



## Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Nov. 29—Newkirk, Peckham Christian Church

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	61	Giving for operations	\$1,898.52
Emerging Worship	16	Giving for Capital	00.00
Total	77	Giving for Outreach	00.00
Sunday School	28	Giving total	\$1,898.52

*The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Jeremiah 33:14-15 NRSV*

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 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



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

Somehow the word "holiday" has become an oxymoron. The word "holiday" comes from old English words that meant "holy day." Yet, in our time it seems to have lost its meaning. We have more holidays that have nothing to do with holy days, than those that do. Also, in Europe, the word "holiday" is used synonymously with the word "vacation." For most people a vacation is a time for getting away from the stress of working 40-50 hour weeks. Vacation is supposed to be a time for relaxing, slowing down, having fun.

Yet the holiday season between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be a season of stress. This year it seemed people and stores started the countdown toward Christmas clear back in September. Or, was the focus on the countdown to "Black Friday?" Rather than a time for relaxation, it has become a time for additional demands for our time. There just seem to be so many things to do between now and Christmas. Maybe it's because, whether for parties or because of end of year projects at work, it feels like everyone wants a piece of our time.

Also, as we have ended daylight savings time, the days seem shorter; so, it seems like time is running out more quickly each day.

A couple of weeks ago our lectionary text was about time. I know that some of you might have been "ticked off" with the ticking clock in the background that was used to make a point during the sermon. Time is ticking away, and as much as we would like to put "time in a bottle" as the old Jim Croce song dreamed of, we can't do it.

In my readings this week, I encountered some interesting takes on time. One article pointed out that "time" is an elusive concept. Time is not always measured by the clock. For example: Sometimes time is measured in the ability to concentrate. Haven't we all, at sometime, told someone, "I don't have time to think about this now?" That usually doesn't mean that we can't find five minutes on the clock to think about a new question; it just means that you know that you already have so many things to think about that you won't be able to focus adequately on the question at hand.

Sometimes time is measured in emotional stamina. Have you ever said, "I don't have time to deal with this?" Your clock might have the hours required, but you are too drained from everything else.

Sometimes time is measured in physical stamina. You have clock time left, but you have become physically tired and you know it is time to stop.

In this Season of Advent, many of our lectionary scriptures are about time. The meaning of "time" in the Bible is sometimes complicated for us to understand because in New Testament Greek there are, in fact, two words for "time." The first is "chronos" from which we get the English word "chronology." It refers to clock time, calendar time, and what we normally think of as time.

However the other New Testament Greek word for time is "chairos." This isn't about clocks or calendars. It's asking whether it is the right time to do something or for something to happen. Perhaps you husbands can identify when your pregnant wife awakened you at 3 a.m. and said "It's time!" That statement had nothing to do with the clock, but about getting to the hospital as quickly as possible.

It is this kind of time that our scripture talks about throughout the days of Advent. It is about the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament of the arrival of the Messiah.

We need to be sure that during this Season of Advent we don't get too worn out checking off the days, shopping, partying, and running ourselves so ragged that we don't take time to remember, as they say "the reason for the season." But in fact, every time and every season is an opportunity for us to see and experience God's presence in our lives and the world around us. And in every time and every season are moments in which God is calling us to be part of what He's doing in the world.

And so in the Season of Advent, Jesus calls us to struggle against the things that weigh us down, by looking for what God is doing in this and every season. In this Season of Advent, Jesus promises us again that God's "chairos" time is always right now—and that God is inviting each and every one of us to live more fully into the time God is giving us right now.

We have a special service planned for the first Sunday of Advent titled "Advent Lessons and Carols". Associate Pastor Josh developed the service based on text composed by the Rev. Dr. Lisa W. Davison, Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible at Phillips Theological Seminary.

If you are able, find the time to be in worship this Sunday, and invite a friend.

Pastor Ray

**Clothes  
Yes, We Are  
Still Collecting**  
Just bring your gently-used garments to the stage area.



We are collecting **EXTRA-HEAVY** sacks for the take-out service of our February Ground Hog Dinner.



THANKS!

Ground Hog Dinner containers will also sit flat in



Save 'em up and send 'em in!

*I apologize for the "Mess Up" for the Thanksgiving Dinner. Golden Corral flat "soo'ed up." KFC was so very generous to help us out. Thanks for everyone's patience.  
Mary Ann Pulask*

Mary Ann, absolutely NO need for an apology! The change not only made the event memorable, but also enabled an object lesson of the sermon just delivered.



Special thanks to Richard MacMillan for taking down the Pumpkin Patch tents and packing and putting away our pumpkin paraphernalia.

