



# November

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## Upcoming Events

1st Pastors’ Fellowship  
LBA office @ 11 am

7th-10th Hontubby Revival  
Details on page 3

15th Pastors’ Fellowship  
Spiro 1st @ 6:30 pm

15th-22nd OCC Shoeboxes due  
Details on page 2

16th Brotherhood  
Pocola 1st @ 7 pm

24th-25th Closed for  
Thanksgiving



## Lessons from a Housefly By: Bentley Hill

Did you know the lifespan of a housefly can be up to 28 days but can also be as short as 24 hours? This means a housefly has to be busy if he or she is going to have a full life. These last few weeks, I have felt like a housefly; life has been moving really fast.

On September 26, we had the annual meeting, and it was quite a celebration. We heard exciting reports about what has been happening around the association. We recognized three pastors and their wives for years of active service. These three couples were Ed and Patrice Rogers, 38 years of service; Leroy and Joann Billy, 56 years of service; and Larry and Patty Mathieson, 59 years of service. We also burned the note on the building and managed to do so without setting fire to anything other than the note.

On October 2, I headed to Mexico with Dexter Haskins, Carlos Aguilar, Devon Minor, Autumn Underwood, and Brent and Bethany Hill. We had a great time working on a church, helping with VBS, and seeing at least nine people pray to receive Christ.

Brotherhood started back up on October 12 with around 45 men in attendance. Clay Phillips, our CASC BCM director, challenged us to invest in the lives of others. Then a few days later, we kicked off the *In His Image Conference* with a viewing of the documentary at Southside Baptist Church. On Saturday morning at 9 a.m., we met at the Reynolds Center where we heard testimonies from five speakers from First Stone Ministries out of Oklahoma City. They did a great job of reminding us that we are made in the image of God and there is hope in Jesus for all who struggle with same sex attraction, gender identity, and relational brokenness.

October 18 was Pastors’ Conference at First Baptist Monroe where Pastor Bradley Hill reminded us to encourage others, and Brother Jim Reed challenged us to hold the line and live biblical lives.

This past month has been busy to say the least, but it has also been exciting. Serving the Lord can be fun when we are thankful for the opportunities. Just like the housefly, we have a limited amount of time, so let’s make the most of it to honor the King we serve.



### LEFLORE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES

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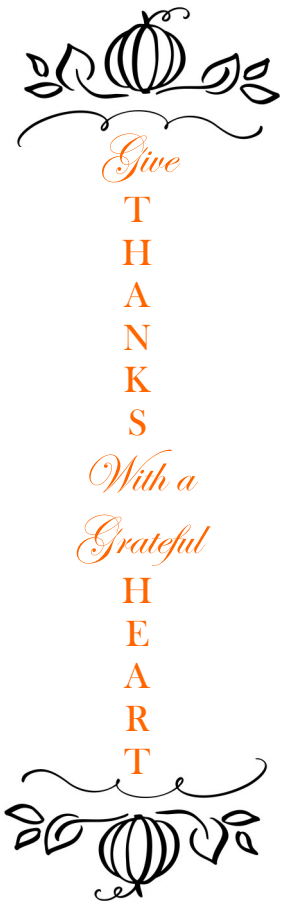
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Happy Thanksgiving from Choices! We are entering into the most joyous time of the year. Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas is right around the corner. As I write this piece it is November 1, 2021. Our legislature and Governor have come forward in the past months to protect the lives of the unborn. Today several bills become law in that regard. The HEARTBEAT bill is a major player for saving our babies. If a heartbeat can be heard then no abortion can be done. Praise the Lord. (Of course there are stipulations and we expected that. But it's a step in the right direction) thank you Governor Stitt and all Oklahoma law makers. May God bless you and protect you! Just as something good happens, the Devil is ready with his counter attack. Planned

