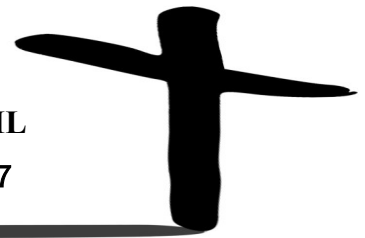


# The Crosswalk

First Christian Church  
2501 N Park Lane  
Altus, OK 73521

APRIL  
2017



## Is He Risen?

This month we'll celebrate Easter, or, as many Christians prefer, Resurrection Sunday. This holiday is the day Christians celebrate the most fundamental tenant of their faith, the Resurrection. On April 16<sup>th</sup> Christians around the world will proclaim with one voice, "He is risen!" But did this event really happen? Paul says in 1 Cor. 15 that if Christ has not been raised then our preaching is in vain, our faith is in vain, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are of all men most to be pitied. Paul's pretty clear, if the resurrection of Christ is not as real as Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo or Washington's crossing of the Delaware then we're in trouble. But what evidence do we have that this is the case? Why would we believe that, after millennia of evidence to the contrary, someone who was dead could come back to life?

First of all, I would ask how we know about any historical event? Eye witnesses must record for us what happened. Eventually we hear enough firsthand accounts that we are convinced of its historicity. Do we have this with the resurrection? Yes! 1 Corinthians was one of the earliest books of the New Testament to be written. Paul wrote it around 55AD. This is only 20 years after the event. This is well within the lifetime of people who would have seen the resurrected Jesus with their own eyes. In fact, in chapter 15 Paul mentions people by name that witnessed the resurrected Christ. He encouraged his readers to talk with these witnesses personally. He says that one time 500 people were present to see him and that most of them were still living at the time. These are not claims you make without truth to back them up. They would be too easy to disprove otherwise. This doesn't even take into account the many stories found in the book of Acts or the Gospels. One British theologian has said, "The appearances of Jesus are as well authenticated as anything in antiquity."

There are also several pieces of circumstantial evidence that when taken together provide compelling evidence to the fact of the resurrection. First, the disciples went to their deaths proclaiming the truth of the resurrection. Every. One. Of. Them. Nobody knowingly and willingly dies for a lie and the more people you have involved in a conspiracy the more likely it is for the truth to come out. Someone will eventually break and let the secret out, but none of the disciples did. None of them. Secondly, skeptics such as Paul and James were converted and died for their faith in this event. There is no good reason for this apart from them seeing some incontrovertible evidence that completely contradicted their previous hostility. Third, within weeks of the event thousands of Jews converted. They believed that if this wasn't true they were risking eternal damnation, yet they abandoned centuries of sociological and religious traditions anyway. None of these are absolute proof of the resurrection, but taken together along with many other facts, they do "rip a great hole in history, a hole the size and shape of Resurrection."


Jesus did not swoon on the cross effectively faking his death. The Romans were too good of executioners for that. The spear through his lung and heart would have been fatal if the cross and flogging hadn't been. The early believers didn't simply go to the wrong tomb. The Sanhedrin knew where the tomb was, the Romans knew where the tomb was. The Resurrection would have been too easily disproven and thousands of people wouldn't have been able to be converted as they were. The disciples didn't steal the body. The scriptures point out that they had not motive. They didn't understand the ramifications at this point. They had no opportunity, the Chief priests and Pharisees placed a Roman guard at the tomb specifically designed to counter this very thing. No, the simplest explanation for all of the historical data that we have is what the church has been teaching from the beginning.

**He is risen indeed!**

In Him,

Ben

# APRIL 2017

-SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 CHURCH WORK DAY 8:00AM
2 GS 4:00PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	3	4 ADMIN MTG 6:00PM EDUCATION MTG 6:30PM	5 LBS 9:30AM F/ S&A MTG ABS/Prayer 6:15PM	6 WORSHIP MTG 6:30PM	7	8
9 EASTER CANTATA SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	10	11 <sup>1</sup>	12 LBS 9:30AM ABS/Prayer 6:15PM	13 ELDERS 6:00PM DEACONS 6:30PM BOARD 7:00PM	14 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE PRAYER (8:00 PM)	15 VIGIL 8:00 PM)
16 EASTER GS 4:00PM SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	17	18 FSG 6:00PM	19 LBS 9:30AM ABS/Prayer 6:15PM	20	21	22
23 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	24	25	26 LBS 9:30AM ABS/Prayer 6:15PM	27	28	29
30 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM						

