

# FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

## The LINK

February 2020

Volume 21, Issue 2

### The Sweet Spot

It is likely no secret that I enjoy the game of golf. I enjoy practicing it, playing it, watching it, talking about it, and analyzing it. Golf can be the most enjoyable and the most frustrating experience. The difference in that polarization is the sweet spot. That place on the club that is just right to hit the ball. The sweet spot is not too high, not too low, it is the center, where the ball hits off the club face to fly its straightest and farthest. The shot taken on the sweet spot not only has greater results, but also feels incredible as the vibrations ascend up towards the grip into your hands. I learned to swing a golf club with 1970's technology that had a sweet spot the size of a needle's eye. I remember the day that I was graced with new clubs that were not three decades old and the sweet spot expanded along with my experience.

Life is like that sweet spot sometimes. If you hit it on the center it is pure and crisp and enjoyable. You hit it on the toe or heel (off-center) and it can rattle you from the hands, to the elbows, to the shoulders, and to the spine. Life can rattle us, confuse us, and frustrate us. This is common.

Where do we turn when things aren't sweet or we need help? Acts 2:28, "You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." The path of life is Jesus (John 14:6) and we are wise to follow his direction through all life's paths and variables that come our way. With this in mind we always need to find ourselves at the place where we align with God and his desires and design. The opposite is that we force God to align with my plans and wants. Life and gladness are found with Jesus at the center, and with me at the center is frustration and death. Jesus is the sweet spot.

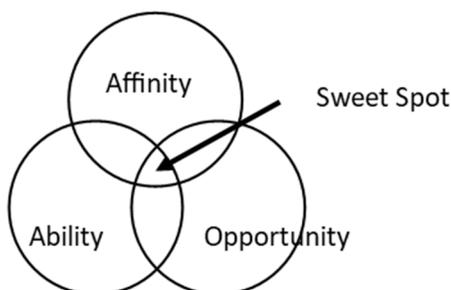
Individuals also have a sweet spot. God has made you and designed you with a purpose. You are unique and useful. 1 Peter 4:10-11 says it this way:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies - in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You are unique in what you are good at and how God has gifted you. You are also useful in the fact that God designed you this way to serve others. We are to steward well what God has given to us and put inside of us. We are to use these gifts, God's word, and God's strength towards a fuller and sweeter life. The end result is glory to God.

How can you find your sweet spot in how you are gifted, in where to serve, and perhaps your vocation? Pastor and author Tim Keller has a simple metric to help discern this. You ask three questions. What is your *Affinity*? What is your *Ability*? What is your *Opportunity*?

Your affinity is what interests you or what you are passionate about. Your ability is what you are good at or what others say that you are effective in. Your opportunity is what doors or needs for service are open. This metric is helpful for church members, college students, or entrepreneurs.



God made you to know and love him. God made you to serve him and radiant his glory now and forever. God put passions and abilities in you that are unique and useful. Let us place ourselves in the sweet spot of Jesus and allow him to swing for the fences with our designed sweet spot for His glory.

# "Let the little children come to me."

Children's Ministry ~ Roz Crane

## TO TEACH SCRIPTURE MEMORY OR NOT--THAT IS THE QUESTION ???

Teaching children to memorize scripture has been done for so long (some of you may remember Bible Drill days?!?), that, possibly, no one dares to question its validity. For some it's an extremely uncomfortable question. Has it just become a "religious" exercise?

But when talking about scripture memory, you will almost immediately hear, "Thy word have I hid in my heart; that I might not sin against you." Ps. 119:11 On the other hand, rote memory is the hardest, most pointless low-level way to learn. So where do we go from here?

First, a Hebrew scholar will tell you that the word "heart" means "mind, will, and emotions." God's goal for children – and all of us – is to have his Word so infused in our every thought, choice, and feeling that it guides us into his way of living. Any scripture study builds a foundation for Christian living. Scripture memory, *when pertinent to children*, equips them for difficult situations. Meaning should be memorization's goal. Scripture should have a learning base not just a memory base.

When we do memory work in Sunday School, I try to make sure that kids understand the meaning of the words, the reason for the scripture, and how it applies to their lives. For some kids at this level, the emphasis is not to be word perfect, but to understand what they're saying.

Aaaannnd...of course there are tangible rewards...little plastic coins that are accumulated and traded in once a quarter for prizes. Last quarter several students even volunteered to share their coins with students who hadn't been here enough to say many verses. *Yes, memory can be more than just a head thing...it could segue into a heart thing!*

(We will continue this discussion next month.)