Parenthood of Oklahoma has poured several thousands of dollars into stopping these laws by saying they are unconstitutional. There has already been an injunction set in place to stop three of these new laws. But as always God is in control. We here at Choices asked that you add these items to your prayer list. And Pray for CHOICES. We will be faced with decisions about how we serve and whom we serve in the future if our new laws stand. Praise the Lord, we can always find new ways to serve women in need. That being said, we would love to hear from you on ideas of how to carry on an effective women's clinic here at Choices in the future if these laws stand as written. We wish you the happiest of Thanksgivings and remember the most important thing to be thankful for is our savior whose blood was shed so that we might have eternal life. If you can't be thankful for that, please take the time to : 1 admit your a sinner Romans 3:23 2. Realize you need a Savior, Romans 6:23 3. Understand that God loved you enough to send His son to die for you. Romans 5:8 4. Then confess your sins and trust in the Lord to save you Romans 10: 9,10. 5. Then, trust that He who saves you can keep you! Romans 10: 13. Now go and have the most memorable Thanksgiving of your life! Find a church and become part of the fellowship.

In His service,  
Angela



## Meet the Pastor



John Paul McAlester is currently serving as pastor at Hodgen 1st Baptist Church, where he has been a member for over a year and half. He is the former youth minister at Bethel Baptist church, where he served alongside Clyde Steelman for over a decade. John felt Christ leading him and his family in a new direction and that direction was Hodgen 1st. John and his wife Amanda make their home in Hodgen along with their 3 children Tanner, Gunnar, and Addley. When Bro John is not behind the pulpit, you can find him coaching high school boys basketball and assisting in high school baseball at Heavener Schools where he also teaches math.

## It is Shoebox Time!!!

Poteau First Baptist Church has graciously offered to be the drop off point for the shoeboxes again this year. They will be collecting shoeboxes from November 15-22nd. Schedule as follows. Monday the 22nd they will be leaving to deliver the boxes to the next phase of collection, so if possible it would be best to bring them before Monday. I am out of preprinted boxes, but you can use regular shoeboxes. I do have envelopes and labels.



|      |           |            |
|------|-----------|------------|
| 15th | Monday    | 9-12 & 1-4 |
| 16th | Tuesday   | 9-12 & 1-4 |
| 17th | Wednesday | 9-12 & 1-4 |
| 18th | Thursday  | 9-12 & 1-4 |
| 19th | Friday    | 9-12 & 1-4 |
| 20th | Saturday  | 9-12       |
| 21st | Sunday    | 3-5        |
| 22nd | Monday    | 9-11       |

The insert in the newsletter is a good way to let your kids get involved. This Let's be Friends sheet is so your kids can fill out a little bit about themselves as well as a place for their address.

**SET FREE MINISTRY**  
 Dr. Jim Gardner, Ph.D., LPC  
 (918) 413-5475



Overcome grief, anger, depression, and marital problems.  
 Affordable, Biblical Counseling  
 Special Rates for LBA Church Members

## MONSTERS IN YOUR CHILDREN'S CLOSET?

### Childhood Fears

A Christian father was putting his 7-year-old daughter to bed one night when she told him she was afraid of the monsters in her closet. The father prayed for her and asked God what he wanted the girl to know about the monsters but she said, "Daddy, God isn't talking to me." Her father wisely asked her if she was angry at anyone, and she admitted that she was angry at her mother for not allowing her to invite her best friend to her birthday party.

Her father explained, "When you have anger in your heart it is like having ear plugs in your ears so you can't hear God. Do you want to get rid of your anger?" She said that she did so he led her in a prayer and she told God why she was angry and asked Him to take it from her. Immediately, her anger left her.

### The Cause of Fears

The father then prayed again and asked God what He wanted her to know about the monsters. This time she said, "God said that monsters are not real, but if they were, He is stronger than them." She said that she was no longer afraid but felt peaceful and she rolled over and said, "Good night, daddy!" Her father gave her a hug and a kiss and told her "good night."

This father understood that the Lord is able to take away our anger and fears. When he prayed for his daughter, the Lord spoke truth to her to set her free from her fears, just as Jesus said when He spoke about the Holy Spirit who "will guide you into all the truth." Fears are usually based upon irrational beliefs (lies) and this father knew that God can set us free from them through prayer. Her fears suddenly disappeared when the Lord spoke truth into her heart.

### Adults Have Fears, Too

One day Jesus and his disciples got into a boat to cross the sea, and He laid down and went to sleep. A storm arose and the waves began to spill into the boat, so his disciples became fearful. They woke him up and said, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus stood up and rebuked the wind and said, "Peace, be still" (Mark 5:39). The wind died down and became calm and He removed all of their fears.

