



Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Sept. 27 — First Christian Church, Guthrie

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	52	Giving for operations	\$1,965.18
Emerging Worship	8	Giving for capital	0.00
Total	60	Pumpkin Patch	80.00
Sunday School	27	Giving total	\$2,045.18

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:13-14 NRSV

Office Hours

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

Email: office@fccshawnee.com

Church Website: www.fccshawnee.com

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



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

A pastor told the story of a young boy coming up to him after he taught the child's class of small children using the text that we will be encountering on Sunday. The small boy was almost in tears and asked the pastor if he should pluck his eye out.

I can remember such fears and questions as a child growing up in a church where it was virtually forbidden to ask a question on anything that Scripture said. To question what the Bible said would usually result in a brief lecture about the "fact" that no one should ever question the Bible, or the other answer, "You'll understand it when you are older."

Yet, I still find many Christian adults who claim, "The Bible said it. I believe it. That settles it."

Knowing that children don't understand hyperbole, the pastor answered the young man's question about plucking out his eye in this way. "Of course not, David. Jesus just said that to make people listen."

I like the way Rev. Henry Gerike sets up the context from which Jesus says these things. "It's another day at Capernaum Theological Seminary, another day after many lessons where the students never quite get what the teacher has been presenting. Last week we heard about the students after class arguing about who is the greatest. Jesus makes His point, ***If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.***"

"Even while these words of Jesus echoed around the Seminary...Student John comes in with a report: ***Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.*** John and those with him were not going to allow any unauthorized demon-casting." [***But Jesus said, "Do not stop him...."***]

Gerike goes on to say that it all sounds too familiar to us some 2,000 years later. "Like John and the disciples, the Church has tried so many times to trademark and copyright Jesus, to institutionalize Him, to tame and fence in the Holy Spirit, to domesticate the Gospel—all so we can bring everything under the safety of our control. There are times when the Church...is more interested in credentials and constitutions than it is the Gospel and confessions of faith."

"Like John ignoring the fact that the man was doing everything in the name of Jesus, we often ignore the fact that God is often sneaky, subversive, and acting through His agents scattered all over the place."

What Jesus is saying when He tells them to not stop the "outsider" is that the outsider is not really an outsider. Jesus throws the doors wide open. It's not just about the disciples anymore. It's about everyone. And it doesn't make any difference, male or female, Jew or gentile, rich or poor, seminary trained or untrained, straight or gay, ***whoever is not against us is for us.*** Well, there goes the clique.

Furthermore, Jesus admonishes them not to be stumbling blocks but to get out of the way of those who are coming to Him.

To get their attention, and ours, Jesus then uses hyperbole to make his point about making sure they did nothing to create barriers, hurdles, or fences to keep anyone from coming to Him. He's not actually telling the disciples, or us, to cut out our eyes or cut off our hands or feet. To me, if He wanted to be literal, He would have probably started with cutting out our tongues, for it is often the things we say to people, the ways in which we sometimes preach to people, or gossip about people that tend to be the greatest stumbling blocks.

I wanted to focus on this part of the text for Sunday in my column this week, because quite frankly, I don't want to take the chance that giving undue attention to the parts of the text about self-mutilation and threats of hell might actually frighten and place a stumbling block in front of our children during the service.

Therefore, I will be focusing on the last part of the scripture in the sermon. I don't want to focus on what we should not do but rather on what Jesus tells us we should do. ***For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.*** Mark 9:49-50 NRSV

The sermon title is "Salty Believers" and is based on Mark 9:38-50.

If you are able, be in worship on Sunday.

Pastor Ray

PUMPKIN PATCH is selling Rum Cakes

Order before October 5th.
Glenda Grubb 520-3484
FCC 275-1519
CAKES \$20.00 EACH

Baking will be October 6th & 8th,
with
Pick-up will be Saturday,
October 10th.

They freeze very well!



Reconciliation Offering

We will be collecting a special offering for our denomination's Reconciliation Ministry this coming Sunday, September 27, and Sunday, October 4. The Reconciliation Ministry supports the development of young leaders, promotes conversation models for congregations and community groups, and enables the Regional granting program to enliven camps and congregational ministries. Special envelopes will be provided should you wish to support this offering.

Wed., Sept. 23—Fall begins in the northern hemisphere Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.
Youth Group 5-7:00 p.m. Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45.

Sun., Sept. 27—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Chancel Choir returns!
UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 11:15-12:00.
Set-Up for Pumpkin Patch 1:30 p.m. (No pumpkins this time.) Please help.
Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 30—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 5-7:00 p.m.
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 3—Pumpkins due. Tentatively at 8:00 a.m.
[We know; we know!!, but it's for ministries!] Please help. Bring hats, gloves....

Sun., Oct. 4—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.
UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 11:15-12:00.
Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.

Mon., Oct. 5—Sine Nomine 6:00-7:30 p.m.



The Pumpkins Are Coming!

It's almost here. For our 20th Annual Pumpkin Patch, on Saturday, October 3, we are scheduled to unload, by our cumulative count, our 100,000th-plus pumpkin.

This coming **Sunday, September 27**, we need everyone who can to help with the **set-up** following worship. Feel free to come to worship in work clothes, or bring a change of clothes to help get everything ready to receive the pumpkins. Richard MacMillan is in charge of the set-up, and the more people we have the faster the set-up will go. There will likely be additional help needed during the week.

