

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



Dear Church Family,

As I consider all that the Lord is doing in our church I am overflowing with thankfulness. God has and will continue to bring us through this pandemic. He has enabled us to thrive even in this season of uncertainty. Would you take a moment to offer thanks to the Lord for the small mercies you receive new each day? I am grateful for who we are today as a church and that we are finding our way through this extremely tumultuous and divisive year. I pray we will lean in to God and dig down deep to find the strength to

live in a manner pleasing to the Lord. No matter what is happening in the world around us, we can have peace because we know who holds the world.

The future of our church is bright. God is working and moving. He has been out in front of us leading the way for some time now. What a joy and comfort it is to know our job is simply to follow where he leads. In the next two weeks you will see exciting things happening. Our electronic sign is ready to be installed. The demo of the old sign is scheduled and the new sign is heading our way. What a gift this is to be able to let the community know we are alive and we care about them. I am so grateful for the gift our dear friend Linda Staples left to the church to make this possible. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously to this project. The sign will happen in two stages. First, the actual sign will be installed on steel polls. Second, the masonry company will come in and finish the project. What a great day that will be!

We are also in the middle of a month long discussion about the future of FBCOKC and the Academy. As you know, the Academy Committee has made a recommendation to the deacons, which was approved. Now that recommendation goes to the church family. We had a Town Hall Meeting on September 9th to discuss the implications of moving forward with the new lease. Members of the Academy Committee are visiting a few Bible Study classes on Sunday mornings to see if there are any follow up questions. Please reach out to Pam Williams or Gary Stephenson with any questions. The Special Called Business Meeting is set for Wednesday, September 23 at 6pm in the Dining Hall. It is available on Zoom as well. In this meeting we will discuss and vote on the recommendation from the Academy Committee. Voting will be done by ballot and we will have the ability for those on Zoom to vote as well. You must be a member of FBCOKC to vote on church business. Please continue to pray and ask God for wisdom. Ask your questions. Please vote on this important issue, whether in-person or on zoom. We want everyone to be a part of this important decision and to vote.

God is at work. In small ways and big. He is leading us one step at a time. May we have the wisdom to see where God is leading and the courage to follow. May we be a light in this dark world and keep striving to Tell His Story. Blessings. *Sarah*



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

The Comeback: A Six-Week Small Group Experience

Week of Sept. 20 – Oct. 25

Small groups will meet for six sessions beginning the week of this Sunday, September 20 through the week of Sunday, October 25. Cost is \$10 per person. This cost provides you with both a study guide and a book. All participants will need both to get the most out of the experience. Please know we are more than willing to cover the cost for anyone who wants to participate but cannot pay. Check out the available small group options below. Sign up in the Commons or online!

Sundays at 9:15am in the Conference Room of FBCOKC led by Toni Adams. First session is this coming Sunday, Sept. 20.

Tuesdays at 5:30pm in the Conference Room of FBCOKC led by Toni Adams. First session is next Tuesday, Sept. 22.

“If you would like to participate in The Comeback small group study on your own, all you need is a book and study guide. Also, here is a link to the videos so you can watch them! We would love for you to join in this study with us whether you’re part of a group or by yourself.”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-yOnoOGdKw&list=PLBSoHygOm5HM7ojCgzXymAC8tTjUMnyic&index=1>

Email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call the church office if you have any questions or need more information.

Bedlam Canned Food Drive – Sooners in the Lead!

The Sooners have taken the early lead with a score of 65, followed by OSU with 55, and Green & Gold with 28. But there’s still a lot of time left in the game!

Just a reminder that we’ve added a third option to the competition. In addition to OSU and OU, you will now be able to give cans for “Green and Gold” which includes Oklahoma Baptist University and Baylor University! Let’s see who can give the most canned food donations beginning **Sunday, September 6 through Sunday, November 1** to benefit CareForOKC. We will be using these donations to make Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets for families in our community.

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 or Fellowship Hall. 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!

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)



FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

How to Use “Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals”

Greetings friends! I’m so thankful you’ve chosen to join me in using Common Prayer as your time with God each day. The prayers, songs, and reflections have helped me encounter God in a powerful way, and I know the same will be true for you as well.

Now that you have the book, how do you use it?

This book is most effectively used in community with other people. With your family, small group, a group of friends, or whoever. I know that’s not practical for most of us because life doesn’t allow space for group gatherings every day. So use it as an individual or however you can! For example: If you’re using the book as an individual, use the responsive readings as a prayer.

