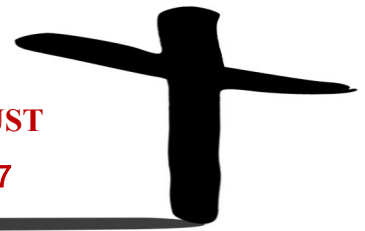


# The Crosswalk

First Christian Church  
2501 N Park Lane  
Altus, OK 73521

AUGUST  
2017



## A Human Shaped Void

With our church kicking off our community groups next month I thought it might be a good time to give a few thoughts about why we are putting so much emphasis on community this year. I've preached more than one sermon series on it, I've written a newsletter article on it, and now we are pushing for the startup of all these different groups. What's the big deal? To answer that let me give you an excerpt from John Ortberg's book Everybody's Normal Till You Get To Know Them.

"We were made to know oneness. That is why loneliness is so painful. In the story of the Creation in the book of Genesis, a little refrain keeps recurring: "And God said...and it was so... and God saw that it was good." The writer is emphasizing that everything that exists is the effortless activity of an unimaginably powerful God, and all of it is unspeakably delightful...Until the final act- when the song comes screeching to a halt. God creates a man in his own image. God looks at this man, who bears his likeness, and he says, "Not good." Why does God look at man and say "Not good"? Because he likes women better?

Not quite. This is a radical comment about the fundamental importance of human relationships. What is striking is that the Fall has not yet occurred. There is no sin, no disobedience, nothing to mar the relationship between God and man.

The human being is in a state of perfect intimacy with God. Each word he and God speak with each other is filled with closeness and joy; he walks with God in the garden in the cool of the day. He is known and loved to the core of his being by his omniscient, love-filled Creator. The word God uses to describe him is "alone." And God says that this aloneness is "not good."

Sometimes in church circles when people feel lonely, we will tell them not to expect too much from human relationships, that there is inside every human being a God-shaped void that no other person can fill. That is true. But apparently, according to the writer of Genesis, **God creates inside this man a kind of "human-shaped void" that God himself will not fill.**

No substitute will fill this need in you for human relationship: Not money, not achievement, not busyness, not books, *not even God himself!*

Even though this man was in a state of sinless perfection, he was "alone." And it was not good. Community is what you were created for. It is God's desire for your life. It is the one indispensable condition for human flourishing. According to Jean Vanier, "A community is not simply a group of people who live together and love each other. It is a place of resurrection."

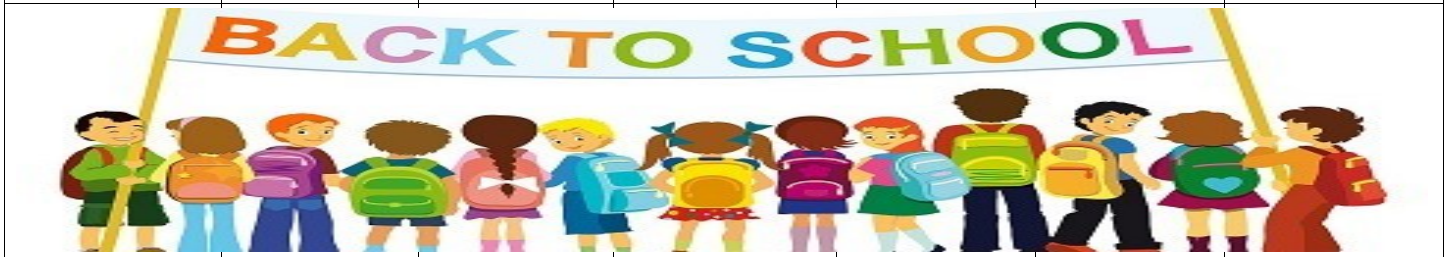
We all have a human-shaped void in us. We need one another. When Jesus died on the cross he did more than simply make atonement for our sin (though that would be enough by itself), he made us a part of his family, which means that he created for us a community of people to fill that human-shaped void within us.

