



Dear FCC Family and Friends,

About 25 years ago, the late Judge Glenn Dale Carter, a long time member of our church had a dream of creating a safe, non-threatening place for abused children to be examined, interviewed, and helped without being taken to the cold, and perhaps frightening, atmospheres of the police station and courthouse.



He was able to see part of his dream fulfilled when the Unzner family donated their home, providing a place for that to happen. Thus was born the Unzner House, which our church has supported over the years with contributions from our Pumpkin Patch, Christmas Offering, and Ground Hog Dinners. It is my understanding that state funding for Unzner House operations was significantly cut a few years ago, and there was a period during which the facility was closed.

District Attorney Richard Smothermon has worked to reopen the Unzner House. However, there are many issues that exist that cause the situation to fall short of the dream that Judge Carter had so many years ago.

Today, Smothermon has revived the dream and is working to greatly expand upon the concept of providing a one-stop facility that will better suit the needs of the abused, separate from police stations and the courthouses of Pottawatomie and Lincoln Counties .

He and members of his staff have been working on implementing a program that has been successful in San Diego, California. In June, a two-day seminar and workshop provided by the Alliance for Hope was held for members of our community. Approximately, fifty people attended, including community leaders, law enforcement officers, and representatives from: Smothermon's staff, Project Safe, Youth and Family Resources, and our local Native American tribes. The consensus of that meeting was that it is time to move forward with the Family Justice Center concept.

By the end of the seminar/workshop, more than \$300,000 in commitments to help launch the project were pledged, enabling the hiring of a project director and paying for temporary accommodations. One Safe Place is the name that has been chosen for the project, and First Christian Church will be providing the "incubator" location for this important ministry in Shawnee.

Today, I believe Judge Carter is smiling from above, as his church, our church, is actively working to see his dream come true, as we have initially made four rooms on the second floor of the education wing available to help launch this project. As it grows and expands, we have also reserved additional space on the first floor of the education wing to accommodate initial future needs. The puppets which were purchased years ago and have been locked in a cabinet for a decade or more will also be used by the forensic interviewer to help children relate their stories.

We expect One Safe Place to be using our facilities for at least two years, perhaps three, as the group works toward raising \$7.5 million to construct a permanent facility which will also include shelter for victims. At this point, it is anticipated that all of the services except shelter will be provided with one stop here at our church.

This move will likely take many of our long time members back to the time when First Christian Church helped launch Project Safe. One of the first, if not the first, grief support groups in our community was also begun here. We have also made our kitchen and Fellowship Hall available to various civic groups for fund raisers, dance lessons, and choir rehearsals.

The upcoming ½ cent county sales tax election for our schools next Tuesday also includes .005 cents for the Family Justice Center.

Had it not been for the work of many dedicated individuals through their financial support and physical labor over the years to maintain our facilities, we would not be in a position to help on this important ministry for our community. We owe a real debt of gratitude to those who help build and maintain this facility over the years.

When you are in the church during the week and you see people from the One Safe Place staff, don't treat them as outsiders, but get to know them. Thank them for what they are doing to help the children and others who are victims of abuse.

Josh will be preaching this coming Sunday. If you are able, be in worship Sunday and continue to support and encourage him as he continues on his path of ministry.

Pastor Ray

# Central Area Churches Praying for Churches Week of Nov. 8—Mustang Christian in Mustang

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	53	Giving for operations	\$1,743.73
Emerging Worship	11	Giving for Capital	.00
Total	64	Giving for Outreach	.00
Sunday School	29	Giving total	\$1,743.73
		Total Pumpkin Sales	\$13,395.50
		Total Other Sales	\$2,033.17

## 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

*For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!*  
Hebrews 9:13-14 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)



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.

**Veterans Day** is November 11.

**Thank you to all who have served to preserve our freedoms!**

**Next Sunday**, November 8, is the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting of the church board directly after worship at 11:15 a.m. Because of our Thanksgiving dinner this month on November 22, there will be NO breakfast or pot luck lunch before this board meeting. Agenda items include:

- Consideration and vote on amendments to the church's constitution.
- Consideration and vote on approval of nominations for church trustee, elders, deacons and officers.

Reports to be copied for the meeting need to be in to the office by Thursday morning, Nov. 5.



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



## "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.**





Second Load Unloading Crew  
and Halloween Pics



Thank you to everyone helping on Halloween!!  
As usual, LaVonta, Sherrie, & Jessie kept the pumpkins full of treats for the visitors.

JOIN IN THE FUN  
OF  
SERVICE

You may still help.

- Sell 1/2 priced pumpkins this week.
- Bring in & pack-away items not needed.
- 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.
- Paint pumpkins to sell.
- Haul-off bad pumpkins.

THIS WEEK  
Not 1/2 of a pumpkin,  
but 1/2 of the price.

**Pumpkin Patch meeting Saturday, November 6 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Rich's plan is to take down the tents next Monday.

## ASSOCIATE MINISTRY MATTERS

### Millennial Minute

The Youth Group will return to their regularly scheduled youth activities on Wednesday, November the 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. We will begin with Young Disciples Choir rehearsal in preparation for the Christmas Season before settling down for dinner and "Table Worship" at 6:00. Following our worship meal it is all fun and games until 7:30. Starting this week, we will be welcoming members of our congregation to our time of table fellowship. If you would like to attend one of these dinners and have a date in mind, please contact me at the Church office. This is an extraordinary opportunity to meet our Youth and foster those vital intergenerational relationships!

### Fall Food Drive

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Food Drive continues! Collection baskets are placed at the entrances to the Sanctuary. Food collected throughout 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. Response has been very limited and we've already had three families request baskets. Please give generously and thanks, in advance, for your continued support of the Church's outreach projects!



### Music Notes

During the month of November the Chancel Choir will feature selections that highlight the beauty and simplicity of early American hymn tunes. It is also the time we 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 12:30. Thank you, in advance, for sharing your time and talents with our Family of Faith!

### Autumn Blessings!

jesh



*We want to thank Beverly Davis who has been making sure the Sanctuary is ready for Sunday services with the pews restocked each week. Beverly has been doing a great job but needs to take a break. We have an opportunity for a new volunteer.*

Thanks to everyone who helped clear rooms for One Safe Place following worship on Sunday. We had about 16 individuals who did a great job of working together to get items cleared and relocated temporarily.

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

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

**Sun., Nov. 8**—**VETERANS SUNDAY!** 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 Regular November meeting of the official church board.**

**Wed., Nov. 11**—Boomer Bridge noon-5:00 p.m.

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

**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 rehearsal 11:15-12:30. Heartland Hospice Memorial Service 2:00**

**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, and dressing. We would like you to bring a side item if possible. **Food items/cash due for youth group's "Thanksgiving Baskets" ministry.**