

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH


## of Weatherford

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**Attending Regularly    Serving Willingly    Giving Generously    Living Uprightly**

This Sunday Morning's Sermon:  
**NO VACANCY - A Dramatic Monologue**



Earl Stephenson    John Gerber  
Donna Webb  
Pete Petree    Christi Duvall  
Andrea Unruh    Leigha Helt  
Denise Hamburger    Jeremy Johnson

No activities at the church on Wednesday  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

### Rejoice!

The blue denim shirt reminds me of my daddy. I put it on this morning in recognition of the fact that two years ago today he went to be with Christ, which is better by far than anything found in this world. He tended to wear denim shirts more times than not during his final years. He preferred those with two front pockets. Mine only has one.

He currently knows life in its fullness in the presence of God. Jesus promised that those who believe in Him live spiritually even after they die physically. Honestly, I have more questions than answers about what Daddy is actually doing at this particular moment. I do know that his joy is such that he does not miss me.

I miss him. Last Friday I wanted to call him and tell him about the successful quail hunt I had been a part of. He would have loved hearing every detail about the day - especially the dog points and the bird count. This morning, in addition to the denim shirt I stuck a toothpick in my mouth before heading to work. I didn't need it - I just did it because he used to do it.

Like a lot of other things I do: putting in a full days work for a full days pay; serving the Lord practically through the local church; paying all bills in a timely manner; showing up early; speaking to others; reading the Bible. The disciplines that he practiced wove themselves into the fabric of my being as I imitated his behavior as he imitated Christ.

His final communication with me was a mere lifting of his right index finger to acknowledge my presence as I entered room A4 of the Elkview General Hospital in Hobart, Oklahoma. After that he slipped into unconsciousness. A few short days later he quit breathing.

Someone asked me last month if my daddy had been a preacher. I quickly set them straight and informed them that my daddy had been a bricklayer. There's nothing wrong with being a preacher - I am one. But there's nothing wrong with being a bricklayer for the glory of God. Actually, there's a lot right about it.

"Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as I told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." I Thessalonians 4:11-12

Blue collar preacher,  
Earl

### Moving Day

One of the things in life that I don't like is moving!!! The worst part about moving is packing all the stuff and then saying to your friends, "HEY! Would you like to come help me move all my stuff?" This past week as we began the process of packing and moving, I sat down in the middle of my garage. Feeling overwhelmed with the mess and chaos that surrounded me, I had to take a break! I sat in my garage for what seemed like an hour and was so overwhelmed I could not move or pick up another thing. But in the midst of all the stuff, I remembered God's words. "Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give you!"

Have you ever had those moments in life where it feels like you are surrounded by chaos? Where you feel like no matter what you do there is more and more? Most of us begin to feel like that around the Christmas season because of all the stuff we have going and all the plans that have to be made. If you begin to feel like I did that day in my garage, remember there is peace in the midst of chaos! Christ is our peace, and this Christmas season, please don't forget to just stop, sit, and thank Christ for the peace He has given us! Life will probably never slow down, but in the midst of all the things we have to do we can find rest and peace in Christ!

Merry Christmas,  
Jeremy "Worm" Johnson

### Wednesday Schedule Begins January 6th

Meal	4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.
Adventure Zone	5:45 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Middle School Connection	6:00 p.m.
High School Connection	7:00 p.m.
Adult Discipleship Opportunities:	6:00 p.m.
Discovery Class	"Redemption: An In-depth Look"
Promise Keepers for Men	"The Lord Changed My Attitude"
Adult Teacher's Meeting	Sunday School Visitation
Woman 2 Woman	Raising A Modern Day Knight
Pastor's Bible Study	

### January Bible Study/Potluck Snack Supper January 10, 17, 24, and 31

We will meet on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. We will study through several parables in Matthew. The study will take place around tables which will be used for fellowship after the study is completed each Sunday night. We are asking everyone to bring some food to share each week. Leave all food in the FLC fellowship hall before the study begins.

Study time will not exceed 45 minutes.

Childcare Provided - Preschool & Children will meet in the Main Building and then join their parents when we eat.

### Sunday - December 27th

AM - Together Again Sunday  
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.    Worship - 10:30 a.m.

PM - Silent Lord's Supper  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Come and Go)

### Christmas Holiday Hours

Church Office Closed - December 24 & 25 / January 1  
FLC Closed - December 21 thru January 1

### The Lottie Moon Post Office Is Full

There are several boxes overflowing  
Please check your mail!!!

### Expanding His Reach Building Campaign



Amount Given to Date - \$ 2,867,805.56

Sunday  
School

December 13

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