I (Brad) will be offering weekly Facebook Live videos every Tuesday at 10am where we will do the Morning Prayer together. I will also be setting up a private facebook group where we can share how God is using Common Prayer to teach us, challenge us, and grow us. Let me know if you’re using Common Prayer so I can add you to the group!



Practical Tips for Getting Started

1. Read the introduction on beginning on Page 9. It gives you a helpful background on liturgy and what it means to be a part of the Church (notice big “C” meaning the community of believers around the world, past and present). For those using the app, they don’t have the introduction! But if you’d like it, let me know and I’ll make a copy.
2. Find today’s date in the “Morning Prayer” section. Follow the order of the liturgy reading aloud the responsive readings. The music for the songs are in the back of the book. If you don’t like singing, skip the songs. Do what works for you. On the “Our Father”, we are being asked to recite the Lord’s Prayer. Here is the version I use:

Our Father, who art in heaven

Hallowed be thy name

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done

On Earth as it is in heaven

Give us this day, our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

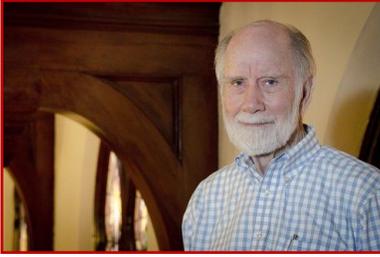
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

Forever and ever, Amen.

3. In addition to the Morning Prayer, you also are provided with a Midday Prayer (page 542) and Evening Prayer (begins on page 28). Notice the Midday Prayer is the same for every day while there is a different Evening Prayer for each night of the week. This gives us a rhythm to our day and gives us three spaces of time to encounter the presence of God each day. Don’t beat yourself up if you don’t have time to do all three sections. The point is not to be legalistic and check off boxes. The point is to commune with God.
4. You may be stretched as you read these prayers and experience new ways of connecting with God. That’s good and healthy! How will we ever grow and change if we are not willing to get out of our comfort zones? Embrace the newness of this experience and have conversations with me or someone else about what you are learning.

Please feel free to email bradstewart@fbcokc.org or call the church office to ask questions and share with me your experience using Common Prayer. Don’t forget to join us Tuesdays at 10am on Facebook Live for morning prayers and email me if you want to join the new facebook group! *Brad*

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY



I was ordained to the ministry on Mother's Day, 1955. I should not have been. It was premature. I had not been tried and tested. A freshman in college, I was called as pastor of the Ceres Baptist Church on the road between Tonkawa and Perry. Resident membership was 55 and average attendance was 55. They were good to me and good for me. They accepted me, let me learn, forgave my mistakes, and always encouraged me. It was an idyllic start as a pastor.

From 1955 to 1985 I was pastor of churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and California. Then from 1985 until Sarah Stewart became our pastor I was interim pastor in fifteen churches over more than 30 years, including FBCOKC four times. These sixty plus years were filled with good and happy times – but they were not without crises, conflicts, overwhelming problems: internal fighting, church splits over leadership or speaking in tongues or worship styles, physical violence (in Texas, two church families feuding over fencing and water rights!), ordination of women, relocating a 100 year old church (“Over my dead body” one deacon said - and it was.), denominational conflicts, and staff problems out of control.

But never in more than six decades did I face an accumulation of crises and challenges like that facing Sarah Stewart in her first pastorate – in her *first* pastorate. I needn't recount the details; you know them, and live with some of them every day. And all this as pastor of a Baptist church in a state where a female pastor is neither welcomed nor welcome. (Exceptions, and there are exceptions, are prize worthy.) All this in the honeymoon first pastorate, the one that should be idyllic. I never faced all that she faces, nor, I think, could I have handled so much so well. She is strong, secure, smart, spiritual, positive, and unafraid of hard work. Sarah is absolutely committed to her Lord, to our church, to you, to us.

And it's not just Sarah. Steven, our Minister of Music, only recently ordained, begins his music ministry under the cloud and with the limitations of COVID. Andrew, just out of seminary in his first ministry, and cannot have the gatherings and events that are so central to youth ministry. Ariel, in her first role leading congregational music, and Jordan in her first job as Children's Coordinator – in the middle of a pandemic! All in their first outing and under clouds unknown in my generation, and all are doing exceptionally well, and all with healthy attitudes and good spirits. And there is the rest of Sarah's crew, our crew: Brad, Barbara, Lonnie, Toni, Don, Cole, Debbie, Marti, all working hard for us, for you and me, for our church.

We, the family of FBCOKC, have so much to be thankful for. I write this as a call to support, care for, love, pray for, and encourage Sarah and her team. Make it a point to do so.

Mack

FBCOKC—Come be YOU with US!

