

Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Weeks of:  
July 12 — Calumet, First Christian Church — Tim Clausing  
July 19 — Carney, Carney Christian Church — Jackie Roberts  
Yes, they are repeated.

Attendance		Giving	
8:30 a.m. service	22	Giving for operations	\$1,240.56
10:50 a.m. service	50	Giving for capital	0.00
Emerging Worship	12	Giving for outreach	0.00
Total	84	Giving total	\$1,240.56
Sunday School	26		

### Keep Us Informed

Please contact your church if you or a loved one is ill, injured, in the hospital, needs special prayer, wants a visit or has other needs.

Pastor Ray's: Cell Phone-**405-833-2272**  
Email-**raybelford@hotmail.com**  
Office: **(405) 275-1525**

*Walk about Zion, go all around it,  
count its towers, consider well its ramparts;  
go through its citadels that you may tell the next generation that  
this is God,  
our God forever and ever. He will be  
our guide. Psalm 48:12-14 NRSV*

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm  
Lunch times vary

Email: **office@fccshawnee.com**

Church Website: **www.fccshawnee.com**



# THE SHAWNEE CHRISTIAN

June 30, 2015



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

This past summer my graduation class of Shawnee High School celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a class reunion. In many cases, there were surprises as to how each student had changed. There were a few attorneys that most expected to be attorneys. There were a couple of doctors that knew what they wanted to be in high school.

I'm guessing that how I turned out might have been among the most shocking transformations of all. Although my wife says that it was no surprise to her, I doubt that very many others who knew me in high school ever thought that I'd end up an ordained pastor of a church—particularly a church right here in Shawnee.

I was the 140 pound guard on a less-than-successful high school football team. I was reminded of just how bad we were back in those days when I ran into a former Putnam City football player a couple of weeks ago. He remembered that the only game he got to play in when he was a freshman was the Shawnee game. I remembered that game very well. I remembered the score. Shawnee lost 74-6.

I think most of them knew that I, like most of the guys in my class, ended up in the military and served in Vietnam. You should have heard some of the stories going around, some shall we say "a bit off-color," and then the person telling the story would ask, "Hey, Ray what are you doing these days?" When I said that I am a pastor, I got a lot of surprised looks along with more than one un-needed apology.

There is something about being around people you grew up with who haven't kept up with you in years, who know you as you were, rather than as you have become. For some, you will always be what you were.

Something similar happened to Jesus when He returned to his hometown of Nazareth. Rather than celebrating that a hometown boy had become extremely popular for His teaching and miracles, people there couldn't get past seeing Jesus as the kid they knew. He was still Mary's kid (which cast dispersions on his parentage). He was still just a carpenter.

However, when they heard Him speak, they apparently viewed Him as being uppity—putting on airs because to them He certainly wasn't a prophet.

One of the things that occurred that has often mystified scripture readers is the fact that because of their lack of faith, Jesus did no deeds of power there.

Now, none of my high school classmates missed out on anything great if they didn't want to accept me as a pastor, but the people in Jesus' hometown missed out on something great when they didn't accept who Jesus had become.

In many ways some of us are somewhat like those hometown folks. We've heard the stories about Jesus so often that we've become comfortable with who we **think** He is. And, in that comfort, we have lost the radical message that Jesus brought.

We hear the Bible as **comforting**, rather than **challenging**. We hear it as **reinforcing** the things that we believe, rather than demanding that we **re-examine** them. We hear it as promising **prosperity**, rather than demanding **sacrifice**.

Mark's Gospel is not lengthy. Why not pick up your Bible and read it? I think you will find some parts of it that bring questions. There are some stories about Jesus that seem so unbelievable that you may shake your head and wonder. There are many reasons why the Bible is difficult for us to understand, but one reason might be that we so often assume the Bible calls us to be what we already are. Yet, Jesus is constantly calling us out of our comfort zones.

The sermon title for Sunday is "Hometown Sermon," and is based on Mark 6:1-13.

I'm just a guy who grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma, who worked a variety of jobs. I'm just a guy who became a member of this church and discovered my call here. Most of you know me, and sometimes that might be an issue for you. Celebrate our hard-won freedoms on the Fourth of July, and then come and get past me and my past to arrive at a place of Jesus and love.

This coming Sunday we move to our unified worship service at 10 a.m. If you are able, be with your church family in worship.

Pastor Ray

*We Do forever*

*Cora Gray*

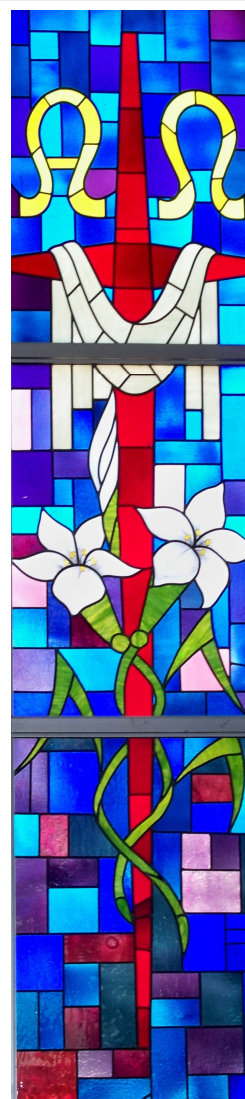


*David Tucker*

*will be married July 18, 2015  
in a private wedding ceremony.*

*Please celebrate with us at an adults only reception  
at 4:00 pm at the home of Rodney and Jennifer  
Freed*

*1702 North Broadway Avenue  
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804*



If you'll return salsa **canning jars**, and we will save them for Gail Reeves who will be salsa-ing again July 3. She'd welcome some help!



