

Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Weeks of  
Sept. 6 — Southern Hills Christian Church, Edmond: Jenny Wynn  
Sept. 13 — First Christian Church, El Reno: Ronnie Fields

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	51	Giving for operations	\$6,819.67
Emerging Worship	12	Giving for capital	0.00
Total	63	Giving for outreach	0.00
Sunday School	23	Giving total	\$6,819.67

*The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes...Psalm 19:7-8 NRSV*

Office Hours

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

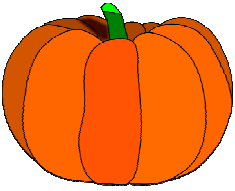
Email: [office@fccshawnee.com](mailto:office@fccshawnee.com)

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

Keep Us Informed

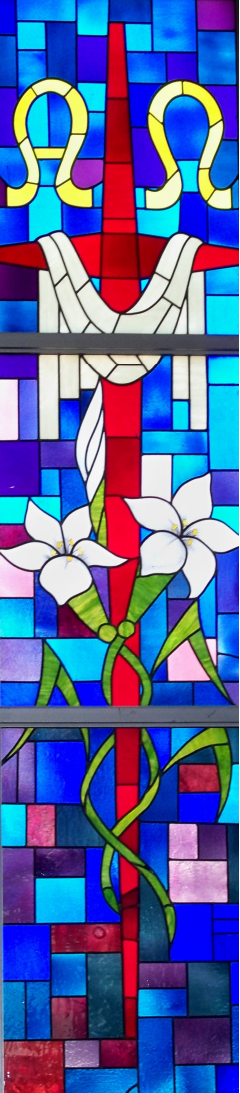
Please contact your church if you or a loved one is ill, injured, in the hospital, needs special prayer, wants a visit, or has other needs.

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



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.



Recycle — Donate



Bibles



Gently Worn  
Clothes



Pool  
Cues



Canning  
Jars  
and Lids

Please deliver to Fellowship Hall.



THE SHAWNEE CHRISTIAN

September 8, 2015



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

It has become a joke. "I read it on-line; so, it must be true." Unfortunately, it's not a joke when people do real research and discover that time-after-time what they read on-line is often gossip, half-truth, and just flat wrong.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has gotten one of those e-mails, or Facebook posts, that seems to cause your blood pressure to spike. I don't use Twitter, and based on some of the things I've seen on television and in the paper, I'm glad I don't. Some people can spew a lot of hate in 140 characters or less. Unfortunately, unless we want to block some of our friends through our e-mail filter or on Facebook, we never know what we are going to be reading once we open the e-mail or look at the post.

I particularly don't like the e-mails that encourage you to forward the message because if you do that, somehow you'll get a special blessing from God; or if you don't, you are doomed to have a bad day. I don't think God works that way.

I've seen some pretty significant arguments break out over a Facebook post, particularly if it is a political item, or presents a view to which someone has a radically different view. Someone started a Facebook group for my high school class, and one day I discovered that a classmate had been "kicked off" because he expressed views in support of a hot-button issue.

What brought this to my mind this week is that I read three articles from *Ministry Matters* that focus on this same area. Tyler Saldana, in an article titled "Loving Your Social Media Neighbor," says that we've all had opportunities to comment on "a controversial photo, a seemingly racist/hateful status update, ....or an extremist 'article' for propaganda-like video that clearly lacked credibility." He says, "You ask yourself, 'Do I comment and start another Facebook Feud (Twitter Tango or Instagram Instafight) or do I technologically bite my lip and move on?'"

He reminds us that Jesus says we are to love our neighbor. Then Jesus is asked by the religious leader, "But who really is my neighbor?" Jesus, then tells the story that we've come to know as the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Saldana says we need to love the Tweeter next door. He asks the question, "How would He (Jesus) say the great commandments, loving God and loving our neighbors, should affect the way we engage with people on social media?"

Joseph Yoo, in an article titled "The Power of Words" says the old adage that sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me, should be changed to say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will have such a lasting effect that I may have to go see a counselor for the rest of my life, so thanks for that."

He says, "Not only do words hurt, that hurt stays with you for a long time. Bones mend. Cuts heal. The words cut at the heart, mind, and soul."

We've all heard the stories about how words about someone on Facebook or Twitter hurt them so deeply that they committed suicide. Words hurt, when they are said to our face, but they hurt more when they are said on Facebook and others pile on. Some insult once hurled in private has been replaced by one seen by anyone, including loved ones. Cyber-bullying is one of today's greatest tragedies.

Ron Edmondson, in his article "There's a Modern-Day Bullhorn in Town" relates that he remembers the days when he saw someone on a sidewalk with a bullhorn in their hand, shouting at crowds, 'Repent or Perish.'" He says, "They meant well. They had a passion for their work—they wanted people to come to realize the amazing gospel of grace. I get that. And, I applaud the desire...But I never thought it was an effective method of evangelism."

He says, "It doesn't seem to me a bullhorn on the street—or a sign saying 'God hates \_\_\_\_'—is the best way to share a message of love. And isn't that the message? 'For God so loved the world....'"

"Well, there's a new bullhorn in town," he says. "It's loud and it's on every street corner, figuratively speaking. It's called social media."

