

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a church interior, featuring several tall, narrow stained glass windows with intricate designs in shades of yellow, blue, and red. The windows are set in dark wooden frames. A dark blue banner is overlaid on the top left, and a dark blue sidebar is on the right. The bottom of the page has a light beige background.

JUNE 2026

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FIRST CONNECT

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LETTER FROM SARAH



“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

-Paul (Romans 1)

This past month, I have spent a lot of time walking outside in my neighborhood in the evenings. Sometimes I take my adorable and easily distracted dog; other times, I take my adorable and easily distracted teenager (photo courtesy of said teen). The fresh air blowing in my face feels refreshing, and the beautiful sunset

reminds me of God’s goodness and that the world he created is so much bigger than my own tiny world. There is something about being out in nature that lifts my gaze to the heavens and reminds me how big God is and how brilliantly he created our world. We can see His invisible qualities in the trees, flowers, sky, and seas.

The same week I was studying John 15; I noticed our small tree was suddenly taller than our whole house. In John 15, Jesus says, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me will bear much fruit, because apart from me, you can do nothing.” I shared a few weeks ago that 13 years ago, my dad and my oldest son planted that tree on the day his little brother was born. It’s been growing along, a little bit at a time, struggling through several hard winters. We’ve had to cut back branches that were growing in the wrong place or in the wrong direction. I have been wondering for a few years whether that tree would make it. Standing before this now strong, thriving tree, I felt as if God was reminding me that those hard winters forced it to grow its roots deeper to find nourishment and strength. It was preparation for what was coming! God used that little tree to speak volumes to me about his faithfulness to me and the things we can only learn in the winter seasons of life when we have to dig down deeper.

Maybe you’re in a season that feels like a harsh winter, and you don’t see how you’re going to make it or whether you’ll ever bear fruit again. Maybe this is a time for your roots to grow deeper, to learn to rely on God more fully so you’re ready for what God is about to do next in your life. Maybe God wants to see if you really trust him in the hard times. The thing is, we should always have been digging down deep, but we somehow don’t see the need when the blessings are plentiful. Friends, digging down deeper is worth it. Searching harder for nourishment makes us stronger. It’s a season of preparation.

Our job is to abide in Christ. That’s what we can control. Much of our circumstances are out of our control, whether our prayers are answered in the way we want them answered, or whether we bear fruit is completely up to the one in whom we abide. Here’s my challenge for you: (1) Pray: spend time in prayer every single day (2) Scripture: put God’s word in you every day, (3) Fellowship: spend time in fellowship with other believers who point you to the light, (4) Worship: build consistent weekly worship in your life. Church family, you are a beautiful reflection of God’s love and goodness. Keep leaning into Jesus and let him worry about the rest. Blessings upon blessings to all of you. ~Sarah



UPCOMING EVENTS

CareforOKC

- Regional Food Bank deliveries June 1st and 15th. Any help at 9am is appreciated!
- Clothing room work day on June 27th from 10-1.

Bright Music

June 14, 16, 18, 20 in the Sanctuary, Bright Music will be putting on "Traveling on the Orient Express". This will highlight guest violinist, Solomiya Ivakhiv. Come and hear featured works by composers like Mozart, Debussy, Liszt, and more.

June 28 Patriotic Feast – Save the Date!

Join us for a patriotic feast immediately following the worship service. The church will provide hamburgers and fixings, and we ask that you bring a summer dish to share with everyone.

Here's what to bring based on your last name:

- Last Names A-J:** Please bring a salad, beans, or fruit.
- Last Names K-R:** Please bring chips and dips.
- Last Names S-Z:** Please bring a dessert.

We will enjoy our meal together and have some wonderful entertainment. A small donation to help cover the cost of the meat would be appreciated. We look forward to seeing you on June 28th!

Book Club Invite

You're invited to join a book club discussion of "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi. Come and enjoy an evening of meaningful conversation as we explore this memorable story about kindness, generosity, and the subtle ways lives are transformed through human connection. We will meet on Wednesday, July 15, at 5:30 PM in the library for a light meal and an engaging discussion. Whether you finished the book weeks ago, just turned the last page, or haven't started yet, we would love to have you with us for a thoughtful and encouraging conversation. Please sign up in the commons if you will be attending this book club session. If you have any questions, contact Toni Adams.

