

FBCOKC – A family of faith, growing in God’s love, striving to be faithful.

21-Day Gratitude Challenge: Available This Sunday!

Grab your challenge guide this Sunday in the Commons or you can access on our website fbcokc.org! You can also access the guide on our church app. Let’s begin this challenge together this Sunday, November 1 and allow God to cultivate hearts of gratitude in us. You’ll need a journal or notebook to record your entries. If you don’t have one, let Brad know and we can get one for you!

Continuing Our Comebacks

Praise God for all the work He has done through our small group study and sermon series “The Comeback”! But just because the study is over doesn’t mean we stop the transformation God has begun. If you have a personal comeback story to share, email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call the church office to chat with Brad. We’d love to use these testimonies to be an encouragement to our congregation and community. Praise be to God that it’s never too late and we’re never too far for God’s grace to reach.

Bedlam Canned Food Drive – The Competition is Heating Up! (OSU – 547, OU – 478, G&G – 445)

With JUST A FEW DAYS LEFT, the donations are pouring in! The Cowboys have maintained the lead but the Sooners and Green & Gold are on their heels.

You’re last chance to give donations for your team is **this Friday, October 30!** Join us at 6pm for the Fellowship Drive-Thru where you can drop off your donations. You have till midnight on the 30th! We will be using these donations to make Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families in our community. The winner will be announced this Sunday, November 1 at the end of our worship service.

You can score points for your team (OU, OSU, Green and Gold) by donating non-perishable food items (see list below for suggestions) at the Drop Box in The Commons. Monetary donations are also accepted at <https://fbcokc.org/give> or in person at the church office or during the offering in worship. \$1 donation equals one can. Click on the link below, select **CareForOKC** in the drop-down menu, and in the “Notes” section put “Canned Food Drive” and what team you’re supporting: OSU, Green and Gold, or OU!

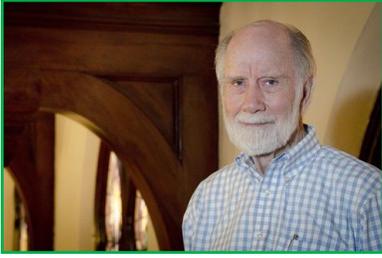
*Please note: Online/cash/check donations may not be immediately reflected in the score. We tally up those donations every few weeks. But be assured that we have your donations recorded and they will be counted for your team!

Suggested Items to Donate:

- Stuffing mix (Stove Top, etc...)
- Chicken broth
- Cake Mixes and Frostings
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Vegetables (green beans, etc....)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes (yams)



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



From the desk of Pastor Emeritus, Mack Roark

I'll never forget Jake Hudson, and that for many reasons. Not least is this. It was a Saturday afternoon in the summer of 1959. Jake was, I thought, an old man; I was his twenty-three old pastor. Jake was the retired president of the local bank, a one man operation. I was a first year seminary student and had been his pastor less than a year. Our first, Amy Jo, had just been born in Fort Worth, and this was my first trip back to Freestone County. I looked forward to sitting on Jake's porch and telling him about this perfect, and perfectly beautiful baby. It didn't take long to realize that Jake did not share my excitement. Not much given to smiles anyway, he looked solemn, almost sad. "I don't know, preacher" he said. "I don't think we should be bringing babies into this world. Just look at the mess the world is in. And it's only gonna get worse."

Maybe so. Within a week the Cold War would heat up, with Vice President Nixon and Nikita Krushchev in an ugly 'kitchen debate' in Russia, and within a few months Krushchev would take off his shoe and pound it on the desk while addressing the UN and declare to the USA – "We will bury you!!" Signs designating safe bunkers for an atomic bomb attack began to show up in towns. A presidential election was coming and each side knew the other would destroy America as we knew it. The USSR and Red China, hiding behind the Iron Curtain and the Bamboo Curtain, were feared more for what we did not know than for what we did know. HUAC was still busy rooting out *communists* among politicians and actors. The pandemic threat was lessened, but the Salk vaccine for polio was not yet available to everyone. Our family got the vaccine in 1961.

