

What's Going On At Muskogee?

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

It's been 65 days since we have been without a Senior Pastor, we as a church staff are so grateful for individuals who have sacrificially volunteered to fill in the gaps where ministry is needed. The following chart will help you understand just, "What's going on" here at the church during this process of the Pastoral Search.

SEARCHING FOR A SENIOR PASTOR	SEARCH COMMITTEE	MINISTERING TO THE PEOPLE	PREPARING FOR INTERIM PLUS	PERSONNEL COMMITTEE	PRAYING FOR THE PROCESS	CHURCH
• Research and prep • Become a team • Discover how to pray for our new Senior Pastor and encourage the church to do the same • Discover our needs • Anticipate our future • Describe who FBC Muskogee is to prospective candidates	• Spiritual direction for church in conjunction with leadership • Plan preaching schedule • Communicate with church • Hospital visits • Funerals • Weddings • Counseling • Leading	• Encourage staff • Search and communicate with potential interim Senior Pastor • Check on the health and stability of the staff	• Pray for the Search Committee • Pray for the new Senior Pastor • Pursue unity and health of church family • Stay faithful to our Lord and our church			

Associate Pastor - Billy Parker

The Personnel Committee has extended Dr. Stan Norman the opportunity to be our interim preacher and he has accepted the position. Dr. Norman will begin Sunday, October 26, 2014 and will be with us until we call a Senior Pastor.

Biography: Dr. Stan Norman is currently the Provost and Executive Vice President for Campus Life at Oklahoma Baptist University. He has served in administrative and teaching roles in higher education for 13 years. Dr. Norman oversees and coordinates with administrators in academic affairs, student development, spiritual life, university advancement, enrollment management and university communications.

A native of Durant, OK, Dr. Norman completed a Ph.D. degree in Systematic Theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from the seminary in 1990. He completed a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from the Criswell College in 1987, after completing two years of undergraduate work at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



NEW FLOORING

31,000 square feet of flooring has been installed in the church, replacing in some cases, carpet that was installed 25 years ago. Special thanks to the Property and Space Team for: casting a vision, being good stewards of the facility, and seeing the project through.

Just a reminder, the flooring provides a clean and attractive place for people to worship and study the Bible, and of course you know the Word changes lives. That's why we need to take care of things like the flooring.

Minister of Education - Eric Fletcher

Over the last six months, we have had several people visit our church from the Muskogee area. Many of those people are looking for a church home, but have yet to join a Bible Study class or become a member of our church family. As a church staff, we have made initial contacts with these visitors and I know many of our Bible Study leaders have reached out to them as well. I am going to challenge us to take it one step further. We are going to do something called "Follow-Up Connection". This will be a **3 week emphasis** where we will establish teams of people to go out and make a connection with these visitors. The teams will consist of two men or two women and obviously, the men will visit men and families, and the women will visit women and families. We will be taking gift bags that have been made up for them. The goal is to communicate that our church family cares about them. The teams will communicate that we would love for these people to come and be a part of our church family. They will also ask if the household has any prayer needs. Each person that has visited our church has in a sense already reached out to us and we will do our best to reach back to them.

If you are interested in being involved in "Follow-Up Connection", please come to our training meeting on October 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

I would also like to make you aware:

In order for the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute classes to begin here on our campus, we will need to gauge exactly how much interest there is. Just to refresh your memory, we will have Master's level classes in theological studies (E.G. New Testament Survey) here at our church for those who would like to pursue a degree or for those who would just like to gain the knowledge. For our church members, to audit these classes would be completely free. With that in mind, we will be having an **"Interest" meeting on Sunday, October 5 in the Fellowship Hall at 5:00 p.m.** During this meeting we will be discussing what the first class to be offered here will be, what the Syllabus will look like, what the required reading will be, and what the time commitment will be. As I've already mentioned, in order for us to proceed we have to see what the interest is. Please come to this meeting if you are interested in these classes.

Minister to Children - Debbie Miller

New Kids in the Pew

You may have noticed a few “new kids in the pew” lately. Each fall at promotion time, we have new children in the pews because they are now too old to stay in a preschool class all morning. You will see most of these children for the first time during Family Worship the last Sunday of the month. On this particular Sunday, we close Kidville Worship and families worship together. In addition, we have children who join us in worship every Sunday because they are now too old to be in Kidville Worship.

Kay Henry, author of *When I Go to Church*, suggests the following ways adults can make worship meaningful to children:

- Pay attention to children. Greet the children in your pew and call them by name.
- Acknowledge their need to move and ignore small distractions.
- Embrace the fact that the spiritual nurture of children is a responsibility of the entire church. Jesus indicated that children are important. Jesus gave His love and attention to children. Churches should not neglect the nurture of children – by design or default – as participants in the community of worshipers.

In one of my favorite books, *Parenting in the Pew*, the author, Robbie Castleman says our job as we enter into worship with our children is to introduce our children to their heavenly father. She says one mistake we make is we take our children “to church” when we should be taking them “to worship.” I’m praying this year is a growing time for children who join us, their church family, in worship.

