



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

Have you ever noticed how some words today have different meaning than they did just a few years ago? Part of it is technology. However, it just seems to be a natural thing that happens. It has been said “Language is metamorphic—it changes and adapts over time.”

For Christians, we only need to pick up a King James Version of the Bible, and we will find words that are foreign to our ears. Perhaps that is why someone complied the “New King James Version.” I’ve always liked the Andy Rooney style routine that Dr. Joe Bessler, of Phillips Seminary, sometimes does on the Bible. For example, in Andy Rooney style, he would ask, “Was there a new King James that requested a new translation?” He makes fun of all the “new” references to various translations as if something new had happened to change God’s Word.

One person writing on this week’s Lectionary text writes, “Apocalyptic understanding, although common, is misunderstood mostly because people move to the sister word: ‘apocalypse’, and it immediately invokes strong ideas.”

He writes that “For many it might be a vague knowledge that the last book in the New Testament—Revelations—is Apocalyptic literature.” He goes on to say that many people would interpret that it speaks of the “apocalypse” as the end of times.

All-in-all Revelations is a confusing book. Noted pastor and author Max Lucado says, “If anyone tells you they understand Revelations, you better get away from them.” People who claim to know what Revelations means are always making dire predictions about the end of time and the rapture.

Just a couple of months ago, there were predictions that the end was coming when a total eclipse of the moon occurred during a blood moon. On television, there were stories about people stocking up at the survival stores in Utah.

A few years before, some people believed the world would come to an end on December 12, 2012 because the Mayan long-count calendar ended on that date.

Of course, who can forget 2011 when Rev. Harold Camping, American Christian radio host told the world that the Rapture/Judgment Day would take place on May 21, 2011; and when it didn’t happen, he said that adjustments to the math needed to be made. Then he predicted the end of the world would take place five months later on October 21, 2011. If it happened, I guess we all missed it.

Each time there is a millennial year around the corner, there are similar predictions. It happened as the world approached 1000, and most of you remember Y2K when the year 2000 rolled around.

When Jesus predicted the Temple, with all its mighty and beautiful stones would fall with no stone left upon another, his disciples wanted a sign. **Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished.** Mark 13:4 NRSV.

Jesus warns them and us not to let people lead us astray. I guess that would include Rev. Camping or anyone else who seems to think he/she has an inside track on when Christ is returning. Jesus then says to His disciples, **When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of birth pangs.** Mark 13:7-8 NRSV.

Not exactly signs, are they? Has there ever been a time when there haven’t been wars and rumors of wars in our world? How many places are we experiencing these today? Has there been a time when kingdoms and nations have not been at odds? Earthquakes are happening here in Oklahoma on an almost daily basis, and they’ve been occurring throughout the world on a regular basis since Jesus said those words. People have also been starving somewhere in the world since before Jesus said those words, and for some 2,000 years after.

What seems to be missed is that Jesus calls these “birth pangs.” Apocalyptic literature is not meant to provide a blueprint, but to wake us up to be always ready. Think about those rumble strips on the side of the highway. They are designed to wake us up when we are drifting off the road, so we can correct our path before disaster strikes. Apocalyptic literature should do the same for us when we are drifting toward disaster in our spiritual life.

There is one thing that we do know, and that is, at sometime—time will end. It may end for us at death, or it may end with the Rapture. Regardless, we need to be prepared and ready.

The sermon title for Sunday is “Countdown” and is based on Mark 13:1-8.

If you are able, be in worship with your church family this Sunday and every Sunday you are able. It is one way we get off the rumble strips and back where we need to be spiritually.



Pastor Ray

Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Nov. 15—New Castle, Disciple Christian

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	67	Giving for operations	\$1,712.33
Emerging Worship	14	Pumpkin Patch	134.50
Total	81	Giving for Outreach	50.00
Sunday School	29	Giving total	\$1,876.83
		Total Pumpkin Sales	\$13,395.50
		Total Other Sales	\$2,167.67

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

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God.....

Hebrews 10:11-12 NRSV

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch times vary

Email: office@fccshawnee.com

Church Website: www.fccshawnee.com



“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.**

Every waving flag,
hand-covered heart,
and deeply felt prayer
..... asking God
to bless America
.....
is a declaration of thanks
to all those who have served.

You’ve shown by example
— what it truly means —
to belong to the land of the free
and the home of the brave.

Everytime I think of you, I give thanks to my God.

