



THE BAPTIST MESSENGER

Informing and Inspiring Oklahoma Baptists Since 1912

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Oklahoma Baptists Pastors' Conference to feature inspiring testimonies, Nov. 13

BE

Satisfied
IN HIM

Psalm 103:5



2023 Oklahoma Baptists Annual Meeting Schedule

COMPLETE SCHEDULE FOR NOV. 13-14 MEETING



The Spring: New name, same great mission

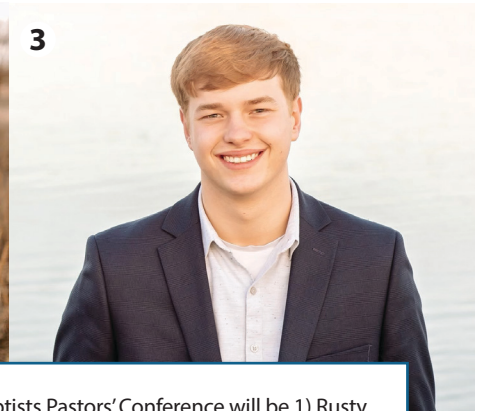
>>MYCHAELA BURRIS



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Oklahoma Baptists Pastors' Conference to feature inspiring testimonies, Nov. 13



>> PHOTOS: PROVIDED

Providing testimonies at the 2023 Oklahoma Baptists Pastors' Conference will be 1) Rusty Fuller, pastor of Ada, Trinity; 2) Drew Wright, executive pastor at Jenks, First; 3) Ethan Wolfe, full-time Oklahoma Baptist University student and youth pastor at Purcell, Emmanuel.

>> by Chris Doyle
MANAGING EDITOR

DEL CITY—A [strong slate of speakers](#) is offered for this year's Oklahoma Baptists Pastors' Conference, Nov. 13 at Del City, First Southern. Brad Graves, pastor of Ada, First and Pastors' Conference president, recently announced who will be speaking at the event. He described the list of speakers as "a mix of nationally-known pastors and several Oklahoma Baptist pastors."

John Avant, president of Life Action Ministries, is one of the nationally-known pastors who will be speaking, as well as Jordan Easley, pastor of Cleveland, Tenn., First, and Philip Nation, vice president of Thomas Nelson Bible Publishers.

Representing Oklahoma Baptist pastors as Pastors' Conference speakers will be Alton Fannin, pastor of Ardmore, First, and Adam Mask, pastor of Coweta, Community.

Along with the featured speakers, this year's Pastors' Conference will have testimonies shared from a long-time lead pastor, an executive pastor and an Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) student.

Rusty Fuller has been lead pastor of Ada, Trinity since 1984. He and the


church were [featured in the Baptist Messenger in 2014](#), when the congregation observed a Baptism Sunday. The church staff said they prepared for 20 baptisms that day but ended up with 26 people responding and being baptized.

Drew Wright serves as executive pastor at Jenks, First. The [Baptist Messenger featured Wright in 2018](#), not long after he experienced the loss of his wife Shannon and his son Asa who was delivered by an emergency caesarean section procedure. Shannon died Dec. 29, 2017, and Asa joined his mother on Jan. 3.

"As the story of Shannon and Asa spread across the internet, believers and non-believers across the country and world reached out to Wright in support," the *Messenger* story shared.

Ethan Wolfe is a full-time OBU student and is serving as youth pastor at Purcell, Emmanuel. He will be observing a recent tradition at the Pastors' Conference of having an OBU pastoral student deliver a message.

"We are excited to be together, most importantly to worship the Lord and to learn from one another," Graves said in a video promoting the Pastors' Conference. "Our theme is called, 'Be Satisfied in Him.' Of all the things in the world that (we) can find our satisfaction in, it should be the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Join me and many other pastors Nov. 13."

For more information on Oklahoma Baptists Pastors' Conference visit oklahomabaptists.org/pastorsconference. 



2023 ANNUAL MEETING

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, NOV. 13

- 9:00 AM** Pastors' Conference Morning Session Begins
- 11:30 AM** Lunch
- 1:00 PM** Pastors' Conference Afternoon Session Begins
- 4:00 PM** Pastors' Conference Concludes

MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 13

- 6:20 PM** Pre-Session Music
- 6:30 PM** Call to Order
- 6:50 PM** Cooperative Program Focus
- 7:05 PM** Business Session
- 7:25 PM** Executive Director-Treasurer's Address – Todd Fisher

TUESDAY MORNING, NOV. 14

- 9:00 AM** Pre-Session Music
- 9:15 AM** Call to Order
- 9:25 AM** Oklahoma Baptist Homes for Children – James Swain
- 9:35 AM** WatersEdge – Robert Kellogg
- 9:45 AM** Business Session
- 10:55 AM** President's Address – Chris Wall

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOV. 14

- 1:15 PM** Pre-Session Music
- 1:30 PM** Call to Order
- 1:40 PM** Baptist Village Communities – Bill Pierce
- 1:50 PM** Oklahoma Baptist University – Heath Thomas
- 2:00 PM** Cooperative Program – Todd Fisher
- 2:10 PM** Business Session
- 2:50 PM** Annual Sermon – Michael Staton
- 3:25 PM** Closing Prayer

For a more detailed schedule, visit oklahomabaptists.org/annualmeeting.

