

VISION

A Publication of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Tulsa, OK

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The Halo Effect

“The halo effect, also referred to as the halo error, is a type of cognitive bias whereby our perception of someone is positively influenced by our opinions of that person’s other related traits.”—From “Simple Psychology,” 03-22-21

In plain English the halo effect is what happens when we find someone attractive and then assume they are also intelligent, honest and healthy, emotionally and physically.

Recently I discovered an all-time example of the halo effect, although in this case it is actually the opposite of the halo effect. In other words, because a certain group of people found an individual unattractive they assigned negative characteristics to his ability to succeed.

I’ll share the individual’s name eventually, but first I want to see if you recognize any of the following names: Chad Pennington, Giovanni Carmazzi, Chris Redman, Tee Martin, Marc Bulger and Spergon Wynn. In the interest of full disclosure I’ll admit that I had heard of three of the six, but I didn’t know why they were grouped with the other names listed above.

What the six guys have in common is that they were all college quarterbacks who were drafted before Tom Brady. If you are a football fan you will understand how unbelievable this is. If you are not a football fan it will help you understand just how unbelievable it is when we consider that Tom Brady is known as the greatest quarterback of all time and the other six guys will never be called the greatest quarterback of the week, let alone the greatest of all time.

Granted, the reason Tom Brady was not graded favorably by pro scouts had as much to do with his performance evaluation as his physical appearance, but how often do nearly all of us (I know I do) judge others by their physical appearance without getting to know more about all that is good about them?

In scripture we read that “people judge by appearance, but God looks on the heart.” Might God grant each of us the wisdom and grace to measure others by the one standard that ultimately matters most; the standard that says everyone, EVERY one, is a child of God. And remember, no matter what anyone else might think of us, before we give ourselves a halo, you know what I’m about to say, remember that when a halo slips only a few inches it becomes a noose.

God bless,

Kipp

Member Birthdays

December

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 - Madeline Murphy | 11 - Laurita Williams |
| 3 - Rev. Zenobia Mayo | 14 - Maya Isham |
| 4 - Celeste Barrow | 19 - Mary Lou Gibson |
| 7 - Sandra Lewis | 19 - Heather Horstman-Murphy |
| 7 - Brooklin Knight | 20 - Montana Poorboy |
| 8 - Shirley Plemons | 22 - Christy Brooks |
| 9 - Doug Thompson | 27 - Harold Hatfield |
| 10 - Dick Willhour | 28 - Jack Elswick |

January

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 - Kipp Wolfe | 21 - Andrea Rumley |
| 8 - Eddie Goza | 21 - Hunter Blackburn |
| 11 - Darlene Blackburn | 24 - Sam Miler |
| 12 - Tyler Miller | 25 - Kelli Knight |
| 12 - Reagan Blackburn | 26 - Donna Ackenhausen |
| 16 - Susan McKee | 26 - Hailey Mallett |
| 17 - Pete Goltra | 30 - Tamara Goltra |
| 17 - Linda Douglas | |



Wedding Anniversaries

December

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 10 - Jay & Mary Lou Gibson | 18 - Don & Jean Swanson |
| 18 - Kevin & Mary Byrne | 29 - Bob & Mary Carolyn Lengacher |

Coming up on the Church Calendar

- November 28** - Fellowship Sunday - lunch following services
- December 2** - Poinsettia Orders are Due
- December 9** - Day Center Meal - Please sign up to serve!
- December 12** - Ministry Council Meeting
- December 13** - Christmas Stocking Stuffing 2pm - Volunteers Needed!
- December 19** - Congregational Meeting following services
- December 22** - Christmas Stockings Passed Out During Snack Packs
- December 24** - Church Building Closed for Christmas
- December 26** - Fellowship Sunday - lunch following services
- December 31** - Church Building Closed for New Year's Eve
- January 9** - Ministry Council Meeting
- January 13** - Day Center Meal - Please sign up to serve!
- January 23** - Fellowship Sunday - lunch following services



Keep in Your Prayers

Cynthia Ward, Dwight Wallace's cousin, passed away recently. Cynthia had brain cancer and was in remission for 2 years before it came back terminally.

Shamika Figures, Dwight Wallace's cousin, passed away recently, as did her father shortly after.

Charlene Davis, Dwight Wallace's ex-mother-in-law, has recently passed away.

Dick Willhour had some falls at Trinity Woods over the last few months, but he is doing much very well now and is back to attending services.

Kathy, Jeff McCollum's mother, has recently had some heart issues.

Mary Byers, Robin Dowling's grandson's grandma and local Tulsa Police dispatcher, was the victim of a fatal hit and run accident recently.

Cortez Eckwood and his family in your prayers and they struggle with some ongoing issues.

