



NEWSLETTER

Tanglewood Bible Fellowship

EIC: Wendy Powers

The Mission of TBF is to glorify God (Psalm 86:11-13; 115:1 and 1 Peter 2:12; 4:16) by actively participating in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) as a body of believers (1 Cor 12:13; 1 John 5:1-5) who collectively/individually (Phil 1:27) serve our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 12:1-2) and one another (Phil 2:3-4) functioning as a spiritual Greenhouse (Eph 4:11-16) such that by our interactions together we are catalyzed to grow (Acts 2:42) and to reproduce (Acts 2:47) spiritually

Hanukkah

The Feast of Dedication, which was once also called the Feast of the Maccabees, was an eight-day winter festival celebrated by the Jews in the month of December or sometimes late November, depending on when it fell in the lunisolar Jewish calendar. Today, this festival is called Hanukkah or the Festival of Lights.

The history of the Feast of Dedication goes back to the intertestamental period and the Maccabean Revolt. After the Seleucid king Antiochus Euphianes profaned the Jewish temple and forced the Jews to abandon their sacrifices and adopt pagan rituals, a group of Jewish freedom fighters rose up, defied the oppressive pagan regime, and overthrew the Seleucids. The temple in Jerusalem was re-dedicated to God; ever since then, the Feast of Dedication has been celebrated to commemorate this meaningful event in Jewish history.

The original Feast of Dedication involved a miracle, according to rabbinic tradition. When the Jews re-entered the temple they could only find one small, sealed jug of olive oil that had not been profaned or contaminated by the Seleucids. They used this to light the menorah in the temple, and though the oil was only enough to last one day, it miraculously lasted eight days—time for more oil to be made ready. This is the reason Hanukkah lasts for eight days.

The Bible mentions the Feast of Dedication by name in the Gospel of John. "Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade" (John 10:22–23). This is the scene in which Jesus claims oneness with the Father, for which the unbelieving Jews try to apprehend and stone Him (verses 24–39).

The Feast of Dedication, with its roots in the miracle of the menorah, has always been associated with lights; it is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. Illuminating houses and synagogues is a tradition that was probably carried over from the Feast of Tabernacles. The recitation of Psalm 30:1–12 is also an important part of the Feast of Dedication because of its themes of God-given victory over enemies and the replacement of mourning and sorrow with hope and joy (Psalm 30:5, 11).

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Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 AM

Adult Services AND Children's (0-12 years) Programs
Youth (6th -12th grade) meets Sunday evenings at 6 PM

Wednesday P.M. Service: 6:30-7:30 PM

A Word from Pastor David Shields

Church Family,

When you grow up a pastor's kid, you are going to be at church. You'll arrive at church earlier than most and leave by the time most people are finishing their lunch, or that's how it felt as a child. I especially noticed my family's constant church attendance when it came to days like Christmas. Every seven years or so Christmas falls on a Sunday. In case you have not noticed yet, this year is one of those special years.

I thought Christmas Sunday was the worst day to be a pastor's kid. Not only did we have to attend church as usual, but we had to wait to begin our Christmas festivities (most importantly, gift opening) until after church. Normally unwrapping gifts had to wait until my father read through the first two chapters of the gospel of Luke. But having to attend an entire church service seemed like a bridge too far. I was happy to tell people Christmas is about Jesus just as long as Jesus stays in His lane and doesn't interfere with my present opening.

That is how I acted as a child, but the reality is many of us still view Christmas this way don't we? We give lip service to the true meaning of Christmas, but our actions reveal what we truly think the meaning is. I have a sneaking suspicion that some people who loudly complain about "the war on Christmas" will not be found inside a church on Christmas Sunday.

December 25th on Christmas Sunday will be a good opportunity to check our own hearts. The day commemorates the incarnation and birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. I cannot think of a better way to commemorate the occasion than gathering together with Christ's Bride to worship Him. I hope that wherever you are, whether traveling, out with family, stuck in the hospital, or somewhere else, you find time to worship Christ on Christmas.