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

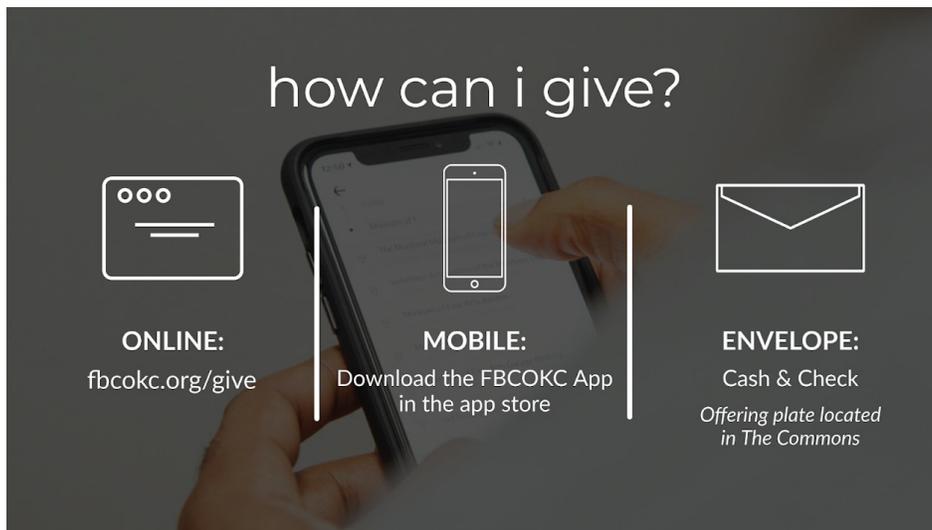
WHEN EVERYONE COUNTS, EVERYONE WINS!

Oklahoma is counting on you!

Everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple questionnaire every ten years that asks for basic information about the people who live or sleep in their home.

Filling out the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way to help provide resources for children and their communities for the next 10 years.

When individuals are not counted, programs supporting health insurance, hospitals, child care, food assistance, schools, and early childhood development are under-funded.



Budget Report:	
Includes contributions through:	September
Budget Requirements thus far (thru the Month of August)	445,819.50
Budget Receipts Received Thus Far	384,476.45
Budget Requirements-Month	49,535.50
Budget Receipts Received This Period	24,489.44
Received to Date (%) For Current Month	49%
Received to Date (%) For Year (thru September)	86%

FAMILY BUILDING COMMUNITY

Online Student Ministry

We have moved a big portion of our student ministry, First Students, online! We have set up a designated First Students YouTube channel where Andrew will upload regular videos for our students. The videos are classified as “unlisted” meaning you must have the link in order to access them, and they won’t appear in a YouTube search. This is for an added level of safety and so that our students can interact in the comments section with a greater degree of privacy. We are excited about this new ministry avenue as we continue to minister to our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.



To receive the link, please email Andrew at andrewbowles@fbcokc.org or visit our website at www.fbcokc.org/students. *Andrew*

Academy Updates: The church received copies of the recommendation from the Academy Committee concerning the proposed lease agreement. Please read those and continue praying. The members of the Academy Committee are Pam Williams (chair), Gary Stephenson, Cathy Manuel, Randa Ogletree, Michael Speer, and Gary Williams. Please contact a member of the committee with questions. Here are the schedule of events that will take place in the coming months:

Committee members will visit the Chapel Class and Higher Ground this Sunday, September 20 for questions.

Special Called Business Meeting: Join us on Wednesday, September 23rd at 6pm in the Dining Hall for a special called business meeting to discuss and vote on the recommendation from the Academy Committee. This meeting will also be on Zoom and you can join the meeting with the information below

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Sep 23, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: FBCOKC Business Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82193222075?pwd=cU1Sd2U4NnptS3RjeDBvVGxPV21lZz09>

21-Day Gratitude Challenge: Coming November 1

Gratitude isn’t something that comes natural to most of us. It must be intentionally cultivated, practiced, and lived out to the point where it starts to become a habit. You’re invited to join us in keeping a gratitude journal as we seek to become a more grateful people of God. You will receive a guide to use for the 21-day challenge. You’ll want to buy a notebook or journal to use. It doesn’t need to be fancy. Just a way to record entries you make. More information coming soon!

CareforOKC is in need of empty egg cartons

FBC/OKC MINISTERS

Sarah Stewart, Pastor

Andrew Bowles, Minister of Students and Missions

Brad Stewart, Minister of Discipleship

Steven McConnell, Minister of Music

Don Clothier, Pianist

Ariel Koerner, Praise Leader

Jordan Browne, Children’s Coordinator