Karma Stewart, Jay Gibson's sister, has polyps in her colon once again.

Al Stewart, Jay Gibson's brother-in-law, who has recently taken several falls, has a herniated disc in his neck.

Christopher Ganote, Randy Ramsey's friend, is out of the hospital and continues to make improvements.

Kaicee Mayo had another eye surgery to remove scar tissue from her first surgery and is recovering well.

Tom Naugle, Jay Gibson's cousin, passed away on October 9th due to terminal pancreatic cancer.

Maggie Thompson had knee surgery on October 13th.

Berneita Semones' memorial service took place on Friday, October 29th.

June Skaggs, Jeremy Skaggs's mother, passed away on October 14th.

Joyce Wallace, Dwight Wallace's sister, spent quite some time in the hospital with double pneumonia.

Jon Eric Mueller, Brian Knight's cousin, passed away very unexpectedly recently at age 43.

Mary Garner was able to have her pacemaker surgery recently and it went very well. Shortly after, she also had hip repair surgery on October 28th and is recovering at Franciscan Villa.

Harlan Reams, Susan Prabhu's father, recently passed away.

Sullivan "Seb" Chaney, Jorita Chaney's uncle, recently passed away.

Debra, a friend of Pattie Gay-Sittler, passed away recently after spending time on hospice care.

Pattie Gay-Sittler's cousin is working with doctors to find the right heart medications.

Mark and Angie, Pattie Gay-Sittler's friends, are going through many health issues right now.

Colby Pettit, Don & Jean Swanson's 21 year old grandson, has recently passed away.

Paul Hackler, friend of Randy & Linda Ramsey, is recuperating from a traffic accident.

Nancy, friend of Randy & Linda Ramsey, has recently passed away after going through multiple health issues.

Cinda Franklin, friends of Randy & Linda Ramsey and member of FCC-Claremore, recently passed away after spending time in in-patient hospice care.

Richard Lawson's father in your prayers. He is 98 years old and has recently contracted COVID.

Angel Jumper, Robin Dowling's sister-in-law, recently lost both her mother, Barbara, and her sister, Sheila.

Tony Jumper, Robin Dowling's brother-in-law, has recently lost his job.

Billy Dowling, Robin Dowling's brother was in the hospital with heart issues recently, is now home and has been diagnosed with diabetes.

Thomas Allen, close friend of Robin Dowling, has recently been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Beverly Southard passed away on November 10th.

Robert Westley, Patty Sellers' eldest son is unemployed, and suffers major chronic depression along with addiction. The family is working on getting him into treatment at Parkside.

Theo Sellers has a cancerous tumor on his mouth. Doctors have sent a sample to pathology for more information and are scheduled to remove it on November 30th.

Jack Vandervort passed away on November 18th.

Bob Coonfield passed away on November 19th.





Some Thanksgiving Thoughts

From a young age I was innately drawn to the pipe organ. Interestingly, the church of my youth didn't have a pipe organ, but I recall watching and listening to the great organ of the Mormon Tabernacle on TV. I was fascinated by this marvel of engineering which seemed capable, if only for a moment, of capturing people's souls, and transporting them to a higher place.

My family wasn't particularly musical, but when I expressed an interest in learning the piano my parents found an old piano, restored it, and provided me with piano lessons.

Through a series of encounters, which I believe were directed and intentional, I began taking organ lessons. I remember the first time I sat at the console of the organ at Trinity Episcopal Church. To me it was like sitting in the cockpit of a 747. The myriad of knobs and buttons and keyboards and pedalboard captivated me and I was hooked. I still am.

I never felt the desire to make music my primary career. My degrees are business related and my jobs have mostly centered on finance, computers and databases. But miraculously I've been given the opportunity to maintain and use my love of music and my love of the pipe organ.

Of the many things in my life for which I am grateful, being organist/music director of First Christian Church ranks near the top of that list.

FCC has two beautiful pipe organs. Very few churches can claim this, and very few organists have access to, and play a pipe organ as large and comprehensive as the one in our sanctuary. Wow.

Through the years I've come to see the pipe organ as a metaphor for harmony in humanity. Each pipe has a mission and purpose. Some pipes are loud, some are soft and subtle, with most somewhere in between. Some pipes are visible, but the vast majority of them operate behind the scenes. Both are equally important. Pipes need air to do their job, just like we do. When the pipes all work together they become greater than the sum of their parts. I think this is analogous to the gifts of the Spirit blowing and breathing through us.

It's my hope and prayer that we all have a blessed and happy holiday season, and that the New Year brings to us blessings which we never imagined or anticipated.

