



<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Giving</u>	
Sunday Worship	63	Giving for operations	\$3,680.72
Sunday School	23	Giving for Capital	.00
		Giving for Outreach	.00
		Giving total	\$3,680.72

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 NRSV



Dear FCC Family and Friends,
As most of you know, this year will be our 125th Anniversary year as the oldest church in Shawnee. When I look back over the historical records, I am reminded what the church truly is—it is the people.

If you ask some people what the church is, you might find some who immediately think about a building. Some might think that a church is nothing more than a place to go when it is a time to get married or buried. Others might see it as a place to have their children baptized.

One pastor writes, "I suppose that it is all those things and, to a degree to which these things get people to think about the grace and mercy of God and the abundant life as promised to us by Jesus, it is not a fundamentally wrong way to look at the church, though it is far from being adequate."

However, he goes on to write, "Seeing the church as primarily a dealer of spiritual goods and services for people to come and consume is really not very helpful, though it is incredibly common in our world today."

The ministries of the church are understood by some to be a kind of spiritual marketplace, where they can pick and choose what they think will be relevant to them; and, if nothing seems overwhelmingly appealing, then they just walk on by and go about their business.

As I look through historical documents of our church, it becomes very apparent to me that for the many years we have been around, the majority of those who have called First Christian Church their church have understood that each of us is the church.

I also believe it should become obvious that it is the people, lay and clergy, led by the Holy Spirit to use their spiritual gifts that have brought us to this point in time.

The church was never intended to be a building, or a resting place, or a social club, but a group of people doing their best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, **For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body....** 1 Corinthians 12:12-13a NRSV

Paul is saying that God has not allowed us to exempt ourselves from the body of Christ. It does not matter who you are, what your gifts are, or what you do in the church, you are fully a part of the Body of Christ.

The scripture also tells us that if a church ever becomes made up of the same kinds of people, people who all value the same things and think the same things, it is something very much **other** than the church was meant to be.

The church is meant to be made up of all kinds of people, people who have different backgrounds, who have different gifts, who can do things that other people cannot do, or perhaps don't want to do.

One of the things that I believe has made this church strong through the years is that we have had no set of rules, no "book of discipline." I like one of the early day sayings of our denomination "No creed, but Christ."

Under "What Disciples Believe" you will find this: **Disciples are called together around one essential of faith: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Persons are free to follow their consciences guided by the Bible, the Holy Spirit, study and prayer and are expected to extend that freedom to others.** This means that we are to tolerate—even love one another. When people ask me about our church I often say, "We have people who are politically and theologically extremely liberal to politically and theologically extremely conservative, and we try our best to get along."

It is when we of so many differences come together as one body, that we truly become the church—the Body of Christ in the world. I can remember many times in our past when there were disagreements over what direction our church should take regarding a ministry or project, but once a decision was made, those who were on the other side of the question would be first in line to support the decision of the majority. That is being the Body of Christ. It is part of our 125 year history as First Christian Church, and I pray that it will also be part of our future.

The sermon title for Sunday is "One Body" and is based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a. If you are able, be part of this One Body in worship on Sunday.

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

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch times vary
Email: office@fccshawnee.com
Church Website: www.fccshawnee.com



Yes. We Are Still Collecting Clothes

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**



Ground Hog Alert
All Women of the Church "The Slow Sweeties" we will make Cole Slaw Friday Jan. 29th at 9:00am. We need all the help we can get.
Thank you -
Mary Ann Luman
Jaye Shepherd

Pioneer LIBRARY SYSTEM Classes Offered

Tai Chi is offered by the Tecumseh Library from the health educator of the county health department on Tuesdays 6-7 p.m. It is a physical discipline for mobility and balance.

Diabetes self-management, also, will be offered Mondays 6-8 p.m., beginning February 22 in Tecumseh. 598-5955 for more info

Canning Jars

If you'll return salsa **canning jars**, we will save them for salsa-ing again!



Ground Hog Dinner

containers will also sit flat in  sacks.

Save 'em up and send 'em in!

THANKS, for any of your donations!



