



Update and Opportunities

I am thrilled to announce that the house is furnished and will have occupants starting February 1st. We ran into a little cash flow problem due to a water main leak. Getting it fixed has taken a considerable amount of our start up funds. With that information God placed a need in our lives. We have a missionary family that is need of a home for six months and with the agreement of the CSBA Management Team and the EH management team it was put into place. They will pay rent and help determine the feasibility of the home and help finish off several projects, from painting eaves, to putting in the flooring for the basement to putting in a fence in the backyard. God is always the best provider and we are blessed beyond measure to welcome the Swadley family to Enid for a few months.

Elisha House is looking for volunteers to serve on the Elisha House Board and Team. Please pray over this need and if God places this on your heart, please contact me. Trudi Bandy

Church Needs

We have several pastor-less churches that need prayers. Please continue to lift them up.

- First Baptist—Enid
- First Baptist—Billings
- Waukomis Baptist
- First Baptist—Medford
- Enid Emmanuel Iglesia
- First Indian Church

Prayer Requests can be submitted by calling, emailing and now texting the association.

580-234-2512

cherokee.baptist@sbcglobal.net



CHEROKEE STRIP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 5287

ENID, OKLA. 73702

January 2021

580-234-2512

E-MAIL cherokee.baptist@sbcglobal.net

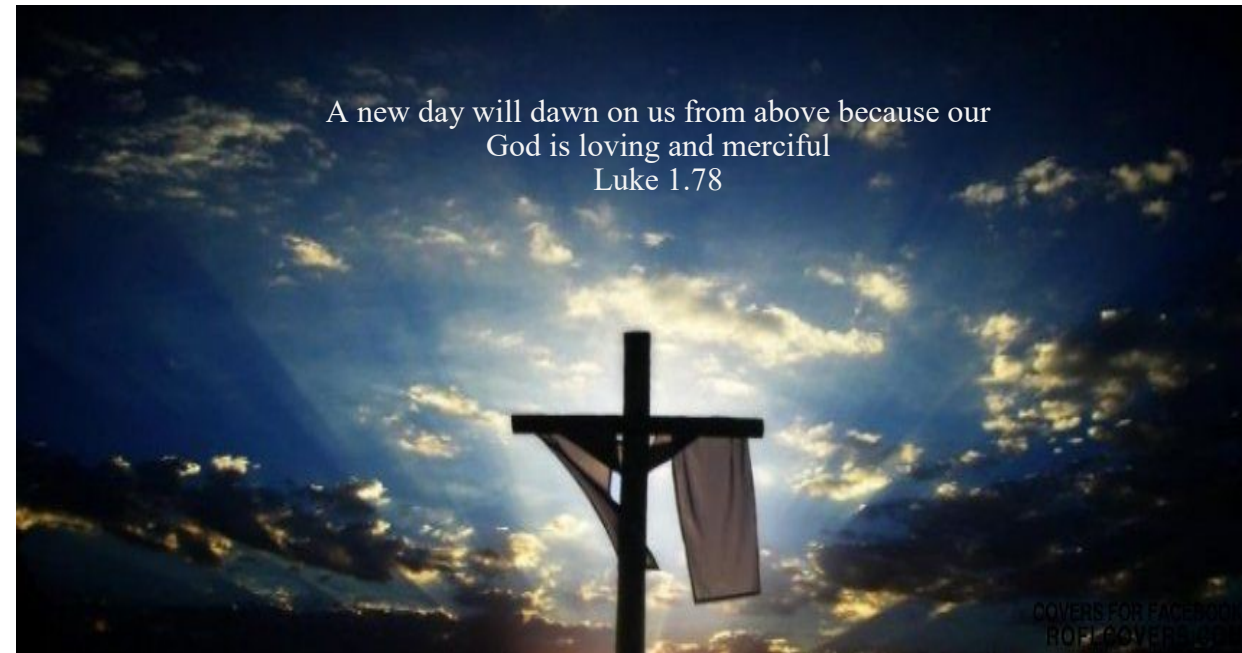
SHIFT

2020 CHEROKEE STRIP ANNUAL CELEBRATION

At our annual meeting the theme was SHIFT. Methods shift but the Message stays the same. As we begin this year, let's stay true to God's Word and the Great Commission.

Go! Make Disciples! Baptize! Teach!

