

# At First Glance



## First Baptist Church

April 2019

Volume 15, Issue 9

*Suffering Servant, Risen Lord!* Our journey to Easter Sunday draws near as we continue our worship series through the suffering passage of Isaiah 53. I



**DR. WADE SMITH**

encourage you to read and meditate

upon this passage as you prepare for Holy Week. It is amazing to think that the detail of this passage was written centuries before its fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. As we consider Isaiah 53, may the Spirit of God impress upon us the love, grace and mercy of God, who in Jesus bore our sin and received our chastening. We are healed because of His selfless sacrifice.

I invite you to embrace fully the opportunities of Holy Week at First Baptist. It is tempting to celebrate His entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and rejoice in the empty tomb on Easter Sunday with no consideration of the pain, suffering, and rejection of the rest of the week. We must go to the cross with Jesus!

On Palm Sunday, *Point of Grace* will join our Worship Arts ministries in leading the entire worship hour. On Wednesday of Holy Week, Alameda Church of Christ will host the Lenten Lunch service at noon. We will have a special Good Friday service to reflect on the cross and share together in the Lord's Supper. A special Family *Eggstravaganza* will be held on Saturday, April 20 in anticipation of Easter Sunday. And of course, make plans to be here Easter Sunday as we celebrate and proclaim that *Christ the Lord has Risen!*

On Sunday, April 28, we will focus on Servant Leadership and specifically the ministry of deacons. Over these next weeks, begin praying about those you would like to nominate to serve as deacon at First Baptist. Deacons are those who demonstrate a mature faith in Christ and support the mission and Body of Christ at First Baptist through their presence, ministry and generosity. I am thankful for our deacons and look forward to seeing the new deacons the Lord will call to serve.

We unveil our new website on April 1. I encourage you to become familiar with our website, as it provides helpful information and is a great resource for you to introduce others to First Baptist. Upgrading our technology and strengthening our presence on social media is one area that we must *Grow Young* as we seek to reach a new generation for Christ.

Thank you for your attendance at our recent church conference. I am reminded of the faithful work of those who serve on our committees and ministry teams. A special thank you to Jim Spearman and Jay Jimerson for their leadership in working with our Trustees and Budget Committees in bringing recommendations to move forward with the West Wing restroom renovations.

I look forward to sharing this season of life and ministry with you. May God find us faithful as we *Grow Together, Share Life Together, and Serve Together.*

### APRIL EVENTS

**4-2**

WMU

11:30 a.m., Family Life Center

**4-3**

Lenten Service and Lunch

12:00 p.m., Grace Fellowship,  
102 W. Eufaula

**4-7**

New At First Lunch

11:30 a.m.

University Lunch

11:30 p.m., Hallock Hall

Choir Lunch

12:30 p.m., Hallock Hall

Choir Rehearsal

12:30-2:30 p.m.

Orchestra Rehearsal

1:00-3:00 p.m.

Friendship Sunday Supper

4:00 p.m., Hallock Hall

Clothes Closet

4:30 p.m.

## Spring welcomes new beginnings

The end of March has marked a change in seasons. We welcome spring after a long cold, wet winter. Spring is one of my favorite seasons of the year (minus the allergies) due to all of the new things that God allows us to experience. New life from what was dormant and seemed to be dead, new life with birds and animals making themselves known again, and fresh new starts in so many ways.

Spring is also bringing new opportunities at First. New families continue to visit us for Bible study and worship, looking for a new faith family. Plans for summer ministries always draw new interest. And this spring brings some new life to the facilities of FBC.

Finally, I can report that the insurance company has agreed to the settlement of the hail damage to our roofs and air conditioning systems. The claim totals \$1,156,565 to replace roofs on the Falls Creek cabin, the missionary house, Common Ground, and roofs on the main building including the sanctuary, and all flat roofs over the west end education space. The claim also will include the 11 air conditioning units on the southwest section of the church building. Now that the settlement is complete, I will ask the trustees to consider a proposal to replace the breezeway roof which ended up not being included in the roof project.