The Spring: New name, same great mission



>> PHOTOS: PROVIDED
1-2) Members of Tulsa, First help with painting and repairs at The Spring; 3) The staff of The Spring help provide advocacy, a safe escape and ongoing Christlike care.

>> by Mychaela Burris
THE SPRING VOLUNTEER & OUTREACH DIRECTOR

TULSA—Formerly known as DaySpring Villa, The Spring continues to provide advocacy, a safe escape and ongoing Christlike care for those who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence, human sex trafficking and stalking.

While our name has changed, our mission and vision remain the same, as we are committed to seeing our survivors transform through Christlike care, so they can live empowered, free and whole.

We are so grateful for the continued support of Oklahoma Baptist churches, which have been a part of our work since the beginning.

There are so many new ways to be involved with The Spring! Our advocacy and work extend beyond our shelter. We continue to provide education and training to our community and partners, including church leaders and health care providers. Find out more by visiting thespringok.org/corporate-church-partnerships.

Our executive director also regularly visits the state capitol to be a voice for survivors and advocate for common sense legislation that supports survivors and victim services while partnering with many other organizations in our state through the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Thank you for being a part of The Spring and continuing to engage in the work being done in our state. Victim centered services are needed now more than ever as we see our state reaching first in the nation for domestic violence. We cannot do this work alone.

For those interested in being on the front lines with us, we have many volunteer opportunities, including pre-

paring and serving meals in our kitchen and providing children’s activities, so our guests can attend Bible studies and support groups. These opportunities and more can be found online at thespringok.org/volunteer.

Please contact us about other ways to serve and support survivors. We welcome church small groups that are looking for ministry opportunities.

Thank you for being a part of seeing survivors empowered, rescued and restored. We are excited to continue our partnership with Oklahoma Baptists as we help to expand the Kingdom. [m](#)



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People in the news



BERTA NAMED 2023 TEACHER OF THE YEAR. On Sept. 16, Dioncia Berta was honored with a 2023 Teacher of the Year award. She is the wife of Pastor Sandor Berta of Tulsa, Palabras de Vida. Dioncia received her award from Licensed Child Care Association of Oklahoma. The organization recognized her contributions to toddler education at the state level. [m](#)

Coming events



NOV. 10. Oklahoma Baptist University, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Baptist Historical Commission and the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art, will be hosting a reception in celebration of the resto-

ration and exhibition of a 1613 copy of the King James Bible, known as the "He" Bible. This will take place from 2-4 p.m. at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art. Click [here](#) or visit baptistmessenger.com/he bible for complete information about the Bible and the event. [m](#)

NOV. 14. Bethany, Council Road will host "The Gift Goes On" from 4-8:30 p.m. at The Cube. The event supports Karis Adoption Fund, which provides funds for Christian families adopting children domestically or internationally. The Gift Goes On will have vendors selling home and holiday decor, clothing, pottery, leather, jewelry, bath and body products, art, food gifts, ornaments and more. Food trucks with dinner and dessert also will be on site. For the last 10 years, The Gift Goes On has raised more than \$685,000 for the Karis Adoption Fund. For more information about the event, visit thegiftgoeson.com. For more information about Karis, visit karisadoptionfund.org. [m](#)

the gift goes on

NOVEMBER 14TH
4:00-8:30 PM
@ CUBE AT COUNCIL

save the date

VOLUNTEER MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

OKLAHOMA

On-going opportunities for volunteers:

Tulakogee Conference Center, Wagoner - 918/462-3212 – info@tulakogee.com

Hospitality House of Tulsa provides family centered lodging, emotional and spiritual support for family members of patients traveling to Tulsa for medical care. 918/794-0088 or hhtulsa.org

Hospitality House of Oklahoma provides for the physical, spiritual needs of families with loved ones incarcerated in McAlester. Lodging available. 918/429-0142

OK Jail & Prison Ministry needs volunteers to go into the jails and share the Gospel each week. For more information call 405/917-2242 or email: ojpm@ojpm.org

DISASTER RELIEF

Training:

Nov. 16-17—Assisting Individuals in Crisis – 9 a.m.-4 p.m. – \$50 Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112 To register, please email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

** For endorsed chaplains only

Feb. 29-March 2—Chaplain Manual and Operational Stress First Aid—\$60 Baptist Building, 3800 N. May Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73112 Instructor: Naomi Paget. To register, please email pjones@oklahomabaptists.org

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