WELCOME CENTER

On October 5, we will have a new way to inform and encourage our guests. We are asking our members upon greeting guests, to invite them to the new Welcome Center located near the Crossover. It’s important that we personally walk with them to the Welcome Center. Once there, you will find a 2-person team meeting/greeting and handing out gift bags to our guests. Inside the bags, we will include important information about our church, coupons and a gift. We can then share with them the location of the adult and children’s Bible Study classes.

This is a big change in the way we greet. We are moving from telling guests where to go, to showing them where things are. This of course puts the emphasis on each of us - the members - to be attentive to new people and to help guide them around the facility. Thank you for your help.

Minister to Students - Corey Seitz

In the last month or two, my eyes have been awakened to the reality that our nation is not as racially harmonized as we may have thought or desired. The killing of young Mike Brown in Ferguson, MO. has proven that racial tension is still a dividing wall between groups of people. We see racially divided groups and organizations within various areas of our culture. Sadly, one of the most segregated days of the week is Sunday. I believe the Gospel has called us to something greater. I believe it is this Gospel that says that ALL of us were once far off, out of God’s family, but Jesus, through His life, death, and resurrection, has brought all who will believe, close to the Father. Is this not a picture of how we should be living our lives as Christians? Jesus hasn’t put any stipulations on who can be in and who can be out. The only prerequisite is that you must be a sinner in need of amazing grace...and I believe every person qualifies.

The Gospel calls us to unify and not divide, but so often we divide and distance ourselves from those who are different than us. What would it look like if Christians in Muskogee united under the banner of Christ rather than the banner of something else, like race, or economics, or anything else for that matter. There are lost people of all races in need of the saving Grace of Jesus. Will we be a people who takes it to them? Will FBC Muskogee be a church who reaches out to the neighborhood in which God has planted us? I pray that we will all be people who savor the Grace God has shown to us through Jesus and extend it to ALL people. May we be a people who unite ALL people to Jesus and showcase to the world around us the radical, glorious, knows-no-bounds, love of God!



111 South 7th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401
Phone: 918-682-3496
Fax: 918-682-7131
Web: www.fbcmuskogee.org

Support Group Ministry Meetings

Grief Share:
Each Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m. at
First Presbyterian Church

Care Giver's Support:
Every last Wednesday at
1:00 p.m. in the Parlor

Our Church Staff

Billy Parker.....Associate Pastor
Eric Fletcher.....Minister of Education
Randy Holt.....Music Minister
Debbie Miller.....Minister to Children
Corey Seitz.....Minister to Students

Christian Life Center Hours

Monday.....6:30 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday.....8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....6:30 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Thursday.....8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Friday.....6:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Saturday.....9:00 a.m.- 12 noon
Sunday.....Closed

Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Broadcasting live on KTFX
Muskogee 101.7 FM on
Sunday mornings at 11 a.m.

PRAY for the DAY

Join us each Sunday morning in the Chapel to pray for the worship and Bible study that is about to take place. There will be no coffee, doughnuts or frills. Praying and only praying. Rex Wilkinson and Lyndia McMillan will be leading and will begin at 8:45. If you believe in the power of prayer and are looking for God to do great things among us, come pray with us.



FIRST Ladies - Gwen Coburn



Hey Ladies, mark your calendar for our next event **Thursday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will be celebrating birthdays. Everyone loves celebrating their birthday especially with surprises. This will be an opportunity to get to know some of those ladies you only pass in the hall on Sunday. Your season ticket admits you to this event. Just show your card in the Crossover to receive your ticket; otherwise the cost is \$10. Tickets go on sale October 19 in the Crossover or the church office. Don't miss this fun BIRTHDAY BASH!!

Gwen

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Christian Sympathy is Extended to:

Margene Allen, Janna Hitt, Mike Hitt and their families, in the death of Margene's sister, Janna's aunt and Mike's great aunt, Vanetta Lou Williams;
John & Georgia Hoover, in the death of their son, Gary Webb;
Chuck & Amy Garner and family, in the death of Amy's father, Ed McMahan;
Jim & Jane Crownover, Judie Byrum, Melanie Holder, Payton, McKenzie and Landry, and Grant Linihan, in the death of Jane & Judie's mother, Melanie's grandmother and Payton, McKenzie, Landry and Grant's great grandmother, **Pearl McCutcheon**;
JoAnn Baldwin, Gayle Baldwin, and Judy Nail, in the death of their aunt, Reva Davis;
Charlie & Alma Marie Pickle, and Jesi, in the death of Charlie's father and Jesi's grandfather, Bill Pickle;
Family and Friends, in the death of **Faye Henderson**;
Arthur & Janet Hulbert, Hannah, Emma and Kami, in the death of Arthur's brother and Hannah, Emma and Kami's uncle, Frank Hulbert, Jr.;
Clarilee McQueen and Kelly McQueen, in the death of Clarilee's niece and Kelly's cousin, Robbie Twidell.