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CENTRAL'S ASSEMBLIES			
BRING A FRIEND AND ATTEND			
SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.	
WORSHIP	BIBLE STUDY	10:30 A.M.	
BIBLE STUDY		5:00P.M.	
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY		6:00 P.M.
ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE			

IN SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

"These were more noble... they searched the scriptures daily..."

SEARCH PROGRAMS:
 December 05, "Thy Will Be Done"
 December 12, "God Has Spoken"
 December 19, "The Greatest Gift"
 December 26, "The Second Coming"

Reading the Bible in a Year Together

December 06, 2021
Galatians 3-5

December 07, 2021
Galatians 6, Ephesians 1-2

December 08, 2021
Ephesians 3-6

December 09, 2021
Philippians 1-3

December 10, 2021
Philippians 4, Colossians 1-2

December 11, 2021
Colossians 3-4, 1 Thessalonians 1-2

December 12, 2021
1 Thessalonians 3-5

You Can Find Our Worship Service On:

-  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/centralchurchofchristshawneeok/>
-  <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq8ft4soarDDSYork8ol9xpw?>

Bible Study 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Sunday Evening 5:00 P.M.
<http://www.shawneecentralcofc.org/media.php/t=sermons>

Videos will be uploaded later in the day.

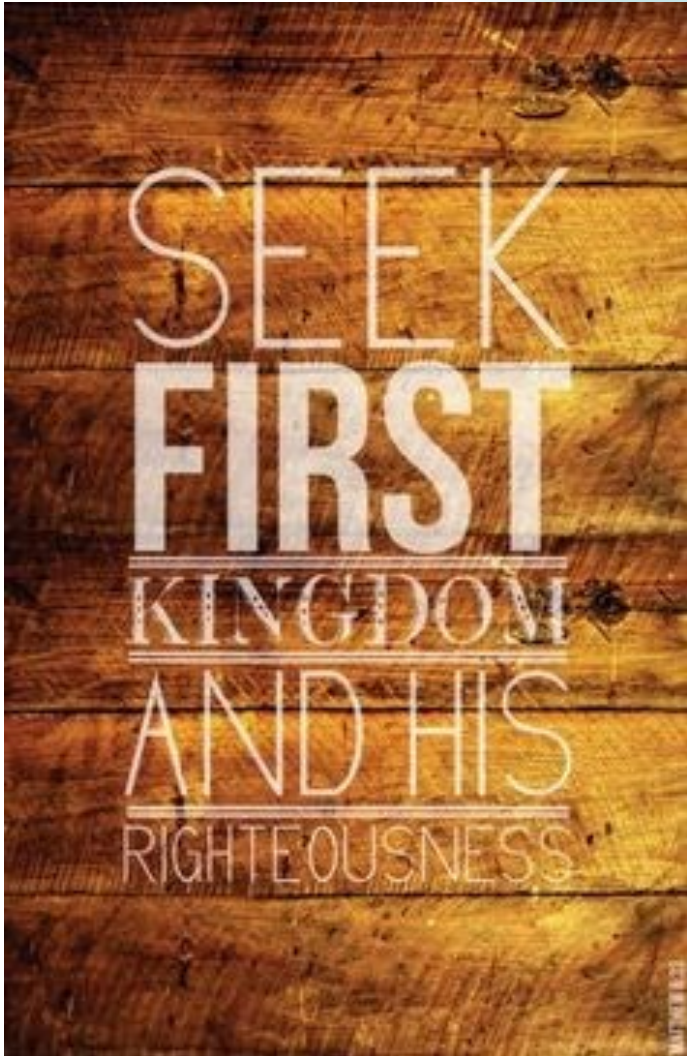
If you would like to mail your offering, mail it to:
Central Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1228
Shawnee, OK 74802

If you would like for someone to bring you communion supplies or pick up your contribution please call the Church office at 405-273-3065, or you can contact one of our Elders or Deacons.



December 05, 2021 Vol. L 25, No. 47

THE GOSPEL GUIDE



ELDERS:
Paul Harris
Steve Kelly
Bob Stephens

DEACONS:
Dale Beard
Joe Curtis
Tracy Gettle
Keith Lawrence
Dalton Path
Scott Perry
Ron Taffe

Minister:
Logan Edmison

Secretary:
Lois Carter

MISSIONS:
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Hope Harbor Children's Home
Lilyfield Christian & Adoption
Nicaragua
In Search of the Lord's Way
Southern Africa Bible College

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You Cannot Stop the Kingdom

Acts Chapter 4

It is so easy for us to look around and feel that the Kingdom of God is not spreading. It is scary to think that the church is not overcoming the difficulties in the world. How is it that a pandemic can seemingly cripple the churches' progress and make us feel like we are stagnant, or even moving backwards?

