



FBCO NEWSLETTER

Our Mission: Drawing our communities and world into a deeper relationship with God.

SEPTEMBER 2023

From Pastor Reed

You may or may not know by now, but I choose not to fly. It's not that I can't, it's just that I strongly prefer not to. For some of you this might seem silly, for others understandable. I can accept both reactions. If you need to joke with me that's ok, but if you want to commiserate that's ok too.

At times this rule has proven to be a huge inconvenience. The inconveniences are easy to see - I mean I don't get anywhere all that fast. The three days it takes to drive from Kansas to Oregon could easily be replaced by a 4-hour direct flight. If you are keeping track, that's two and a half days spent on the road that could be spent enjoying the destination.

The blessings might be a little harder to see. When I graduated from seminary my father drove the coastal route with me. We took several days driving from Pasadena, CA to Eugene, OR. Along the way, we saw the sights, explored my dad's old stomping grounds in Santa Maria, and shared conversations that were long overdue. The slow road trip we took allowed us to see sights and share life in ways that simply are not possible with air travel.

In our journey with God, we can sometimes get antsy and long for the quick trip. We want to bypass the journey. We figure if we can just get to the good stuff, life will be better. But the journey, the conversations, the sights seen, the hard stretches overcome are worth it. I think that is what James was telling us in 1:2-4, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

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SAVE THE DATE

- 9/10 - FBC Stillwell, Christian Comedians
- 9/13 - Family Fun Night
- 9/20 - Prayer & Praise
- 9/21 - Diaconate Meeting
- 9/21 - Serve at Center of Grace
- 9/29 & 30 - ABCCR Annual Gathering
- 10/14 - Fall Bazaar

Featured Members



JOHN BURNS

John was born and raised in Leavenworth, Kansas. It was in high school where he met his wife, Becky, and were married in 1965. They lived in Kansas initially but moved to California for three years before returning to the area and settling in Olathe.

The young family settled close to the newly built First Baptist Church. They became part of the FBCO family and haven't looked back. John has served on the Diaconate, worked on developing the original sound system in the sanctuary. Lately, John has taught a Sunday School class. A group of members join John in a Bible study that meets twice a week by Zoom. The group uses many of Max Lucado studies.

John is the father of one son. He is the grandfather of three grown grands. They enjoy family time as often as possible.

His son is a physician, and his busy career makes for creative planning. In retirement, John decided he needed something to do with his new lifestyle and took classes in art. He had never been interested in this skill, but the famous Bob Ross got him hooked. He studied and practiced until he became proficient and became a certified instructor. John's paintings can be seen at the First Gallery in Olathe.

John is very active in the Lions Club, and he is proud that FBCO hosts the annual Fall pancake breakfast, as a club fundraiser.



LISA SONSTHAGEN

Lisa was born in a suburb of St. Louis and arrived in Olathe in time to join others in First Grade. Her family lived by a member of FBC who asked her mother to play the piano there. Lisa and her sister became active in the children's programs. She shared her talents playing the flute with ensembles and later the Bell Choir.

In high school she met a friend, Larry became more than that. They were married thirty years ago in FBC's sanctuary, where her three children were dedicated and followed in her footsteps. Although Lisa battles cancer, she doesn't let that deter her from co-leading the GALS. Girl Friends Account to Living Spiritually is part of the ABWA. She is open to sharing more about her personal battle and GALS. Lisa has taught multiple Bible Studies, Sunday School and served on numerous committees.

Lisa works as a School Psychologist. Her favorite part of the job is seeing children's eyes light up when they meet challenges with success. Lisa appreciates music, art, reading and being in nature. She enjoys Bible Studies. A family favorite dinner is homemade pesto pasta with a salad.

Lisa claims Psalm 71:14,17, "But as for me, I will always have hope. I will praise You more and more. Since my youth, oh God, You have taught me and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds." This speaks volumes of our friend Lisa and her faith journey.



