

At First Glance

FIRST BAPTIST NORMAN



FEBRUARY 2020 • VOLUME 16 • ISSUE 6

Do you have an astigmatism? I do. Thankfully, this common eye condition causing blurred vision can be corrected through glasses, contact lenses and surgeries, such as LASIK.

I have come to believe that many suffer from a Jesus astigmatism. In other words, we see Jesus with blurry vision. I am reminded of the story of Zaccheus in Luke 19. As Jesus entered Jericho, Zaccheus tried to see Jesus, but he could not because of the crowd. The same is true today. We often see Jesus with blurry vision because of the crowd around us. We hear all kinds of stories and interpretations of who Jesus is. We want to believe, but we are not sure what to believe. We have a Jesus astigmatism.

Thankfully, our vision of Jesus can be corrected. To do so, we must turn to the gospels in the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are the gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus. As we read, study and meditate on the teachings, prayers, miracles and accounts of Jesus' life, our vision of Jesus becomes clearer and clearer.

Our worship series over the next weeks is titled, *Jesus 20/20*. Our goal is to see Jesus more clearly as we encounter and see Him in the gospels. Our journey will take us to the wilderness, the mountains and the seashore. We will see Jesus on the cross and at the tomb. I encourage you to spend time reading and meditating on the life of Jesus in the gospels as a regular part of your spiritual formation.

If you were given one extra day this year, how would you spend it? Would you treat it like any other day and fill it

full of the regular activities and routines of life? Would you use it as a catch-up day for chores, projects or sleep? Or, would you set it apart and receive it as a gift to be enjoyed and shared in a special way?

Well, 2020

is a Leap Year and February 29 is a day that we experience once every four years. How will you spend it? Let me invite you to spend a portion of it in prayer. **February 29 will be a Day of Prayer at First Baptist.** The church will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with several prayer stations to help focus our praises, prayers and petitions to the Lord. The prayer stations will take about an hour to complete. I believe this will be a significant day for our church as we pray and seek the Lord's will as the Body of Christ at FBC. As Jesus said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not keep watch for one hour?"

One of the special Sundays at First Baptist is **Souper Bowl Sunday** when we gather after church for a soup fellowship and to collect a special offering for hunger relief. This year's Souper Bowl is February 2. The key to a successful Souper Bowl is soup and generosity. Please let us know if you can bring a soup to share as we enjoy fellowship with one another. Our offering this year will go to FBC's



DR. WADE SMITH

Food Pantry as we provide food to the homeless and family bags to those in need. In addition our offering also will go to provide livestock to at-risk families internationally. Maybe your family would give the cost of a goat, sheep, cow or chickens to help another family become more food secure in their village.

Finally, we have been blessed by the ministry of Roy Joe and Lydia Ham over these past 12 years. Roy Joe recently announced his retirement and plans to move near their daughters and grandsons and to develop The Carpenter's Hope, a disaster relief ministry. Roy Joe's last Sunday will be March 29. Roy Joe will preach that Sunday and a lunch fellowship to honor, celebrate and bless he and Lydia will follow. I hope you will make plans to attend and offer your personal gratitude to Roy Joe and Lydia over these next weeks.

JESUS 20/20

WORSHIP SERIES

FEB. 2: SEEING JESUS IN THE WILDERNESS

FEB. 9: SEEING JESUS ON THE SEA

FEB. 16: SEEING JESUS AT THE WELL

FEB. 23: SEEING JESUS IN THE SECRET

The Carpenter's Hope ministry established

For those who may not have been in worship on Sunday, January 12, or may not have understood my announcement, the following is my submission of retirement which I shared with the congregation.

JANUARY 12, 2020

Good morning church family,

Our journey to come to Norman to serve as your Minister of Administration began about this time 12 years ago that led to you as a congregation calling me to begin my ministry here in June 2008. God has blessed our ministry together and I thank you for your support, encouragement, and the privilege to share life together over these past 12 years.

Today, I submit notice of my retirement to become effective, on March 31, 2020. While this will come to a surprise to most of you, please understand that this is my understanding of God's call for Lydia and I as we seek to be faithful in my call to ministry. The decision has not been taken lightly, nor without much prayer.

