



OCTOBER 2026

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FIRST CONNECT

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LETTER FROM SARAH



When I first met Brad Stew, he was a 19-year-old long-haired boy who drove an old, faded green Jeep with the windows rolled down because car windows used to roll down. It had a bumper sticker that said, “Hang up and drive,” and usually a trail of smoke coming from the exhaust pipe. He was so different than me. He didn’t wear shoes half the time; he didn’t own a calendar or a cell phone. What? I was a high-strung, calendar-carrying, cell-phone-talking, fast-talking, fast-walking, law-abiding student.

The first time I went to meet his parents, I saw a framed poster on his wall that his parents had given him. It was a quote from Henry David Thoreau’s 1854 book, *Walden*. It read, “If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.” That explained so much! That same poster hangs in his office down the hall from mine. I’ve been thinking about that quote a lot lately. We often get caught up in the fast-paced, stressed-out, high-pressure, calendar-packed, constantly connected world we live in, and it’s terrible for us. It isn’t the way we were meant to live.

Throughout the Gospels, we find Jesus going at his own pace, walking with intentionality and peace. His invitation is always the same: “Come and follow me.” Come and walk with him, learn to walk to the beat of his drum. Learn to see the world as a place of beauty and wonder. A place filled with broken hearts that need healing and lonely people who need community. He saw everyone. I mean, he really saw them. Not the mess they were, but who they were created to be. He invites us to follow him, not on an easy, trial-free path. But a hopeful, meaningful, life-giving path of knowing Jesus and making him known.

Jesus said in Matthew 11, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” What an incredible invitation. Come and follow Jesus. Walk with him, find rest for our souls, learn how to be connected and yoked to him, and find strength in him. This isn’t an invitation into a lazy life; it’s an invitation into a life in step with our Maker and walking in his strength as he uses us for his glory and for our good.

So I am learning to walk to the beat of a different drum. I still have a calendar and a phone, just a slower life that begins and ends with reliance on my Savior. We are in the middle of our Fall Teaching Series on *The Good Life*. Thank you to Ryan Bowen for writing our daily devotional and shaping this series. I am inviting you to consider your life and the path you’re on. Is it working for you? Is your life moving closer to Jesus or in a thousand different directions? Breathe. Drink water. Read your Bible. Light your candle. And love your neighbor. God is with you, always. Blessings upon blessings. ~Sarah



UPCOMING EVENTS

CareForOKC

Large deliveries scheduled for October 5th and 19th. Come at 9am if you are able to help unload. We can always use help stocking shelves, come on Mondays if you are able to help. Clothing Room workday will be Saturday, October 24th from 10am-1pm.

Fall Follies

On October 11, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the FBCOKC Theater, the Sanctuary Choir will be presenting a theatrical revue! Join us for an evening of music and comedy sketches that will be certain to make you laugh a time or two!!

Trunk-or-Treat

Let's Go Ghouls! It's getting close to spooky time! Trunk-or-Treat is Saturday, October 24th from 2-4pm in the North Parking Lot! We will have sign up for trunks soon and have a station in the commons for candy/prize donations!

"Rooted" Senior Adult Luncheon

On October 29 at 11:00 a.m. in the dining hall, senior adults are invited to a fall luncheon. The meal will be Indian Tacos prepared by our own David Swenson. We will also enjoy a performance by the Academy of Classical Studies Choir, which comprises high school students who meet in our building during the school year. They will present a variety of musical numbers that we are sure you will enjoy, providing a wonderful opportunity to see students showcasing their talents. The cost for the luncheon is \$10.00, or you can make a donation to help cover the meal costs for both attendees and the students performing for us. Please mark your calendars for this special gathering!

Organ Recital

On October 29th at 7:00pm the American Guild of Organists will be holding their Member's Recital in the Sanctuary.

November 15, Thanksgiving Feast

Please save the date for our Thanksgiving Feast on November 15, immediately following the morning worship service.

We are delighted to welcome the congregations who meet in our building to join us for this special meal. It will be a wonderful opportunity to share delicious food, enjoy fellowship, and get to know others who worship in this beautiful space.

Chef Colin Creech will be preparing the meal, and as always, we know it will be wonderful. We hope you and your family will make plans to join us for this joyful time together!