I don't know about you but I need more to fill that void than simply sitting in the same room together for an hour once a week. Sunday service is great and we need that time with the entire body, but I need more. I need to be able to share my struggles and joys, to learn from and help out: I need you. If you feel the same please consider joining one of our community groups this fall. We'd love to get to know you better, and do our part to help you through this crazy thing called life.

In Him,  
Ben

# AUGUST 2017

-SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ADMIN MTG 6:00PM EDUC MTG 5:30PM	2 SERVICE & ACTION MTG 9:30AM	3 WORSHIP MTG 6:30PM	4	5
6 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	7	8	9	10 ELDERS MTG 6PM DEACONS MTG 6:30PM BOARD MTG 7:00PM	11	12
13 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM	28	29	30	31		



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

### Serving In August

August 06

**Meditation:** Jim Jones  
**Com Servers:** Bob McGuire, Carol Carson  
 \*John Signorelli, ?  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Ben & Kristen Partin  
 Worship Service - ?  
**Children's Church:** Roma Weinkauff  
**AV Booth:** Jordan Bronson, Robert Crawford  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 \*Offering Prayer

August 13

**Meditation:** Randall Coffman  
**Com Servers:** Doug Tritle, \*Iris Felix  
 Jane Clark, John Signorelli  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 Worship Service - Katie Bronson, ?  
**Children's Church:** Sarah Skiles  
**AV Booth:** Jordan Bronson, Robert Crawford  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 \*Offering Prayer

August 20

**Meditation:** Lloyd Colston  
**Com Servers:** John Signorelli, Kristen Partin,  
 Tara Coffman, \*Wanda Jones  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Marilynn Wright, Wanda Jones  
 Worship Service - Richard & Christina Barnes  
**Children's Church:** ?  
**AV Booth:** Jordan Bronson, Robert Crawford  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 \*Offering Prayer

August 27

**Meditation:** Don Skiles  
**Com Servers:** Brenda Gibson, Jackie Morey  
 \*John Signorelli, Richard Barnes  
**Nursery:** Sunday School - Jackie Morey, Wendi Noon  
 Worship Service - Brian & Colleen Buss  
**Children's Church:** ?  
**AV Booth:** Jordan Bronson, Robert Crawford  
**Greeters:** Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD  
**Com Prep & Clean Up:** Robert & Crystal Crawford  
 \*Offering Prayer

#### Secretary's Report July 2017

Average Attendance	53.4
Average Visitors	3.2
Total Average Attendance	56.6
Total Offerings	\$11,759.00

#### Sunday Services

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

### In Our Prayers

**Betty Hayes - breast cancer**  
 (Christina Barnes' mother)  
**Nick Williams - ALS**  
 (Altus teacher)  
**Sherri Merrill - uterine cancer/chemo**  
 (Rick Weinkauff's sister)  
**Amy Dodson - brain cancer**  
 (Ruth Carson's friend)  
**Jo Parnell - inoperable lung cancer**  
 (Lee Barnes' son-in-law's mother)  
**Debbie Cleland - cancer**  
 (Christina Barnes' co-worker)

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

08/02 Riley Crawford  
 08/03 Dan White  
 08/08 Zoe Ensign  
 08/17 Gene & Dodie Dreschler  
 08/22 Jackie Morey  
 08/22 Jerry & Brenda Gibson  
 08/22 Phil & Ruth Carson  
 08/30 Ben Partin



Back to school...

