

Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Weeks of:
August 16 —Del City Christian Church
August 23— Edmond Trinity Christian Church — Don Heath, Mary Heath

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	80	Giving for operations	\$3,636.81
Emerging Worship	16	Giving for capital	0.00
Total	96	Giving for outreach	0.00
Sunday School	35	Giving total	\$3,636.81

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

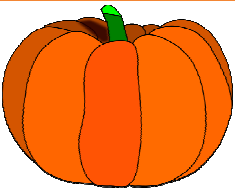
He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: all those who practice it have a good understanding. Psalm 111: 9-10 NRSV

Office Hours

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

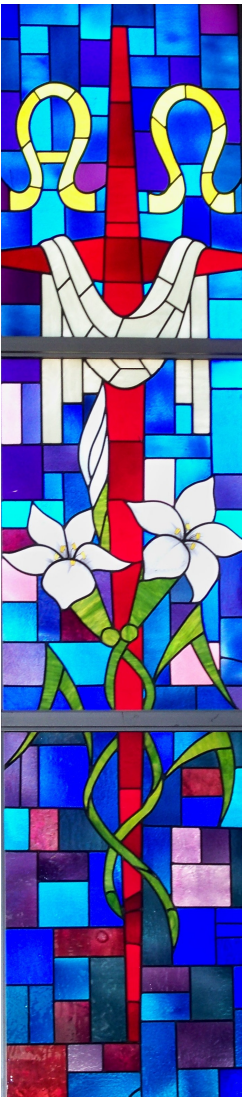
Email: office@fccshawnee.com

Church Website: www.fccshawnee.com



Please,
HELP US
with the Pumpkin Patch

1. Help unload.
2. Count pumpkins during unloading.
3. Provide water to those who unload.
4. Sign-up for the blood drive.
5. Be a sitter or keep a worker company.
6. Visit and talk to the customers.
7. Drop by and turn pumpkins.
8. Help bake rum cakes.
9. Provide Bundt pans.
10. Donate money for bridge refurbishing.
11. Be our face to potential congregants.
12. Paint pumpkins and ghosts.
13. Bake for the bake sale.
14. Read a story to school children.
15. Serve snacks to school children.
16. Decorate the Pumpkin Patch.
17. Bake pumpkin seeds.
18. Haul-off bad pumpkins.



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.



THE SHAWNEE CHRISTIAN

August 11, 2015



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

If you missed Pastor Josh's Sunday message, you missed a good one. Pastor Josh was preaching on "childlike faith" which is often interpreted as simple and unquestioning. However, as Josh pointed out, children are all about questions.

Any parent, or anyone who has worked with small children, realizes the truth of that statement. There's the old joke about betting someone they cannot answer fifteen questions a 5-year-old would ask. It is one question that is followed by fourteen questions of "Why?"

Therefore, if we come to Jesus as a child with a childlike faith we should come with our questions and seeking answers.

This past week I also happened upon an article by Dave Barnhart on the United Methodist "Ministry Matters" website. The title of the article is "Don't Apologize for Being Smart." Think about it. How do smart people become smart? On the one hand, intelligence is a gift from God. On the other hand, a person normally learns by asking questions and seeking answers to those questions.

What Barnhart says in his article is: "There are a variety of gifts, says Paul. We identify many that are essential for the church: leadership, generosity, prophecy, teaching, communication, hospitality and so on." He goes on to say, "I have never experienced any anti-generosity attitudes. Although people might be inhospitable, they don't express anti-hospitality or anti-kindness. But I've seen plenty of anti-intellectualism."

One of my favorite preachers, Max Lucado, did a whole sermon series around the idea that you "don't have to check your brain at the door to be a Christian."

Barnhart writes, "Anti-intellectualism has a long and ugly history in religious tradition. Although plenty of saints and theologians have demonstrated that faith and reason can be happy partners and support each other, history and our lived experience show that anti-intellectualism is stubbornly persistent in the church."

Barnhart points out the many smart Christians he has talked to have told stories about how preachers, teachers, and even family members flat told them to stop asking critical questions about their faith.

"One of my childhood friends," says Barnhart, "tells about asking his third-grade Sunday school teacher, 'If Adam and Eve were the first human beings God created, where did the women come from who married Cain and Seth?'" He was told that asking such questions would lead him to hell.

He says that it is easy to attempt to attribute this kind of behavior to a **few** fundamentalists, but he has heard this behavior described in conversations that he has had with people who have been hurt, turned off, or burned by their previous churches. He says the behavior is quite common across the political and theological spectrum. He says, "Insecure Christians are challenged by tough questions, and they will attack the faith, motivation, salvation and ethics of inquisitive Christians for simply speaking up."

I don't believe that Christ ever wanted His followers to follow because someone had brainwashed them into believing a certain doctrine, or a certain set of rules. Jesus says in John's Gospel, "**...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who the Father will send in my name will teach you everything.**" John 14:26 (NRSV) He didn't say a preacher will teach you everything. He didn't say a denomination will teach you everything. He didn't say the Holy Spirit will teach you to how to be like every other Christian.