Personally, I hope to see many of you that Christmas morning. We will still gather together for worship and will have a special Christmas service. Whether you are able to join us or join any local gathering of God's people, remember that Christ is the reason we worship every Sunday. And December 25th is no exception.

Merry Christmas,
Pastor David Shields

Sunday Mornings
→



I Thessalonians
Wednesday Nights
6:30 PM

(Hanukkah cont.)

Hanukkah, or the Feast of Dedication, is not one of the festivals instituted by God through Moses as part of the Law. That is not to say, however, that the festival is unbiblical or unpleasing to God. From Daniel to Jesus’ disciples to Jews persecuted under Hitler’s power and Christians persecuted in the Orient, both Jews and Christians have a long history of showing extraordinary courage in the face of intense persecution, just as the Jews did during the Seleucid oppression.

The Feast of Dedication is about the darkness of persecution and the light of God that leads His people through the darkness of those figurative nights with a promise of joy in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

Most Jews today do not believe in Jesus Christ as the incarnation of Yahweh. However, the Maccabees were followers of Yahweh, and Jesus’ disciples were still Jewish, even though they believed that the Great I Am had revealed Himself in the person of Jesus (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58). Christianity has its roots in Judaism, and Christians can look to the Feast of Dedication as a celebration of God’s protection and the victory He gives His faithful people who are willing to bravely continue to worship Him in the face of persecution.

Gotquestions.org



TBF Family Ministries

Happy December Everyone!

It is hard to believe that it is already December again! This month I want to talk about Family Worship because I have noticed that Advent, the Christmas season post-Thanksgiving, is an easy time to either begin or reenergize a time of family worship. What is family worship? The name makes it sound a lot scarier than it is, and it can look like a lot of different things for different families. It usually has three aspects: prayer, Scripture, and worship. Let us talk about these three aspects briefly and then tie it all into Christmas.

First is prayer. Public prayer is not an ability that comes easy to most of us, but this does not mean you do not need to pray. It is like a muscle more than hair color. What I mean by this, is that it is a skill that will grow the more you do it, rather than just something you are born with. Also, and perhaps more importantly, have your children ever seen you pray outside of Church or at the dinner table when guests are over? If you struggle with prayer, might I suggest perhaps reading a prayer. There are two prayer books I'd recommend. The first is the *Valley of Vision*. I love this one because it is rich in theology but also addresses real issues we deal with. It is from the puritans and contains a lot of thee's and thou's. The second, more updated English prayer book, is *Piercing Heaven*. Like the other one, it is a really good prayer book. If you struggle with prayer, reading prayers is allowed. It's not cheating. Rather it is teaching your mind how to pray.

Second is Scripture. By this, I do not mean that you must prepare a sermon every night or need to have special insight into the text. Scripture's ultimate author is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to understand Scripture. The Scripture aspect of family worship can be simply reading a passage or chapter of Scripture. An important key is not doing the "open and point" method of choosing a passage to read, but rather going through a book from start to end. While this isn't as much fun, it pays dividends. First off pragmatically. You never have to choose the next text. It is there for you right after the last one you read. Remember, you are reading the story of salvation. If you were reading Harry Potter or the latest best-seller and decided to read page 1 then 200 then 10 then 65 then 8 then 43, you may be able to understand what is going on, but it will be a lot harder to comprehend what is happening.

Finally, is worship. This doesn't mean you have to plan three songs for your family to sing together or learn guitar or piano. It may mean this if you are musically inclined, but if you are like me and are tone deaf and have no sense of rhythm, then do not attempt. You can sing a worship song or hymn acappella or with Spotify or YouTube or even read a Psalm. The point is not to have a polished concert but rather to sing glory to God.

With all of these, they may feel weird to begin with, but through a rhythm of doing them, they will become like second nature. If everyday family worship is unattainable, that is ok. Family worship just a handful of times a week is still progress, and it is still exposing your children and yourself to God's Word. On the table in the church foyer, I have created an Advent verse list that may be used as a resource to spur on family worship as we approach Christmas.

In the Love of Christ,
Pastor Rob

Let's talk Parenting with Rob Girvin

Restarts in January
Something for Everyone. All are Welcome!