Passport Kids Camp, July 19-22

The kids are heading back to Brownwood, TX for Passport Kids Camp this summer. We always have such a fun time at camp! This year's theme is "Vamos! Let's Go!". They have recreation night, night market (they learn about missionaries in other countries), and end with a variety show on the last night. This is for any kid who has finished 3rd - 6th grade. If you have any questions, please contact Ariel Koerner for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Adult Luncheon coming up July 28th

We are excited to announce a senior adult luncheon scheduled for July 28th at 11:30 AM in the dining hall. Join us for a delightful time of fellowship over a meal, along with a lesson and entertainment focused on cake making, filling, and frosting. For dessert, we will enjoy a special presentation of chocolate mousse cake with Italian meringue buttercream frosting. The meal, prepared by Colin Creech (our chef for special events), will include lasagna, salad, green beans, homemade bread, and a drink. The cost for the meal and entertainment is \$15.00 per person. A sign-up sheet will be available in the commons, and payment is due at the time of registration. We encourage you to support our senior adult ministry as we gather for this special event. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Adams.

Promotion Sunday, August 2nd

We have promotion Sunday coming up! If you have a kid that is going into 1st grade or 6th grade, they will be moving classes! 1st graders will be moving into BIG church as well. 6th graders will be moving into youth. If you have any questions, please let Ariel know.

Blessing of the Backpacks, August 2nd

Bring your backpack to church this Sunday and we will pray over them as we start the new school year. Let's start it right, with a blessing.

Volunteers needed for Sunday Morning offering

We are seeking volunteers to assist with receiving offerings during the Sunday morning worship service. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kate Millar at kate.millar@att.net. We believe that giving is an important act of worship and a meaningful expression of our faith. Let Kate know if you would like to help, and she will schedule you for a Sunday. Thank you!

School Supplies Drive for Restore Schools

Our annual school supply drive has started! Please bring your donations to FBCOKC (donation box in The Commons) through the end of July. These school supplies will be donated to Restore OKC and distributed to Martin Luther King Jr. elementary school. Restore OKC is one of our community mission partners and they do incredible work. Thank you for helping us love our neighbors and provide vital supplies for kids in our community!

**Shout out to our Youth for helping
get ready for KOB!!**



KIDS AND YOUTH



Kids Off Broadway starts on June 8th! We have roughly 80 kids coming, ages 4-18. I am super excited about this week and I am asking the church to pray over Kids Off Broadway.

Pray for Kids Off Broadway

- Pray that the kids that attend will grow closer to God.
- Pray that we can begin breaking down walls that might be preventing their young hearts from receiving God's love.
- Pray that the truth of who God is sinks deep into their hearts.
- Pray that they know they are loved by God.

Pray for our Families

- Pray that the changes in the kids' hearts will be an inspiration to their families.
- Pray that parents and caretakers pursue a deeper relationship with God.
- Pray that family connections grow stronger, deeper, and focused on God.

Pray for our Church

- Pray that God's perfect love will be at the foundation of our week.
- Pray that our doors will be open and our hearts be welcoming to all kids and their families.
- Pray that we will be a profound influence in our community through Kids Off Broadway.

Pray for our Volunteers

- Pray that their hearts will be filled with love and patience as they pour out upon the kids.
- Pray that they are given strength, health, and overwhelming joy to serve.
- Pray that they are given the opportunity to help kids experience God and that they would grow closer to God.

Pray for our Staff

- Pray for those that have spent time planning and preparing Kids Off Broadway this year.
- Pray that they stay healthy in body and in mind before, during, and after KOB.
- Pray they are given opportunities to share the good news of who God is with the kids.
- Pray that they are given peace when times get stressful and fill their hearts with joy as they work through this week.