-Paul, Organist/Music Director



The Stewardship Team has recently sent out a card for you to indicate your investment in ministry & mission for 2022. Please reach out to the church office if you have not received a card or would like the link to fill one out online! Taking this step is big help as we plan our budget and programming for the coming year.



Have you heard the word that Punch is back after the worship service? About 2 months ago, a group of us were out in the parking lot talking. I believe it was Dorman Walton, the Newton family and myself. We were lamenting about how we needed a little more social time after the worship service. There's an early crowd that meets for coffee and donuts before Sunday School, but there's also a late crowd. Well, they haven't had anything to help them gather and talk about after the Worship Service. So we conspired. We told Robin and Dwight to put some punch and cookies out and justified it by saying that it was in honor of Zach Newton's birthday. We didn't know what to expect. Would anyone stay? Or did everyone want to leave? When that Sunday rolled around the Lord sent us a visitor. His name was Caleb Nolen, and during the greeting time, we invited him to come have punch and cookies with us. Many folks stayed to enjoy the refreshments and fellowship. This past Sunday morning we snuck some little smokies out on the table with a special cake that said, "Welcome Caleb" in honor him joining our congregation.

If you see a visitor at church on Sunday Morning make sure to invite them to Punch after the service.

P.S. The little smokies were a hit. Come check out what new and different thing might be there next week.

-Rocky "build it and they will come" Marlow



Welcome New Member: Caleb Nolan

Caleb placed his membership with First Christian Church on November 21st, 2021.

Caleb works as a franchise owner with Social Indoor, helping local businesses advertise with high-quality digital billboards all while working to complete his degree at Baptist Bible College & Theological Seminary.

We are so excited to have Caleb join the FCC family!

Budget Report Meeting a World of Needs

October's General Fund Income was **\$19,235** and **\$6,846** from Royalty, Interest Incomes and Estate Gifts and Designated Funds Used for Budget. The Endowment and Wheeling Trust transfers were **\$56,202**. The October Contingency Fund Transfer was **\$1,266** which totaled **\$83,549** General Fund Income received. **October's General Fund Expenditures** were **\$43,615** which leaves a Net Profit of **\$39,934** for the month. **October's Non-Operational Income** was **\$5,042** from Covid-19 Payroll Tax Credits. **October's Non-Operational Expenditures** were **\$43,002** which included storm damage repairs and legal fees from the storm damage which leaves a Net Loss for Non-Operating Income and Expenses of **(\$37,960)**. The Combined Net Profit from the General Fund Income & Expenses and Non-Operating Income & Expenses was **\$1,974**.

The YTD General Fund Income was **\$165,811** and **\$12,457** was from Royalty, Interest Incomes and Estate Gifts and Designated Funds Used for Budget. The Endowment and Wheeling Trust transfers were **\$168,607**. The YTD Contingency Fund Transfer was **\$34,335**. The **YTD General Fund Expenditures** were **\$478,2898** which leaves a General Fund Net Loss of **(\$97,077)** for the Year to Date. The **YTD Non-Operational Income** was **\$230,723** which included **\$42,974** from Covid-19 Payroll Tax Credits and **\$187,749** from Storm Insurance Claim reimbursements. The **YTD Non-Operational Expenditures** were **\$229,425** which included storm damage repairs and legal fees from the storm damage which leaves a YTD Net Profit for Non-Operating Expenses of **\$1,298**. The Combined Net Profit YTD Net Loss from the General Fund Income & Expenses and Non-Operating Income & Expenses was **(\$95,780)**.

-Deborah Ahearn, Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Outreach

Snack Pack Report

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Snack Packs are handed out at the Chapel's front doors to about 10-30 clients. Our volunteers have been primarily Bill Osteen, Jay & Mary Lou Gibson, and Dick Willhour. On Oct. 29th we packed 400 snack packs thanks to our volunteers: James Howard, Dave Rathbun, Rocky Marlow, Lee & Mary Marlow, Zach Newton, Samantha & Aryn Cox.

Tulsa Day Center Meal - November 11, 2021

We made, delivered and served 80 Thanksgiving meals consisting of: ham, potato-carrot casserole, fruit salad, rolls with butter, chocolate cake with red frosting, and sweet tea. Our cooks were: Chef Clint Cook, Heather Horstman-Murphy, Don & Lorene Carlstrom, and Sally Johnson with the support of Robin Dowling and Pattie Gay-Sittler. Our Volunteer servers were: Don & Lorene Carlstrom, Pattie Gay-Sittler, Rocky Marlow, Kate Northcutt, Dorman Walton, and Paul Pinkosky.

The Outreach Committee has chosen to renew our contract with the Tulsa Day Center to continue preparing, serving, and delivering the meals every 2nd Thursday of the month for 2022. Look ahead at your calendar, if you can commit to one or more of these dates each year we would love to have you.