A new day will dawn on us from above because our
God is loving and merciful
Luke 1.78



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ROFLCOVERS.COM

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Join First Baptist Church, Enid, January 17-20, 2021 for our annual "January Bible Study" with Dr. Bobby Kelly from OBU. Between Sunday and Wednesday we will walk through all three of John's epistles!

John wrote to combat false doctrines about the identity of Jesus and how His identity impacted a believer's everyday life. Some questioned if Jesus was fully human and physical while others questioned Him being the Christ. In both cases, sin was minimized. Believers have fellowship with Christ, who is God incarnate. Through walking in the light of this relationship and living in love, they are secure in the eternal life given through faith in Christ.

The focus of this study is on how a person's understanding of Jesus impacts their daily lives in practical ways. False teachers with an incomplete understanding of Jesus as both human and deity have sought to mislead believers and continue to seek to do so today. Believers will come to understand that they can live with assurance of their eternal life by living in light of their relationship with Jesus. (From Lifeway.com)

To prepare for this study, we encourage you to read through the epistles before January 17th.

Here is a little reading guide to help spread it over 10 days:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ Monday, 4th: 1 John 1 | ___ Tuesday, 5th: <u>1 John 2:1-14</u> |
| ___ Wednesday, 6th: <u>1 John 2:15-27</u> | ___ Thursday, 7th: <u>1 John 2:28-3:10</u> |
| ___ Friday, 8th: <u>1 John 3:11-24</u> | ___ Monday, 11th: 1 John 4 |
| ___ Tuesday, 12th: <u>1 John 5:1-13</u> | ___ Wednesday, 13th: <u>1 John 5:14-21</u> |
| ___ Thursday, 14th: <u>2 John 1-13</u> | ___ Friday, 15th: <u>3 John 1-15</u> |

We hope you will come and be a part of this study where we dive into God's Word! We are planning to have this Livestream. For questions, please call the church office 580-234-1133 ask for Stephanie.

- January 17, 2021: 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- **January 18, 2021:** 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- **January 19, 2021:** 6:00pm – 7:15pm
- **January 20, 2021:** 6:00pm – 7:15pm



A faithful group of volunteers from our churches went out for one week after the great ice storm, clearing debris, climbing on roofs, cutting down trees, and rescuing kitties out of trees. I added that last part to see if you are reading all of this.

John and Youlanda Doffer were highly organized as always and had the crew lined up and ready to go. Frank Hooper worked everyday with chainsaw in hand and helped so many people clear their tree limbs. This ministry is oftentimes overlooked because it only comes into play every now and again. Be aware, when the call is made they all come running. Many members from out of town and out of state arrived. Calvary Baptist kept them warm and fed. We even had one fellow sleeping in the fellowship hall at the association. A hard job and so badly needed and appreciated. Thank you to all of you who went out, even when your own trees were in need of trimming and even when your own electricity was out. The people of Enid and the surrounding towns are so grateful to have you near us.

THANK YOU

Cherokee Strip Baptist Association

Birthday/Anniversaries January

4	Kerrie Unruh	PW	Enid, First
26	Jesse Johnson	P	Trinity
28	Rachelle Burleson	PW	Emmanuel
30	Dusti Washnock	PW	Pond Creek

Calendar of Events

17-18 Youth Evangelism Conference
On Line Only

19 Leaders Luncheon at the Association
Executive Team meeting

26 Executive Board Meeting

25-26 Advance Conference
Gather (formerly State Evangelism Conference)
Cancelled

Dear Pastors and Church Leaders:

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued a presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday in January as **National Sanctity of Human Life Day**. This year marks 48 years since Roe v. Wade, the ruling that protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose an abortion.

At Journey House, we meet regularly with women who are facing unplanned pregnancies, many of whom believe abortion is their only option. We have found that the primary reasons women choose abortion include: finances, inability to financially or emotionally support a child, lack of support (or practical help) from family or their communities, fear, a desire to attend college or attain higher education, or they do not feel ready to be a parent. Some of our clients are considering abortion because they are being physically abused by their partner, and cannot imagine raising a child in that environment. Journey House provides a safe space for women to explore their options. As we listen to our client's stories, we have an opportunity to offer hope and practical support. Journey House also offers free limited OB ultrasounds. ***Studies have shown that 75% of women who were abortion-minded change their mind after seeing their child on an ultrasound.***

Not only do our services help prevent abortions, but we also offer support and recovery services to women who have had abortions. Studies have shown that 1 in 3 women who have an abortion were attending church at the time. ***In addition, 25% of women attending church currently, have had an abortion.*** Abortion is often a secret, for many a shameful part of their story, that they will not share with their pastor or fellow church members. In February, Journey House will offer a

12-week closed study, called Forgiven & Set Free, for women who have had an abortion. As they walk this journey of recovery with other women who have experienced abortion, they find hope and healing.

