

Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Nov. 1—First Christian Church, Moore

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	50	Giving for operations	\$1,534.25
Emerging Worship	13	Giving for Capital	.00
Total	63	Giving for Outreach	.00
Sunday School	n/a	Giving total	\$1,534.25
		Pumpkin Sales thru 10/26	\$10,453.00
		Other Sales thru 10/26	\$1,636.22

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**

The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. Psalm 146:7b-9 NRSV

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Lunch times vary

Email: **office@fccshawnee.com**

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

Board Meeting

The board of First Christian Church approved a lease agreement between First Christian Church of Shawnee, Inc.

("Landlord") and the One Safe Place—Family Justice Center Foundation ("Tenant") providing there are no "material" changes requested by the Tenant.

In the lease, the church will initially be providing four upstairs rooms on the south end of the education wing for offices for the start-up location of One Safe Place. The lease is a six-month lease with automatic renewal options.

One Safe Place will provide a place where services related to handling child abuse cases are consolidated. The initial group expected to have offices here includes the executive director, district attorney staff, local law enforcement staff, and specially trained investigators who handle these issues.

The lease, if approved by One Safe Place, also reserves some space on the first floor for future use as the organization grows.

One Safe Place is currently in a fund-raising campaign with a goal of raising \$7.5 million to build and staff a permanent home. With the approval of the lease, we will be providing a temporary home for the organization. The leaders of the church see this as a ministry that is critical to our community, and the agreement provides benefits for both parties. However, the main benefit will be to the children who have suffered abuse.

In other action, the board approved renegotiating our current bank loan on the elevator project. The initial loan was for \$220,000 and has been reduced to less than \$150,000. It is expected that the monthly loan payment will be about \$800 less than the current payment.

A draft copy of revisions to the church Constitution and By-Laws was distributed to board members. The changes reflect recommendations from the strategic planning session the church held last year. Key aspects include: clarifying membership, reducing standing committees through consolidation, and making it easier to call special meetings in our current electronic age.



"LIFE AFTER LOSS"

AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO HELP NEGOTIATE
GRIEF'S JOURNEY &
THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

When we are faced with a loss in our lives, grief is the normal reaction, but many are ill-equipped to maneuver the path where grief takes them. Let this experience be your guide.

- * Opportunity for growth & transformation
- * Understand the natural grief process
- * Increase your ability to cope with loss

Join us Monday evenings:

November 2, 9, 16 & 23

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice
2802 N. Kickapoo
Shawnee, OK 74804

For more information or to register, call
Jennifer Freed, M.S., C.T., Bereavement Coordinator
405-214-6442

Series is **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**.



THE SHAWNEE CHRISTIAN

October 27, 2015

Dear FCC Family and Friends,

Have you noticed the abundance of polls that we seem to be having in our world today? Telephones ring constantly, and if you are answering, you are going to find yourself being asked your opinion on something.

In Monday's *Oklahoman* there was a poll about how Oklahomans feel about the death penalty. It was even broken down between the percentage of those who identified themselves as Republican or Democrat. The results show that the majority of Oklahomans seem to favor the death penalty.

A day doesn't go by without hearing the latest percentage of supporters that each Republican and each Democratic candidate for president has compared to the other candidates; and the election is still more than a year away.

I wonder what a poll would show if the question were asked of un-churched people whether Christians were about love or hate? I have a feeling we might not like the results.

It is not a secret that throughout our country that church attendance and the number of people who identify as Christians is on the decline. There has to be a reason.

I wonder what the answer would be if you ask ten different Christians what they consider to be the litmus test for a Christian. Would you get ten different answers?

The reason I ask this question is that it is not different from the question that the scribe asked Jesus so many years ago in Jerusalem. **Which commandment is the first of all?** Mark 12:28 NRSV. I believe that the answer which Jesus gave to the scribe that day is the answer he would give to every Christian today. **Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear O Israel; the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.** Mark 12:29-31 NRSV.

I wonder what might happen if we all simply put into practice this command of Jesus?

I wonder what would happen if every denomination threw out their books of discipline, their dogma, and their rules that set up barriers to their neighbors or barriers to being in covenant with other Christians?

Elaine Pagels, author of the book *Beyond Belief* which traces our Christian beginnings from the perspective of a historian's objectivity, writes: "How is it that Christianity lost that 'spacious moral vision' (Loving God and Loving our Neighbor) in a few centuries? How is it that being a Christian became virtually synonymous with accepting a certain set of beliefs? From historical readings I knew that Christianity had survived brutal persecution and flourished for generations—even centuries—before Christians formulated what they believed into creeds." (emphasis mine)

She goes on to write, "Early Christianity survived because Christians were doing something new in the world, something that no one had ever seen. They were loving their neighbors, not just their family, clan, or tribe. Not even just their fellow Christians, but others, strangers, outsiders, gentiles, pagans, Romans."