Some thoughts and phrases from: [childrensministry.com](http://childrensministry.com)

## YOUTH HELPING WITH MEMORY VERSES





Monday, January 27th, we hosted a Ribbon Cutting for the Parking Lot. Though we still have a few items to complete, we thought it appropriate to make the use of the lot official. The Great Bend Tribune documented the occasion with Suchy and Sharkey Construction cutting the ribbon. Several church members were in attendance and honored guest USD 428 Superintendent Kris Thexton with invitation for our neighbor, the Middle School, to enjoy this new space. Thank you so much for your prayers, giving, and vision towards this ongoing project.

### UPDATE ON PARKING LOT PROJECT

We have received statements for work done to date from Suchy Construction in the amount of \$150,504.00 and from Stone Sand in the amount of \$4,009.64. \$100,000.00 has been paid to Suchy and \$4,009.64 has been paid to Stone Sand. Leaving a balance of \$50,504.00 due within 30 days.

The current available cash in the Parking Lot fund is \$12,657.76. This creates a deficit of \$37,846.24.

The current balance of cash reserves invested with the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma is \$76,935.78. The deficit can be covered by using cash reserves. However our plan has been to not use cash reserves, but to have contributions to the Parking Lot Fund to be sufficient to cover all expenses.

Additional expenses of approximately \$22,000.00 will be incurred for this project to complete the alley, for the installation of a sprinkler system and downspouts. These projects will probably be completed in the spring.

The additional amount needed to fully fund the Parking Lot Project will be approximately \$60,000.00. Please prayerfully consider your role in completing the funding of this project.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**CAMP**

**Kids Camp**

May 25<sup>th</sup> thru May 29<sup>th</sup>

for children who have completed  
grades 3-6



**Vacation Bible School**

July 20<sup>th</sup> thru July 24<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm to 8:15pm



## *Prayer Ministry, Nancy Rogers*

**Prayer Leader of the Month:**  
Virginia Harmony

**Each day is God's gift to you.  
What you do with that day is  
your gift to God.**

**February—The month of Love:  
“We love because He first loved  
us.” 1 John 4:19**

How do we pray from our friend? Paul said it this way: “I ask that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that *you may know him better*. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in *order that you may know the hope to which he was called you*. . . and for His incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Eph. 1:17-19).

### PRAYER REQUESTS IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2020

May our church become a “house of prayer” as we unite in prayer for our church and others.

**Always pray for Pastor Tim Singleton, and his family**—for his anointing by the Holy Spirit.

**Pray that the eyes, ears and minds of the unbeliever will be opened** to hear the message.

**Pray for our leaders, teachers, and all who attend** that we will bring honor and glory to God.

**Pray that our light would so shine in our lives** that others will see Christ through us.

**Ashley Olivier Gorney**, Daughter of Bob and Lora Olivier, high school teacher in Gardner, KS. She had pneumonia, tests revealed Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer. Pray for a healing touch from God for her, her family and her parents.

**Darlene Miorandi**—is struggling with sciatica pain in her back and having to use a walker. Pray shots in back will take pain away and that she will be able

to function on her own again.

**Debbie, a Cousin of Rich Charles**, was diagnosed with a brain tumor and had surgery. She will need radiation on the root of the tumor that they could not get. Please pray for her.

**Co-worker of Tim Beckham** whose wife is pregnant and having complications that requires bed rest. Please be in prayer for **DeAnn** as she heals.

**Darlene Tomanek, Peggy Smith's mother**, has been diagnosed with lung cancer. Pray for her peace, comfort and healing. and for wisdom for the medical team treating her.

**Janie Tupper's daughter-in-law's son, Cabe**, is at a crossroad between following the devil and following Christ and needs lots of prayer.

**Theresa Wilks brother**—has early stage colon cancer and spots on lungs and liver. He has decided for now he will do nothing. Pray for his salvation and for him to make the right decisions. Pray for wisdom and discernment for his doctors as they treat him.

**Cliff and Kathy Burt** safe travel for their journey in February.

**Terry Mills, Valerie's son**, will have a good appointment with the neurologist in Wichita.

**Cierra Ramsey**—to stay healthy and find a job.

**Dale Dawson**—had a health procedure done in Wichita. Pray for healing.

**Rusty Wrinkle—Praise**—doing well after the removal of a kidney stone!

**Gommie (Genita Wood)**, Jody Beckham's grandmother was in the hospital with the flu and pneumonia.

**Joan Buck, also Jody Beckham's grandmother**, has had numerous mini strokes. Pray for comfort for both and that the doctors will have wisdom in treating them.