Will you consider highlighting the ministry of Journey House during January?
Here are some ways you can help:

- Advertise our upcoming post-abortion recovery group, Forgiven & Set Free, by posting information in your bulletin or digitally during announcements.
- Provide opportunities for your congregation to give financially toward the ministry of Journey House. We are funded by donations and rely on the generosity of like minded individuals, churches, and organizations.
- Pray for Journey House, for our staff and volunteers, for our Board members, and for the clients we serve. We desire to be a light in this community as we love, serve with compassion, offer hope, and point people to God.

Thank you for partnering with Journey House in this way! May you have a blessed and joyous new year.

Sincerely,

-
Amy Voth

Executive Director, Journey House

1008 W Cherry Ave
Enid, OK 73703

580-234-5660

2020 Christmas Dinner Party

The Christmas Party of 2020 was to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to spread some joy and happiness. From the smiles on everyone's faces I believe we were successful. We had lots of head scratching trying to decipher emojis Christmas carols and

movie hints. Great presents were handed out from

scotch tape to Pop Tarts. Personalized ornaments

and stockings were a huge hit.



Questions

As a local Pastor in the Enid area, I have a couple of questions on my heart: “Do you know where I am coming from?” and “Do you know what I am going through?” Even as I have these questions on my heart at the beginning of this new year, I don’t really know who I am wanting to ask these questions to or even what goal I would try to accomplish in asking these questions. I guess at the root of these questions is my need (and your need, Pastor and Church Leader) for solidarity, for someone to just know what you are going through and to feel what you are feeling.

Today, I would first remind you of what we have just celebrated in the Christmas Season that needs to spill over into this year in our hearts and minds: the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Remember, Pastor and Church Leader, that according to the Apostle John in his Prologue, the Son of God (the Word) was with God (even in the beginning) and was God, and the Word “became flesh and made His dwelling among us” (Jn 1:14). The author of Hebrews writes this concerning Jesus Christ, the Son of God and our High Priest, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin” (Heb 4:15). So, to answer the questions on my heart (and perhaps your heart), the answer is “Yes, Jesus knows.” Jesus, our High Priest, is able to sympathize with our weaknesses (boy, there are many of those that have become clear in my life these last ten months) and our temptations. In fact, to be honest, Jesus probably knows more about the power and force of human temptations than we do, because we are prone to give in rather quickly to our evil desires and lusts, which give birth to sin (Jas 1:14-15). Yet, Jesus took on the full force of these temptations, and he never sinned. I encourage you, Pastor and Church Leader, to read the NT Gospels and pay close attention to the emotions and feelings described: Jesus was hungry, thirsty, tired, angry, and frustrated. Jesus can sympathize with you, with what you and your church is going through right now, January 2021.

You also have an Association that can sympathize with you right now. Remember, our purpose as an Association is equip, encourage, and extend the ministries of our local churches. Right now, it is apparent that there is a large need for encouragement for our churches, Pastors, and Church Leaders. We even have several churches in our Association in need of a Pastor. I want you to know that your Association staff is here for you. Matt and Trudi are members of local churches in our Association, and they are involved in their church ministries, and they are fully aware of how difficult things are for local church ministries right now. Your Moderator and Vice-Moderator (Les Washnock) are Pastors of local churches, and we are fully aware of the “decision fatigue” that you are having right now in your ministries. Let us be here to sympathize with you. We want to be faithful to carry each other’s burdens and fulfill the law of Christ (Gal 6:2). Maybe this means a phone call (my number is 405-595-1053) so that you can vent. Maybe it means a cup of coffee or a bottle of Dr. Pepper together. Don’t carry your burdens alone. Give us a chance to help you carry your burdens. Don’t forget that in our rich Baptist heritage, along with the distinctive of local autonomous congregations, there is also the distinctive of cooperation (partnership), local churches of like faith and order doing kingdom work together. Let’s do this new year, 2021, together.

Billy Benson- Moderator

What’s Your News?

