

At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN



JANUARY 2020 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 5

Welcome to 2020! As we begin the New Year and a new decade, it is important that we reflect on the previous year.

My heart is still stirring from the inspiring Advent and Christmas season that we shared together. *The Joy of Giving* was a wonderful morning for our children and volunteers as they heard the Christmas story and made gifts to share with others. Our Advent services, *The Sounds of Christmas* concert and *Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service* were all beautiful moments of worship in preparation for Christmas morning. Thank you for your expressions of generosity through the *World Missions Offering*, the *Giving Tree* and *Shoebbox* ministries, as well as your end of year gifts to support the *FBC Ministry Plan*.

The 6 days before Christmas were some of the weightiest in my years of ministry. I experienced the pendulum of emotion as I officiated or participated in memorial services for three beloved members and families of our congregation and preached the final Sunday of Advent and shared in the *Christmas Eve Service*. The Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love provided the foundation from which

I was able to minister.

I must confess Joy was a struggle at times. I tend to relate joy with an outward expression of happiness and an inward enthusiasm or excitement for life. The sadness and loss surrounding death and sorrow, however, can put a damper on those aspects of joy. I understand that joy has an enduring quality that causes us to look to the future with an assurance of the hope and faith we have, so that no matter how difficult things are in the present, we can have an abiding, inward joy for the future.

Yet, I want to believe that joy is also a present reality. In reading Nehemiah 8:10 — *The Joy of the Lord is my Strength*, the Lord affirmed this reality for me. Joy is not always manifested through happiness. Joy is also manifested through strength. Strength and courage for today result from the joy of the Lord.



DR. WADE
SMITH

The good news of great joy is that a Savior has been born! I have been blessed to see the strength of these families during the Christmas season as they grieve the loss of their family member. And I am thankful for the realization that this strength is the result of the joy of the Lord that comes from the hope, peace and love of a God who saves and offers the gift of eternal life.

I look forward to worshiping with you as we begin the New Year. Instead of the traditional Annual Sermon on the second Sunday of January, I will take the first three Sundays of the year to reflect on Hebrews 13. Verse 8 proclaims that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Each Sunday we will consider an aspect of this verse as the Body of Christ at First Baptist. We begin on the first Sunday of the year by sharing the Lord's Supper together.

I pray God's blessing for you and that you will welcome the new beginnings of life, faith and relationships that God opens for you in 2020.

Pastor Wade

First Sunday of 2020

THE LORD'S SUPPER

10:30 A.M. • JANUARY 5

Be Strong and Courageous!

Happy New Year! How will we be leaving 2019? Transitioning to a new year brings a multitude of emotions and thoughts to different individuals.

To some there is great excitement involved in stepping into the unknown, while to others there is an equal amount of anxiety, sometimes even fear steps into that situation.

2019 was a very busy year and busy for many of us will be the best way to describe it. Much has been accomplished through the year in individual lives and around the life of FBC.

Along the way to accomplishments have been chug holes, many challenges, maybe even some would describe as failures.

To many this has been a year of loss described and yet the journey is to continue.

Is there unfinished business or business to continue? Is there new work to begin? In this new journey that we face it is my prayer for



**ROY JOE
HAM**

all to find the peace that Jesus describes in John 14. A peace that only He can give, that the world can never give nor understand.

I am also reminded of the words God had for Joshua following the death of Moses: Not once but three times *Be strong and courageous*. Sometimes it seems that is the only way we can step into the unknown....**BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!**

Join me in this journey to Peace as we enter the unknown of a new year!

Happy New Year! Go and be strong and courageous!

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT



A special thanks to all who were part of this year's performance of The Sounds Of Christmas concert. It was a magnificent performance and wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of everyone putting in many hours of rehearsal and preparation to help all who came be ushered into the spirit and sounds of Christmas through the arts.



Community Ministry 2019 Review

As we start the second half of the school year, our Kids Hope USA mentors continue to make a huge difference in the lives of their students.

Our mentors are working with 19 students at Lincoln Elementary, with two more starting with new students when school starts again this month. We are still in need of female mentors for three girls, and would LOVE to start those as soon as we can! Email me at angela@fbcnorman.org for more information. Please continue to be in prayer for our mentors and their students!



ANGELA ATKINS

The community ministry year in review

Thanks to your willingness to volunteer, make donations, and change lives as you can, as we all work together to show Christ's love and compassion to those in need.