MISSIONS



In Pastor Sarah's sermon on Sunday, May 24th, she preached on John 15 and how Jesus is the true vine. This illustration, from NT Wright's "John for Everyone", resonated with me. Wright says:

"And I can prune roses. Someone told me how when I was young and I've never forgotten. In fact, I not only know how to do it, I even know why (well, more or less). A rose bush, left to itself, will get straggly and tangled, and grow in on itself. It will produce quite a lot of not-so-good roses rather than a smaller number of splendid ones. It will, quite literally, get in its own light. It needs help to grow in the right directions and to the right ends. So you prune it to stop it wasting its energy and being unproductive. You cut out, particularly, the parts of the plant that are growing inwards and getting tangled up. You encourage the shoots that are growing outwards, toward the light. You prune the rose, in other words, to help it to be its true self."

I had never really thought about how plants can accidentally begin to "grow inwards" and get tangled up. Of course Wright is talking about plants in this context, but you know he's also talking about much more than plants. People, just like plants, can begin to grow inward and get tangled up themselves. It's hard not to do that these days. We live in a world that is begging us to grow a spirit of rugged individualism, consumerism, self-preservation, and a mindset of scarcity. I don't know about you, but I long to "grow outwards, towards the light." I want to live in community with others, to depend on others, to give and receive the grace and love God has given me. I want to reach towards the light by living generously and sacrificially even when it would be so much easier to do otherwise. Instead of practicing self-preservation, I want to know the abundant life that only comes in surrendering my will to Jesus for the sake of others. In the act of serving others, I don't forget my own life struggles or pain. It's all still there. But it DOES remind me that God is in the business of restoring and redeeming that which is broken. One day all of creation will be made new. And that includes me and you. Let's grow towards the light together one step at a time. ~Brad



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES



But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Acts 1:8

Jerusalem - Right here in Oklahoma City

Food and clothing ministry, addiction recovery and support, inner-city school ministry

Judea & Samaria - Across Oklahoma & the U.S.

Native American translation work, border/migrant ministry

The Ends of the Earth - Italy, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Africa

Church planters, refugee support, Muslim ministry, medical missions

Scan the QR code below to give online! On the drop-down menu labeled “Purpose”, choose “World Missions Offering”.



DISCIPLESHIP



Recently, I had the joy of spending precious time with my granddaughter, Josephine. Her weekend was full of beautiful milestones—graduating from preschool, celebrating a friend’s fifth birthday, and dancing in a recital. As I watched her, I was reminded how quickly life moves and how gracious God is to let us witness such tender moments of growth, joy, and becoming.



For four years, Josephine has shared a sweet and meaningful bond with her best friend, Maggie,

whom she lovingly calls her sister. Now, as they prepare to attend different elementary schools, both girls feel the sadness of change. Yet even in that sadness, there is something beautiful: they are holding one another a little closer, cherishing the time they have, and stepping toward the future with hearts still open to the new relationships God will bring.

What has been especially moving is seeing how the friendship between these two little girls has quietly become a doorway for God’s grace. This past Sunday, Maggie’s parents and aunt attended a new member class at my son Nathan’s church, where he serves as the class leader. What began as a child’s friendship became an open door for an entire family to visit, return, and begin finding their place within the body of Christ. That is how God so often works—through simple relationships, everyday moments, and hearts willing to make room for others.

Church family, we should never underestimate what God can do through one small act of love. A greeting at the door, an invitation to sit together, a word of encouragement, a conversation after worship, or a faithful act of kindness may seem small in our hands—but in God’s hands, it can become the very seed of transformation. He uses ordinary people, ordinary moments, and ordinary gestures to accomplish extraordinary things for His kingdom.

May this be a reminder to each of us: God is not looking for perfect people—He is looking for willing hearts. When we let go of fear, hesitation, and the desire to stay comfortable, we make room for the Holy Spirit to work through us. The Lord can use a surrendered life to welcome the hurting, encourage the weary, draw in the searching, and reflect the love of Christ in ways we may never fully see this side of heaven. If we simply make ourselves available, God will do the rest.

Let us be a church that is fully yielded to the Lord—generous with our love, intentional with our welcome, faithful in our witness, and ready to be used wherever He sends us. May we truly let go and let God use us, trusting that He can do more through one surrendered heart than we could ever accomplish in our own strength. When we place our ordinary lives into God’s hands, He turns simple faithfulness into a living testimony of His grace. ~Toni

Scripture: *“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”*
Philippians 2:13

SENIOR ADULTS

Dear Church Family,

I thought it would be a great idea to start highlighting some of our senior adults. These remarkable individuals have played a significant role in the life of FBCOKC, both past and present. Although many of our senior adults may not be as active as they once were, they continually find ways to contribute to the ministry and activities of FBCOKC. Please enjoy the following article shared by Gladys Lewis. ~**Toni**



I accepted Christ as my Savior when I was 17. Almost immediately, I responded to His call on my life in special service. Because I was in nursing school at the time, I became a volunteer as a medical missionary.

