

# ***in*FOCUS e-Newsletter for September 9, 2018**

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## **Sunday Schedule for September 9**

**8:45 a.m.** Small Groups and Sunday School

Here (<http://fbccenterton.org/about-us/small-groups>) is a list of our Groups for Adults

**10:00 a.m.** Worship

**2:00 p.m.** Open Gym

## **Starting Point Class Begins September 9**

**Pastor Joshua Babb** will begin a "Starting Point" class **Sunday, September 9**. The six-week class will highlight the DNA of our church in faith, doctrine, practice, vision, and mission. It will meet in room **A-216**, the Library, at **8:45 a.m.** The class is for people who want to consider joining this assembly in worship and service. For more information, contact the church office at **479.795.2591**.

## **Life Way Update**

Here are a few upcoming events on the calendar:

- **Friday, September 7**—Grandparents' Day
- **Tuesday, September 11**—Volleyball games at 5:00 and 6:00
- **October 15-20**— Class trips to New Life Ranch, Dallas, College tours, Washington DC, and New York City
- **November 15 & 16**—Preschool Thanksgiving program
- **November 29**—Choir Concert
- **December 6**—Band Concert
- **December 7-8**—Drama program presents, *It's a Wonderful Life*

Thank you for your continued prayers and support and if you would ever want to be a part of what is happening at Life Way, please let us know.

## **Wednesday Schedule for September 12**

- **Wednesday Night Meal Menu**—Taco salad, chips, dessert; (Menu is subject to change, so watch our Facebook page for updates and corrections:) ([facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchcenterton/](https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchcenterton/)) Adults—\$5; Children (6th grade & under)—\$3; Family Max—\$20.

- **Pastor Joshua Babb** will lead the Adult Bible Study at **6:30 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Our Students (7th–12th grades), children (K–6th grades), and Mission Friends (three and four year olds) will meet at **6:00 p.m.** All groups will dismiss at **7:30 p.m.**

### The Full Wednesday Schedule

Our Fall ministries meet on the following Wednesday schedule:

- 5–6:00 p.m.** Family Night Meal, Student Worship Choir
- 6–7:30 p.m.** Nursery, Mission Friends, God’s Amazing Kids [GAK], Student Night of Worship, and Adult Worship Choir
- 6:30–7:30 p.m.** Adult Bible Study
- 7:00–8:00 p.m.** Orchestra Rehearsal

### Sunday Schedule for September 16

- 8:45 a.m.** Small Groups and Sunday School  
Here (<http://fbccenterton.org/about-us/small-groups>) is a list of our Groups for Adults
- 10:00 a.m.** Worship
- 2:00 p.m.** Open Gym

### Women's Ministry Update

**For more information, contact the church office. Phone: 479.795.2591**

**Email: [info@fbccenterton.org](mailto:info@fbccenterton.org)**

- **Future Women’s Ministry Opportunities**
  - **Tuesday Table**—September 11 at 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
Bring a light finger food or dessert and hear a testimony from women in our church.
  - **Craft Time**—November 10 at 8:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We are creating a Christmas craft, and the cost is \$10.00 per person. Bring a light snack food to share. Registration is now available through CCB. Just click **here: <https://myfbc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/154/responses/new>**.
  - **Ladies Fall Retreat 2018**—On **October 5 & 6** we will have a retreat here in the Student Center. We will meet on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.–8:45 p.m. and return Saturday morning for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and finish around 11:15 a.m. The online registration is open at this link: <https://myfbc.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/156/responses/new>. We want to make the retreat easy for all women to attend, so we are giving you the option of staying in your own home Friday night or going to a host home. If you are interested in hosting ladies in your home for Friday night, please contact **Laura Snowden** at 479.903.1148.
  - If you are not receiving email updates please contact the church office to be added to the women’s ministry group.

### The STUDENT Section

**For more information, contact the church office. Phone: 479.795.2591**

**Email: [students@fbccenterton.org](mailto:students@fbccenterton.org); Website: [www.fbccenterton.org](http://www.fbccenterton.org)**

- **Wednesday nights (beginning August 29)**  
Wednesday nights for students this fall will have the same components, but they will be rearranged. Following the meal in the Fellowship Hall, the Student Center will be open for games and fellowship. At **6:15 p.m.**, the students' worship service will begin. After worship concludes at **7:00 p.m.**, the students can enjoy extended fellowship by participating in a group activity/competition.
  - 5:00 p.m.** Fellowship Meal
  - 6:10 p.m.** Worship Service
  - 7:00 p.m.** Group Activity
- **Student Ministry Fall Retreat** -We are planning a Pastor-led Fall Retreat for **Friday, September 28** – **Saturday September 29**. A registration form and more details will be coming soon.

**Children’s Ministry Update**

**Laura Tidwell, Director of Childhood Ministries, Phone: 479.883.2137**

**Email: [ltidwell@lwcsar.com](mailto:ltidwell@lwcsar.com)**

- **GAK and Mission Friends**– Each month we want each child to memorize a Bible verse, and this month our verse is Revelation 4:11: “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

Has your child memorized our monthly GAK Bible verse yet? If so, **send me a fun video of your child reciting the verse!** Maybe he can recite it while he jumps on the trampoline. Perhaps she can recite it while she stands on her head? The more creative the better! **I'll post some favorite videos on our social media sites and the most liked/commented post of the month will win a Chick-fil-a gift card!**

Every year, GAK and Mission Friends participate in **Operation Christmas Child**. Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a mission project of Sanitarian's Purse that seeks to distribute shoe-boxes full of gifts for children around the world who may never receive a gift. The gifts also create opportunities to share the gospel with the children who receive the gifts. We will have a shoe-box "packing party" in November, but we start collecting items to pack in the boxes as soon as GAK starts for the year. **The month of September we will collect school supplies.** Beginning next Wednesday, there will be a collection box at the check-in desk where you can drop any school supplies you would like to donate to this worthy cause. Thanks for helping us with our fall mission project!