To those who may ask what is next for the Ham family, Lydia and I will be moving to the North Texas area to be closer to our daughters and their families. Of course, that includes our 2 grandsons. In the coming days, and certainly when we get settled again, I will do what many of you have done in retirement — go get involved in something new.

I believe God is opening a door for a new ministry endeavor to expand in what many of you have been involved in here over the past two years. I am filing the paperwork to establish a not-for-profit corporation to be named The Carpenter's Hope with the purpose to promote and facilitate long-term disaster recovery, to continue and spread the great work of ministry to the forgotten after disasters such the



**ROY JOE
HAM**

Hands for Harvey work we have been involved in here.

We are excited to see what God has in store for us in the months and years ahead. But again, we will be here through the end of March as we all move in this time of transition. We ask that you be in prayer for us as we follow God's lead in this new season of life as we will pray for you during your time of transition.

Some of you have already asked how you can support The Carpenter's Hope ministry we are establishing. We have received permission to establish an account here at FBC to which you may give designated receipts. If you give online the account will be found under the disaster relief tab.

Again, thank you for your support and encouragement in our ministry with you through these past 12 years. We work until the end of March to make this as easy and positive transition as possible.

Peace in this journey.

KID FEST
INFO AND REGISTRATION
FOR SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

FEBRUARY 1
10:00 A.M. TO NOON
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

DNOW
YOUTH WEEKEND
RESONATE
FEBRUARY 7-9
6TH-12TH GRADES

REGISTER AT FBCNORMAN.ORG

**BROOKLYN
TABERNACLE**
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 // 7PM
CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH
14600 PORTLAND AVE, OKC

Singers

THE FBC NORMAN CHOIR JOINS THE
CROSSINGS COMMUNITY CHURCH FOR THE
BROOKLYN TABERNACLE SINGERS CONCERT
VISIT FBCNORMAN.ORG FOR TICKET INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 29
DAY OF PRAYER
6:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
YOUR PRAYER JOURNEY
WILL MOVE FROM STATION TO STATION
AND TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR

COULD YOU NOT KEEP WATCH FOR ONE HOUR?

Changes coming to Sunday Supper

This past year I, and many of you serving at our Sunday Supper, have noticed the lower attendance many weeks. The community wide efforts to house the chronically homeless as well as Food and Shelter's relocation mean that fewer are attending.

Because of the consistently reduced demand for our free community meal, the Community Ministry Leadership team is consolidating our two monthly Sunday Suppers into one. The meal would be offered on the First Sunday of the month to reduce holiday conflicts. It will also allow us to promote this meal and the food and clothing resources as *First Sundays at First Baptist*.

We will continue to provide a full, well-balanced meal from 4:00-5:00 p.m., with both clothing and food pantry distribution at 4:30 p.m. We see that those who are attending do value the quality and quantity of food we provide, as well as the safe community space.

We continue to hope that it can be an outreach for families and children but recognize that the timing, attendee mix, and other factors make it a less attractive option for families than other seasonal community-wide church events such as Boo-tiful Evening and the Thanksgiving

Basket Party.

Reducing the meal timing to one per month will give us a bit more freedom to try new ideas to reach more families, as well as make the meal time a bit more special for those who attend.

It will also allow each LifeGroup to serve once per year, either at the First Sunday meal or at the second Sunday lunch we continue to serve at Food and Shelter (smaller classes/groups).

It will also allow us to consolidate some of our volunteer positions, reducing our "volunteer load" but also allowing some rotation potential within some positions that are notoriously hard to fill to make those a better fit for volunteers.

This change would be effective in March, a natural break due to spring break and Converge on the third Sunday. We will continue to have food bags available in the church office to distribute as needed during office hours.

Watch for the revised meal volunteer schedule in your LifeGroups this month.