### Take a Cue from Me

That's what we would like to do. We're hoping some of you have pool cues that you no longer use and would like to donate to the youth room. We don't want you to run out and buy any before we have a chance to recycle ones that are unused but useable. THANKS!



# New Worship Schedule to Begin Sunday, July 5

The new schedule will move us to a single Sunday worship from 10-11 a.m. each week. Sunday school will be 9-9:30 a.m. followed by fellowship (coffee and donuts ) 9:30-9:50.

[Dear Anonymous FCC Member],

I just want you to know how much the Project Safe Auxiliary appreciates your support of our annual Honey-Do auction. ...which allows us to support the needs of the abuse shelter in many different ways. If it weren't for individuals like you and organizations like yours our support wouldn't be possible.

Sincerely  
Nancy Glasgow

## Board Meeting

July 12

The meeting will be directly after worship at 11:15 a.m. Because of breakfast at 8:45, there will be **NO** pot luck lunch. Committee chair and staff reports and agenda items are due Tuesday, July 7. One of the business items will be a proposal to amend the current wedding fee policy for our sanctuary's use.

**All-Church Breakfast**  
The elders will serve breakfast to all on Sunday, July 12, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. Bring your family & friends!

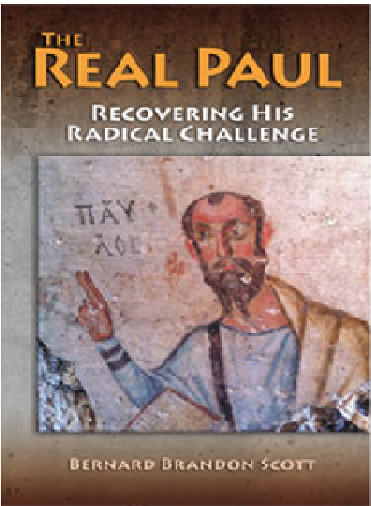


- Wed., July 1—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.  
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.
- Sat., July 4—**Independence Day** Thank you to all who have and continue to preserve freedoms!
- Sun., July 5—**NO BREAKFAST TODAY** due to following July 4th's possible late-night celebrations.  
UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m. Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.  
Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.
- Wed., July 1—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.  
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.
- Mon., July 6—Offices closed.
- Sun., July 12—**RESCHEDULED All-church 8:45 breakfast provided by elders.** Sunday school to follow.
- Sat., July 18—(Adults only) Reception for Cora Gray & David Tucker following their private wedding.  
Please read the invitation on page four.

## MILLENNIAL MINUTE

Last week was the concentrated course week for Pauline Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary. This fascinating course was taught by one of nation's most respected New Testament scholars, Dr. Brandon Scott. It was a real treat! We spent the week exploring, in depth, the uncontested Pauline epistles while dismantling some of the common cultural projections and faulty theological assumptions regarding the life, witness and writings of Paul. It was a very difficult week, physically, theologically, intellectually. Yet we all walked a way with a sense of having glimpsed the "real Paul" for the first time.

On the last day of the course, Dr. Scott told a powerful story. He was once invited by a local Church of Christ congregation to speak on the development of the New Testament gospels. He gave a brief overview of how the narratives developed paying special mind to the sayings gospel (now lost) called "Q." At the end of his presentation, an elderly matron in the front row stood and turned to her pastor to ask, "do you know about "Q?" He responded, "yes." She pressed on, "then why don't I know about "Q?" He shrugged and said, "I didn't think you needed to know about "Q." He "resigned" the following week and the church soon called a Phillips student who vowed to keep his congregation informed as to the latest in biblical scholarship.



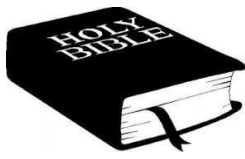
Dr. Scott travels the world presenting his findings on the "New Paul" to groups of clergy and lay persons. Without fail, the clergy groups always respond by saying, "I can't share this with my congregation. They will run me out of the pulpit!" Interestingly, the response from lay audiences is always, "why haven't I heard any of this before?" They feel duped. Left out. Ignored. Lesson learned!

Thankfully, in the Disciples Church we have a wonderful tradition of freedom of the pulpit and freedom of the pew. You, as a Disciple, are not bound to accept everything you hear in the pulpit and classroom as gospel truth. Likewise, those who preach and teach are given the freedom to teach and preach the gospel as they see fit. It's a wonderful practice that has kept our Church at the forefront of the latest theological, historical scriptural, and spiritual developments. It keeps us diverse. It enriches our fellowship. It gives us something interesting to talk about. It assures that we continue to grow and evolve as a relevant community of faith.

There is some really great scholarship coming out of Disciples seminaries. We should be proud of that. Some of it is really earthshaking, paradigm shifting stuff! My hope for First Christian Church is that as it begins to filter into the larger discourse of American Christianity, you will be able to say "I heard about that at Church!" It will challenge us, no doubt. It may even frighten us a little. But in the end, our faith will be made stronger by our shared search for God's truth.

josh

## Spread THE WORD



Many of us have multiple copies of the Bible that are not being used. We are collecting extras for donation. After you are certain they contain no treasures other than the beloved Good News, insert a note in the front "for donation," and leave them on the stage table in Fellowship Hall or in the office.