

# first at first

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**YOUR PLACE TO GET CONNECTED, GROW AND SERVE**

**SUNDAY MORNING CHURCH GROUPS AT THE CHURCH FOR ALL AGES 9:15 A.M.**

**HOME GROUPS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

- Tuesday evening College/Career Group at Pastor's home at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday evening at Kary and Jennifer Neal's home at 5:30 p.m. (Jan 10)
- Thursday evening at Mike and Vicki Stovall's home at 6:00 p.m. (Jan 4)

**WEDNESDAY CHURCH GROUPS**

- CONNECTIONS GROUP—2nd floor at 6:00 p.m.
- Pastor's Bible Study in the Great Room at 6:00 p.m.
- TEAM KID for Children ages 1st—6th grade at 6:00 p.m.
- Preschool Children meet in the nursery area at 6:00 p.m.
- Middle School and High School Students on the 4th floor at 6:00 p.m.

**LADIES GROUPS**

- Monday Morning Ladies Bible Study at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Room beginning January 22
- Ladies Bible Study in the West Room Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m.
- Ladies Bible Study at Brooke Hankins Provence's home at 5:30 p.m. beginning January 14

**SUNDAY EVENING CHURCH GROUPS**

- Men's and Women's groups—5:30 p.m.
- "Tying it All Together" beginning January 21

Survey of the Old Testament

David Platt examines a rather large portion of the Bible that many Christians find confusing and even intimidating—the Old Testament. This study looks at the Old Testament in its literary, historical, and theological dimensions, and it offers a survey of all 39 books. As we'll see, there's more here than a collection of good moral principles and examples. The God-inspired words of the Old Testament point us to Christ, to His church, and to God's plan for all nations.

Survey of the New Testament

David Platt offers a tour of the entire New Testament, including an overview of each of the 27 books. The literary, historical, and theological dimensions of the New Testament will be examined in this survey. We'll see how the New Testament fulfills what was anticipated in the Old Testament, shining a spotlight on the King, Jesus Christ, and the gospel of His kingdom.

*Thank You*

FOR

**GIVING**  
...  
GENEROUSLY

**2017 Contribution Statements have been emailed to those of you who have given us your email address. If you would rather have a hard copy, call the church office. The others have been mailed through USPS.**

*We apologize for the offering envelopes being late. You may pick them up this week in your Sunday School Class or in the Foyer.*

*If you do not have an assigned envelope number and would like to receive one this year, please call or come by the church office.*

### Being There—The Power of Presence

Over the years I have often thought of the pastor/missionary Paul locked in Rome as he heard bits and pieces from the churches he loved and in many cases helped plant. What was it like for him to see the hurt, the need, and the errors and not be able to be there to support with strength, share prayer, instruct with truth the people he loved so much. I think I'm feeling some of that as I have been grounded with the "crud." (I know that is not a medical term, but I'm sure you get the gist.) Fortunately with the modern communications I can share calls, texts, etc. and that is good, but it is not the same as being there. Presence is powerful!!!

It reminds me of two things—one, nothing takes the place of presence. A great weakness of this generation is the loss of personal touch. Texts, emails, Facebook, Instagram, whatever, it cannot replace the power of presence. I spent years writing letters to my wife when we were dating. (yes we know we are older) As much as we looked forward to those arriving by snail mail, they could not even come close to replacing the times we got to travel and see each other. Depth of relationship requires presence. It opens doors for growth and experiences that nothing else can. It also brings accountability. You are more careful what you say and do when you are looking someone in the eye.

Two, it also reminds me of the blessing of God's presence with us. He dwells in us. We know Him and He knows us. He is not a faraway God looking over at us. He is present--ALWAYS. We can help each other recognize and experience this present God as we share life with each other. God loves it when we are there for each other, but what of those moments when we cannot be. Paul teaches us another valuable lesson—We can be present in prayer when we cannot physically be there. This is a spiritual reality that is only true for God's people. Paul could not go to Ephesus, he could not go to Corinth, he could not get to Galatia or Philippi, but he could pray!!! Prayer is never an excuse for not being there, but it is an opportunity to make a difference when we can't!!

Immanuel—God With Us—Forever. We praise Him!!!