I met Dr. Wilbur Lewis, who had been a medical missionary volunteer since he was five years old. We fell in love, and went to the Baptist Hospital in Asuncion, Paraguay. After ten years there, a change in the government resulted in an anti-American bias that took away his license to practice medicine. We returned to the United States and had many years of service in Baptist causes. I was the first woman elected to the Board of Trustees of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. I also was elected to such agencies as the Committee on Order of Business and held numerous offices in Woman's Missionary Union (WMU). We were always active in our church, and with a move to Oklahoma City, joined FBCOKC in 1985.

With Fundamentalist changes in the Southern Baptist Convention, I knew the roles I had enjoyed would come to an end because I am a woman. I decided to go back to school to study literature and earned my Ph.D. in British and American Literature at Oklahoma State University.

I became a professor in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO) and taught there 22 years. While there, I earned many teaching awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award. During my last year on faculty, I was named the Outstanding Professor of a Regional University for the state of Oklahoma.

I retired in 2013. In 2022, I moved to Touchmark, a communal living community. Because I no longer drive, my church attendance is limited, but I follow FBCOKC online and with my financial support.

I knew when I moved to Touchmark that living in a retirement community would require adjustments. But I have had life adjustments with changes previously. I expect to be happy, and always have been. Reinforcement to be happy comes from John 13:16-17. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither is he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."



*Book written by
Gladys Lewis
Published in 2014*

Gladys S. Lewis

MEMBERS



Ginger Sigler - 6/1

Yvonne York - 6/21

Pam Williams - 6/2

Stephanie Pena - 6/23

Janice Long - 6/3

Jack Gregston - 6/23

Nich Smith - 6/4

Dawn Murphy - 6/24

Susan Hardy Brooks - 6/11

Sue Wallace - 6/24

Mike Adams - 6/11

Tim Tillinghast - 6/25

Ryan Bowen - 6/18

Peggy Hughes - 6/25

Jeanie Lemons - 6/19

Leslie Reese - 6/27

YEAR AT A GLANCE

JUNE

June 8-12 Kids Off Broadway
June 14 Deacon Nomination Begins
June 14-20 Youth Camp in Orange Beach
June 24 Quarterly Business Meeting
June 28 Summer Feast

JULY

July 4 Independence Day - Office Closed
July 15 Book Club
July 19-22 Passport Kids Camp
July 28 Senior Adult Luncheon

AUGUST

August 2 Promotion Sunday/Blessing of Backpacks
August 9 Start of Term Feast
August 21 Kid's Night Out
August 23 Youth Hangout

SEPTEMBER

September 7 Labor Day - Office Closed
September 18-19 Elementary Retreat
September 23 Quarterly Business Meeting
September 27 Fall Feast
September 27 Youth Hangout

OCTOBER

October 9 Kid's Night Out
October 24 Trunk or Treat
October 30 Youth Hangout

NOVEMBER

November 6-8 Youth Retreat Anadarko
November 15 Thanksgiving Feast
November 20 Kid's Night Out

DECEMBER

December 2 Annual Business Meeting
December 13 Sounds of the Season
December 20 Christmas Feast
December 24 Taste of Christmas

**Please note: Activities are subject to change*

Love God | Love Others | Make Disciples

Service Times

Sunday Mornings

Bible Study at 9:15am

Worship at 10:30am

Wednesday Evenings

Small Groups and

Children's Activities at 5:30pm

Choir at 7:00pm

FBCOKC Ministers and Staff

Sarah Stewart, Pastor

Brad Stewart, Missions Minister

Toni Adams, Minister for Senior Adults & Discipleship

Ariel Koerner, Minister for Young Families

Steven McConnell, Minister of Music

Don Clothier, Pianist

Justin Keiser, Facilities Manager

Erika Miller, Administrative Assistant

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