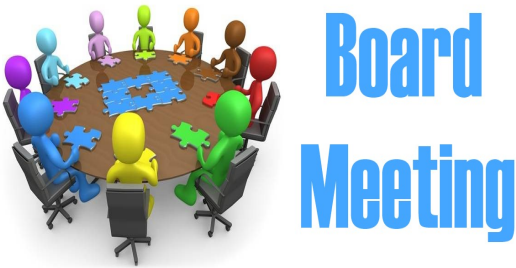
Being this is my first time to publish the newsletter, can you help me fill it? How about sending me, some or all of these things.

- Your Church activities
- Your Church announcements
- Names of your Church staff, pastors, pastors wives and their children
- Special dates for your church and/or church family

Send all things to me via email, or even text.
I can’t wait to see what everyone contributes.
~~Trudi Bandy.

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.
~~Ben Franklin

Who are you going to involve?



Executive Board Meeting.

January 26th at 6:00 p.m.

At the CSBA Building
2108 E Maine St.
Enid, OK

Lets Meet the CSBA Teams.

Executive Board Members

Matt Spann	Emmanuel Enid
Trudi Bandy	FBC Enid
Billy Benson	Garland Road
Les Washnock	Pond Creek
Kevin Strobe	Ringwood
David Morley	FBC Enid

Management Team

Matt Spann	Emmanuel
David Morley	FBC Enid
Billy Benson	Garland Road
Steve Spade	FBC Cherokee
Jerry Shaeffer	Pond Creek
J.P. Redelsperger	Emmanuel Enid

Missions Team

Matt Spann	Emmanuel
Dale Hamm	Ringwood
Richard Stephens	Grace Mennonite
Kevin Hisey	Open Door
Jeremiah Herrian	Forgotten Ministries

Ministry Team

Kevin Strobe	Ringwood
Phillip Gregg	Covington
Jesse Johnson	Trinity
Trudi Bandy	FBC Enid

Disaster Relief Team

Steve Williams	Calvary
Frank Hooper	Open Door
Matt Spann	Emmanuel



New Year is a great time to start saving.

Everyday put your change in a piggy bank and at the end of the year you will have a lovely donation for missions.

A CROSS COUNTRY RACE TO REMEMBER

Don't know how many of you ran track in high school, but I did and thought I was a sprinter but my coach decided I was a half-miler (880 yd/800 m). This was probably because hardly anybody else wanted to run that race! The 800 m race is kind of the threshold between a sprint and middle distance, but it's clearly not a long distance or cross country race. *That's why I was not filled with joy* when coach decided I would fill in when he needed an extra runner for a **cross country race** in Memorial Park by downtown Houston. Despite its location, Memorial Park is a beautiful wooded area with lots of trails and often the site for these kinds of events. But I wasn't into it, and even before the race started was trying to figure out how to get out of it. Could I develop asthma and suddenly have an attack? Could I "accidentally" twist my ankle on the curb?

Before I could come up with anything, the starting gun sounded and we were off. The real cross country runners were literally "off" and out of sight before you knew it as well as most of the other runners. I kept thinking surely they were going wear themselves out and I'd see them dropping off as I passed them--never happened. In fact, I don't remember seeing much of anybody after the first couple of turns. What a lonely feeling! *I wanted out but couldn't figure out how to quit the race nobly*. Then I started feeling a stomachache coming on. That was it--I would throw up and then be forced to step out of the race! I stopped at a couple of turns and tried my best to throw up--but nothing. In the end, I had no choice but to keep plodding along and eventually finish the race, my first and last cross country event!

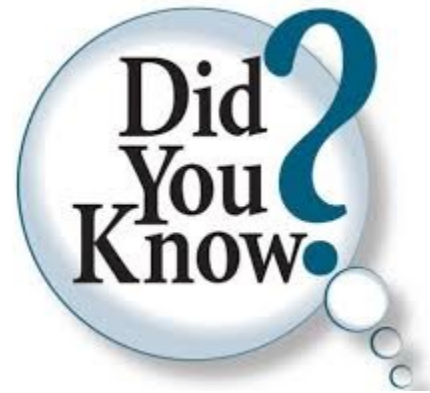
This **past year may have seemed like that race** to you. I know at times it's seemed that way to me. You make plans, only to have to cancel or postpone. No matter what you do, meet in person or virtual or not at all, still there's somebody who's unhappy. You don't know whether to "fist" or "elbow" somebody when you see them, and whether you need a mask at all times or just when you're within 6 feet. Zoom was fun at first and you still know how to do it, but the novelty's worn off. There may have been times you've wanted to quit or at least let somebody else make the tough decisions for a while.

