

JUNE,
2018

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

301 North Third Avenue, Durant, Ok 74701

A NOTE FROM PASTOR ANDY...

Dear Friends,

For the first three Sundays in June, I'm going to continue to focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in the accounts of the early church in the book we called the Acts of the Apostles. I think we should call it the Acts of the Holy Spirit, but they didn't ask me! We will find that the Holy Spirit changed the minds of many people in relative short time after the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the promised Advocate upon those who were gathered in that room on Pentecost when the Spirit came upon them with wind and flame. *Minds were changed.* Long held ideals gave way to new ways of understanding God's activity in the world, and the Spirit revealed to the earliest followers of Jesus, who had been charged with continuing his mission on earth, that Gentiles had been adopted into God's family, made part of the chosen people in the mystery of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. It is easy for us today to overlook this simple fact: Christians are part of God's family because God became incarnate, lived, died, and lived again in a Jewish man whom St. Simeon called "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32).

We often think of *ourselves* as the chosen ones, the ones with the right beliefs, the right way of worship, the right way of being a religious community— to the exclusion of anyone who believes or worships differently. This has led Christians to commit terrible abuses of other peoples over the centuries. Any time our faith blinds us to the dignity of other people, our faith needs to be reexamined. I find that it helps me to remember that God brought me into the chosen family through the ministry of a man from another time, with other customs, in a different religion. It humbles me. And when I am humble, the Spirit can *change my mind.*

Our modern society does not promote that sort of openness or humility. Our country is entrenched on two sides of ugly cultural divides. This division is causing long term damage. It results from a stubborn certainty that prohibits dialogue and views cooperation as a sign of weakness. Our world is facing some high stakes crises.

Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit is trying to get our attention, prompting and begging us to consider humility, to open ourselves to the possibility that *our minds could be changed.* For the early Christians, the Spirit's movement gave birth to what we now know to be the church. Their openness was critical to the survival of Jesus' message. Today, openness to the Spirit is critical to the survival of our societies and our planet.

First Christian Church can model this in our witness to God's love in our community. How is the Holy Spirit asking you to *change your mind?* Who is God calling you to share love with that you'd never think needed it, or could receive it from you? How is God calling you to dream about our future as a congregation?

In Christ,

Rev. Andy Shelton



MOMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP ...

Maudie Anderson...remains in Calera Manor, #408. She welcomes your visits and cards. Her smiling face is missed by all of us.

Ann Flanagan...tells us she is almost 100%, but daughter, Kelli, says almost 75%. They have left her alone at night the last few days but she knows she can reach any of them at any time if she needs them. She enjoys having guests and cards, but probably would like a call before you go.

Ken Elder...last 2 scans have shown that the tumor in his lung has actually gotten a bit smaller, however, not gone completely. He has finished all his chemo and radiation and no more is currently scheduled. He did catch a cold a few weeks ago which caused a flare up of his COPD, but lots of meds, breathing treatments and a trip to the ER took care of it and he is recovering nicely. We aren't getting out much with the cold weather and so much flu. Thanks to all of you for your continued prayers and concerns. Love to all, Jane

Joe Barker...has now been released from Carrus Rehab and is at home with his favorite nurse!

NEW FACES AT FCC...

Jim Bert has become a regular at FCC and has been in attendance several times. He's retired now and lives at 818 West Beech Street. Drop him a card or note just to let him know how much we love seeing his smiling face in our congregation.

Katlyn and Korbin Eppler have been visiting with us for some time now. Korbin has recently taken a job in W.V. and is asking for our prayers because he is so far away from his family and home.



H. Gordon Wright....

September 3, 1932—May 2, 2018

A memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on June 16th at 2:00 pm celebrating the life of H. Gordon Wright. Pastor Andy will officiate at this service.

Gordon was a member of FCC's Cradle Roll Dept. and grew up as a baby, child, and adult in this church. An only child of Henry and Vera Wright, he graduated from Durant High where he met Glenna and married in July, 1954. He graduated from SOSU before attending Baylor Dental School in Waco, TX.

After serving in the U.S. Navy he returned to Durant in 1960 where he established his dental practice until retirement in 2000. He was a member of the Durant Lions Club, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 618, member of the Durant Country Club and a lifelong member of the FCC where he sang in the choir, served as a Life Deacon, and a member of various church committees. He was an avid golfer, and loved his horseracing trips to Hot Springs, AR with Glenna and a large group of his racing friends.

He and Glenna have three sons, David and wife Kathy of Allen, TX; Steve and wife Pat of Bartlesville, OK; and Kevin and wife Tina, of Oklahoma City.

Three granddaughters, Shelby Lynch and husband, Taylor, of OKC, Mackenzie of Dallas, and Carlee of OKC, and one grandson, Cooper, of OKC.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the First Christian Church, Durant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FCC DELIVERS MEALS ON

WHEELS....the week of Monday, June 11th thru Friday, June 15th. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please contact Charlene Tucker, 924-6428.

CWF/REBEKAHS SALAD SUPPER

Monday, June 11th, at 6:30 pm. Mery and Erica will be the hostesses for the evening and Helen will bring the Worship. Bring a salad of your choice to share. Election of officers will be held and yearbook assignments will be made for our new year. Please make every effort to be present for this final meeting of our year.

WORDS WE LIVE BY....