*To all who have requested prayer support—may the loving thoughts and prayers of people who care about you find their way into you heart and bring God's joy to you this day.*

**“Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57**

### PRAY FOR THE MISSIONARY LISTED IN SUNDAY'S BULLETIN

*Pray for their protection, strength of mind, body and spirit in their work for our Lord.*

**Alan and Beth Locke**, missionaries to Ghana, Africa. Pray for them regularly—that they feel God working through them every day to reach others for Christ. **Read their letter in this Link to see further prayer requests.**

**The Hand Family, Michael, Lindsay, Jackson, James and Callie**, serving in Central Asia. Pray for boldness as they share the Gospel, plus wisdom to listen and lead in furthering the Kingdom.

**The Cousins Family**—Pray for them as they transition to full-time work at Wycliffe, pray for faith and perseverance, for financial support partners, for translation work done by Wycliffe, and for people who are hungry for the Bible but do not have success.

**Clint and Kelsey Gilliam**, IMB missionaries serving in Southeast Asia.

**Spanish Mission Church**, Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) and their pastor Luis Guerrero and wife Enedeli

**“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” 1 Peter 3:15**

### PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH'S MISSION OUTREACH

**Theme for the month: *The Great Commission***. “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## Prayer Ministry, continued

*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)*

### PRAY FOR THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING

Alta Fry, River Bend, Great Bend

Margaret Suppes, Cherry Village, Great Bend

Grady Bolding, Brookdale Assisted Living, Great Bend.

**“Behold, God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord is my strength and song, and He also has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:2**

### HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES

Pray for the family's peace and comfort at this sorrowful time.

Pray for the family of Tim and Nathalea Stephenson in the loss of their mother, **Lois Kaufman.**

**“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. 1 John 5:11**

### PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE US ARMED FORCES

Tucker Alexander, Navy, son of Gary and Gail Alexander

Kayla Callahan, Marines, serving in Kuwait

Gregg Dodds, Air Force, Shaw AF Base, SC, Wife Morgan, son Greyson. Granddaughter of Darlene Bergren.

Monique Durant, friend of Darlene Miorandi, home from Afghanistan!

Michael Frayser, Air Force, son of Bob and Donna Frayser

Anthony Hollin, Army, son of SuLin

Casey Lynch, Air Force, g-daughter, Darlene Bergren. Husband Chris, Children:

Braedon, Madyson, Gracyn

Kevin Martin, Navy, wife Cindy and sons Donnell and Tristen

Daniel McCray, Ft. Bragg, Texas, Darlene Miorandi's cousins' son

Morgan Whorton, National Guard, a relative of Marla Brocher

Cordell Merten, Air Force, son of Mike and Pam Merten; grandson of Jack and Wilda Merten

John Miner, Air Force, wife, Maranda, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Danielle Miorandi-Letzelter, granddaughter of John and Darlene Miorandi, home from Afghanistan!

Bryce Letzelter, (Danielle's husband) - also home from Afghanistan!

Brett McPherson, Navy now at boot camp.

Steven McPherson, Army serving in Afghanistan

Tyler Penn, son of Mike Penn

Justin Powers, Army, wife Angela and daughter Jocelyn.

Devin Ramsey, Army National Guard, son of Aaron Noblitt and Kathy Phelps.

Jasper Rankin, US Marine Corp, son of Denise Rankin and grandson of Freddie Rankin

Dan Reed, Air Force, wife Megan, son-in-law of Steve & Judi Swagerty

Jonathan Schneweis, Navy, wife Alicia, children Gage and Kinsley

Rian Winters, Marines, son of Tony & Robin Schneweis

**“The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped.**

**Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, and with my song I will praise Him.” Psalm 28:7**

### PRAY FOR OUR NATION

*“First, of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people;*

*for kings and all others who are in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct.” 1 Timothy 2:1, 2*

As we pray for America, whose pledge of allegiance recounts that we are “one nation under God,” and whose currency states that it is “in God we trust,” may Americans encounter the God who rules over this country—the Lord God Almighty and pray for peace and unity for our country.