We want everyone to join in with the unloading. There are tasks for every level of strength. The truck is currently scheduled to arrive at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 3.

Over the past nineteen years, our church has contributed thousands of dollars from the profits on the sale of the pumpkins to various community agencies.

Each year our patch features high quality pumpkins in various sizes which are grown by members of the Navajo Tribe. The pumpkins are normally harvested, loaded, and shipped the same day.

The patch will be **open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m.** Unlike some recent commercial patches, there is no charge for visiting the patch, and parents and grandparents can take all the photos they want at no charge.

In addition to the pumpkins, the church will also be selling gourds, hay, home-canned homemade salsa, chow-chow, hot pepper jelly, pickled beets, and craft items.

The Pumpkin Patch will again provide Story Time for kindergarten, pre-school, and day care children. We already have groups scheduled.

The Pumpkin Patch Special (train) with Engineer Jim Comfort, will be providing free train rides each Saturday and through the week.

Special events are scheduled each Saturday during the run of the patch.

Saturday, October 10— Bake sale, including special rum cakes; pumpkin decorating contest and the Oklahoma Blood Institute Bedlam Blood Drive. **Rum cakes should be ordered in advance before October 5** (to determine the amount of ingredients to purchase) by calling 520-3484.

Saturday, October 17— Blue grass music, car trunk and table “garage sales” open to the public for \$10 per space.

Saturday, October 24— Kid’s Fun Day.

Saturday, October 31— Halloween candy for trick-or-treaters.



Please,
**HELP
US**
with the
**Pumpkin
Patch**

- Sign-up for the blood drive.
- Donate money for bridge refurbishing.
- Decorate the Pumpkin Patch.
- Provide Bundt pans.
- Be our face to potential congregants.
- Help unload.
- Provide water to those who unload.
- Be a sitter or keep a worker company.
- Visit and talk to the customers.
- Drop by and turn pumpkins.
- Help bake rum cakes.
- Read a story to school children.
- Serve snacks to school children.
- Bake for the bake sale.
- Bake pumpkin seeds.
- Paint pumpkins.
- Haul-off bad pumpkins.



Next Sunday our Chancel Choir will return. As a result of Marcia Scott’s resignation due to her brother’s health, the choir is being directed by Associate Minister Joshua Miller-Shawnee.

In this week’s newsletter, Josh wrote another invitation to all to join the fun of being in the choir.

Rehearsals are directly after service on Sundays.

ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

Millennial Minute

During the months of September, November and December (we work the Pumpkin Patch in October) the Youth will meet for “Table Worship” at 5:00 on Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall. We gather, as did the earliest Christians, to share a meal! We sing. We pray. We talk about our lives. We eat. We seek Christ in Word, Sacrament and Community. Beginning in November we will be inviting different members of our congregation to join us each week for this sacred time of food, fun, faith and fellowship. If you’d like to be at the top of the list, let us know! We look forward to fostering stronger relationships between our Youth and the people of First Christian Church!



Music Notes

We gathered for our first Choir Rehearsal of the season on Sunday and were delighted to welcome Dr. Keith Whitmore into our midst. We will sing our first anthem on the first Sunday of October and have already begun working on our Christmas Cantata, *The Silence and the Sound* by Heather Sorenson. We are a small choir, so there is plenty of room for you. Please prayerfully consider sharing your voice with us as we continue the work of perfecting the praises of God’s people! It’s fun, a great way to meet people and a wonderful way to give back to our ever growing Community of Faith. Come sing with us!

Something from the Seminary

Our own Phillips Seminary will launch a new InterReligious Understanding program on October 15th! This program, open to any interested person, will be held at Phillips Seminary on Thursday evenings and will introduce the participant to six religious traditions in six weeks! This is a wonderful way for Disciples to learn about the world’s great faith traditions in a welcoming, scholarly environment. Registration is now open and the registration fee is \$95. Let me know if you would like to register! Scholarships are available.



Have a wonderful week!

josh

FCC Member

Selected as Medical Director

Dr. Scott Shepherd has accepted the position as Oklahoma State University Center for Health Systems Innovation’s (CHSI) **first** medical director. He will be leading the center’s care-delivery projects which create and test solutions to rural health problems.

In an OSU newspaper release, CHSI is described as transforming health care through creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The program is a joint project between the OSU Spears School of Business and the OSU Center for Health Sciences.

Focusing his last two years of medical school on rural care, Scott has, in addition to extensive skill, a “passion of health care innovation” according to Wm. D. Paiva, CHSI Executive Director.

Scott has been a hospitalist at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa since 2012. He graduated from OSU with a bachelor’s degree in athletic training and earned his medical degree from the OSU Center for Health Sciences in 2008. He completed the internal medicine and pediatrics residency program from University of Oklahoma—Tulsa School of Community Medicine in 2012.

Scott and his wife, Dr. Sarah Shepherd, a Tulsa pediatrician, live there with their two children, Libby and Charlie.

Scott is the son of Tom & Gaye Shepherd and nephew of Nick & Jackie Shepherd.

CONGRATULATIONS !!