3rd Quarter Outreach Ministry Distributions - \$6231.96

Meals on Wheels - 6 total votes receiving (30%) \$1,869.59

Camp Christian, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, & Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577 - 4 total votes each receiving (20%) \$1,246.33

Child Abuse Network & Community Food Bank - 3 total votes each receiving (5%) \$311.69

-Pattie Gay-Sittler, Outreach Chair

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIVIA

If you guys haven't been to Sunday School Trivia, then you're missing out. Every 4th Sunday, we have a new trivia game show in the Fellowship Hall. Every Sunday School student is transformed from a student to a contestant. The questions range from a variety of trivia topics including: The Bible, The American Restoration Movement Trivia, and Local Congregational History. There's a rumor going around that there might even be a little church gossip included in these questions – but you didn't hear that from me.

If you don't know how to play, it's easy. You just wait until I halfway finish reading the question and then blurt out an answer. If your answer is correct, then one of our hosts/hostesses will come by to give you a prize. What kind of prizes are given away for answering correctly? Well, that's a mystery too, because all the prizes come in a grab bag. You never know what you're going to get, but it's guaranteed to come from the dollar store and you might even learn something during the game.

I hope to see you in Sunday School this coming 4th Sunday. Maybe you can answer a question correctly and take home a prize.

-Rocky Marlow, Game Show Host Extrordinaire



Donations Needed for Outreach Holiday Drive



We are asking our members to donate socks for this year's Christmas Stockings for our Snack Pack clients.

We are also in need of men's gloves, pants, shirts, coats (heavy or light), blankets, and any other items a person would use to keep warm outside.

Donations can be dropped off at the front desk on Sunday when you're here for worship, or any time of the week if you call ahead.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please write "Outreach Holiday Drive" on the memo of your check. As you go through your clothes, be sure to set aside any unwanted, warm items for our holiday clothing drive. You are welcome to bring them to church at any time. Just call ahead if it's during the week.



Would you like to lend your voice?

We are looking for more contributors for our Vision Newsletter. If you would like to add your voice or art to this newsletter, please send an email to office@fcttula.org or speak with Jamie Newton for more information.

Building Hours

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Service Schedule

Coffee & Donuts (Fellowship Hall)	9:30 a.m.
Combined Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)	9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship (Sanctuary)	10:45 a.m.

Church Staff

Dr. Kipp Wolfe – Interim Pastor
Paul Pinkosky – Organist & Music Director
Deborah Ahearn – Office Manager/Bookkeeper
 (918) 582-8235 Ext. 103 Email: busadmin@fcttula.org
Jamie Newton – Administrative Assistant
 (918) 582-8235 Ext. 114 Email: office@fcttula.org
Dwight Wallace – Lead Custodian/Maintenance
Robin Dowling – Custodian

Annual Notices for 2022 FCC Leadership Nominations

Below you will find the nominations for 2022 officers, voting members of the Ministry Council Trustees, Elders, Deacons, Junior Deacons, Elders Emeriti and Deacons Emeriti.

Officers (one-year term, eligible for two years maximum)

Moderator – Rocky Marlow
Vice Moderator – Richard Lawson
Secretary – Jamie Newton
Treasurer – Jay Gibson

Ministry Council positions (two-year terms, two terms max)

Worship - Mary Ann Hargrove
Administration – James Howard
Nurture and Healing/Spiritual Growth – Zenobia Mayo
Resources – Zach Newton
Outreach – Pattie Gay-Sittler
Hospitality – Cheryl Mullican
Communications – Jean Swanson (Rocky Marlow)
Planning and Evaluation – Dorman Walton
Legacy Trust – Jim Baird
Endowment Chairperson- Charles Hargrove

Deacons by Class Year (One-Year term, max 3 consecutive years)

Karen Garner	Samantha Cox	Cheryl Mullican
Don Swanson	Rocky Marlow	Jamie Newton
Ray Wright	Pattie Gay-Sittler	Zach Newton

Elders by Class Year (One-Year term, max 3 consecutive years)

Zenobia Mayo	Dorman Walton	Joan Hauger
Richard Lawson	Charles Hargrove	James Howard
Mary Ann Hargrove	Jean Swanson	Jay Gibson

Junior Deacons

FCC Trustees

Don Swanson, James Howard, Charles Hargrove, Jim Baird

Elders Emeriti

Dick Willhour
Bill Osteen

Deacons Emeriti

According to the FCC Bylaws, qualifications for Officers and Ministry Council members are that the person should be a member of the congregation and have served at least one year as an Elder or Deacon. Full descriptions of qualifications and expectations of members serving in these positions are in the First Christian Church Constitution and Bylaws, which you may obtain in the church office.