



The Band Is Out on the Field, and He's Gonna' Go into the Endzone!

In 1982 the University of California at Berkeley played a now legendary game of football against Stanford University. The Cal Bears were the underdogs against the Stanford Cardinal in this rivalry game. The game was close, but in the closing moments it looked like the Cardinal would be victorious. Stanford scored a touchdown with only seconds left on the clock, and prepared to kick-off to

the Bears for one last play before time ran out.

What happened next was utter mayhem. Stanford kicked the ball high in order to kill time on the clock and to get their defenders to the receiver before he could catch it. The Bears caught the ball, threw a lateral pass, then another lateral pass. The ball carrier then was caught by several defenders and tackled, but before they could get him to the ground he pitched the ball again to one of his teammates.

Here is where things get really crazy. The Stanford Cardinal marching band saw the tackle, but not the pitch. They thought the game was over, and so they all started running out onto the field to play the school song in victory. *But the play wasn't over.* The Bears still had the ball, and were charging down the field. "The band is out on the field, and he's gonna' go into the endzone!" screamed the announcer on the television broad cast.

The band were quite surprised to see football players charging at them full speed! The players were quite surprised to have to now deal with a flood of people out on the field while the play was still going. The Bears nimbly worked their way through the band, who probably prevented the Cardinal players from catching up, and scored a touchdown. After the ball-carrier crossed into the endzone, his momentum was stopped by one very unfortunate trombone player who was laid out flat!

The Bears won the game, and in the annals of football history this moment is referred to as "The Play." This is a great example of what you might call, "premature celebration." Sport is full of examples of people who very nearly tasted victory but lost in the final moments because they celebrated before the job was done. Our former Bishop Hayes once said it is important to run *through* the finish line, not just *to* it, lest you lose in the final moments.

I am sure many of you are feeling quite frustrated with the recent rise in COVID cases in our state. I am as well. My heart breaks for those who are getting sick. I'm frustrated with the division and politicization of public health issues. I am worried that I don't have the emotional stamina to persevere. I feel like the trombone player who got bodied by 200 pounds of college athlete!

But friends, there is still time on the clock. The game isn't over yet. Let's keep the band on the sidelines and set our sights on the endzone. Let's not run *to* the finish line, let's run *through* it. God equips those that he calls, and he has called everyone one of us to rise to the occasion. I remember the words of Mordecai to Esther when she was facing impossible odds: "Who knows? Maybe you were made queen for just such a time as this."

Maybe, brothers and sisters, it is for such a time as this that God has been preparing us to advance his Kingdom. With God's help, and reliance on each other, we can defy the odds and win the victory.



KidZone News

KidZone news will return in September. In the meantime, please keep Ms. Marty in your prayers as she heals from knee replacement surgery! Also, pray for our kids as they are returning to school!!

Invite your friends to church each Sunday for worship (8:45 & 11:00 a.m.) and Sunday School (10:00 a.m.)

BEREAVEMENT MEALS

We have been able to offer a wonderful gift to those who have lost loved ones through our bereavement meals. A lunch is provided at the church for families before or after a memorial service at the church. Our ministry is made up of three or four teams and each team typically serves no more than 2 or 3 times a year. A member of the team will be called and asked to bring a dish for the meal. If they are able to help serve or clean up, that is also appreciated.

Our current Teams are needing to be updated. If you would like to be added to our lists, we would love to have you. If you feel the need to be taken off our lists, we understand that also and appreciate what you have been able to do. Please let Virginia know as soon as possible whether you would like to be added or if you feel the need to be removed at this time. Also, if you have questions or need more information, please contact me at 918-245-9248, 918-638-9679, or email me at dvbaldridge@cox.net.

Thanks so much,

Virginia

August 15-September 20, 2021 Volunteers

Nursery

August 22

9:00 a.m. - Jami & Hallye

10:00 a.m.—Sara & TBA

11:00 a.m.—Debbie & Frankie

August 29

9:00 a.m.—Susie & Amanda

10:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sara

11:00 a.m.—Susie & Amanda

September 5

9:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sophie

10:00 a.m.—Jami & Hallye

11:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sara

September 12

9:00 a.m.—Katherine & TBA

10:00 a.m.—Cayleigh & Sara

11:00 a.m.—Cayleigh & TBA

September 19

9:00 a.m.—Jami & Hallye

10:00 a.m.—Katherine & Sara

11:00 a.m.—Debbie & Frankie

Children's Church

August 22—Jami & Katherine

August 29—Jami & TBA

September 5—Communion

September 12—Jami & Debbie

September 19 - Jami & Susie

Youth Dinners

August 18—Ruth Esther Circle

August 25—TNT

September 1—Faith Circle

September 8—Noah

September 15—CIA/Pathfinders

Counters

August 22—Betty & Karen

August 29—Sondra & Trena

September 5—Howard & Jami

September 12 - Janie & Kent

September 19—Betty & Karen

Prayer Box

Dick Ford, Betty Smith,

David Allen, June Wilborn,

Maureen Gibson, Sylvia Johnson,

Ralph Rand, Donna McLain-Hope, Betty &

Linda Lund, Suzanne and Valerie Jones,

Gordonna Fisher, Montie & Betty Box,

Bruce Warren

Prayer Chains And Unspoken Requests

TITHES & OFFERINGS...

Drop your check in the offering plate as you leave worship on Sunday morning, or mail your checks to SSUMC, 319 N. Main St., Sand Springs, OK 74063 or give online at:

<https://sandspringsumc.org/>

Click on the "Giving" link in the top right hand corner and fill out the information and click "Continue."

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please remember to take attendance in Sunday School. If you are unable to do it online, you can either use your attendance roster in your class folder or you can do a sign-in and date it then place it on Tracey's desk. If you are using the folder, please remember to turn it in to Tracey's desk at the end of class.



Chancel Choir Practice

Everyone is welcome.

No tryouts!!

Chancel Choir took some time off for the Summer but they are back rehearsing September 1st at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Come enjoy good company, good fellowship, and good music!

Fourth Monday

COMMUNITY MEAL

4th Monday of the Month
Fellowship Hall • 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 23

Community Meals

1st Monday—Lake UMC-7750 W. 14th St.

2nd Monday—Olivet Baptist Church—155 N. 65th W. Ave.

3rd Monday—Grace UMC—514 So. 49th W. Ave.

4th Monday—SSUMC—4th & Main Street

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

319 No. Main Street—Sand Springs, OK 74063

918-245-5955

Sand Springs United Methodist Church

319 No. Main St.

Sand Springs, OK 74063

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

September 18th

Invite a friend to church...