Also, in the March 24 church conference, the church voted to move ahead and support the proposal to renovate and bring all west wing restrooms up to code, provide increased fixtures that code requires, refresh the restrooms, and add family restrooms on each floor which code requires.

As you can imagine, the work on the main plant will take patience and understanding in the weeks ahead. All attempts will be made to minimize the effect it has on the use of space and access.

All of these projects are necessary to take care of the great legacy of facilities that have been provided by those who came before us so we can hand to those who are yet to come.

**Hands for Harvey:** Thank each of you for your prayer and support of the February 24 Hands for Harvey mission trip to Refugio. The 32 who went and gave of their time and energy, those who provided food, gave financially, made nap blankets, and prayed for us — Thank you. Find someone who went to hear of this life-changing experience.

The next trip to Refugio is being planned for October 27 – Nov 2. I encourage you to begin praying with and for this trip. That God will prepare those who need to go, those who we need to support our work, and the larger mission of FBC being the Hands and Feet of Jesus wherever we go.

**ROY JOE  
HAM**



## Point Of Grace to lead worship April 14

The women of Point Of Grace have provided a soundtrack to our lives for over two decades and on Sunday, April 14 the group will lead First Baptist in worship during the 10:30 a.m. service with the FBC choir and orchestra.

Point of Grace is an all-female Contemporary Christian music vocal group.

The trio consists of Shelley Breen, Denise Jones, and Leigh Cappillino.

Group member Denise Jones was born and raised in Norman with her two sisters. She is the daughter of Don and Janice Masters. Denise married her husband Stu Jones at First Baptist Norman. Her deep family roots gave her a spiritual and musical foundation as she participated in choral and related activities in school and church during her Norman upbringing.

At the beginning stages of their ministry, Point Of Grace based themselves in Norman and recorded their first custom album in Oklahoma City. They were beyond thrilled to be inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in 2018.

The group's debut self-titled album was released in 1993; since then, they have been recognized as one of the top Contemporary Christian music bands in the United States. In 2003, they released their ninth album, *24* — a compilation of 24 previous hits.

With more than 8 million recordings sold, 3 Grammy nominations, multiple Dove awards, and countless accolades, the story of a few gifted college girls with a simple passion to unite and share their musical gifts for the Glory of God continues to evolve and engage thousands of fans, both old and new.



**Point of Grace**

## Lenten lunch series continues

The 2019 Norman Ministerial Fellowship Lenten lunch series will continue in April. Each service begins at noon and lunch will be served at 12:35 p.m. Cost for the lunch is \$5.

On Wednesday, April 3 Grace Fellowship, which meets at The Hall at the Railhouse, 102 W. Eufaula St., will host. Guest pastor is Daniel Kitchel, The Cross Church of Norman.

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 24th Ave. SW, will be the host church on Wednesday, April 10 with guest pastor Jeannie Himes, St. Stephens Methodist Church.

The Holy Week service, Wednesday, April 17, will feature guest pastor Mike Butler, Crosspointe Church, at Alameda Church of Christ, 801 E. Alameda St.



# ONLINE GIVING UPDATE

## EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WILL CHANGE PROVIDERS FOR OUR ONLINE GIVING PLATFORM.

After March 31 all Vanco accounts will be discontinued. If you have repetitive giving setup for Vanco, those may continue to be withdrawn until April 5. Please monitor your online account activity. Be assured your account will be disabled from Vanco when the final activity is complete.

The new platform we will utilize is with Shelby systems. You will continue to access the giving page from the FBC Norman website. At the left is the progression of screens you will need to follow to make a gift or an event payment. Please note, both contributions and payments can be made through one account with this system.

If you utilize the Give Now portion of online giving, you will not be required to set up an account. However, if you make regular or recurring offerings or payments, it is advisable to register an account.