Youth Activities on Page 7

What's Happening at TBF

- ✚ JOIN OUR WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEETING AT TBF. EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 PM. Hear a lesson from Pastor David and join us for a time of prayer and praise.
- ✚ TBF WORSHIP TEAM MUSIC PRACTICE. JOIN US! See Dale Corbin or Lana Sleeper for details.
- ✚ DAILY DEVOS WITH PASTOR DAVID - TBF Facebook Page
- ✚ MISS A SUNDAY? Check out the sermons on the TBF Facebook page or tbfduncan.org
- ✚ MEN'S MINISTRY- Bible Study Attributes of God - December 12th
- ✚ WOMEN'S MINISTRY - New Bible Study in January
- ✚ WOMEN'S MINISTRY - Tea and Tinsel - December 17th
- ✚ WOMEN OF TANGLEWOOD BIBLE FELLOWSHIP- Facebook page
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Meets Sunday Nights at 5PM (Jam Session) and 6 PM (Study)
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Skate and Pizza, Dec. 3rd 12:30-4:30 PM
- ✚ TBF YOUTH - Christmas Party, Sunday Dec. 18th
- ✚ COMMUNION - Sunday, December 25th



TBF Men's Ministries



The Attributes of God

What is the nature of God? How can we recapture a real sense of God's majesty and truly live in the Spirit? How can we more fully recognize and appreciate the divine aspects of God? In this study, we will see that amid the chaos in our lives, God is faithful. Amid our sin and struggles, God's presence remains. We will see God's character is unchanging – both past and present. Even in our darkest moments, God's redemptive plan is secure. This study will bear eloquent witness to God's majesty and show us new ways to experience and understand the wonder and power of God's Spirit in our daily lives.

All men are invited. Through daily Bible reading and questions, group discussion, and study notes, God's Word comes to life in new and unexpected ways. Study led by Wolfgang Deeg.

TBF Youth Room – 6:30 PM

Monday, December 12th

**As iron sharpens iron,
so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.**

Proverbs 27:17

NEWSLETTER 5

TBF *Women's Ministries*



Tea and Tinsel



December 17th from 3 to 5:30.

We wanted to finish this year and set the stage for the new year with an event that encompasses the vision of the Women's Ministry here at Tanglewood.

Jesus
Fellowship at the Celebration Table
Service in the Community
Fun



We will meet together at the church and travel to 3 homes for :

1. Jesus, Service, and Food. Devotional, bring a gift for the Safe Center (a list of their needs will be forthcoming) and food.
2. Fun. Christmas themed games and prizes.
3. Caroling and Cookie Exchange. We will carol through local neighborhoods and return to the 3rd home for cookies and cocoa.



If you want to participate in the cookie exchange, bring 3 dozen cookies of the same kind and you will take home that same amount in a variety of delicious flavors. If you don't think you can eat that many cookies, consider giving your take-home box of cookies to that cookie lover on your gift list.

Invite a guest or two or three (we just need a head count) and make plans to join us on the 17th.



Sign-up sheet in the foyer.

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New Bible study starting in January.

TBF Youth Activities

Skating and Pizza

Saturday, December 3rd

12:30 – 4:30 PM

See Pastor Rob Girvin for details



Youth
CHRISTMAS PARTY
CHRISTMAS PARTY
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

TBF Memorial Bricks

Paved the way of TBF History -- A Path of Remembrance



Dale Corbin – Dale Corbin was a founding member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. He majored in Inorganic Chemistry at West Texas A&M on a Tennis Scholarship. He and wife, Debbie, reared three sons – Sean, Brent, and Christopher. Dale is the owner and operator of Dalcor Energy (Duncan) -an oil production company.

Debbie Corbin - Debbie Corbin was a founding member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. She has a degree in Elementary Education from West Texas A &M.

Since the very beginning of Tanglewood, Dale and Debbie have stepped in wherever needed. Dale has preached, worked in the church office, did church maintenance, worked as worship leader, and taught Sunday school and children's church. They held vacation bible school in their home. Debbie planned retreats, was instrumental in the meal ministry, kept the nursery, and just did whatever was needed at Tanglewood.

