



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

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked. Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name! Psalm 97:10-12

Attendance		Giving	
Sunday Worship	37	Giving for operations	\$1,794.06
Sunday School	13	Giving for Outreach	00.00
		Giving for Capital	00.00
		Giving Total	\$1,794.87

Church Directory—NEXT WEEK

Photo sessions may be scheduled:

Tuesday, May 3, 2 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, 2 to 8 p.m.

We encourage all friends and members, including those who are currently inactive, to participate in this 125th Anniversary year.

Sign up on line at the following link:

<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/firstchristianchurch59/index.php?page=10>

If you receive the newsletter on-line, you may copy and paste the link to your location bar: the bar to just right of the renew-page arrow.

WE NEED YOU

to make our new family directory complete

Wed., Apr. 27—Boomer Bridge, noon-5 p.m.

Thurs., Apr. 28—Piano Guild in the sanctuary & music room.

Fri., Apr. 29 & Sat., Apr. 30—Christian Church (DoC) Regional Assembly, Tulsa.

Sun., May 1—May Day **Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

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

Worship Service 10 a.m. Chancel Choir 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Bill Shaw's birthday celebration: 3-5:00; 2221 Nichols Drive, Nicoma Park, OK

Tues., May 3—Photographer for church taking portraits in the Music Room, 2-8 p.m.

Wed., May 4—Boomer Bridge, noon-5 p.m. **Photographer for church taking portraits in the Music Room, 2-8:00 p.m.**

Sun., May 8—Mothers Day, all women honored. **Sunday school 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

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

Worship Service 10 a.m. Chancel Choir 11:15 a.m.

Dear FCC Family and Friends,

I think that many of we Christians have gotten lazy about studying God's Word. The Bible is difficult to understand even if we do study it, but it is really difficult if we don't study it at all. If we don't study it, we never experience the Holy Spirit opening it up to us and making it relevant in our lives. As Disciples of Christ, we say we are free to follow our conscience guided by Bible study, the Holy Spirit, and prayer. And, we extend that freedom to others.

Philip Yancey, a best-selling Christian author, tells about a time that he stayed in a mountain cabin for two weeks during a Colorado winter. His intent was to bring a stack of books and to do some work on several writing projects. What happened instead is that he opened only one book: The Bible.

He began at Genesis and read straight through as six feet of snow fell. By the time he reached the book of Revelation, Yancey had to call someone to clear the driveway. "The combination of snow-muffled stillness, isolation from all people, and singular concentration changed forever the way I read the Bible," he wrote.

While reading, what struck Yancey the most was that our common perceptions of God simply do not square with the way the Bible actually portrays God. "For example," Yancey writes, "we tend to perceive God as all-powerful but also rather aloof—mighty and eternal, but also rather emotionless." Yancey said that he instead discovered a "God who is not a misty vapor but an actual Person. God feels delight and anger and frustration. Again and again He is shocked by human behavior." He said that he found that God could do everything except one thing which God desires most: make us love Him.

In our text for Sunday, Jesus is going away, and He is preparing His disciples for His departure. Jesus tells His disciples to **"keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."** John 14:23 (NRSV)

If we don't study God's Word and if we don't study the Gospels of Christ's ministry, it becomes difficult to keep His Word. Jesus goes on to tell them, and us, **"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."** John 14:26 (NRSV)

I don't see that this Scripture tells us, anywhere, that we will ever be fully schooled by the Holy Spirit—that there will be a time when we fully know all truth while on earth. Following Jesus is a life-long pursuit. We know we will never be perfect, but we also know, like the song says, "Jesus Paid it All." Through Jesus we have mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

One of the things I learned from The Rev. Don Richardson is that it is good to try and give some straight Bible teaching in each sermon. He did that as an introduction to the Scripture reading, and that is why I try to follow that same practice each week.

It is important that as followers of Jesus we devote more time to study, prayer, and church attendance. If we follow the teachings in the Bible, we will gather to worship each Sunday where our focus is on God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I love the promise that if we keep the Word, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit will make a home within us.

The sermon title for Sunday is, "Heart Trouble?" The text is John 14:23-29.

If you are able, be in worship this Sunday and experience the Word in song, prayer, Holy Scripture, and sermon.

Pastor Ray



Future Events

- May 15: Pentecost: wear red, orange, and/or yellow to celebrate the Holy Spirit.
Graduates honored: send us the names of high school or adult graduates.
Board Meeting after service.
- May 29: In Memoriam: Slide show in memory of members who have passed since the end of May 2015. Do we have your loved one's portrait?

Photos Tuesday and Wednesday—Life Touch Tips

Allow for about an hour to:

- Check-in
- Be photographed
- View your electronic portrait images and select your church directory pose
- Purchase products

If you can't make it to your church's directory portrait event, you can attend the event of a nearby church organization and still have your portrait included in your church directory.

