

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



I have found the more time I spend walking with the Lord, however flawed it may be, the more I can see evidence that God is at work all around me. This past year it has been tempting, and at times I even leaned into that temptation, to focus on the problems all around us. It can be so tempting to fix our eyes on the storm and pull our eyes off Christ. The more time I spend in scripture and in prayer, the more my eyes become accustomed to seeing the things of God. On my better days, rather than seeing all the problems (that will always be there), I find myself seeing all the provisions. On my worse days, I can get bogged down in the setbacks and the challenges.

Noah and I have been reading quotes from great men and women from history. We are researching for a 5th grade paper and he has settled his focus on Winston Churchill. We read quote after quote from Churchill and I want to share one of them with you. He wrote, “A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.” He also said, “The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you can see.” Both quotes are about perspective, aren’t they? When trials come in our lives (and they always will), we can look for how God might work through them or rush to fear and panic. Personally, I’ve spent too much of my life in fear and anxiety. I’d rather develop spiritual eyes that look for how God might work through any difficulty we may face. The second quote, about looking to our past, reminds me of the value of telling the stories of scripture over and over again. When we remember how God has been faithful in the past, it helps us have the faith to believe he will be faithful in the here and now.

What are you learning? What are you facing right now? Are you discouraged and defeated? If the answer is yes, I am so sorry. That is okay. It’s okay to not be okay. You just can’t stay that way too long. Friends, I want to encourage you to pray and ask God to give you eyes to see how he is working. Ask God to show you that he is with you and sustaining you. Trust that God can meet you where you are, whether on top of the world or in the deepest valley. He can meet you there and make a way forward when there seems to be no way. Pray for the eyes to see and the faith to believe.



I pray for you all the time church family. Pray for one another. Encourage each other, as you so often do. Keep showing up and keep striving to follow after Christ. And when you fall down, have the courage to get back up again.

Join me this week for our Quarterly Business Meeting in the Dining Hall at 6pm and available on zoom. I can hardly wait for worship on Sunday as we look at Luke 10. Blessings my friends. **Sarah**

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Verses Project for May 2021 – James 1:1-5 (see below)

When we internalize God's word and memorize it, transformation happens. Mere words on a page are transformed into the Living Word of God alive inside of us. It impacts our actions, speech, character, and witness in the world. That's why we're starting "Verses Project" at FBCOKC where you will be challenged to memorize one passage of scripture per month. Of course you are welcome to memorize more than one passage but we're setting a reachable goal that all of our church family – from kids to senior adults – can memorize. You can do this as an individual or invite your family to join you in memorizing God's word. You're free to choose your favorite translation. Below is a link to a Bible Memory app that helps people learn how to memorize scripture! It's available for both apple and android devices. If you're committing to join us in **Verses Project**, email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call us so we know to be encouraging you along the way!

<https://biblememory.com/>

May 2021 – James 1:1-5

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

FBCOKC Passport Kids Camp – July 24-27: Brownwood, TX

Kids camp is for kids who've completed 3rd – 6th grades. Dates are Sunday, July 24 – Tuesday, July 27 in Brownwood, TX. Brownwood is 5 hrs. away. We had a blast at camp in 2019 and we're really excited about going again. Price and more details coming soon. Just wanted to gauge your interest. Check out the link below to get a sense of what camp is like!

<https://passportcamps.org/kids-camps/>

Volunteers Needed for A/V Ministry

Do you enjoy technology and want to use those gifts to serve the church? We'd love for you to consider serving with the Audio/Visual (Media) Ministry of FBCOKC. The last year has given us the opportunity to strengthen and expand our online ministry presence with enhanced live-streaming capabilities to our Facebook page, FBCOKC App, and our website. We are grateful to those who have given much time and energy to this ministry, and we'd like to expand this ministry's volunteer pool. The Media Ministry currently includes: running sound in the sanctuary, sound for our live stream, camera work, and our newest addition of adding announcement and lyric slides to our live stream. And this is only the beginning! If you're interested in learning more, email Andrew Bowles (andrewbowles@fbcokc.org) or Steven McConnell (stevenm@weokie.org).

