

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



“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.”

Today I am grateful for the many small ways I see God moving among us. I give thanks for the incredible women who went on the Women’s Retreat this past weekend. It was a time for reconnecting with God and with each other. When driving back home on Saturday, my soul was refreshed by the faith of these incredible women. We learned from each other and encouraged one another. What a beautiful picture of sisterhood it was for me.

I give thanks for the ways God is leading us through starting Discipleship Groups. We have an incredible group of people signed up to begin this journey this year. The first four D-Groups have already started with another four beginning tomorrow. It is my prayer that God would use these groups to help us deepen our community with one another and develop us into disciples who are making disciples. We have so many people interested we are considering opening up another group. May God use this time to mold us and shape us into the church he longs for us to be.

I give thanks for seasons of rebuilding. This past Sunday we started our new sermon series called “A Time to Rebuild” based on the book of Nehemiah. Though we are a strong and healthy church, we are certainly in a season of rebuilding. We will look to God in prayer as we allow him to build us up in love and grace. May we be ever flexible with the method but unwavering in our commitment to the mission. May we grow in depth and in number as we seek to further the Kingdom of God right here in OKC. May God give us joy for the journey, courage for the future, and grit for the tough days.

What are you giving thanks for today? I challenge you to take the time to list out your blessings this day. Start small and see how much God has done for you today and give thanks. It changes us when we offer thanks to God. It strengthens us and shifts our perspective. It reminds us that we are never alone. Today, I give thanks for you, dear church. You are loving and real. You are humble and passionate. You are a light in this world. Keep shining my friends. *Sarah*

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Starting in September: Choir and D-Groups!

We are excited to offer opportunities to dive in deeper throughout the week including Discipleship Groups, Choir, Children's and Youth. We hope you will choose something to be a part of. These opportunities will be done in small groups with plenty of space in the rooms. We are not providing a Wednesday night meal, but encourage you to bring your dinner and eat in your small groups.



Choir: Do you love to sing? Come check out the amazing Sanctuary Choir! Choir is such an important part of our identity as a church! Rehearsals will kick-off Wednesday, Sept 15th at 7pm in the Sanctuary. Childcare is provided during choir up in the gym. Your kids will have a blast and you can come praise God with us!

Discipleship Groups: We have an incredible group signed up to participate in Discipleship Groups (D-Groups) this year. These groups will meet twice a month for one year. It takes time to build community and trust in a group. After the year, it is our hope that some of you will be ready to lead your own groups starting next fall. We will learn from this year and launch D-Groups church wide in the fall of 2022! If you have not signed up for a group yet, please email BradStewart@fbcokc.org. The groups will be led by the staff this year. Most of the groups will meet Wednesday nights at the church from 5:30-7pm. Youth and Children's programs will be happening at the same time. Choir begins at 7pm! Some of the groups will coordinate meals together, others can just pick up dinner on the way and enjoy eating together. Here are the groups and when they will begin. *Start dates in red

Sunday Nights:

Higher Ground led by Steven and Christi McConnell (Sept. 12th)

20 Somethings led by Ariel Koerner (Sept. 12th)

Wednesday Nights:

30 Somethings led by Sarah Stewart (Sept. 8th)

20 Somethings led by Brad Stewart (Sept. 8th)

Multi-Generational led by Toni Adams (Sept. 15th)

Multi-Generational led by Sarah Stewart (Sept. 15th)

Multi-Generational led by Brad Stewart (Sept. 15th)

Wednesday at 10am

Women's Group led by Toni Adams (Sept. 15th)

Men's Camping Retreat – November 12-14

All gentlemen are invited to join us for a Men's Retreat as we camp at Doris Campground in the Wichita Mountains! We will enjoy hiking, fishing, games, worship, and more! We'll begin the weekend Friday evening and wrap up Sunday around noon. Cost is \$25 per person. More details coming soon!



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Kid's Night Out will be Friday, September 24th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Bring your children and enjoy a fun night of pizza and games! Drop off will be in the gym and pick up will be in the children's area.

Youth Hangout Night will be Friday, September 24th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The youth will enjoy a fun night of pizza, games, and crafts! Drop off will be in the gym and pick up in the youth center.



"Fall in Love with Fall"

Wreath-making craft time Saturday, September 25, from 10 am to 2 pm in the dining area.

If you would like to construct, deconstruct, update, etc., a wreath for your home, you'll want to participate in this fellowship time. If you don't already have something in mind, here are a couple of ideas to get you thinking.

You might start with pictures of wreaths you're drawn to. What do you like about them? Colors? Design? Simplicity? Fullness? Size?

What materials could you use? Here are a few to consider:

*Wreath base (grapevine, styrofoam, picture frame, wire, etc.)

*Fall foliage (flowers, leaves, pinecones, etc.)

*Also might need to bring or ask someone to share glue gun, ribbon, wire, wire cutters & or scissors.

Please let me know if you would consider sharing supplies.

Also, plan to Bring Your Own Brunch/Lunch as we'll be breaking on our own. Further questions? Call or text Roxane Jensen, 405-570-9196. Looking forward to this fun fall event!

FBCOKC— On Sunday mornings we will resume serving coffee in the commons.



IN CONCERT

The logo for Symphonix is a yellow oval with a black bowtie shape in the center. The word 'Symphonix' is written in white across the bowtie, and 'Classics Revitalized' is written in black below it.