**ABS-ADULT BIBLE STUDY; FSG-FOSTER SUPPORT GROUP; GS-GIRL SCOUTS;  
LBS-LADIES BIBLE STUDY; SS-SUNDAY SCHOOL; WS-WORSHIP SERVICE**

## Serving In April

April 02

**Meditation:** Rick Weinkauf  
**Com Servers:** Bob McGuire, Carol Carson  
 Wendi Noon, \*?  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Ben Partin, Kristen Partin  
 Worship Service - Don Skiles, Sarah Skiles  
**Children's Church:** Roma Weinkauf  
**AV Booth:** ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Jim & Wanda Jones

April 09

**Meditation:** Don Skiles  
**Com Servers:** Doug Tritle, \*Iris Felix  
 Jane Clark, Matthew Palmer  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Crystal Crawford, Robert Crawford  
 Worship Service - Katie Bronson, Rebecca Cullen  
**Children's Church:** Sarah Skiles  
**AV Booth:** ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Jim & Wanda Jones

April 16

**Meditation:** Jerry Gibson  
**Com Servers:** Kristen Partin, Richard Barnes  
 Tara Coffman, \*Wanda Jones  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Marilynn Wright, Wanda Jones  
 Worship Service - Wendi Noon, ?  
**Children's Church:** Nicole Stanfill  
**AV Booth:** ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Jim & Wanda Jones

April 23

**Meditation:** Doug Dalton  
**Com Servers:** Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey  
 \*John Signorelli, Robert Crawford  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Jackie Morey, ?  
 Worship Service - Brian Buss, Coleen Buss  
**Children's Church:** Jessica Buxton  
**AV Booth:** ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Jim & Wanda Jones

April 30

**Meditation:** Jim Jones  
**Com Servers:** Kristen Partin, Richard Barnes  
 Tara Coffman, \*Wanda Jones  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Judy Colston, Wanda Jones  
 Worship Service - Brenda Gibson, Jane Clark  
 ?  
**AV Booth:** ?  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Jim & Wanda Jones



**I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES,  
 WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS  
 SERIOUS... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"**

## In Our Prayers

**Carl Harris - cancer**

(Lloyd Colston's brother)

**Dale Martin - bladder/lung cancer**

(Lloyd & Judy Colston's friend)

**Jo Parnell - inoperable lung cancer**

(Lee Barnes' son-in-law's mother)

**Yudell Barton**

(Brenda Risner's friend)

**Debbie Cleland - cancer**

(Christina Barnes' co-worker)

**Mike Chase - colon cancer**

(Jimmy Geigle's friend)

**Laurie Cullen - salvation/early onset**

(Shawn Cullen's sister) **Alzheimer's**

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

*If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.*

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

04/01 Bob Clark  
 04/03 Dodie Dreschler  
 04/07 Alex Crawford  
 04/07 John Signorelli  
 04/08 Richard Barnes  
 04/15 Judy Colston  
 04/21 Rebecca Cullen  
 04/22 Brenda Gibson  
 04/26 Lloyd Colston

### Sunday Services

Sunday School	9:30 am
Worship Service	10:30 am

### Wednesday Night

Adult Bible Study	6:15 pm
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### Secretary's Report

March 2016

Average Attendance	57
Average Visitors	1.5
Total Average Attendance	58.5
Total Offerings	\$11,162.00

#### Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton  
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

#### Your Deacons

Richard Barnes, Jane Clark, Crystal Crawford,  
 Brenda Gibson, Wanda Jones, Matthew Palmer, Brenda Risner



# church WORKDAY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST - 8:00 AM**

**Sunday, April 9th - 10:30 am**  
**"Then Came The Morning"**  
an Easter cantata



*Twenty-four hour...*

## *Prayer Vigil*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH 8:00 PM TO SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH 8:00 PM**  
**SIGN THE FORM ON THE TABLE IN THE FOYER.**

## Easter Egg Hunt



**SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH**  
**FOLLOWING THE**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**AND FOR MORE FUN A**