**ANGELA
ATKINS**

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY 5 TO MARCH 4

WRITING YOUR LIFE STORY

11:00 a.m. to noon
Wednesdays
Family Life Center

FEBRUARY 9

56 CONNECT KICKOFF BREAKFAST

9:15 a.m. LifeGroup
5th and 6th graders

FEBRUARY 10

DEACON MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

4:30-6:00 p.m.
Hallock Hall

FEBRUARY 17

KINDRED SPIRITS WIDOWS CONNECTION GROUP

11:30 a.m.
Family LifeCenter

FEBRUARY 29

WINTER YOUTH JAM
Meet at Church 3:00 p.m.
Chesapeake Energy

Souper Bowl SUNDAY LUNCH AND HUNGER OFFERING



FEBRUARY 2

Following Worship • Hallock Hall

**SIGN-UP IN YOUR LIFEGROUP
OR AT FBCNORMAN.ORG TO BRING A SOUP**

PICKLEBALL

AT THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

MONDAY

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

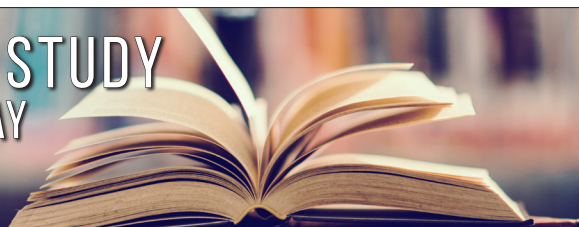
FRIDAY

2:30 - 4:30 P.M.

FIRST FRIDAY

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY BIBLE STUDY
8:00 P.M. THURSDAY
ROOM 221



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 1: Jackson Love
February 2: Donald Carter, Nic Carter, Jim Jewell, Misty Wells
February 3: Wayne Cockerham, Delmer Hardesty
February 4: Kelly Henderson
February 5: Sarah Getto, Carilyn Glass, Dale Wade
February 6: Linda Bibb, Kelly Callahan, Jerry Hobbs, David Turley
February 7: Audre' Carter, Susan Williams
February 8: Sarah Blake, Maggie Marcum, Allen Morain, Tiffany Noble, Barbara Pennybaker, Mary Robinson
February 9: Kyle Ferguson, Clint Taylor
February 10: Gary Askins, Jack Holt, Phil Moss, Shirley Rider
February 11: James Melton, Jessi Rigney
February 12: Austin Hoepfer, Sally Reist, Fred Vinson
February 13: Ben Lane
February 14: Debbie Burchfield

February 15: Robert Arrington, Patricia Askins, Reba Duncan, Garrett Wood
February 16: Jerry Chenoweth, Bobby Fredericks, Connie Jensen, Sheryl Mitchell, Lundy Prater
February 18: Pablo Fisher, Kathy Foster, Donna Kile, Mike Wilson
February 19: Glenn Foster, Ted Haxel, Scott Linn, Allison Valentine
February 20: Jessica Flood-Dacus, Jaxon Koutsoukos, Chris Nott, Jonathan Walker
February 22: Luke Staisiunas, Angela Atkins, Ann Rhea
February 23: Richard Davis, Carol Golden, Elaine Tiller
February 25: Karen Anderson, Kelly Fredericks, Peggy Moss, Sarah Redwine
February 26: Ann Deal
February 27: Martha Axton, Marilyn Craighead, Myron Cunningham, Doris Perryman
February 28: Chris Knight, Megan Webb

SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Tom and Becky Leon at the passing of Becky's mother, Mary Ruth Higgins
 Bruce and Tandra Gowin at the passing of Tandra's sister, Kathleen Sumpter and at the passing of her uncle Harold Sumpter
 Mona and Elmer Roberts at the passing of Mona's sister, Donnie Nell Northcutt

Clint, Allison, Austin, Avery & Alex Taylor at the passing of Allison's uncle, Jim Bradford
 Naomi Nakamura at the passing of her sister Goldie Whitlock
 Trish Rigney, Scott and Jess, Madison, Lauren and Joslin Rigney at the passing of Trish's sister Christy Finley
 Jessica and Davin Dacus at the passing of Davin's great uncle, Elmer Dacus

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 13-15

CONVERGE FAMILY WEEKEND

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY
AND WORLD TOGETHER

**GUEST SPEAKER
JIMMY DORRELL**
MISSION WACO/MISSION WORLD

\$110/FAMILY \$55/SINGLE

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

DINNER AND CONCERT

LAUREN DAIGLE WORLD TOUR

MARCH 6 • OKC
REGISTER IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

TICKET COST IS \$55 • DINNER IS DUTCH TREAT

DEAR FBC...

Dear FBC,

We truly appreciate all you do for us. Your labor of love and generous gifts are so appreciated. Thank you for loving our students and families and staff.

Dimensions Academy staff

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.

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

LIVING THE JOURNEY