Symphonix
Classics Revitalized

- Strings to your Heart -
String Chamber Orchestra with Modern Rhythms Section

Sunday, September 26th
4:00 PM
Olivet Baptist Church
1201 NW 10th

*"Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes, harps and lyres, trumpets and drums, loud cymbals and high sounding cymbals.
Play skillfully with shouts of joy.
Praise the Lord, all living creatures."*

A black silhouette of an orchestra performing on a stage.

Symphonix is available for free Sunday evening concerts at your church. Contact Karén Khanagov kkhanagov@shcglobal.net text 405 473-1496

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Bedlam Canned Food Drive – Begins September 12

The Bedlam Food Drive is back by popular demand! Once again, the Oklahoma Sooners, Oklahoma State Cowboys, and Green & Gold (Baylor University and Oklahoma Baptist University) are battling for the crown. The drive will begin Sunday, September 12 and end on Sunday, November 7 when we announce the winner!

CareForOKC will be using these donations to make Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families in our community. This is a great way to have some fun, friendly, competition all for a great cause.

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, 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!

Suggested Items to Donate:

- Stuffing mix (Stove Top, etc...)
- Chicken broth
- Cake mixes and frosting
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables (green beans, etc....)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes (yams)

CareForOKC

We’d love for you to join in the work God is doing through this vital ministry. Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org if you’re interested in volunteering once, once a month, or whatever you can manage. We believe God has called us to serve “the least of these” in our community, and we count it joy to show His love.

*******CareforOKC is in need of jeans, especially men’s jeans, socks, and tennis shoes. Also, bottled water for the clients as they wait. Thank you for giving to this ministry.**

FBCOKC Church Building: We love this big beautiful church! But, sometimes she needs a little extra love. We have a notebook that stays just outside the office where you can write down anything in the church that you want us to know about. You see a light out? Write it down. You see a door not closing properly? Write it down. A room that needs paint? Take a number. Just kidding! Write it down. Lonnie checks this book every single day and will write updates or notes in it. You can go back and check. This is for non-urgent things. If it is raining inside, go tell someone ASAP! It is also helpful to keep in mind, we can only do so much. There maybe things you write down that just aren’t financially feasible right now, but we still want to know. Help us love FBCOKC well.

Updates to our building are still happening. Thank you for your patience as we update this beautiful building.

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



Verses Project for September 2021 – Philippians 3:7-11 (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/>

September 2021 – Philippians 3:7-11

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Need Prayer?

Email your prayer concerns
to PrayFirst@fbcokc.org

Prayer Changes Things!

FBC
OKC

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

There was a time Baptists were big on numbers. We counted everything, everyone, at any event. And we measured success by numbers. The back page of the *Baptist Messenger*, the state paper for Baptists, was devoted to publishing numbers – a list of churches and their Sunday School attendance and additions for the previous Sunday. It was voluntary; churches sent in a card on Monday with the numbers, unless, of course, the numbers were not so good that week. Everybody read the last page. I once served in a church where, every week, the person reporting the numbers always added ten percent, for, he said, we probably missed that many in the counting. I stopped that practice. It was easy to count back then; everyone turned in an envelope recording their attendance – and offering.

It's not that counting and measuring is all wrong. There is a place for that, but numbers are not the only, nor the primary, measure of success in the life of a church. On the other hand, as a Baptist who started working in churches more than sixty years ago, I notice, even when I don't count noses. And I like the numbers I see.

Following a turbulent time in the church and while trying to do church under the cloud of Covid, the numbers were down. It was easier to count. Some would say that's the measure of the church. It was not. It is not. But if you want numbers here is good news. When Sunday School stumbled to a halt in the pandemic, the small group dynamic, fellowship, mutual support, community, concentrated Bible study, emphasis on discipleship, was limited. And some of us knew that SS, as we had known it for a hundred years, would not survive.

Today, under the leadership of our Pastor we are rounding the corner. Sarah has been rethinking and redesigning how we do what we did sixty years ago. That was 1960. Most of the people I see on Sunday morning had not yet been born. Sarah has led the staff to rediscover and retain what was best back then, and reshape it for today – and tomorrow. We will be doing the same thing, but doing it differently, doing it better for this generation, for our children's children.

So - true to my Baptist roots, I did some counting. For adults, there are right now eight opportunities for Bible study, discipleship training, fellowship, service. You've seen the list of opportunities. These groups right now average more than ten each; I count 83 persons signed in. There are and will be more. Looking through the list I see fifteen I do not know, and while I regret I do not know them, this just means they are new. And that's good. When I go through the list I find only 27 who were active when I started here in 1996. That means two-thirds, 56 at least, are relatively new. And that's good. More than one third are in their 20s or 30s. And that's good. Some will meet on Sunday morning, some on Sunday evening, some on Wednesday evenings, some on Wednesday mornings. And that's good. New groups will form and will meet when best for them. These are good days at FBCOKC!

And that's just the adults. Good programs and plans are coming in place for the children of these parents in their 20s and 30s. And the nursery is growing! And all the above doesn't count a hundred and more who only come for worship on Sundays – not all the same Sunday. These too are a strong and vital part of our church and our future. ***Pastor Emeritus, Mack Roark***

FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

Sarah Stewart, Pastor.....	232-4255 extension 121
Brad Stewart, Minister for Discipleship	232-4255 extension 123
Ariel Koerner, Minister for Young Families.....	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