



## Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Weeks of: August 2 — Nicoma Park, Nicoma Park Christian Church — Chris Muse August 9—Cushing First Christian Church—Ish Engle

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	73	Giving for operations	\$2,196.54
Emerging Worship	11	Giving for capital	0.00
Total	84	Giving for outreach	11.00
Sunday School	N/A	Giving total	\$2,207.54

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within  
me. Do not cast me away from your  
presence, and do not take your holy  
spirit from me. Restore to me the joy  
of your salvation....Psalm 51:10-12a  
NRSV*

### 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

### Office Hours

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

Email: [office@fccshawnee.com](mailto:office@fccshawnee.com)

Church Website: [www.fccshawnee.com](http://www.fccshawnee.com)



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

Frank Oliver told me a joke last week. It is about a pastor with a congregant who was a farmer. The farmer hadn't been in worship for quite some time and hadn't been giving to the church. The pastor knew the farmer was very successful and had a beautiful farm; so, he decided to go out and see him.

When the pastor got to the farm, he saw the farmer getting ready to get on his tractor; so, the pastor went over and asked if he could ride with him for a while. The farmer said, "Sure." The pastor climbed up and sat next to him on the big tractor. The farmer began plowing up his fertile land and after being silent for a while, the pastor said, "The Lord sure has blessed you with this fine farm." The farmer said, "He sure has." After another couple of passes around the field, the pastor again said, "Yes, the Good Lord has certainly blessed you." The farmer said, "He sure has."

This continued a few more times as the farmer just kept plowing in silence. The pastor then said again, "The Lord sure has blessed you with the wonderful and productive farm." To which the farmer replied, "Yes, He sure has. But, you should have seen it before I got it."

I believe in our world today is a real lack of gratitude for the gifts we receive from God. For the farmer, God gave the gifts for knowing how to turn fallow land into fruitful land. God sent the rains and the sunshine. God even gave the seed the farmer planted and the miracle of life that is in the seed that bursts forth and grows. Yet, the farmer takes credit for using his own gifts to create a productive farm. While he might say the Lord has blessed him, in truth, the farmer believes that he is the one who deserves the credit.

There just seems to be something about human nature that causes many to believe that whatever earthly success comes their way, they earned everything they have received and God had nothing to do with it; it is because they were smarter, more talented, and more gifted. Yet those on the other end of the spectrum often praise or blame God for their condition—whatever it may be.

I believe this is because we seem to live in a world which worships financial success and wealth, and we forget that we are all God's creation and that any success we have is because of the gifts He has provided to us. There are some who seem to believe that God owes them success. They profess to be followers of Christ, attend worship, pray for God's blessings, and feel they are owed answers to all their prayers. As such, they rarely recognize the real blessings that He offers.

Our text from John's Gospel for Sunday follows Jesus' feeding of the 5,000 with the five barley loaves and two fish provided by a young boy. A miraculous sign: free bread!

Free food certainly has an appeal. Remember the people who camped out around the new Chick-fil-A before it opened? The prize was to be free Chick-fil-A sandwiches for a year. As a former newspaper reporter, I can tell you there is some truth to the belief that the best way to get good press coverage of an event is to have free food for the press.

I can't tell you the times I've heard people say that we should have a fellowship lunch every Sunday because attendance seems to be better when a meal is involved. Of course, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper each week we have the greatest meal possible.

Jesus fed the crowd and they had had their fill and they were ready to make Him king. Jesus tried to get away with his disciples, but the desire for more free food caused the crowd to find Him. They wanted more. They forgot about the giver and focused on the gifts. With their mouths they called Jesus "Rabbi," but with their hearts they proved they were unwilling to listen and learn. They came looking for more miracles. They came looking to make Jesus a bread king—someone who would always make sure they had enough food to eat.

I wonder how many people around the world will be in church Sunday looking for Jesus the bread king, rather than a Savior King?

If you are looking for physical treasures, you are in the wrong place. If you are looking for Spiritual treasures you will find them in abundance. It is the Spiritual treasures that Jesus promises that will bring the true joy in your life. It is when we have the Spiritual treasures that we understand that all we have in life are gifts from God that belong to Him.

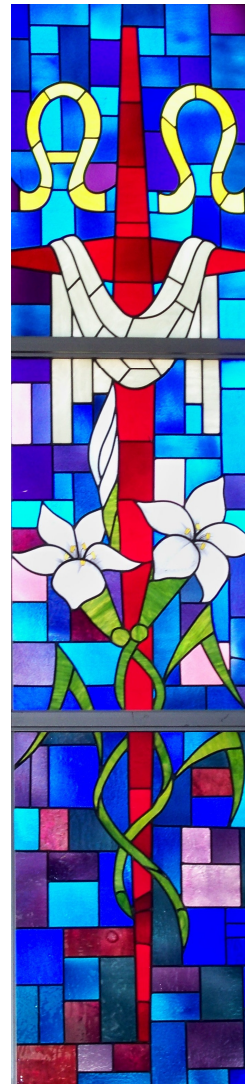
Numerous studies have shown that people who have been blessed with wealth are the happiest when they begin giving their time, talents, and money to ministries and programs that help improve the lives of others. As an old Jaycee, I'm always reminded of one particular line from the Jaycee Creed—"Service to humanity is the best work of life." When people try it, they find out how true it is.