She continues, "They did remarkable, unprecedented things. They contributed money to a common fund to pick up orphans abandoned to die on the streets of Rome and in garbage dumps. They took food to prisons and stayed behind when the plagues struck, to minister to the sick and dying because Jesus told them to love God by loving their neighbors." (emphasis mine)

Also, she says what made Christians different in the early church is that they believed that God, who created human kind, actually loved the human race and evoked love in return.

I know that I fail on many occasions to truly love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. As hard as I may try, I do not truly love my neighbor as myself. I pray that I learn to do so. What about you? When we look at all the hate and violence and turmoil in our world today, do you think if we could get back to simply focusing on loving God and loving our neighbors we might begin to make a difference? The early Christians did it.

The sermon title for Sunday is "Simple, but Hard" and is based on Mark 12:28-34.

If you are able, show your love for God by being in worship on Sunday. Show your love for your neighbor by smiling and greeting one another and by passing the peace. In particular, make sure you greet any strangers in Christian love.

Pastor Ray



Thank you to Mary Ann Luman & Nelda Ward for organizing and hosting Marcia's reception.



Family and friends join to celebrate Marcia Scott and her years of dedication to our spiritual experiences during FCC's worship services.

We miss you, Marcia, and pray for you and your family.



We have received an email from Tom Russell on behalf of Habitat for Humanity:

Mission Partners,

We are making progress in Macomb, OK. We still have the west side of the house to go. FRI., NOV. 6 & SAT., NOV. 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. plan to join us and invite others to come join this rewarding mission opportunity. 42786 Sing Rd., Macomb, OK. Let me know you can join us one day or both. Shalom, Tom 650-3335

Thank you to all who helped unload last Tuesday!
Thank you also to everyone helping on Kid's Day!!

You may still help with the Pumpkin Patch:

JOIN IN THE FUN
OF
SERVICE

- Donate money for bridge refurbishing.
- Be a sitter or keep a worker company.
- Visit and talk to the customers.
- Be our face to potential congregants.
- Drop by and turn pumpkins.
- Bake pumpkin seeds.
- Paint pumpkins to sell.
- Haul-off bad pumpkins.

ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

Millennial Minute

Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins! As I'm sure you know, the Youth continue to serve at the Pumpkin Patch on Wednesday evenings from 4:00-7:00. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to serve our congregation while building important relationships with older generations. A kind word and a warm smile are key to intergenerational relationships. Thank you, in advance, for welcoming them as Christ!

It is time for our 3rd annual Fall Food Drive! Collection baskets are placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Food collected during the months of October and November is used to create Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families in our community. A list of needed foods has been listed in previous newsletters and is available at the Church. Please let us know if you know of a family that would be blessed to receive one of these baskets. Though response has been limited during the last few weeks, we hope to collect enough food for a dozen baskets this year!

Music Notes

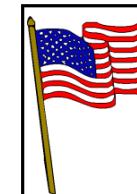
During the month of October the Chancel Choir blessed us with songs about singing praise to God! This month, we will focus on the beauty and simplicity of early American hymn tunes. It is also time to turn our attention to Advent and Christmas. We would love to have you join us in crafting the sounds of the season! Let us know if you'd like to join us! There is no audition and rehearsals are after worship from 11:15 to 12:00. Thank you, in advance, for sharing your time and talents with our Community of Faith!

Something from the Seminary

The time between midterms and finals is especially difficult on our seminary students. The vast majority of our seminarians have families, jobs and ministries, and we all know things get a little crazier this time of year. I would like to encourage you to pray daily for the student-ministers seminarians at Phillips. Also, a kind, encouraging note and some baked goods might go a long way during this difficult time! I'd be glad to deliver them to the Student Union for you. I'll even promise not to taste test more than one!

Happy Halloween!

josh



Be sure we have a photo and info on all Vets by Thursday, November 5. The information will be used for a slide-show on Sunday, November 8 to honor our veterans and those on active duty.

Veteran's Day is November 11.

Wed., Oct. 28—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.
Youth 4-7:00 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 31—Halloween. Kids get treats at the Pumpkin Patch.

Sun., Nov. 1—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.
United Service 10 a.m. Chancel Choir 11:15-12:00

Wed., Nov. 4—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.
Youth 4-7:00 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 8—**VETERANS SUNDAY** Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.
United Service 10 a.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal 11:15-12:00.

**HALLOWEEN
Saturday,
October 31:
LAST DAY!**

**Come to
help treat
our
patch visitors**