Dale and Debbie are still active members of Tanglewood and reside in Duncan, Oklahoma.



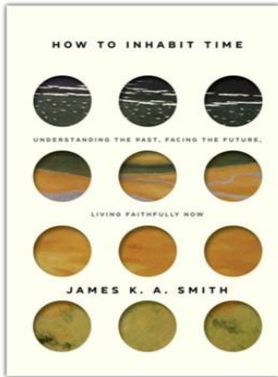
Rick Buchanan – Richard Charles “Rick” Buchanan was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ and was a member of Tanglewood Bible Fellowship. He and his wife, Karla, reared two children – Aaron and Ashleigh. Rick received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from East Central University in Ada in 1982 and a Masters of Business Administration, with honors, from Oklahoma City University in 1985. Rick and Karla moved to Duncan in 1985, when Rick accepted a position as a commercial loan officer at Security National Bank (now BancFirst), where he worked until 1992. In 1992, Rick joined the administrative staff of Duncan Regional Hospital as their Director of Medical Recruitment, where he established and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of DRH's first full-time physician recruitment department. Rick loved the people and community of Duncan, introducing prospective physicians to Duncan – during his 22-year career at Duncan Regional Hospital, Rick was instrumental in bringing more than 60 physicians, CRNA's, and nurse practitioners to the Duncan community.

Rick was very active in his faith community – he served as an elder at Tanglewood Bible Fellowship church. He taught Sunday School classes and was a junior Bible quizzing leader for many years. Rick was a man of honor and integrity, and his compassion, generosity, strong work ethic, sense of humor, and faith made a lasting impression on everyone he came in contact with. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.” II Timothy 4:6-7.

Karla Buchanan - Karla Buchanan currently resides in Oklahoma City. She formally served as an administrative assistant to Gabriel's House (Duncan). In honor of Rick's life, she, along with the TBF elders at the time, created the Memorial Pavilion on the northeast side of TBF with bricks to honor individuals that had significantly impacted TBF.

David's Book Recommendations

Like many pastors, I am a big fan of books. The following books are all books you can find on my bookshelf, and I would be more than happy to lend them to anyone who would like to read them.

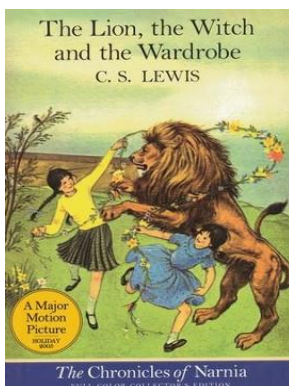
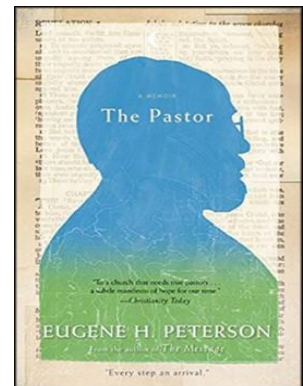


How to Inhabit Time: Understanding the Past, Facing the Future, Living Faithfully Now by James K. A. Smith

This book is about how Christians need to be better at recognizing the spiritual significance of the moment we live in. Poetic and thought-provoking but difficult to digest. It is short but meant to be read slowly and pondered over. There were things he meant as throwaway lines that I couldn't stop thinking about for days. This book is actually available at the Duncan Public Library. I recommend checking it out to encourage them to purchase more quality Christian books.

The Pastor: A Memoir by Eugene H. Peterson

The longer I pastor the more I appreciate Eugene's writing. He makes the ordinary life of a pastor seem meaningful and holy. I think anyone who has pastored for 30ish years would have lived a life worthy of a memoir and this one is no exception. Much of his story revolves around rejecting the idea that ministry is about numbers and outward success. Whether you have read "The Message" or not, most will appreciate the stories of this faithful pastor.



The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis

This is a classic children's story worthy to be read at Christmas time. I loved the story as a child but as I got older I found myself mocking the overly obvious allegory. Per my wife's recommendation, I reread the story and found that the problem was not that I had outgrown the story, but that I had not grown enough. I found myself getting caught up in all of the magic once again.