- **Family Bible Scavenger Hunt**–Our Second Annual Family Bible Scavenger Hunt will be on **Sunday, Sept. 30**. Last year, we crowned the **Lamp/Wingard Family** as our champions. Which family will win the big prizes this year? Bring your family and your Bible and come join us from **4:00-5:30 p.m.** as we search through the scriptures and race around the church campus finding clues! Snacks and drinks will be served.
- **Children’s Worship Ministry**–Our worship ministry is expanding this fall! If you'd like to be part of our preschool through 6th grade Worship Arts Ministry (WAM Jr. and WAM Kids) as a leader or a volunteer, join us for a planning meeting Wednesday, **August 29**, at **5:15** in Building C. For more information, contact **Jessica Colley** at 479-200-6783 or [jessicacolley@outlook.com](mailto:jessicacolley@outlook.com).

**Attendance Recap from Past Week**

Connect Groups August 27–September 2) .....	51
Sunday Small Groups .....	312
Sunday AM Worship Gathering.....	401

**Focus on Giving for September 2, 2018**

**General Fund:**

Weekly Average Need.....	\$28,089.00
Weekly Receipts.....	\$27,207.52

**Designated Funds:**

World Mission Weekly Receipts.....	\$686.00
World Mission YTD.....	\$33,117.18
Building Forward Receipts.....	\$40.00
Building Forward Balance.....	\$38,861.07
Seattle .....	\$175.00
Walkers in Ecuador .....	\$150.00
Operation Christmas Child.....	\$100.00
Benevolence Offering.....	\$40.00

**Operation Christmas Child**

Take an ordinary shoe box, fill it with toys and other gifts, and you have an extraordinary gift for a child in need of joy and hope. Most have heard of **Franklin Graham’s Samaritan Purse Operation Christmas Child**. It is time to begin compiling those gifts that will fill a shoe box for a child in one of the far-flung corners of the world. Most importantly, these shoe boxes provide opportunities to tell children about the love of Jesus Christ. Items you might include: small toys, school supplies, hygiene items, sewing kits for

girls, tools for boys. A collection point will soon appear in the Atrium for your donations. Until then, we are ready to receive your donations in the church office.

### **One More Thing**

In 2019, we will observe the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of First Baptist Church Centerton. I was asked by the pastors to organize a team of long-time members, historians, and event planners to put together a plan for recognizing this milestone. I have agreements from people to be a part of that team. We will meet soon to begin our work. I have no doubt that we will solicit your input in that process. I am also expecting to hear old stories in which we may now see that the hand of God moved in this community even when we *thought* there were years of silence.

A history was prepared in written form 24 years ago on the occasion of the church's seventy-fifth anniversary. Our research for the next history may scratch up *some* stories from the first seventy-five years but our focus and appeal to you will be for that period of time between 1994 and 2019. We don't have a plan or a process in place for organizing what we collect, so please hold on to what you have for a few more weeks.

Since I am trying to close up my fifteen years with a few last-minute encouragements, I thought I would use one that would illustrate God's hand at work in a significant way when I thought I was experiencing a ministry drought in Centerton.

I was surprised at how difficult it was to enlist preschool and children's Sunday School workers at Centerton in the first couple of years I was here. **A.J. and Doris Stroud**, and **Veda Kinyon** had exemplary classes for Kindergartners and First Graders, as did **the Poemoceah's** with the Third Graders. If we could just enlist a few new ones, these veterans could train them to do things well. But we were struggling to find adults who would leave their Sunday School classes to teach children. At the time we were doing a lot of Backyard Bible Clubs but no Vacation Bible School. I begged for the chance to add a Vacation Bible School that met in the mornings.

The first year we offered only six classes and a preschool for workers. I was a little disappointed. But then a couple of volunteers made suggestions for improving the VBS. One, **Linda Bush**, suggested multiple teachers in each room, with a goal of offering 12 classes. The other, **Laura Tidwell**, asked if we could enhance our music and joint worship service with more drama and performance. Since both were ideas I had expressed to the staff (but not to the volunteers), I jumped at their ideas with offers to help me lead it. Mrs. Tidwell shared with a group many years later that she thought I should get an "adult" to lead.

The expanded VBS has resulted in more families touched by our church by the great faculties, who have in turn offered us a rich volunteer-discovery pool in children's ministry. Furthermore, the creative use of the arts and music has resulted in encouraging one of the youth during those early years to invest his ministry time both at Life Way and with MAX Camp and MAX Kids in the person of **David Poemoceah**.

Those relationships continue to grow, and more and more of what we did and still do with children are a direct result of these two ladies' efforts. I miss Linda but will see her again some day. I continue to be a huge Laura Tidwell fan. Her love for the Lord, her family, children, and their families continues to gather up people who want to serve the Lord through ministries to children. While David is away today training with other music ministry leaders at a conference in Nashville, I have to hold my breath that he won't be "discovered" by other quality ministries that will recognize his many gifts—(seriously, that would be fine too if that is the Lord's good plan for David and us). Keep your eyes open for how the Lord of the harvest is going to call out laborers even when you think nothing big is happening. Pray for workers to offer their services to Laura. Watch God move—even if you have to wait a few years to recognize how wonderfully He moved. It has been one of my greatest joys.

Yours/His,  
Pastor Bob Metcalf