LIZ SUTHERLAND

BY EMERSON WEBSTER

Liz Sutherland is a determined mother of two girls and recently got her dream job as a data analyst, which involves coding. She first came to First Baptist Church of Olathe the second week she was alive (in the summer of 1986) and now brings her own daughters. She worked one summer in college at FBC Olathe digitizing all their music files, and participated in YLC and VBS.

Liz is married to Ian, they have two daughters and have two dogs, Mrs. Mildred Featherbottom and Dakota Featherbottom. She is an active mom, and they love to have family nights. She likes to plan and go on family adventures. she would like to take her family on vacation to Costa Rica.

She has created a series on social media called Gilly's Gems, all about the funny things Gillian says. She has lived in many places in the Midwest and the East coast.

One of her favorite books is The Poisonwood Bible. She loves food and musical movies like The Sound of Music, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and loves to listen to Mary Poppins with Gillian. She also enjoys reading, crafting, and baking.

Liz has degrees in Music and English and a Masters in Teaching. She can teach gifted students and At-Risk Students. She describes herself as a whimsical, driven, and trustworthy woman.

Pastor Reed cont'd

Ultimately, our faith is not simply in a story told over centuries, or in the promises. Our faith is in God, who over the course of history, through the journey He has been on, has proven Himself to be true and trustworthy. The journey we take with Him is one that leads us to know and experience Him more deeply. It allows us to see that we can trust Him more fully. That even when life isn't good, He still is.

Blessings, Pastor Reed

Fall Bazaar

Fall Bazaar will be October 14th. That is just around the corner. We are calling all crafters, woodworkers, bakers, decorators and more to donate their creations to be sold to raise money. This is one of our biggest fund raisers. Please come join us for food and fun.

Setup will be on Friday, October 13th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLATHE
(151st & Murlen, West of CVS)

FALL BAZAAR

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2023

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HOMEMADE ITEMS - BAKERY
CANDIES - AND MORE

Breakfast 8am-10am, Lunch 11am-1pm \$5

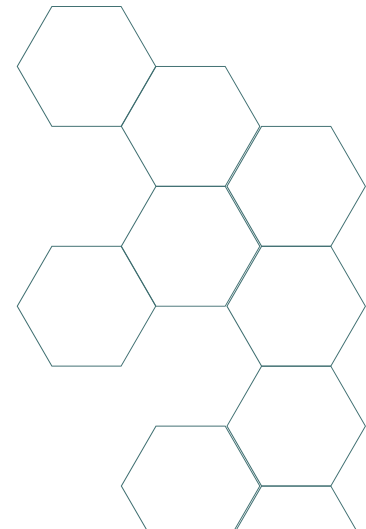
Church Directory

When you receive a Directory invite in email, please try and sign in, verify your information and share your information.

We have found its also easier to access the Directory by downloading Church Center.



Help with the Directory is available in the lobby, before and after service.



July 2023 Finances

Checking \$301,029.29
Wells Fargo General \$492,020.46
Wells Fargo Legacy \$286,009.48

Brazilian Grant \$2,450.00
PS Grant 2 \$90,866.48
Capital \$36,038.76

Expenses \$30,227
Revenue \$22,719 = -\$7,508.00

August Diaconate Highlights

- Share cost of Cluster event, Sept. 10, FBC Stillwell, Christian Comedians; approved.
- Online directory in process.
- Delegates to Central Region Gathering discussed and church registration to be paid.

Thank you to everyone who continues to tithe. Contact Deb Ruse, Treasurer, (913) 206 6342 if you have any questions.

August Outreach

Murrow Indian Children's Home

In August, a team went to the Murrow Indian Children's Home in Muskogee, OK. They served donating their sweat and energy by fixing, cleaning, painting and more. One night they shared a meal with the children. The team found it to be a rewarding experience and look forward to going back next year.

Murrow's mission is to provide a safe, nurturing environment, spiritual foundation, an cultural experience to Native American Children in crisis.



Bethel Neighborhood Center

Also in August, a group volunteered and played golf at the annual Bethel Neighborhood Center Golf Tournament.