**COMING SOON**

**"AN EVENING OF  
PRAISE"**

**WATCH FOR DETAILS**



**BACK TO SCHOOL**  
*dinner*  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**  
**FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE**

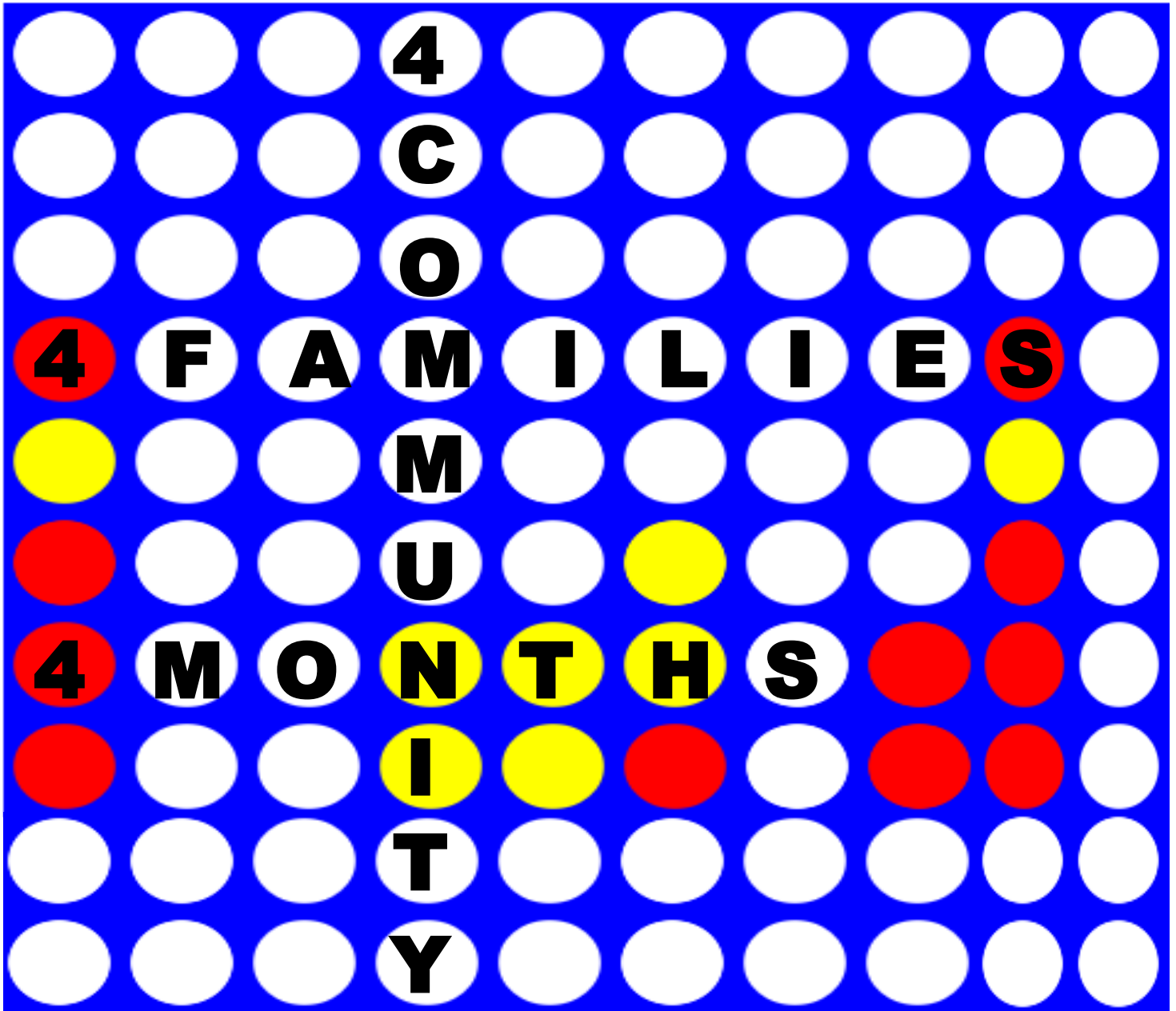
#### Your Elders

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

#### Your Deacons

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

# CONNECT 4



## IT'S YOUR MOVE!!!

**Sign the sheet on the table in the foyer if you would be interested in joining a community group.**

**Life together / Bible Study / Prayer/ Serving**