And there was outer space, UFOs and a space race. After church one Sunday morning, in 1957, two years earlier, Mrs. Murray had asked if I would come see her. The look on her face told me it was serious. We sat at her kitchen table and she told me her fear. The Russian Sputnik was in space, circling the earth. This clearly means the end of the world. And we must stop this space race. God would not allow us to invade his space. Having heard talk of going to the moon, she made clear that God would not let that happen. Perhaps it's good that she was gone before July 19, 1969.

1959 was filled with crises. Segregation and integration divided churches, schools, towns, families. Prince Edward County in southern Virginia closed its public schools that summer and they stayed closed until 1964, just to avoid integration – parade example what was happening across the south and southwest. From troops guarding nine students entering Central High in Little Rock in 1957, to 1963 when the University of Alabama was integrated, with a governor and his troops on one side and the president and his troops on the other, racial tension accelerated. The slow march to justice, brutal and bloody, was on. Church attendance, which had mushroomed after WW2, was in decline. Sixty miles west of Jake's porch and thirteen miles outside of Waco, a group calling themselves the Davidians, announced the end of the world on April 22, 1959. A guy named Vernon Howell would eventually inherit this movement, and rename himself David Koresh. You know the rest of the story. And closer to home, this church where I was a neophyte pastor had just gone through an ugly church split, and by ugly I mean fistfights and weapons.

Jake was not wrong. Times were tough. One hundred years earlier, 1859, Charles Dickens had published *A Tale of Two Cities*, which opens reminding the reader "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," but in 1959 Jake knew it was the worst of times, and it would not get better.

It's always been so. Not a year has gone by in sixty that someone has not asked me "Is this the end time?" Or asserted, "This is it." Always the question or the belief is in light of the crises about us. At Y2K friends came to our house to watch the new millennium in, some, certain that this was the end, hoping or thinking that being near a Christian minister might help. (It wouldn't.) As that evening passed the unsolvable problem became obvious, for Y2K happened in London six hours before OKC, and in NYC one hour before, and San Francisco two hours later. And if God was going to ring down the curtain surely it would be on London or New York City or San Francisco!

The world, our world, not just the USA, is experiencing the shake of tectonic shifts in almost every facet of life. It's the inevitability of multiculturalism, the loss of spiritual rootage for so many, gender issues, marriage questions, racial tension and crises, fiercely divisive politics, globalism or isolationism, and the list goes on. Everything tied down is coming loose.

Continued on next page.....

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

A few years ago Sandy and I were on our way to Houston, and with some time to spare, turned west at Buffalo and drove to the house where we brought our first two children home. Then drove around a bit. Driving by the house where I had sat on the porch with Jake, house and yard still well kept, I stopped and asked two men working across the street, who lived in the Hudson house now, thinking maybe his son. “Jake Hudson” the man said. I could hardly believe it. It had been more than fifty years, and I thought he was an old man then. We went to the door, knocked, and Jake came to the door. Standing straight and without walker or cane, he looked the same, only aged. He was almost one hundred one years old. I was not the twenty-three old boy he knew. It took him a moment to catch up when I introduced myself. Ettie, his wife, stood beside him. Jake’s mind was clear. It was a good time, and good timing.

They asked about our family. “Amy Jo is past fifty,” I said, “and has four children.” I told how good life had been for her, and what a fine family she had. I bragged a bit, and went on to tell about Sam and Bret. And how good life had been for us – mostly.

I don’t know if Jake remembered the porch conversation, but I did.

More than fifty years had passed between our conversations, Jake and me, more than two generations. Some things are better today, some not. And it will be so two generations hence; it’s up to us. Some of these shifts have been a long time coming – and it’s about time. Others are wrong-headed and ill-intended. Others yet unknown. But when the tsunami that follows tectonic shifts settles, what then? It is our moral compass, yours and mine, that will shape our responses to each, and our future. You can find help with that in the first 100 pages of your New Testament – or most anywhere in the Book.

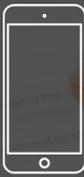
Max Lyall used to sing a prayer for the day when “the good will get better and the bad will get gone.” It is for this I pray.



how can i give?