The disciples were afraid because they believed the lies that Jesus was just a good teacher, He didn't care about their problems, and they were all going to die. Fears are based upon **false beliefs** such as: "Something terrible is going to happen; I'm going to die; he is going to return and hurt me again." You cannot easily talk people out of these beliefs but God is able to replace false beliefs with His truth to set us free (John 8:32).

### Finding the Source

There are many different types of fears. Some people have a fear of water, a fear of storms, a fear of heights, a fear of speaking in a group, a fear of dying, or a generalized fear. Fears develop at a point in time when something scary happens to you and then the strong feelings become connected in your mind to specific sights or sounds around you. When these same sights and sounds recur, they reawaken the original fear and it feels like it is happening again.

In order to release these fears, you must: **1) Identify the original source of your fear, 2) Identify the false belief that you believe, and then 3) Pray for the Lord to bring you truth.** Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32), and this is what happens when we pray for truth about some fear.

### Overcoming Anger

Fears are easily removed when the Lord speaks truth into your mind, but anger prevents God from hearing your prayers. Children may be angry at their parents but God wants to take away their anger so they will obey them and honor them. Here are two simple steps to getting rid of anger that prevents us from hearing God's voice of truth.

**STEP ONE:** Be honest with God by making a list of the reasons for your anger toward one person.

**STEP TWO:** Pray and ask the Lord to take your anger from you.

### Finding True Peace

When you pray and listen quietly, the Lord can speak to your heart through His "still, small voice," and He will bring thoughts to your mind and replace the lies you believe with His truth. When this happens, you will be "set free indeed." If the thoughts that come into your mind when you pray like this come from your own mind, they will not set you free. Or, if you have negative thoughts that you know are not from the Lord, then command the devil, in the name of Jesus, to leave you alone and pray again. The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 1:7, "**God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and love and discipline.**" This Halloween, teach your children how to overcome their fears so they can have peace in their heart.



Disaster Relief has been really busy the last month or so. Joe Skinner has led 2 groups and Jim Smith has led a group. The teams have fed countless people and done mud-out work to help clean up the homes that were damaged in the hurricane. Disaster Relief teams go every week to Louisiana working alongside with other companies to help get people back on their feet.



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**LBA OFFICE HOURS:**  
8 am-5 pm, Monday-Thursday


| Budget Summary<br>For September 2021 |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Requirements                         | \$ 14,465 |
| Undesignated                         | \$ 19,191 |
| Over                                 | \$ 4,800  |

Pastorless Churches


Big Creek  
Howe Faith  
Pilgrim Rest  
Whitesboro

Please pray the Lord brings the right man and family for these churches.