Getting Ready

- Simple hairstyles and natural makeup are best.
- Avoid haircuts within 48 hours of your portrait sitting.
- Bring hair and makeup supplies for quick touch-up

Clothing

- Solid colors or simple patterns look best. Busy patterns on clothing are distracting.
- Medium to dark shades create a timeless look & are slenderizing.
- Small jewelry/accessories compliment your face better. Avoid large, distracting accessories.
- Make sure your shoes match your outfit. They might show in some poses.
- Long sleeves are better for adults to focus attention on the face. Short sleeves are ok for infants and children.
- If you wear glasses, feel free to wear them. Our photographers are trained to minimize any glare.

Capture the Real You!

- You may invite grandparents or other family members/loved ones to join your portrait sitting (even if they are not members).
- With permission of your organization, you may bring your household pet to your portrait session.
- Bring meaningful items to your session: sports equipment, musical instruments, special toys or books, etc.
- We encourage you to have fun at your session and express your true personality!
- If you have special requests for your portrait session, please share them with us. We are here to serve you.
- Portraits make excellent gifts. We also offer portrait greeting cards.
- There is more information and examples of portraits on the Life Touch website.

YOU'RE INVITED

Help celebrate Reverend Bill Shaw's 90th birthday. As printed in the invitation, it is his "Naughty Ninety" party.

Sunday, May 1

Drop-by 3-5 p.m.

Nicoma Park Community Center,
2221 Nichols Drive, Nicoma Park, OK 73066

Cards Only, Please

Bill served our church as transitional minister several years ago.



Our Story—The Story of First Christian Church of Shawnee—Part 10

Carl Covey resigned as pastor of First Christian Church of Shawnee in 1943, and The Reverend Glenn Crosby came that same year.

In a biography prepared by his wife, we learn that Crosby was born on August 9, 1901, at Faulkner, Kansas. He attended grade school and high school in Columbus, Kansas, graduating as president of his class, and Phillips University is where he received his B.A. degree. In 1927, he completed his residential requirement for a Masters degree. He was ordained at University Christian Church in Enid, Oklahoma.

In addition to Shawnee, Crosby held pastorates in: Topeka, Kansas; Scott City, Kansas; Lyons, Kansas; Russellville, Arkansas; Stanberry, Missouri; and Erie, Kansas.

Crosby was awarded the Honored Minister pin for 40 years of service by the Erie Christian Church. Retiring in 1966, he moved to Springfield, Missouri. He was made Elder Emeritus of the South Street Christian Church in Springfield. Crosby died in Springfield in September 1968, and his burial was in Atchison, Kansas.

The first years of his ministry at First Christian Church of Shawnee were at a time that all thoughts were turned toward World War II and its tragic events.

A letter to the church from his wife says that during his ministry he carried out his pastoral duties faithfully, "doing an excessive amount of calling on members, prospects, sick and sorrowing."

Records show that during Crosby's ministry here, there were 619 resident members of the church with 305 non-resident members. There were 371 enrolled in Sunday school, including the cradle roll and home members. There were 36 teachers and supervisors.

It was during Crosby's ministry that the church purchased the first parsonage at 418 W. 11th Street near the 11th Street church location. It was also during his ministry that it was becoming apparent that the church building was beginning to show signs of the need for serious repairs. A committee was formed to look into the condition of the church and report on its deficiencies. Crosby also recommended that the finance committee begin working on a building fund.

Telephone poles were reportedly installed to brace the roof because the church was told that a heavy snow could cause the roof to cave in. In 1944, Hugh Brown, a local architect inspected the building and said that with the reinforcement of the bracing, the roof was safe.

Some of the plans for helping finance a new church building included selling bricks for \$5 each, presenting a program in the high school auditorium, and holding an auction. An add from the 1947 newspaper makes the auction sound more like a "garage sale" with individuals bidding on the items to be sold. Among the items up for auction were: an alarm clock, electric irons, electric toasters, table lamps, a Japanese sword, golf clubs, tires, dressers, chairs, tables, lawn furniture, and a stove. In addition, what appears to be featured items were: nylon hose, white shirts, sugar (stamp already paid), a typewriter, a 4-wheel trailer, baby chickens, hens, a pig, a piano, and bird cages.

There was also a church lunch provided. The ladies of the church also had a bake sale.

The church board also started buying War Bonds during 1944 and 1945.

The church hosted a party for returning servicemen and new members in September 1946. It was suggested that the congregation remember the returning servicemen and their need for jobs and the friendship of the church.

In 1947, The Reverend Glenn Crosby resigned. First Christian Church of Shawnee, called The Reverend Scott Baird in January 1948.



Rev. Glenn Crosby