We must not confuse the

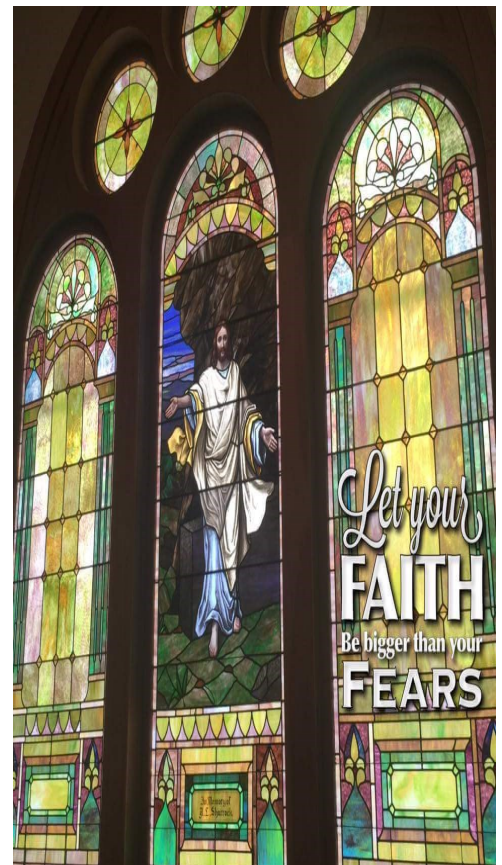
Command to Love

With the disease to please!

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Didn't bell do a wonderful job filling in for Pastor Andy? His devotional, Remember the Love, certainly left us all remembering those who have gone before us and looking back on the fond memories we had with all of them. Thank you James and Grace for helping with the music. A very special day!

MEMORIAL DAY...
...IS THE DAY THAT'S SET ASIDE TO REMEMBER WITH GRATITUDE AND PRIDE ALL THOSE WHO SERVED AND DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR FREEDOM.
MAY YOUR DAY BE FILLED WITH MEMORIES AND PEACE.
GOD BLESS AMERICA



JUNE, 2018



ELDERS SERVING AT THE TABLE

06-03 C. Kirkpatrick, E. Redman

06-10 J. Redman, Corbett

06-17 Corbett, McLain

06-24 C. Kirkpatrick, Lowrance

JUNE COMMUNION PREPARATION

Erica and Jane H.

HEAD USHER

Jack Skaggs

**COME JOIN OUR NEWLY FORMED
HANDBELL CHOIR!!**

Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 pm

Dana Haggard, Director

IN OUR SHARED PRAYERS

Maudie Anderson

Calera Manor, #408, P. O. Box 367, Calera 74730

Joe Barker

Joyce Bennett

Dr. Ken Elder

5023 W. 2nd, Stillwater 74074

Ann Flanagan

Dr. J. M. Gaskin

G.P. Gentry

Edith Peratta

Rosemary and Wallace Riddle

Andy's mother, Ruth Shelton

Brian Silver

Jean Sims

The family of Gordon Wright

SUNSHINE SCHOOL GRADUATES NINE.....

Wednesday, May 23rd, was graduation day for nine of their toddlers. Claire, Cora, Holden, Isaac, Jonas, Luke, Rowen Ryder, and Samuel all received their diplomas.



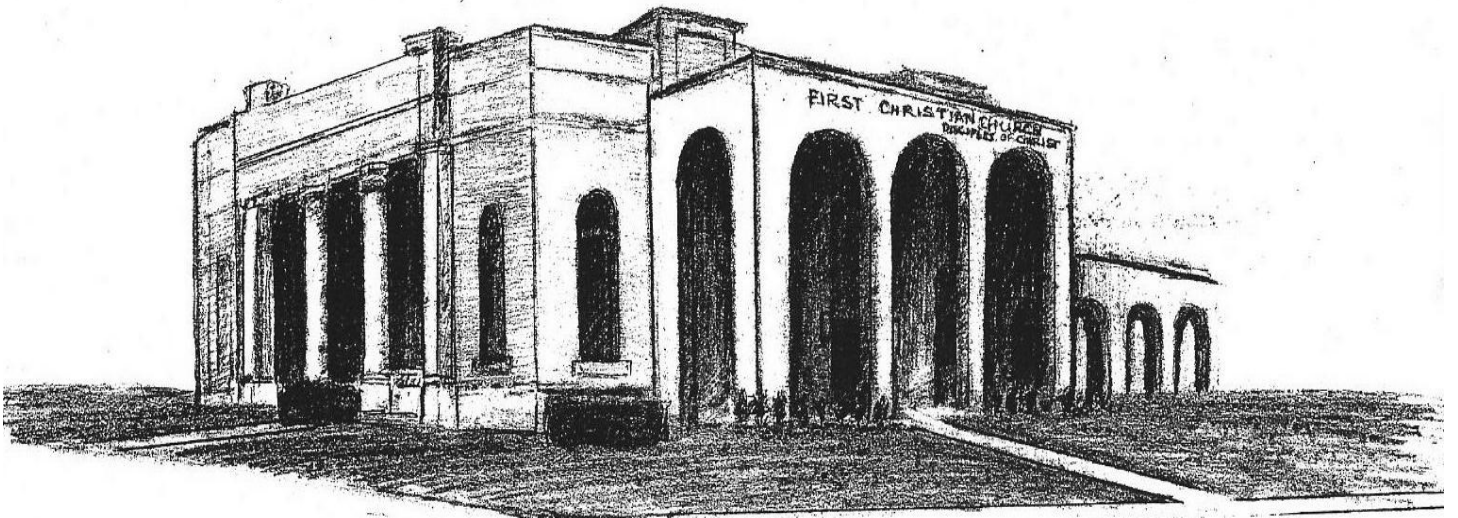
Parents and grandparents were invited to attend the graduation program. Marilyn Gobert, Stacy Craber, Administrators, along with their staff, Kim Golden, Toni Hull, and Dessie Hull do a great job with these kids.

Summer Camp will begin June 4th and run to July 25th. Classes are open up to age 8.



First
Christian Church
DURANT, OKLAHOMA

301 North Third Avenue
Durant, OK 74701-4211



**COME GROW
WITH US!**