In *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis wrote that humility is not about beautiful people imagining they are ugly and clever people trying to believe they are fools. Humility is learning to rejoice in all people's gifts, in the gift of the world and of life itself. Intellectual Christians are in love with life and want to learn all they can about it—and share that joy with others.

I read a message a year-or-so ago on the Northridge Church of Christ sign. It read, "Only a fool never changes his [her] mind." Inclusive language is mine. I know that over the years I have changed my mind about many things.

I also have a little metal paperweight on my desk that says, "I'm still learning..." I find that nearly every time I study Scripture, I realize that it speaks to me in some new way. Sometimes, when I hear a good sermon, like Sunday, a light goes on, and I am caused to think of the Scripture in a new way.

Following Jesus is supposed to change us, and I believe that change is continuous as the Holy Spirit leads, guides, and teaches us on a daily basis. If you want to have faith like a child, then ask your questions, seek answers, and keep on learning.

The sermon title for Sunday is "Your Life" and is based on Ephesians 5:15-20. Among other things, this text tells us, as Christians, to be wise and to be filled with the Spirit.

If you are able, be in worship with your church family this Sunday.

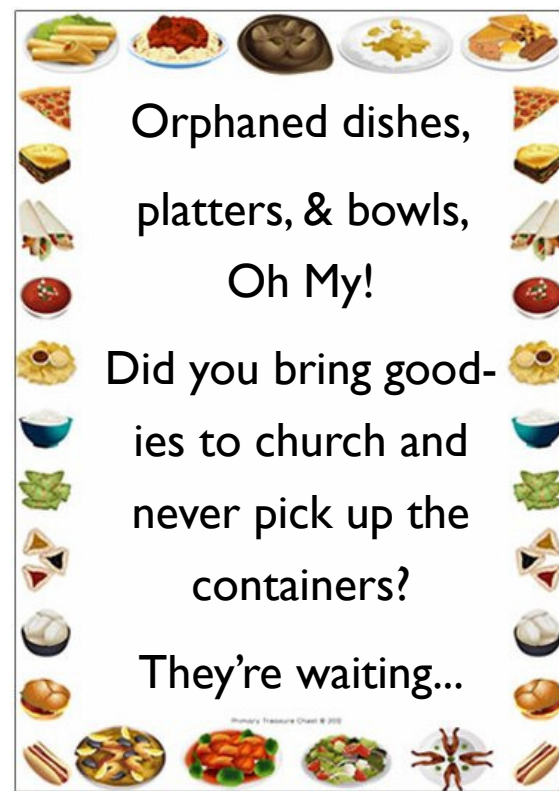
Pastor Ray



Associate Pastor, Janet Peery is honored for her years of faithful service to her Lord through her teaching and preaching at FCC.

Some members of her church family join in the picture above, and below, her family-family joins us to celebrate her giving and her retirement.

Janet, be well & enjoy!!



Youth and VBS participants enjoy using their hands as brushes during an activity that highlighted the lessons of Micah 6:8b: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.



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

Sun., Aug. 16—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. 19—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. **VBS 6:00 p.m.** Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Sun., Aug. 23—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. 26—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. **VBS 6:00 p.m.**
Youth Group 6-8:00 p.m.
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS — 6:00 P.M.



MILLENNIAL MINUTE

Pastor Ray is really good about sharing “good reads and leads.” He often leaves interesting articles on my desk, most of which pertain to ministry with millennials. A few weeks back he left a wonderful article by Sarah Puryear (an Episcopalian) entitled *Wooing Millennials with Tradition, Not Pyrotechnics*. If you’re like me, you’re tired of the doom and gloom talk about millennials and their loss of faith, but this article had some wonderful insights regarding what has come to be known as “The Millennial Problem.”

In this interesting article, Ms. Puryear acknowledges recent Pew research findings regarding the sharp decline in the number of millennials attending church. She also briefly explores the “Gen X” approach to getting young people in the pews, namely “fog machines, light shows, aggressive worship leaders and a beard for every staff member.” The problem is, recent studies have shown that the “TV Church” approach may draw a quick crowd, but those participants often leave church after spending less than a year in fellowship. Many have labeled this approach to church “Fast Food Christianity.” So what’s the solution? How do we get young people back to church? Ms. Puryear is honest in her response. We don’t know. What she is quick to point out, however, is **we do know what keeps young people in Church.**

Firstly, “**having faithful parents** is by far the best indicator that a child will continue to attend church as an adult.” When parents engage in the “challenging work of living the Christin life” daily and are themselves committed to the Church, young people are far more likely to find value in faith and the Christian community. The second indicator is tradition, not innovation! Young people that grow up in churches that teach what it means to **follow Jesus in a particular spiritual tradition** are more likely to turn to that tradition in times of need and celebration. In short, we need to teach our young people what it means to be both a disciple of Jesus and a Disciple of Christ. And if we really want it to stick, that faithfulness needs to be modeled at home.

josh



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

Inter-generational Vacation Bible School is being held on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. 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 Carla Hale, Pastor Josh, Shelley Coffman, Pastor Ray, and other adult volunteers in the program.

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