In 2019, together we:

- Distributed 136 bicycles and locks to individuals in need of transportation, plus many children's bikes were given to the Baptist Children's Home



Thanksgiving Basket Party



Christmas At Dimensions South

- Provided clothing and volunteer work needed for the 395 visitors to our clothes closet
- Mentored 19 students at Lincoln Elementary
- Provided snacks for the Lincoln Elementary counselor's office
- Distributed more than 570 bags of food, including more than 270 emergency bags to individuals without a place to cook.
- Worked as a group at Family Serve night preparing hygiene packs
- Served at the Baptist Children's Home, tackling multiple projects for the campus
- Provided financial contributions to 17 local organizations helping to feed, shelter, and support children and families
- Hosted a Thanksgiving dinner, food basket, and family night for 40 families
- Provided Christmas gifts for 58 children from 25 families at Lincoln Elementary
- Hosted a Christmas party and gifts for 20 elementary students at Dimensions South
- Contributed diapers and wipes for our youngest community members
- Served nearly 1,000 meals through our Sunday Suppers



YouTube

SEARCH FOR US ON YOUTUBE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORMAN

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

THE CHURCH OFFICE
AND FLC WILL BE

closed

JANUARY 1, 2020



**SEASON BEGINS JANUARY 4
AT THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

Wednesday Night
MEAL AND ACTIVITIES

RESUME JANUARY 8, 2020
5:15 P.M. • \$5 ADULT • \$3 KID • \$20 FAMILY MAX

2020 CLARITY
YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

JANUARY 19-20, 2020

FALLS CREEK CONFERENCE CENTER
SUNDAY & MONDAY | MLK DAY WEEKEND
5PM SUN - 4PM MON

KICK OFF YEC AT YOUR
CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING!



D.A. HORTON



THE SKIT GUYS



BRIAN BALDWIN



SUMMIT OK
COLLECTIVE

REGISTER AT FBCNORMAN.ORG
COST \$40

YEC
oklahoma

#YEC2020
#YEC2020
#YEC2020

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1: Marjorie Lewis, Donna Queen, Judy Spearman

January 2: Ray Hester

January 3: Sally Arrington, Hope Turley, Luke Whitney

January 4: Maxine Cunningham, Lawrence Keith, Sean Mick, Robin Nipper

January 5: Stacy Strevett

January 6: Savannah McCall

January 7: Buddy Williams

January 9: John Bedwell

January 10: Denise Bryant, Jess Croft, Jennifer Leber, Justin Mullinax, Jacob Yturri

January 12: Matthew Lloyd, Martha McCourry, Max Singleterry

January 13: Rebecca Calvert, Carrol McConnell

January 14: Steve Graham

January 15: Lauren Arrington, Christian

Buffington

January 16: Jay Jeon, Ada Sewell

January 17: Betty Buyten, Nancy Roley

January 19: Lisa Edge, Mary Elwell, Pat McCoy

January 20: John Cole Jr., Gaitha Milligan

January 21: Marva Meador

January 22: Tandra Gowin, Joyce Marley, Amsie Singer

January 23: Francine Barnard, Neva Weaver

January 24: Barbara Anderson

January 25: Alan Thrower

January 26: Sallie Kennedy, Grace Le

January 27: Geary Hunt, Emily Lenhardt, John Smist

January 28: Shana Adkisson, Selah Lee

January 29: Vicky DeLany

January 30: Alice Coker-Camp, Becky Leon

January 31: Jodi Beery, Don Farris

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Mike, Jodi, Peyton & Riley Beery and Taylor Lovell at the passing of their grandmother, Rosemary Beery

Don Hull at the passing of his wife, Helen

Al McCord at the passing of his wife, Rosemary

The Friends and Family of Marcene Primrose at her passing

Tony and Nancy Gardner at the passing of her father, Tom Deplois

Ron and Kay Mercer at the passing of her brother, Randall Goar

Don Farris; Denise Benzer family and Marty Farris family at the passing of their wife, mother and grandmother, Marcia Farris

Azam Hakim at the passing of her brother-in-law Vaji

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCH

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
11:30 AM – 1:00 P.M. IN HALLOCK HALL

PICKLEBALL

7:00- 9:00 P.M.
MONDAYS
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

FAITH STEPS CLASS

DURING LIFEGROUPS
JANUARY 26

FOR CHILDREN 1ST – 5TH GRADES HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FOLLOWING CHRIST OR BAPTISM

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

KINDRED SPIRITS
WIDOW SUPPORT
LUNCHEON
11:30 A.M. • JAN. 20
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

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