It is our intent to provide an easier solution to online giving. If you have any difficulties with this transition, please contact the church office at 321-1753.

### NEW TEXT GIVING

With the new platform, text giving will also be available. Text 405-276-4200 with the amount you would like to give to the General Ministry/Budget Fund.

**Give**

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**My Donation**

FUND AMOUNT  
 Choose a Fund  \$

+ ADD DONATION

PLEASE DESIGNATE optional

**Give**

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**My Donation**

FUND AMOUNT  
 Choose a Fund  \$

- ✓ Choose a Fund
- Tithes and offerings
- Missions
- Disaster Relief
- Capital Improvements
- Children's Ministry
- FLC Children's Events
- Sr Adults
- Worship Arts/Music
- Youth

+ ADD DONATION

PLEASE DESIGNATE optional

**Give**

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**My Donation**

FUND AND SUB FUND AMOUNT  
 Tithes and offerings Choose a Sub Fund  \$

+ ADD DONATION

PLEASE DESIGNATE optional

**Give**

[GIVE NOW](#) [SIGN IN](#)

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**My Donation**

FUND AND SUB FUND AMOUNT  
 Tithes and offerings General Ministry Plan Bt  \$

+ ADD DONATION



# First Baptist Church

loving people, teaching the word, living the journey

# Family Life Center Birthday Celebration May 4-5

The Family Life Center is turning 40 this year and we are ready to celebrate with a birthday party May 4-5.

"For 40 years the Family Life Center has been a vital part of the ministry of First Baptist Church. This celebration is not only to say thank you to those who have been involved in the FLC ministry through the years but to say what's next? How can we as a congregation use the FLC to touch lives within our membership and continue to reach out to the Norman community?" Vickie Riggs, Minister of Community Impact/Adults 55+, said.

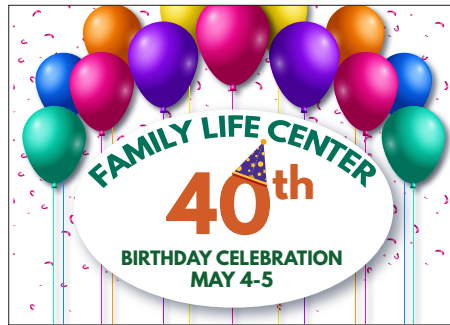
The birthday celebration will begin on May 4 with a Mini CampSonshine. CampSonshine was a week-long day camp experience at the Family Life Center that spanned 20 years. As part of the 40th birthday celebration at the Family Life Center, we will enjoy music, devotional/story time, fun games in the gym and share memories with our children during a Mini-CampSonshine.

"If you were a camper or a counselor, bring your children and join us from 10:00 a.m. to noon! All children, parents, and grandparents are invited! A come and go Lunch is included. We also will celebrate at noon with a birthday cake," Vickie said.

The fun will continue from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on May 4 with a painting class in the craft room, pool, ping-pong and Wii challenges in the game room, games and inflatables in the gymnasium and memory books and board games in the Garden of Eatin'.

At 6:00 p.m. on May 4, we will enjoy a meet and greet potluck sponsored by the FBC Youth of the 1960s and 1970s. Bring your favorite dish and join us!

For more information, call the Family Life Center at 360-5300.



## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 10** Lenten Service and Lunch  
12:00-1:00 p.m., Memorial Presbyterian Church/First Congregational, 601 24th Ave SW
- 12** Youth Retreat  
Senior Seminary With Dr. Roark  
9:30-11:30 a.m., FLC
- 14** Point Of Grace  
10:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Deacon Leadership Team  
3:30-4:00 p.m., Media Conference Room
- 17** Lenten Service and Lunch  
12:00-1:00 p.m., Alameda Church of Christ, 801 Alameda St.
- 19** Good Friday and Lord's Supper  
7:00-8:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- 20** Family Eggstravaganza  
9:00-11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall
- 21** Easter  
University Lunch  
11:30 a.m., Hallock Hall
- 25** Norman Music Festival Weekend