He had some help early on but did most of the work himself. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## Special Christmas Offering

We will be collecting the yearly Christmas offering on Sunday, December 13, and Sunday, December 20. This is another of our denominational special offerings, but this one is different in that all the funds raised go to the Oklahoma Region. The funds are used to support our Regional Pastor and her staff in providing various ministries here in Oklahoma.

Funds are used to provide support to local churches, supporting and equipping pastors for their ministries, revitalizing existing congregations, and helping plan for new congregations. The funds also assist with camps, conferences, and retreats for our children and youth.

## Report on Annual Congregational Meeting

Both the proposed slate of officers for 2016 and the revisions to the constitution and by-laws were overwhelmingly passed by the congregation present during last Sunday's annual meeting.

The vote on officers passed with forty-three ballots cast with all but one ballot approving all nominees. The ballot on amendments had forty-one ballots cast with thirty-seven approving all proposed amendments. Four ballots approved all but one or two amendments.

With the approval of the constitution and by-laws, there will be two more elders appointed for approval by the board at its next meeting.

## Called Board Meeting

A special called board meeting for two items will be held Sunday, November 29, following worship.

The recently passed amendments to the constitution and by-laws call for a minimum of six elders. We will consider for approval two nominees for filling the positions.

The second item will be to discuss the current financial situation and possible actions to improve the situation. The discussion will include the recently signed agreement with One Safe Place and recent cost reductions.



Wed., Nov. 25—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.  
Church Offices closed.

Thurs., Nov. 26—**THANKSGIVING TO OUR GOD**  
Church Offices closed.

Sun., Nov. 29—**First Sunday of Advent.** Sunday school 9-9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m. United Service 10 a.m.  
Chancel Choir 11:15-12:30. Youth 4-6:00/Vespers 5:00.

Wed., Nov. 25—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 6—**Second Sunday of Advent.** Sunday school 9-9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m. United Service 10 a.m.  
Chancel Choir 11:15-12:30. Youth 4-6:00/Vespers 5:00.

Sun., Dec. 13—**Third Sunday of Advent.** 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. Youth 4-6:00/Vespers 5:00.

Sun., Dec. 20—**Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.  
Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m. United Service 10 a.m. with the  
Christmas cantata, "The Silence and the Sound"  
Youth 4-6:00/Vespers 5:00.  
Church offices closed the week of Christmas; no newsletter.

Thurs., Dec. 24—**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, 6 p.m.**

Fri., Dec. 25—**CHRISTMAS DAY! UNTO USA SAVIOR IS BORN!!**

DEAR GOD,  
I WANNA TAKE A  
MINUTE. NOT TO ASK  
FOR ANYTHING FROM  
YOU, BUT SIMPLY TO  
SAY THANK YOU,  
FOR ALL I HAVE.

## ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

### Millennial Minute

During the Season of Advent, our youth will gather from 4:00-6:00 on Sunday. At 5:00 they will lead an Advent Vespers service that will include the lighting of the Advent wreath, the Advent antiphons, a brief Advent reflection and candlelight communion. This will be a time of prayerful reflection on the coming of Christ in Christmas, a chance to seek the coming of the Christ Child in word, sacrament and community! Please join us!

### Thanks-Giving

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many persons who donated food, time and money for our fall food drive. We were able to distribute six full food baskets (including turkey and ham) to needy families this year. The recipients were so grateful. One even remarked, "This is a church that really cares about the community." I was able to respond, "It sure is!"

### Music Notes

The Chancel Choir is hard at work preparing music for the holidays! This Sunday we will worship with a traditional Advent Lessons and Carols service. This worship experience features a series of readings and hymns that prepare the worshiper for this sacred season. We are also putting the finishing touches on Mark Hayes' *Nativity*. This beautiful mini-cantata will be offered on December 20<sup>th</sup> as part of our regularly scheduled worship. Please take a moment to thank the choir for their hard work!

Happy Holy-Days!

josh



You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary with meaningful poinsettias for Christmas.  
Please complete this form and include \$10.00 per plant.

**First Christian Church \* 1625 N. Broadway \* Shawnee, OK 74804**

I would like to purchase poinsettias for \$10 each for a person, group, or occasion.

CIRCLE ONE

1. Given in **MEMORY** or Given in **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_
2. Given in **MEMORY** or Given in **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Given in **MEMORY** or Given in **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_
4. Given in **MEMORY** or Given in **HONOR** of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders due **NEXT TUESDAY, December 1.** You may order by phone 275-1525.  
Plants may be taken after service Sunday, December 20.