RECENT EVENTS

Restore OKC Workday – Investing in Our Community

A few of our FBCOKC folks came and served at the Restore OKC Workday on September 12! The Workday exists to do practical deeds of justice and mercy that increase the safety, connection & physical beauty for our Northeast Oklahoma City neighbors. It was so encouraging to see individuals, families, and church groups from across OKC come together to bless others. We painted a shed and stained the deck of a porch of a house next to Restore's campus. If you haven't had a chance to go and take a tour of Restore OKC, I encourage you to go see all that God is doing through this incredible organization! Restore hosts a workday on the second Saturday every month, and this is just one of several ways you can volunteer. Go spend an afternoon working on their community farm or serve on a Care Team to support elementary school teachers/students! For more information about volunteering, go to <https://www.restoreokc.org/>.



KIDS AND YOUTH



Parents, Pastries, & Pinecones, October 3rd

If you have an infant-Kindergartener, come join us in the dining hall on Saturday, October 3rd from 9-12 for a fun morning of crafts and fellowship!

Youth Hangout, October 4th

Join us after church on Sunday for the Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers watch party! We will have lunch and enjoy the movie.

Kid's Night Out, October 9th

Join us for a Neon-Glow Kid's Night Out! Come in your best neon! We will start in the gym at 6pm with dinner and end at 9pm in the Coffee Shop with a Neon-Glow Party! All kids are welcome, infants to 5th grade. Let me know if your kid(s) plan to be there!

Trunk-or-Treat, October 24th

Let's Go Ghouls! It's getting close to spooky time! Trunk-or-Treat is Saturday, October 24th from 2-4pm in the South Parking Lot! We will have signup for trunks soon and have a station in the commons for candy/prize donations!

Kid's Night Out, November 13th

Join us for a Thanksgiving Kid's Night Out! We will start in the gym at 6pm with dinner and end at 9pm in the Kid's area with a movie. All kids are welcome, infants to 5th grade. Let me know if your kid(s) plan to be there!

Youth Retreat, November 20-22

Join us for the annual Youth Fall Retreat. This year we are going to Oakridge Christian Camp in Anadarko, OK. We will build relationships, have Bible study, and worship, and have fun activities like archery and ax throwing. If your youth is interested, please let me know.

Kid's Christmas Parties

Elementary (Kinder - 5th), Friday, December 11th in the Youth Center from 6-9pm
Littles (Pre-K & Under), Saturday, December 12th in the kid's area from 9-12am
Wear your PJs and come filled with the Christmas spirit!

Youth Christmas Lock-In, December 18-19

Christmas lock-in seems to be becoming an annual event! Drop off in the gym at 8pm and pick up in the youth center at 8am. Come in your PJs and bring a \$10 or less funny gift for White Elephant. Bring friends and bring snacks to share!

MISSIONS



Share the Warmth - Coat/Blanket Drive Begins November 1

Help FBCOKC share the warmth with our neighbors as the Fall and Winter seasons approach! Donate new or gently used coats and blankets to CareForOKC beginning Sunday, November 1. You can bring your donations to the CareForOKC Donation Box just inside the south entrance by the elevator. We will also have a donation box in the Commons.



Warmth Kits Service Project

**Sunday, Nov. 15
After Worship**

Warmth Kits Service Project – November 15

Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship for our Family Feast on Sunday, November 15! After lunch, you are invited to help us put together “warmth kits” as we seek to be the presence of Jesus to those experiencing homelessness in our city. The bags will include such items as gloves, beanies, handwarmers, and other items. We will set up an assembly line in the Fellowship Hall where we will put the bags together and have fun in the process! Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we enjoy fellowship, delicious food, and serve our city together.

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



Small Groups at FBCOKC

Did you know you can join a small group at any time? These groups are designed to foster community, spiritual growth, and authentic connections outside of large worship services. These groups can be life-giving and are open to anyone who would like to join. This month we are discussing the sermon series, “The Good Life,” based on the writings of our own Ryan Bowen. The study explores the two paths we can choose in life. If you are interested in joining a group, contact Toni at tadams@fbcokc.org, or if you have any questions. Come, be a part of small groups at FBCOKC.

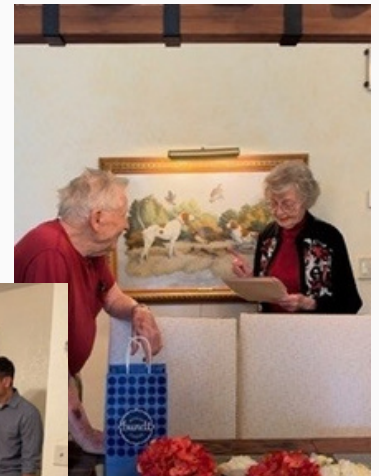
FBCOKC—COME BE *YOU* WITH *US* !