| Building Fund and General Fund Receipts<br>September 2021<br>(received as of Sep 30, 2021) |      |             |              |
|--|------|-------------|--------------|
|  | %    | Sep         | YTD          |
| Albion   | 3.0% | \$ 470.00   | \$ 2,584.75  |
| Arkoma   | 6.0% | \$ 548.48   | \$ 6,261.24  |
| Big Creek  | 4.5% | \$ 2,363.04 | \$ 20,881.78 |
| Big Creek, Hispanic  |      | \$ -        | \$ 58.71     |
| Bokoshe  | 6.0% | \$ 455.32   | \$ 5,523.31  |
| Buffalo Valley   | 4.0% | \$ 240.60   | \$ 3,502.37  |
| Calhoun  | 4.0% | \$ 228.48   | \$ 3,348.79  |
| Cameron  | 4.5% | \$ 48.13    | \$ 544.00    |
| Cowlington   | 5.0% | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Double Branch  | 3.0% | \$ 304.24   | \$ 4,383.12  |
| Falfa  | 3.0% | \$ 92.08    | \$ 1,308.14  |
| Forrester  | 3.0% | \$ 125.67   | \$ 3,596.98  |
| Friendship   | 3.0% | \$ -        | \$ 3,749.78  |
| God's Ctry. Cowboy   |      | \$ 100.00   | \$ 1,100.00  |
| Heart O' The Hills   | 2.0% | \$ -        | \$ 1,657.35  |
| Heavener, First  | 1.5% | \$ 910.58   | \$ 10,749.68 |
| Heavener, Trinity  | Flat | \$ 150.00   | \$ 2,550.00  |
| Hodgen   | 3.0% | \$ 154.71   | \$ 2,000.96  |
| Hontubby   | 3.3% | \$ 167.00   | \$ 1,704.00  |
| Howe, Faith  | 5.0% | \$ 166.00   | \$ 4,041.86  |
| Howe, First  | 2.0% | \$ 225.00   | \$ 225.00    |
| Independence   | 3.0% | \$ 100.00   | \$ 1,180.00  |
| LeFlore  | 7.0% | \$ 90.07    | \$ 1,075.58  |
| Liberty Hill   | 6.0% | \$ -        | \$ 4,181.46  |
| Loving   | 3.0% | \$ 500.00   | \$ 1,395.45  |
| Monroe   | 2.5% | \$ 262.00   | \$ 2,553.00  |
| Mt. View   | 5.0% | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Muse   | 2.0% | \$ 78.00    | \$ 802.00    |
| Nueva Nacimiento En Cristo   | 4.0% | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Octavia  | 4.0% | \$ 1,037.62 | \$ 14,943.31 |
| Page   | Flat | \$ 25.00    | \$ 225.00    |
| Panama, First  | 3.0% | \$ 87.12    | \$ 1,228.52  |
| Perry Chapel   | 3.0% | \$ -        | \$ 1,876.79  |
| Pilgrims Rest  | 1.0% | \$ 47.17    | \$ 530.79    |
| Pocola, First  | 3.0% | \$ -        | \$ 3,043.30  |
| Pocola, Trinity  | 2.0% | \$ 170.82   | \$ 2,505.37  |
| Poteau, First  | 4.0% | \$ 686.43   | \$ 7,318.59  |
| Poteau, Hispanic   |      | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Poteau, Cross Comm. Imm  | 1.0% | \$ 200.00   | \$ 3,400.00  |
| Poteau, Southside  | 4.0% | \$ 1,391.43 | \$ 23,022.76 |
| Poteau, Trinity  | 5.0% | \$ 179.00   | \$ 1,929.00  |
| Prairie Grove  | 7.5% | \$ 287.93   | \$ 4,089.65  |
| Shady Point  | 4.0% | \$ 304.00   | \$ 3,887.00  |
| Spiro, Calvary   | 3.0% | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Spiro, First   | 3.0% | \$ 3,883.42 | \$ 17,060.64 |
| Springhill   | 4.0% | \$ 1,820.76 | \$ 19,497.76 |
| Stapp-Zoe  | 5.0% | \$ -        | \$ 3,265.33  |
| Summerfield  | 5.0% | \$ 129.00   | \$ 1,742.00  |
| Talihina   | 4.0% | \$ 897.98   | \$ 9,477.71  |
| Victory  | 5.0% | \$ -        | \$ -         |
| Whitesboro   | 2.0% | \$ 282.00   | \$ 3,025.00  |
| Wister, Bethel   | 4.0% | \$ 1,098.85 | \$ 10,436.59 |
| Wister, First  | 2.5% | \$ 71.31    | \$ 806.58    |
| Total  |      | \$20,379.24 | \$224,271.00 |



Thanks to all the LBA churches who participated in last month's *In His Image* Weekend. We had fifteen churches represented over the three-day conference. Participants gathered at Southside Baptist Friday night to view the documentary *In His Image* and participate in a Q&A with First Stone Ministries team members. On Saturday, more information was shared from 9-3:30 at the Reynolds Center, and team members spoke in local churches on Sunday morning. First Stone Ministries, based in OKC, has a mission "to lead the sexually and relationally broken into a liberating relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord." To learn more about this ministry, visit their website at [firststone.org](http://firststone.org).



**COUNT**  
your many  
**BLESSINGS**  
name them  
**ONE BY ONE**

Hontubby Baptist Church  
invites you to

# REVIVAL

November 7th-10th

|           |         |      |
|-----------|---------|------|
| Sunday    | AM      | 11am |
|           | PM      | 6 pm |
| Monday    |         | 7pm  |
| Tuesday   |         | 7pm  |
| Wednesday | Dinner  | 6pm  |
|           | Service | 7pm  |

Bro. Jim Reed will be preaching.