby Fredericks, Connie Jensen, Sheryl Mitchell, Lundy Prater, P.R. Ramey, Beth Windes

February 18: Donna Kile, Mike Wilson

February 19: Glenn Foster, Ted Haxel, Scott Linn, Allison Valentine

February 20: Jaxon Koutsoukos, Chris Nott, Jonathan Walker

February 22: Angela Atkins, Ann Rhea

February 23: Richard Davis, Carol Golden, Vickie Kersey, Ashton Seratte, Elaine Tiller

February 25: Kelly Fredericks, Peggy Moss, Sarah Redwine

February 26: Ann Deal

February 27: Martha Axton, Marilyn Craighead, Myron Cunningham, Doris Perryman

February 28: Chris Knight

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

DEAR FBC...

Dear FBC,

Thank you for your recent gift! Your generous support enables our technology platform, Care Portal, to serve thousands of children in the US each year! A new story of local church engagement in the US Child welfare system is being written. Thank you for being part of the platform for kids!

Sincerely,
The Global Orphan Project

Dear FBC,

You all make such an impact on our staff and students over Christmas. We are always amazed at your generosity.

Thank you for taking care and loving on us all.

Also thank you so much for the donation to our program.
Dimensions Academy South

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Naomi Nakamura at the passing of her nephew Wylie King

Lori Wright, Josh, Jenny, Josie and Jack Wright at the passing of their brother and uncle Todd Dye

Janie Dilks at the passing of her brother, Michael Stewart

Friends and Family of Athy "Lee" Strickland at her passing

Don and Dot Adkins at the passing of his sister, Mary Klassen

Steve and Jennifer Graham at the passing of his brother-in-law, Jack Roff
Friends and Family of Gayle McNit at her passing

Doris Whinery at the passing of her brother, Bill Dean

Sue Overton at the passing of her daughter Claudia Solomon

HE'S ALIVE
EASTER TOUR
WITH
DAVID PHELPS

Sunday, March 31
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church

Tickets Must Be Purchased
online at
www.outsidethebox.events

AT FIRST GLANCE (USPS 008-741) is published monthly by the First Baptist Church, 211 W. Comanche St., 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.