Sometimes it's at those points where and when you realize you've been striving in your own strength, and you're running out of ideas and motivation to go on. I've had a few of those times this past year. What an encouragement at those points to turn to the Word and be reminded that "those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary." (Isa 40:31) and that though "our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" through the Lord (I Cor 4:). If there's one thing 2020 has reminded me of time and again, it's that **I can't and shouldn't try to run this race on my own**. We're not made to walk alone, but with our Creator and in His strength.

Back to my cross country race, the runners who do best stick together as a team to encourage each other and spur each other on. I was missing that when I ran my race because I barely even knew the other guys on my "team" and they took off and left me. Had I been with them, my story might have read differently. This past year, I've once again seen the **value of connecting with each other** as we run the race as believers. I can't imagine how lonely and draining 2020 would have been without you guys! There's a reason for "association"--I believe it's part of God's plan to keep us encouraged and challenged to stick with it and run the race well. The "one another" commands of Scripture can only be lived out in relationship with fellow believers. We're much better together than alone.

Here's to a 2021 drawing strength from the Lord and those around us--*the only way to run the race!*

Matt Spann
CSBA Associational Mission Strategist



Did you know Matt Spann will be traveling to each church during the New Year? Did you know that he is an excellent source of information regarding missionaries? Did you know that he has an unlimited supply of pastors on hand to help at a moments notice? Did you know he loves to hear from you and how you are doing?



Let us know what makes you proud:

Outstanding sermon, volunteers, your town

whatever makes you proud. Send in your bragging rights to me and let us all be proud of your accomplishments!

Trudi Bandy 580-234-2512

A poster for the Oklahoma Baptists Women's Retreat. The background is a light, textured surface with some dried flowers and twine. At the top, the text "OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS" is in a small, black, sans-serif font. Below it, "Women's Retreat" is written in a large, pink, cursive font. Underneath that, "APRIL 17, 2021 | FALLS CREEK CONFERENCE CENTER" is in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are five small, square portraits of women, each with their name and title below them. From left to right: Chrystal Evans Hurst (Keynote Speaker), Katherine Wolf (Keynote Speaker), Lina Abujamra (Keynote Speaker), Laura Perry (Keynote Speaker), and Eden Trentham (Worship). At the very bottom, the website "OKLAHOMABAPTISTS.ORG/WOMEN" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.



The Great Commission given by Christ in Matthew 28:19-20 calls every believer to “make disciples of all nations.” This means taking the gospel next door and to the ends of the earth. The BCM offers students opportunities to do just that.

Each year hundreds of Oklahoma BCM students participate in missions – whether locally or abroad. Some mission projects are just for a day, while others can last up to two years. Students who do not go on the mission trips themselves can still participate through prayer and by raising money to support their peers. Service opportunities are available through local Oklahoma BCM’s, camps, North American Mission Board, and the International Mission Board.

When away from the familiar, students are able to more clearly see God at work as they grow in their walk with Him.

Your BCM Director has the latest opportunities to serve locally, throughout Oklahoma, and around the world. He or she can also guide you through the opportunities below.

[Collegiate Disaster Relief](#)

[North American Mission Board opportunities](#)

[International Mission Board opportunities](#)

[One Life](#)

[Falls Creek Youth Camp or CrossTimbers
Children’s Camp Summer Staff](#)

[Top 10 International Travel Mistakes](#)

Justin Romaine BCM Director

PREACHING FOR THE REST OF US

PRIORITY OF PREACHING CONFERENCE

March 1st,
Southern Hills Baptist Church, OKC
10 am to 5 pm Cost \$40
May end up being virtual

Advancing the Gospel Together

Through Our Giving

Through the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist churches give a percentage of their undesignated receipts in support of their respective state convention and Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries.



Message from the Ministry Team

“...we work with you for your joy...”
2 Corinthians 1:24b

What a great joy and privilege is to serve God with you. We desperately need each other. We need relationships and resources to accomplish the mission given to us by Jesus.

I have been told that the only thing that will make this year or any year different will be the books you read and the people you spend time with. We sharpen each other and make each other better every time we are together.

I would love to hear about the books you are reading, your ideas to build each other up and build up our churches. Please share what you are learning, what is working and any ideas you have for training opportunities.

My cell is 580-540-0150.
We are better together!

Kevin Strobe
Ministry Team
Pastor First Baptist Church
Ringwood