PHILIPPIANS 1:3 NLT

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Nominations for Church Officers For 2016

The Nominating Committee submitted names of individuals to serve new terms in 2016. All officer positions are one year terms and current officers Robin Talley, board chair; Jennifer Freed, vice chair; Wilda Thomas, clerk; Gary Heilman, treasurer; Mary Ann Luman, assistant treasurer; Wilda Thomas, financial secretary; Pat Biddle and Jackie Roach, assistant financial secretaries; and Glenda Grubb, historian; were all nominated for new terms. Deb Jackson, was nominated for the financial secretary position to replace Cora Gray who has moved to Texas. Elders are nominated for three year terms. Sherrie Randall and Kyle Miller have been nominated for two open elder positions. Providing the constitution and by-laws are approved which would require a minimum of six elders, two additional members would need to be elected as elder. Current elders whose terms are not expiring are Robin Talley and Jennifer Freed. Current deacons with terms expiring this year have also been re-nominated. They include: Karen Richeson, Jessie Randall, Janet Block, Tommy Block, Joshua Taylor, and Sarah Akin. Nominated for a three year term is Jim Comfort. Deacons whose terms are not expiring include: Gail Reeves, Mary Ann Luman, Jack Luman, Glenda Grubb, Nick Shepherd, Janet MacMillan, Richard MacMillan, Shelley Coffman, and John Broomfield. Mary Ann Luman is nominated for a three-year term as trustee. She is currently filling a term vacated by Phil McConnell. Trustees whose terms continue are Gary Akin and Jackie Roach.



RUM CAKES

LARGE-\$20 EACH SMALL, 9 INCH-\$12 EACH

BAKING & PICK-UP

NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

LEAVE A FORM
WITH
SOMEONE IN THE OFFICE
OR CALL 275-1525 BY THURSDAY



HERE'S THE ALL-CALL TO COME
TO BAKE RUM CAKES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.
THE FUN WILL COMMENCE TUESDAY AT
9:00 A.M. PLEASE BRING YOUR PANS.



Dear Church Family,
Thank you so very much for the
lovely reception you held in my honor.
The kind words, cards and gifts were
so thoughtful. I truly enjoyed the
time I spent as music director at
First Christian. All of you are truly
the greatest people on earth.
Much love and Best Wishes!!
Marcia Scott

Sparkly earring found in the sanctuary. Phone 275-1525 or come in and identify. It's pretty!

Rich's plan is to continue taking down the tents this week until all parts of the Pumpkin Patch are down and packed away. You may still help.



ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

Our Fall Food Drive continues!!! As a reminder, the food collected during this annual event is used to make "Thanksgiving Baskets" for needy families in our community. Collection baskets are placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Response this year has been limited, but we are hopeful that things will pick up in November! Here's what we need.

- Canned Yams
- Canned Vegetables
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Instant Gravy
- Instant Stuffing
- Cranberry Sauce
- Tea or Coffee
- Cake Mix
- Cake Icing



In addition to the non-perishables listed above, we will also hope to provide a Turkey Breast, Ham, frozen rolls and a \$10 gift card (for milk, eggs, oil, butter etc.) with each basket. If you would like to sponsor a family for these more costly, perishable items, please make out a check for \$50 to the Youth Discretionary Account with "Fall Food Drive" in the memo line and we'll take care of the rest.

It is our hope to provide Thanksgiving dinners to twelve families this year. If you know of a family that would be blessed to receive one of our baskets, please leave a contact name and phone number at the Church Office. As always, the recipients list is kept confidential, and delivery can be arranged if needed.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity. This annual outreach project would not be possible were it not for your ongoing prayers and support!

josh



Please, order your holiday RUM CAKES before THURSDAY.
Wed., Nov. 11—Veterans Day! Fly our flag for which they fought and still fight.

Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

Youth followed by Table Worship 5-7:30

Sun., Nov. 15—Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.

United Service 10 a.m. Chancel Choir 11:15-12:30.

Heartland Hospice Memorial Service 2:00

Wed., Nov. 19—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

Youth followed by Table Worship 5-7:30 p.m.

Sun., Nov. 22—Thanksgiving Sunday! Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m. United Service 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation, followed by our Thanksgiving Dinner. The church plans to furnish turkey, gravy, dressing, and rolls. We would like you to bring a side item if possible. Food items/cash due for youth group's "Thanksgiving Baskets" ministry.



Thank you,
Veterans!