 **ONLINE:**
fbcokc.org/give

 **MOBILE:**
Download the FBCOKC App
in the app store

 **ENVELOPE:**
Cash & Check
*Offering plate located
in The Commons*

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Something I'm Learning: Common Prayer – A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

Bailey Murrah

As some of you know, I was not raised in church. While my church experiences and memberships have been quite varied since I became a Christian, there is still so much I don't know about Christian denominations and traditions from around our country and around the world. One thing I enjoy about the devotionals in *Common Prayer* is that they include songs, traditions, and authors from all branches of Christianity throughout history. I am learning so much not only about the concept of liturgies, but also about the different forms, structures, and styles our faith can take for different people in different places. How exciting to choose not to be bound by one particular version of following Christ!

I am also enjoying this book's focus on how following Christ means loving our neighbors, and loving our neighbors means understanding them, protecting them, and fighting for them. In my personal faith journey, I have come to view social justice as a core task to which Christ calls us, secondary only to telling the world about Him. *Common Prayer* is helping me walk through scriptures and church history through this lens and helping me to understand this call God places upon those of us who profess His name. I look forward to the conversations that will hopefully happen within our church as many of us seek this vision of following God and serving others.

I would like to close with a prayer from the text: "God of peace, keep us from confusing peace with submission in the face of injustice. Keep us from confusing patience with tolerance in the face of oppression. Grant us true discernment for the sake of your kingdom. Amen."

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TO STAY UP TO DATE!



CareForOKC Volunteer Opportunities

We need help at CareForOKC and you can make a difference! We need people to help sew smaller blankets together to make larger, warmer blankets to give out this Winter. We are also needing help organizing and sorting items in the clothes closet. We have available time slots on Mondays from 9am – 6pm where you can sign up to come volunteer for 1-2 hours by yourself or with a friend. Sign up in the Commons!

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Celebrating Earlene Hall

Be sure to join us for worship on Sunday, November 1! We will take a moment to recognize Earlene Hall for her years of service with our CareForOKC Ministry. After worship, we will have a brief reception for Earlene in the Commons. If you know Earlene, you know she has a gift for creating beautiful cards she sends to so many of us. This time we are returning the favor. We invite you to write cards of thanks, encouragement, and gratitude to Earlene for the countless lives she's touched while serving in the Clothes Closet. You may bring your cards on November 1 to give to her at the reception or you can send your notes to the church and we'll get them to Earlene. Thanks for helping us make this special for her!



*****Annual business meeting November 11 @ 6:00pm in the dining hall or on Zoom*****

Community Blood Drive – October 28th

We're excited to welcome the Oklahoma Blood Institute to our campus to host a community blood drive from 10a – 2p on Wednesday, October 28. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be accepted as their schedule allows. All donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies to identify potential convalescent plasma donors. Use the link below to schedule an appointment. For questions, contact Andrew Bowles.

https://www.yourbloodinstitute.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/343286

Join us in the north parking lot on Friday, **October 30th**, at 6pm for a time of Fellowship. We will have a drive thru drop off for the Canned Food and hotdogs/refreshments for everyone! Kids are encouraged wear their Halloween costumes and we will have some fun ways to safely trick or treat in the parking lot. Bring your lawn chairs so we can visit after you drop off your cans! This will be a great opportunity to see friends and fellowship outdoors with social distancing. See you there!



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

FALL @ FBCOKC

OCTOBER 30

Bedlam Canned Food Drive Through &
Fellowship | 6PM North Lot

NOVEMBER 1

Communion in Worship

NOVEMBER 1 - 22

Church-Wide Gratitude Challenge

NOVEMBER 11

Annual Business Meeting

Dining Hall & Zoom | 6PM

NOVEMBER 21

Thanksgiving Baskets | Portico | 9AM

NOVEMBER 22

Decorate for Christmas | 12PM

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 24

Advent

DECEMBER 19

Christmas Baskets | Portico | 9AM

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

events subject to change due to COVID-19

FALL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Brad Stewart if you would like to volunteer.....

2-3 people to help sew smaller blankets together to make larger, warmer blankets to give out this winter.

Clothing Room:

Sort & organize rooms every Monday in October

2-4 people at a time | 2hr timeslots between 9a-7p

Thanksgiving/Christmas Baskets

Packing Nov. 18 & Distribute Nov. 21

Packing Dec. 16 & Distribute Dec. 19

9a-11a | Need 5 volunteers each date

Coat Drive

Men's Coats Size L to 2XL (top priority)

Women's Coats size L to 2XL