Leadership Training

“Mission Possible” is the theme for this year’s Regional Church’s Annual Leadership Training School which will be held on Saturday, February 6, at Restoration Church (Formerly First Christian Church) of Oklahoma City.

Registration opens at 8:15 a.m. with worship beginning at 8:45 a.m. Leadership Training School ends at 12:30 p.m.

There will be an opportunity to take three 45 minute classes during the training period. A wide variety of classes will be offered in three tracks: mission, spiritual growth, and practical ministry. Those attending may take all classes in one track, or they may pick which individual classes to attend. A total of 41 different classes will be offered.

The keynote speaker during the worship service will be Vy Nguyen, Executive Director of Week of Compassion.

We normally pay a congregation registration fee which means as many members and friends of our church may attend without paying an individual registration fee. New elders and deacons of our congregation are encouraged to attend since there are specific classes that provide orientation for these positions.

Nursery and childcare will be provided for infants through grade 5. Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to attend the regular classes.

If you wish to attend, please, leave your name in the office by Sunday, January 31.

Congregational Meeting

Budget Approved for 2016



The congregation present and voting last Sunday, January 17, overwhelmingly approved the church budget for 2016. The vote was 38-1 for approval.

Tues., Jan. 19—Square dance lessons in Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 20—Boomer Bridge, noon - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 21—Square dance lessons in Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 p.m.

Sun., Jan. 24—**Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.

United Service 10 a.m.

Tues., Jan. 26—Square dance lessons in Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 27—Boomer Bridge, noon - 5:00 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 28—Square dance lessons in Fellowship Hall 7-9:00 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 29—**Slaw making for Ground Hog dinner. 9:00 a.m.**

Sun., Jan. 31—**Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

Fellowship 9:30-9:50 a.m.

United Service 10 a.m.

Tues., Feb. 2—**Ground Hog Dinner, serving 11-1:30 a.m. and 4-7:00 p.m.**

Wed., Feb. 3—Boomer Bridge, noon - 5:00 p.m.

January 17, 2016 [7:20 p.m., via email]

My Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with sadness but conviction that we tender our resignations to Shawnee First Christian Church. Effective immediately, Kyle and I will no longer be serving as Associate Pastor/Music Minister and Youth Pastor.

We look with joy over the last two and a half years. We have treasured our time at First Christian and are proud of the growth of the youth program and the Church’s recent decision to become constitutionally “Open and Affirming.” If we have contributed in any way to the revitalization of the youth program or inspired Church leadership to make First Christian a more welcoming place, we consider our efforts there a marked success. That being said, it is simply time for us to move on

Thanks, again, for the opportunity to serve First Christian Church. It is our hope that we did so with distinction. First Christian will always hold a special place in our minds and hearts and we cherish the many fond memories and wonderful friendships we were graced with in that place.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua and Kyle Miller-Shawnee

Ground Hog Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 2’s dinner is another way our church benefits community organizations. The majority of the labor for the dinner is short-term, over few days. We will have tickets to sell, food prep to do, and set-up of the take-out, kitchen, Fellowship Hall, and dessert areas.

Tickets will be going on sale soon, and everyone is encouraged to help with ticket sales.

The menu typically includes: two hog (sausage) patties, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, applesauce, roll, drink, and dessert. YUM!

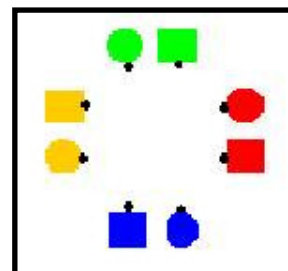
Serving hours are: 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

4 p.m.—7:00 p.m.



Desserts for Dinner

Everyone is requested to bring two desserts for our GHD on Monday, February 1, or Tuesday morning. Pies, cakes, or brownies, please. Some sugar-free versions would be appreciated, too.



Square Dance Lessons

The Shawnee Square 8’s square dance club will begin providing lessons for those who are interested in learning to allemande left, do sa do, promenade, swing your partner, circle left or right, or making some new friends. All are welcome to attend the lessons which will run for 10 weeks. They will held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. in our Fellowship Hall. The lessons will begin on January 19.

See Richard MacMillan for more details.