See you in Worship and Bible Study this week,

Dennis



*Pop On In for a Good Time!!! Come join us Saturday, January 13th, 6:30 pm,  
in the Great Room, for a LIFT Ladies PJ Party and Movie Night*

*With a Popcorn Bar!*

*Show up in your PJs and bring a popcorn topping or item to "mix in".  
Stay and watch a movie, relax and enjoy some Fellowship!!!*

I have been looking through music for the new year and thinking about our choirs and worship teams at FBC and wondering what we could do to improve upon our ministries from 2017....Bro. Dennis in his sermon last week shared from his heart about “praying passionately” and being “intentional in our evangelism” .....this got me to thinking about change....what can we change in our Worship ministries at FBC to become more passionate in our worship and more intentional in our evangelism....from that thought process I began to look at some quotes about change and I found two that spoke to my heart....the first one says “We cannot become what we want to be by remaining what we are” and the second quote reminds me of a servant’s heart as it says “there is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit” ....so as we enter into 2018 I pray that our ultimate goal will be lifting up Christ and His Kingdom, focusing our worship on Him and taking our eyes off of ourselves... and turning them on Jesus and as the old invitation hymn states “and the things of earth will grow strangely dim. In the light of His glory and grace” ....I am looking forward to new and exciting days here at FBC as we welcome in 2018!

Bro. Monty

### **Monday Morning Ladies Bible Study—9:00 a.m. in the Great Room “Daring to Hope in an Unstable World” by Melissa Spoelstra Begins January 22nd**

*When we look around at today's world, hope usually isn't the first word that comes to mind. In many ways we live in an unstable world where marriages fail, bank accounts run low, friendships end, and the everyday demands of a fast-paced life get us down. In the Book of Jeremiah, we find God calling out to His people with a message of hope--a message that intentional living is possible even in an unstable world. But how do we do this? Where do we start? Jeremiah offers women hope for living in an uncertain world by learning to navigate the challenges and circumstances of their lives. This six-week study examines God's words of instruction to His wayward people through the prophet Jeremiah, and provides women six guidelines for intentional living to overcome fear, worry, and doubt as they surrender their wills to God's and put their hope in Him alone. Combining rich study of the Book of Jeremiah with practical life application that resonates with the realities and experiences of today's women, this study inspires all women to dare to hope, remembering that God is rich in mercy and love and has good plans for us.*

Our Regular Wednesday Night Schedule will begin again January 10th

Fellowship Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Children’s TeamKid at 6:00 p.m.

Preschool Children in Nursery Area at 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study and Small Groups at the Church meet at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Mid Week Service on the 4th floor at 6:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

**LOTTIE MOON MISSIONS OFFERING GOAL: \$23,000.00  
GIVEN TO DATE: \$28,736.34**

***You may contribute to Food for Kids anytime!!!***

There are many children in our own community who are hungry.  
This ministry allows us to share food with some of them on the weekends when they are not receiving free lunches.

Simply mark your contribution envelopes “FFK.”

**Okmulgee's First Baptist Church**

P.O. Box 248  
5th and Seminole  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447  
Phone: 918-756-7880  
Fax: 918-756-0200

**Church office hours:**  
Monday-Thursday 8:30 am -4:00 pm  
Friday:8:30 am -Noon

Sunday Morning Worship may be viewed Live on [fbcokmulgee.org](http://fbcokmulgee.org) each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

**Mission Statement:**  
*To glorify God by leading people to become mature believers in Christ.*



If you would like to share a prayer request with our email prayer chain, please call the Church office or send a request to [jayme@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:jayme@fbcokmulgee.org)

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**

Dennis Taylor  
[dennis@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:dennis@fbcokmulgee.org)

**Minister of Music & Worship**

Monty Wright  
[monty@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:monty@fbcokmulgee.org)

**Student Pastor**

Josh Donato  
[joshdonato@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:joshdonato@fbcokmulgee.org)

**Ministry Assistant**

Jayne Hankins  
[jayne@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:jayne@fbcokmulgee.org)

**Maintenance**

Levi Wright/Kaitlin Galindo

**Weekday Preschool Director**

Brooke Provence  
[preschool@fbcokmulgee.org](mailto:preschool@fbcokmulgee.org)

# January 2018

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1  Church office is closed.	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <b>B.A.L.L. Group Program covered dish luncheon</b>	9	10 Regular Wednesday Night Schedule begins At 5:30 with Fellowship Meal	11	12	13 LIFT Pajama Party and Movie Night 6:30 pm  Victims Impact Panel 3:30
14  Deacon's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19	20
21  8:15 a.m.  "Tying it All Together" 5:30 p.m.	22 Ladies Bible Study begins 9:00 a.m.	23	24  Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**JANUARY EXTENDED SESSION**

**BABIES - ONES**

**TWOS**

**THREES & FOURS**

7	Don and Bev Henson	Kim Priegel	Randy and Julie Weatherford
14	Ginny Holder/Lawana Giddings	Janet Taylor	Vicki George/Pam Wilson
21	Gael Nichols/Kris Siegenthaler	Janet Taylor	Kaitlin Galindo and Friend
28	Laura and Taylor Talbot	Janet Taylor	Marilyn White/Joyce Thomas

PLEASE CONTACT JAYME AT THE OFFICE OR JANET IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORK YOUR SUNDAY