The sermon title for Sunday is "Hungry" and is based on John 6:24-35. I pray that you will come hungry, not for the refreshments that will be served at the reception for a newly retired Pastor Janet, but hungry for a filling of the Bread of Life.

If you are able, be in worship and join us in honoring Pastor Janet and our Savior King.

Pastor Ray

*Retirement Reception*  
HONORING  
Associate Pastor  
*Janet Peery*  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015  
9:30 A.M.  
Given with love by  
*First Christian Church*  
A Basket Will Be Available for  
Cards & Gifts



*Welcome*  
New Members  
*J. T. Weedman  
Mary Clark  
Clyde Clark  
Carla Hale*

### August All-Church Dinner

Wednesday, August 19, there will be dinner served in conjunction with our VBS. It will be a pastors' dinner, prepared and served by Pastor Ray and Pastor Josh. It will be pot roast and corn-bread. Yum! Yum! Donations for food costs will be welcomed.

This will be another opportunity to come together in fellowship and get acquainted with our children, youth, and new members better. Save the date.



### Reception for Janet Peery

Janet Peery is retiring from her volunteer position of associate pastor effective August 1. There will be a reception held for her this coming Sunday, August 2, in Fellowship Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor Janet for her many years of service to First Christian Church.

In her statement for resigning, Janet said that she was having difficulty getting up and down the steps of the chancel. Recently, she has also begun to have issues with her blood-sugar counts and is on our prayer list.



We, also, want to thank Phil McConnell for his years of faithful service to First Christian Church. Phil has resigned as trustee, property chair, and deacon. He had previously served as elder and formerly, for many years, was a member of the Chancel Choir.

Under his leadership of the Property Committee, many improvements were made to our facility and equipment.

Phil, your time and talents have been greatly appreciated.

Josh Taylor cleaned the church van as a service project for the church Sunday, July 9. Great job and a great example of serving others.

Deb Jackson has volunteered to give the church a couple of hours each week that she is in town in order to do some of the deep-cleaning. Her first service will be in cleaning and sanitizing the toys in Babyland, the Toddler Room, and the room used for children's Sunday school and church. She is also planning to reline the kitchen shelves. Thank you much-ly and in advance.

Beverly Davis continues to straighten the church sanctuary each week and make sure that all supplies in the pews are restocked. Thanks for your consistent service.

Jack Scott has re-floored, repaired, and refinished the Pumpkin Patch bridge. Soon he will paint it. We also thank our muscle-y folks who helped to move it!!

**Wed., July 29**—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. **Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.**  
**Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.**

**Sun., Aug. 2**—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.  
**UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m.** Brief meeting of the Project 125 Committee.  
**Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.**

**Wed., Aug. 5**—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. **Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.**  
**Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.**

**Sun., Aug. 9**—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.  
**UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m.**  
**Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.**

**Wed., Aug. 12**—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. **Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.**  
**Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.**



## MILLENNIAL MINUTE

It is time for our quarterly fundraiser! During the month of August, our youth will have the new Phillips Seminary t-shirts in the Fellowship Hall during fellowship time. There is no cost for the t-shirts; we simply ask that you make a donation to the youth discretionary account in thanksgiving for the gifts God has given us through the life and witness of our youth, children and young adults.

We are so fortunate to have such an outstanding Disciples seminary in the Oklahoma Region. As many of you know, Phillips is a graduate seminary of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that strives to cultivate vital communities and vital conversations for the public good. With students, faculty and staff from around the globe representing more than 20 religious traditions, Phillips seeks to be a community of teachers and learners faithful to God through disciplined, reasoned, and reflective study of scripture, religious tradition and human experience. It truly is a source of pride for Oklahoma Disciples!



Thank you, in advance, for your generous response to our quarterly fundraiser! Your prayerful support has enabled us to develop a strong, growing youth program that cultivates and celebrates the spiritual gifts held within our young people. Thank you for investing the future of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)!

*josh*

*It's back to school time! On Sunday August the 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Blessing of the Backpacks during children's moment! Students young and old are encouraged to bring their backpacks so that the church can gather to offer prayers of blessing and protection for the upcoming school year. If you know of a young person in need of a backpack or school supplies, let us know!*



Pumpkin Patch is selling RUM CAKES.  
 Order NOW.  
 Glenda Grubb 520-3484  
 FCC 275-1519 or 275-1525  
 CAKES \$20.00 EACH  
 Baking will be October 6th & 8th, with  
 cakes available for pick-up October 10th.  
 Gail Reeves

We plan to hold an inter-generational Vacation Bible School during August. VBS will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5.

The plan is to meet each Wednesday through September 2. The start-time may change after school begins.

While people of all ages will be participating, the emphasis will be on our younger ones.

The Youth Group will be assisting Pastor Josh, Shelley Coffman, Carla Hale, Pastor Ray, and other adult volunteers in the program.

Come for inter-generational fellowship, teaching, & learning about God's Word.