Bible Study at FBCOKC

You’re Invited to Bible Study! Come as you are and join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. as we explore Scripture, grow in faith, and enjoy meaningful fellowship together. Whether you are new to Bible study or have attended for years, there is a place for you at FBCOKC. For help finding a class, contact Toni at tadams@fbcokc.org.

SENIOR ADULTS

GENE STEWART’S 97TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



SENIOR ADULTS

My father was an Air Force Chaplain and a Baptist pastor. I was raised in small towns in Oklahoma, though I was born in New Mexico and lived in Germany for two years during grade school. Christ entered my life when I was six years old. My family moved to Oklahoma County when I started high school. After finishing high school, I attended Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU) and earned a degree in mathematics.

I taught school for a year before becoming a systems analyst at Tinker Air Force Base. Shortly thereafter, I was drafted into the Army, where I worked as a computer programmer, completing a tour in Vietnam. After returning from Vietnam, I resumed my job at Tinker, where I continued to work for the rest of my career.



BILL HARRISON

I returned to the church I joined after college, but became involved in sports car competitions, which limited my church involvement. This period lasted about seven years. Although my passion for sports cars remained, I eventually stopped competing. I then joined the singles department at my church and became more involved in church activities again. However, after several years, departures and marriages led to a decline in our membership. When the pastor left, it seemed that many members disappeared as well.

Several years later, a girl I liked invited me to First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City (FBCOKC). There, I found a renewed interest in serving the Lord. I initially got involved in the singles department and later transitioned to the Adult 3 department, where I attended a class taught by Jack Thrower. His in-depth exploration of Scripture inspired me greatly, and I eventually became the department director. I held that position until the department became too small and merged with the Chapel class.

In 2008, I lost most of my vision, which limited my church attendance to Sunday mornings. Then, in January 2015, I was struck by a rare neurological condition that caused numbness in both feet and lower legs, as well as affecting my left hand. Throughout these challenges, I relied on the support of my church family at FBCOKC to help me get through. From my experiences, I have learned that nothing can separate me from the love of God.

~**Bill Harrison**



“Rooted” Senior Adult Luncheon

On October 29 at 11:00 a.m. in the dining hall, senior adults are invited to a fall luncheon. The meal will be Indian Tacos prepared by our own David Swenson. We will also enjoy a performance by the Academy of Classical Studies Choir, which comprises high school students who meet in our building during the school year. They will present a variety of musical numbers that we are sure you will enjoy, providing a wonderful opportunity to see students showcasing their talents. The cost for the luncheon is \$10.00, or you can make a donation to help cover the meal costs for both attendees and the students performing for us. Please mark your calendars for this special gathering!

MEMBERS



Your paragraph text

Darla Lankford - 10/8

Abby Pena - 10/20

Lucy Kinser - 10/9

Larry Ray - 10/21

Linda Fitch - 10/10

Sheri Cook - 10/24

Rosemary Rogers - 10/13

Doris Lang - 10/25

Austin Davis - 10/14

Brad Stewart - 10/30

Herb Lang - 10/16

Judy Watts - 10/30

Kathleen Kinkade - 10/17

David Curtiss - 10/31

Ryan Johnson - 10/18

C.J. Capraro - 10/31

Alexandra Malony - 10/20

YEAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

October 1 Book Club
October 3 Parents, Pastries, and Pinecones
October 4 Youth Hangout
October 9 Kid's Night Out
October 11 Fall Follies
October 24 Trunk or Treat
October 29 "Rooted" Senior Adult Luncheon
October 29 AGO Organ Recital
October 30 Youth Hangout

DECEMBER

December 2 Annual Business Meeting
December 11 Elementary Christmas Party
December 12 Littles Christmas Party
December 13 Sounds of the Season
December 18-19 Youth Christmas Lock-in
December 20 Christmas Feast
December 24 Taste of Christmas

NOVEMBER

November 13 Kid's Night Out
November 15 Thanksgiving Feast
November 15 Warmth Kit Service Project
November 20-22 Youth Retreat Anadarko



**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/Youth Activities at 5:30pm

Adult 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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