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FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

Sarah Stewart, Pastor.....	232-4255 extension 121
Andrew Bowles, Minister of Students and Missions.....	232-4255 extension 123
Brad Stewart, Minister for Discipleship	232-4255 extension 122
Steven McConnell, Minister of Music.....	cell: 405-246-6687
Don Clothier, Pianist.....	cell: 405-408-2145
Jordan Browne, Children's Coordinator.....	232-4255 extension 124
Lonnie Stearns, Facilities Manager.....	232-4255 extension 150/cell: 245-5717
Barbara Ward, Financial Services Coordinator.....	232-4255 extension 118
Toni Adams Executive Ministry Associate.....	232-4255 extension 112

Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

We will be concluding our use of Common Prayer at the end of May! I'm (Brad) so thankful for the ways God has used this resource to lead us in prayer, open up to us the beauty of liturgy, teach us the truth of God's Word, and educate us on the church fathers and mothers whose faith is our foundation. Stay tuned for something new to begin this August 2021!

 **It is time for Community Care Offering to be collected. After the worship service May 2 you will be able to give to the cares of our community. Thank you for giving.**

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards and love sent during my recent illness. I know God heard your prayers and healed. Love you much.

Peggy Elliott



The banner features a central green arrow pointing right with the text "June 14-18" in white. Below the arrow, the words "KIDS OFF BROADWAY" are written in large, bold, purple letters. The background is a stylized landscape with green hills, a blue sky, and a yellow sun. At the top, there are several purple and teal pennants with the "Destination Dig" logo and the text "BRANCH 25 15". In the bottom left corner, there is a graphic of a shovel and the text "DESTINATION DIG UNCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS". In the bottom right corner, there is a dark green box with the text "UNCOVER ALL THE DETAILS AT: WWW.FBCOKC.ORG/KOB" in white.

FBCOKC—Come be YOU with US!

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Cleaning Supplies Needed for Hope Is Alive House

This year, FBCOKC “adopted” the Hope Is Alive W2 home. Part of our support agreement is providing the house with cleaning supplies. ***Right now, they really need Suiffer WetJet cleaning pads.*** Other recommended cleaning supplies include: Clorox toilet bowl cleaner, Clorox wipes, trash bags, dish soap, Pledge furniture spray, glass cleaner, etc. *If you would like to donate cleaning supplies, you may drop them off at the church office* and we will make sure that they get to the house. If you’re unable to purchase specific items, but would like to donate financially, you can give to the Missions Budget by designating your gift either on a giving envelope or online. Thanks for loving our community by loving on the W2 HIA Home!

I can see clearly now.....

I have been going back and forth to see the eye doctor for a couple of months now. My eyesight has never been the greatest and I have worn glasses literally all my life. So it has been an ongoing series of correcting my vision to see more clearly for a long time.

Some of the questions the eye doctor asks during the visit are questions we need to ask ourselves on a daily basis.

- 1) Can you see this?
- 2) What can you see?
- 3) Does this make it better or worse?
- 4) What if I cover this eye?
- 5) What happens when I take this away?
- 6) Try this, does that make it better?
- 7) Can you focus on the letter beyond me even though I am going to cover one of your eyes?

Each new lens the doctor puts in front of me is supposed to make me see better and more clearly. So my communication is very important in getting the proper fit for my sight. You see, the eye doctor cannot make your eye sight better without your perspective on how you see things.

Similarly, God cannot make our vision better if we are not willing to answer these questions with honesty. The Latin root meaning of perspective is to “look through”. God is actually asking us to look through his eyes and his provision through Jesus Christ and answer those questions we sometimes don’t want to answer. The whole reason to get corrective lenses is to get a clearer view of my everyday life. My hope is to have a clearer vision or “look through” with the help of God’s word and his perspective. I still put on the glasses in the same old way. That part doesn’t change but suddenly as I put on a new pair of glasses everything looks different. Maybe the same scripture you have seen year after year suddenly comes alive and applicable. And suddenly I am able to see more clearly the road that God has ask me to walk and why.

I believe God is telling me to take off those rose-colored or dirty old glasses that give off the look of insecurity and anxiety and put on a fresh new look of what it means to have the mind of Christ.

.....be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2.

Prayer: God help me to focus on the eyecharts you have set before me. Help me to read your word with you on my mind and a new perspective. I give you my eyes. In Jesus name please change my viewpoint to see you more clearly. Amen. **Toni**