He says, "It's where the bullhorn holder posts or shares a condemning statement towards someone with whom they don't agree—sinners we call them. They make a proclamation against them. They complain. They bash. They condemn. They attempt to frighten. They are loud."

The bullhorn approach comes across as having little grace, he says.

**As Christians, we must be careful what we say and what we do.** It is bad enough to say something in private that causes hurt, but when you put it on-line, on Facebook, or Twitter, it can get shared with thousands. When you hit "send" or "post," the things you say cannot be recalled or taken back.

This coming Sunday is Josh's Sunday to preach. His sermon is titled "Jesus" and is based on Mark 8:27-30.

This Sunday is Round-Up Sunday. If you are able, come and share some real "face time" with your church family. Don't tweet—talk. Be kind to one another. The all-church pot luck breakfast is another chance to develop a deeper friendship with your church family.

Pastor Ray



Next Sunday, September 13, is Round-Up Sunday which is a reminder to round-up all the folks and return to the habit of being in worship. We usually mark the occasion with an all-church dinner, but we are trying something different. We're having an all-church pot luck breakfast/brunch beginning at 8:30 and ending at 9:50.

We will try this and see how it goes. The usual coffee and donuts will be provided, and those who are able are encouraged to bring items to share. Ideas: fruit, breakfast casseroles.... Just Google images for "breakfast" or flip through a cookbook, and you'll find scads of ideas.

Unified worship is from 10-11. If you are a die-hard NFL (football) fan, you will be out in time to see the kickoff of the early game each week. We've heard lots of positive comments about this single service which brings us together! You are encouraged to wear your western duds or church apparel.



### Important Board Meeting September 13

The regularly schedule meeting of the Official Board of First Christian Church will be held immediately following worship (11:15) this coming Sunday. We will be making decisions on ideas that were proposed at the called board meeting of August 23. Most decisions will be related to efforts of improving the overall financial condition of the church.

As previously reported, those ideas included: selling the lot we own between our south parking lot and Graves Floral; selling other property that is no longer in use including hand bells which haven't been used in many years; allowing the use of part of our educational wing by a local community organization which provides a vital ministry to our community; and making an appeal to all members to increase giving.

Agenda items and committee chair/ staff reports need to be into the office by Thursday, September 10. Board meetings are open to all members, and they are encouraged to provide input into for the discussions. However, only members of the board will vote on business that is brought before the board.



### Pumpkin COMMITTEE REPORTS for July and August

7-25 The committee met and discussed the bake sale and making rum cakes for sale. We also talked about putting some type of screen in the south hallway to limit public access to the rest of the church when coming in for the restrooms. Deb Jackson volunteered to provide some folding screens. We also talked about our projects: hanging gardens, blood drive, trunk sale, canned salsas, etc., and, of course, pumpkins.

8-29 The committee met and revised our list of designees for profits from the pumpkin sales. We will donate to Shawnee Rescue Mission, Project Safe, and the Volunteer Health Center. We also discussed advertising, start-up money, set-up day for tents, pumpkin arrival day, and rum cake requirements.

Wed., Sept. 9—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 5-7:00 p.m.  
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 10—Freedom Day — Honor military, veteran and active

Sun., Sept. 13—Round-Up Pot Luck Brunch 8:30 a.m. See article. Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.

UNITED SERVICE 10 a.m.  
Liturgical Worship and Christian Meditation 4-5:00 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 16—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 5-7:00 p.m.  
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 20—National Back to Church Sunday  
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., Sept. 23—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m. Youth Group 5-7:00 p.m.  
Emerging Worship 6:15-6:45 p.m.

Mon., Sept. 21—International Day of Peace

Wed., Sept. 23—Fall begins in the northern hemisphere

# Thanks Ever So Much

### Gail Reeves

Who has, for the past many years, provided materials for, made, and canned pints and quarts of salsa. Sometimes she has help, but she will proceed by herself when necessary. She is also our 2015 Pumpkin Patch Chairperson. In addition, Gail has a 'real' job.

### Debra Jackson

A relatively new member of our church, Deb has searched for ways to serve our Lord by serving her church. She is a member of the Pumpkin Patch Committee, and has begun the extensive task of organizing and sanitizing the babies' and children's areas of the church.

### Rich MacMillan

Always greeting you with a warm smile and positive outlook, Rich continues to offer help whenever needed. Besides being chairperson of the deacons, he often helps by making sure the doors are open on Sunday and secured after services — a big help to Pastor Ray.

### Danny Akin

Those of you who enjoy those pastries on Sunday mornings have Danny to thank, now. Along with helping Steve Scott with the 125 Project Committee's projects, he goes to get the donuts.

### Carla Hale

Carla recently handled all the planning and preparation for the lessons and craft activities for VBS. On Sundays, she conducts a children's church area at the back of the sanctuary during service. You would be amazed with how quiet they are!! One of her other many skills is getting little people to eat.

### We do notice the time and talents that are given by each of you to our God by way of FCC, and we thank you. It's not "all about the money."

(Due to concentrated course week and the pastor's being at a SEDF meeting, the female in the first office gave Josh the week off from writing an article.)

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

They freeze very well!



Some of our VBS participants preparing to have dinner together. Carla Hale was the director of the program which met each Wednesday in August and the 2nd of September. Our focus for the classes was Acts 17:28, "In God we live, move, and exist." Thank you to all who came and to all who helped!