Stagnation for many congregations did not begin with Covid. Often, stagnation is the result of a lack of religious zeal. We are afraid to do something seemingly crazy like show someone the gospel, especially when failure is right around the corner.

In his book, "The Search for the Ancient Order," the author argues in this way, "the history of the church has well shown that the less zeal and devotion there is in the church, the more institutionalism and human organizations are needed" (West 170). Religious zeal begins with biblical conviction, and it is lived out in outreach. This is not something that can merely be "hired out." In other words, a congregation cannot hire a "located evangelist," and all their evangelism will be taken care of. Perhaps men like Tolbert Fanning took this idea too far in the mid 1800's, but his fears have resulted in many inactive congregations. Fanning's primary belief was that elders, deacons, and deacon (minister), and Christians walk in the footsteps of Christ. This is a very simple model, but it requires that every member of the church fulfill their role.

The "let someone else do it" mentality was not how the church grew in the first century. The "hiring it out" method was non-existent. Someone did it, or it didn't get done. The church did not grow in Acts 4 because there wasn't adversity, it grew because there was. The reason is not because of a complex outreach organization, but simply because the converts believed the word (4:3). The apostles' sermons of healing were an annoyance to many in the first century, but they believed that the resurrection of Jesus must be preached, no matter what. Their conviction was so strong that even at the request that they stop speaking the truth, they continued to speak the truth. "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (4:20).

This required boldness. Boldness means confidence, fearlessness, and speaking in a way that conceals nothing. This is not controversy for the sake of being controversial but speaking the truth for the sake of saving souls. So, they prayed for this boldness. What every disciple of Christ needed (and needs) was (and is) a profound zeal, now more than ever. They did not need to wait for someone else to do it, but they needed to get out there and speak the truth. If they did not feel ready, they got ready. The church continued all the while to care for and encourage each other. But ultimately, conversion was the result of Jesus and His resurrection.

These are the variables for unstoppable Kingdom growth. Here is a question to consider, if the church did not grow numerically in Acts 4, would the disciples have continued spreading Christ, His resurrection, and His healing?

I believe the answer is this: let the church worry about showing the world Jesus, let God worry about Kingdom growth.

-- Logan Edmison

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

We currently have no Central members in the hospital.

Mark Farris, brother of Roger Farris, had a stroke on Sunday afternoon and was taken to Saint Francis Hospital to be evaluated.

Roberta Bonds, Denise Beard's mother, is at home on hospice. Please keep the Beard family in your prayers at this time.

And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:7

WEDDING SHOWER!

All are invited to a Wedding Shower honoring Lacey Dickson and Keon Lawrence, Sunday, December 5th from 2-4 at the home of Bob and Janet Stephens. Keon and Lacey are registered at Amazon and Target. If you'd like to contribute to a group gift, see Mary Kelly

TIPTON HOME

Our Tipton Home collection for the month of **December** is **Lysol Wipes**. Please place these items in the barrel in the foyer. Thank you



RECORD FOR November 28, 2021

Bible Study	58
Worship Service	105
Sunday Evening	25
Wednesday Evening	29
Contribution	\$ 3,030.21

SERVING THE CONGREGATION December 05, 2021

Announcements:	Dennis Brodersen
Scripture Reader:	Steve Kelly
Song Director:	TBD
Opening Prayer:	Tom Chesnut
Sermon:	Logan Edmison
Closing Prayer:	Jim Cross

Lord's Supper:	Dalton Path
Elevator Side:	Annex Side:
Paul Harris	Austin Beard
Colt Goodman	Clavin Norwood

Projection:	Video/Audio:
Bob Stephens	Ron Taffe

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Don Mack	Chad Beard
Carla Dame	Carl Weeks
Emma White	Boyd Cheney
Lola Mullinax	John Rampey
Blake Carter	John Sullivan
Winona Seikel	Frank Romberg
Georgia Cagle	Debra Camp
Diane Lawrence	Fredith Hanifan
Selene Williams	Sandon Hilditch
Dorothy Strickland	Thearlene Morris
Garey Knoles	

LOOKING AHEAD

December 5th—Keon Lawrence/ Lacey Dickson
Wedding Shower at the Stephens' home.