## INTERGENERATIONAL FAMILY eggstravaganza

**APRIL 20**  
9:00-11:30 A.M.  
HALLOCK HALL

- BRUNCH • EGG SCAVENGER HUNT
- LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR PROJECT
- EASTER CAKE DECORATING
- RESURRECTION COOKIE KIT

REGISTER ONLINE AT  
**FBCNORMAN.ORG**  
\$5 PER PERSON/\$20 FAMILY MAX

# Holy Week

## GOOD FRIDAY AND LORD'S SUPPER

APRIL 19, 7:00 P.M.  
SANCTUARY

## EASTER SERVICE

APRIL 21, 10:30 A.M.,  
SANCTUARY



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**April 1:** Paul Hawkins, Glen Hubbel, Buzz Jensen, Kubra Karim, Stuart Rucker, Jim Stewart

**April 2:** Josh Edge, Hazel Jensen, Doug Upchurch

**April 3:** Ann Borden, Grant Cherry

**April 4:** Mike Morris, Marley Rogers, Deena Standfast

**April 5:** Roy Brown, Drew Hester, George Landreth II

**April 6:** Steve Vishanoff, Ernie Chen

**April 7:** Dan McMillen, Jay Turley

**April 8:** Marcus Dollard, Scott Rigney,

**April 9:** Janet Harp, Abigail Schutt, Ginger Shockley, Bella Sullivan

**April 10:** Trish Foor

**April 11:** Kathy Ferguson, Jonathan Storm, Joshua Storm

**April 12:** Teagen Foster, Justin Turley,

**April 13:** Patti Drennan, Barbara Stone

**April 15:** Chloe Ferguson, Mike Getto, Peter Lee, Mary Varner

**April 17:** Fern Cockerham, Marcia Farris, Becky Graham

**April 18:** Jack Green,

**April 20:** Lee Borden, Ann Hodges, Janette Ketchum, June Shiau,

**April 23:** Betty Allen, Georgia Barnard,

**April 24:** Penny Buchanan

**April 25:** Young Jeon, Ming Kao, Dale White

**April 26:** Sandy Dismukes, Harold Emery, Erica Wirth

**April 27:** Timothy Schaffner,

**April 28:** Dennis Swing, Phil Webb

**April 29:** Christine Dodd, Kenneth Hudson, Kelly Marcum, Patricia Morgan, Fleeta White

**April 30:** Annette Meyers, Tara Smith

## SYMPATHIES

The First Baptist Church family wishes to extend sympathies to:

Al Bass at the passing of his mother, Mae Bass and his sister Sandra Miles.

Lori, Kelsey, Tyler & Ashley Couch at the

passing of their grandfather, Jim Couch

Lin and Ed Copelin at the passing of her mother, Vivian Anderson

Naomi Nakamura at the passing of her sister-in-law, Mary Foster

## 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.*

For over 30 years, Food and Shelter has been feeding women, children and men who are hungry and housing families in crisis. Food and Shelter serves the most indigent residents of our community many of which live on little to no income.

Food and Shelter serves breakfast and lunch seven days per week to any person who is hungry. On average, they serve 250 meals per day. Food and Shelter also provides food baskets to hungry families who may have to choose between buying food and paying rent.



FOOD & SHELTER

The shelter component of Food and Shelter is a multi-faceted program that provides short term, long-term and supportive housing for individuals and families who are homeless.

Food and Shelter recently expanded its campus with a completely new kitchen and dining room, additional office space and 32 beautifully crafted homes for women, children and men who are experiencing homelessness.

## DEAR FBC...

**Dear FBC,**

On behalf of myself and my family I would like to thank the wonderful people at First Baptist Church for their condolences and prayers during my mother's and sister's recent illnesses and passings. Your love and concern will always be remembered, thank you.

Al Bass

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