### PRAY FOR JERUSALEM AND THE NATION OF ISRAEL

**“I will bless those who bless you, I will curse those who curse you. And through you, I will bless all the nations.” Genesis 12:3 “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.” Psalm 122:6**

**“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.” James 5:16**

**As we serve and minister for Christ may we remember this verse,**

**“Verily I assure you, Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you have done it unto Me.”**

**Matthew 25:40**



## February Birthdays

2	Cade Carson
3	Alan Crane
3	Mike Penn
3	Tyler McHenry
4	Mike Burress
7	Wilda Merten
7	Carol Smith
7	Amber Singleton
8	Xavier Ehster
14	Jessica Neeland
14	Karol Elliott
14	Alexis Stanley
14	Allie Stanley
17	Laykin Pommell
17	Kevin Richardson
22	Gail Alexander
23	Angel Neighbors
26	Tilly Rose
28	Brad McCune
28	Kaleb Beckham
28	Alyvia Grabast



## February Families of the Week

**February 2** - Steve Richter

**February 9** - Howard and Deanna Rogers

**February 16** - Nancy Rogers

**February 23** - Priscilla Rose and Tilly

## Wednesday Meal Schedule for February

Everyone is invited to attend the church supper every Wednesday at 5:30. Adult Bible Study and classes for preschool, children and youth follow at 6:30.



February 5 — *Potluck*

February 12 — Cooks: Rusty and Helen Wrinkle

February 19 — Cooks: Debbie Dawson and Janie Tupper

February 26 — Cooks: Marla Brocher and Roz Crane



### Extended Care for Feb 2 and Feb 9

Youth/Preschool Workers

### Extended Care for Feb 16 and Feb 23

Debbie Tomlinson Class

## Classes & Times

Adult Small Group/Kids Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening Bible Study & Prayer	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Supper	5:30 p.m.
Preschool, Kids, Youth and Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

## Parking and Future Building Projects Fund

Total Contributions:	\$ 152,190.52
Expenses Paid:	\$ 139,532.76
Current Balance:	\$ 12,657.76

Church E-mail:	FirstSouthernGB@gmail.com
Church Website:	www.fsbcgreatbend.com
Prayer Request Line:	(620) 793-6800
Phone:	(620) 793-8444
Fax:	(620) 793-8445

## LOCKE UPDATE

*"Be thankful in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus."  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 (emphasis added)*

Afihyia pa [oh fish ee' o pa]. This is "happy new year" (or may we encounter this new year in a good meeting) in the Twi language and is said for another month or so to those you haven't yet seen in the new year.

The response is Afe' nk) mnɛ to yɛn [eh fee nko meh twee' uh]\* The meaning is "and may this year go around and come so we meet the new year", or "many happy returns", \*with ")" being a kind of an o and "ɛ" a kind of e.

This is for your for prayer and for consideration

As a team we have a number of job requests open and waiting. One long term request is for a couple to live in Accra and reach the unreached Gahanain people groups. Each tribe has members living in Accra, and travel back and forth to their northern villages. As they hear and believe in Accra, they can carry the gospel to family and friends who have no way to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PRAY for someone, couple or family, to answer God's call and meet this need in Accra.

The unreached in Ghana

Gill\* people group have about 10 believers among 19,000. While 85% practice Islam the Gill also wear charms to ward off evil and live in fear. Farming is a way of life.

Pray Christians show grace and sensitivity.  
For the Holy Spirit to prepare hearts open to hear.  
The few Christians would willing and wise to share their hope.

Family

Praise God the holidays were restful. We did a few family activities and a couple of holiday community activities.

Praise God the horrible infection Ben had in his finger is gone.

Ben was in the Christmas program as a wise man. He enjoyed participating. In the past he has been a small white hand raised from the back of the choir.

Praise God for Musa, a teacher (from other world religion) who advocates for him.  
Praise for New Horizon Special School. {There is a web page and a Facebook page for them if you want to see more.}

The bride is Mary.

Maybe new teammate?

This month someone attended a gathering looking at job requests considering filling one of our 2 year job requests. A final decision will be made soon.

Pray for her as she continues the process to remain steadfast in God.  
Pray for the decision makers along the way.  
Pray for us to be gracious and open mentors.  
Pray for all the preparations needed before her arrival.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the peoples of Ghana and for us.

*Alan & Beth Locke  
Ben Locke  
Accra, Ghana, West Africa*



# February 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church  <b>NO Evening Bible Study and Prayer</b>	3	4	5 5:30pm Potluck 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 3:00pm Church Council 5:00pm Business Meeting 6:00pm Evening Bible Study and Prayer	10	11	12 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 12:00pm Discover Lunch in Annex 6:00pm Evening Bible Study and Prayer	17	18	19 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:30am Adult Small Group/ Kids Sunday School 10:45am Church 6:00pm Evening Bible Study and Prayer	24	25	26 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Preschool, Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study	27 5:30pm Missions 6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Deacons	28	29