

# A Church for Today

The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)

## Good News

... from First Christian Church  
of Sherwood

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I'm sure by now the whole world knows about my ear infections. This article is not an opportunity to whine – I've already done too much of that. After two full weeks, I changed my prayer from "God please heal me" to "God help me to find the gift in all this." At this moment both of my ears are still hurting, the hearing loss seems to get worse and worse, my balance is still affected by the inner ear pressure, and that makes me queasy. (I know it sounds like more whining, but let me tell you what God did today!) Even though He has not yet relieved the pressure/pain in my ears, I received the most amazing answer to prayer. Sitting in a crowded and noisy restaurant, I could not hear the person I came there for. Frustration! "Lord, please help me to see the gift" I prayed. The thought hit me. Hearing is a gift! Being able to really listen and hear others is such a blessing that until now I have not appreciated fully. The gift is a reminder to listen with my full attention to others around me. Not just with my ears, but with an open mind and open heart. This

is a treasure to keep and I will enjoy listening even more now.

In addition to a new found gratitude and increased joy as I recognize more of God's amazing gifts to me, God threw in a little something extra too. (He just loves to heap one blessing on top of another!) I really had to focus on the person sitting across from me. I watched lips move, gestures, and facial expressions, anything that would help me understand. I realized that with some effort I could block out the bombarding noises all around me to hear and understand my friend better. As I was driving home, I thought of exactly how I need to "block out the noisy world" in order to really listen and understand God. Focusing on Him so intently that I might see Him and recognize even the subtle facial expressions or gestures that give meaning to His words.

What is your ache right now in life?

How are you off balance and what makes you kind of sick?

Ask God this week to help you see the gift in it. Watch intently – tune out everything else to see what He has to say about your ache!

Thank you for letting me listen to you as my church family,  
Julie

## 🎵🎵🎵 Music Notes 🎵🎵🎵

### CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

The adult choir will be having a “Christmas in August Banquet” to kick off our rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata. It will be on August 28 in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. This would be a great time to join the choir.

The Banquet will be a ‘pot luck Christmas’ meal and is for all existing choir members, their spouses, and children. It is also for those who are truly considering being a part of the cantata. It will be a time of fellowship and fun. After the banquet you will receive your first Christmas present of the year; your copy of the cantata with a listening CD and part CD. We will listen to the cantata for the first time together. The festivities will start at 6:00 p.m.



The cantata “O Holy Night!” will be presented two nights. First, on Friday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m., and then Sunday, December 19, at 6:00 p.m. Songs include: Come Adore Him

Medley (O Holy Night!/O Come, All Ye Faithful) • Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground) • O Come, O Come, Emmanuel • Be It Unto Me • Joseph • O Holy Night! • The One • The Manger Worship Medley (Silent Night! Holy Night!/Holy Ground/Emmanuel) • Come Adore Him (Finale) (Emmanuel(Hallowed Manger Ground)/O Holy Night!/O Come, All Ye Faithful)God Word tells us to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.”

Music is appropriate as a response of all the people of God to God’s revelation through Jesus Christ. Hebrews 1:3 declares Jesus Christ as the radiance of God’s glory,

the exact representation of His nature, and the One Who made purification of sins. Therefore, praising Him is at the center of all we do, every time we gather.

The Music Ministry of FCC Sherwood exist to connect people to Jesus Christ by loving God through worship, loving each other through fellowship, loving the word of God through discipleship, loving those in need through ministry, and loving the world through evangelism and missions.

We know that a Great Commitment to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission builds Great Christians and a Great Church.

In Him,  
Bro. Michael

### CHILDREN’S CHOIR

If your child (or grandchild) would be interested in being a part of a children’s choir at FCC please let me know. Our Christmas cantata has a song that is really for children, so if we could get enough together they could be a part of the Christmas cantata. Having children in the cantata always makes it a better one than without. I am considering starting the children’s choir sometime in September. They would be learning more than just the Christmas song (even though that will be a big part), but will also be learning other praise and worship songs to sing at the services. Kindergarten through upper grade school are welcome and 4 year olds with parents are also welcome.

Bro. Michael

### SINGING

Open your hymnals to number 150. Now stop for a second and look at the hymn underneath your thumb. What do you see? A song? Actually, you are looking at white paper with black ink on it, worth approximately seven cents. Try placing your ear against the paper. Do you hear anything? I didn’t think so. Several things

are needed to bring this song to life. One of the most important is breath.

If you think about it, a flute cannot make sound without breath. A player cannot pound the keys of a piano for very long without breath. A singer cannot sing for long without drawing a breath. Without breath, there is no song – only stagnant words resting on a silent page. With breath, the words jump off the page and leap into song. They bring joy to many.

Are there songs or simply words on the pages of your hymnal? To find out, begin by looking in a mirror. What do you see? A face? A person? That's just the cover – bone surrounded by flesh.

Let's look inside the cover now. Close your eyes and pause for a moment. Without any distractions, all that is left is the real you. Like the third verse of a long hymn, time is rarely spent here. Ask yourself, do you feel sad and lonely, or do you feel joy? Only you can answer this question. Sadness and loneliness cast no reflection. The mirror is worthless here. Many refuse to look within. Instead, they choose to focus only on the shell, the outside. Joy is not found here. Music does not dwell in the cover of a hymnal.

The evidence is all around you. Look at all the silent songs. You can find them at work, at school, even at church. Mute instruments with no hymnal from which to draw notes. No joy lurks within the pages of their hymnals. These individuals have tried to author their own songs. They have refused to allow the breath of God to blow across their pages; to breathe music through their life. The black ink on these pages are illusions. They are but shadows of storm clouds hovering over white paper; clouds which are guided by the winds and whims of this earth. True joy is not found in these songs. Your hymnal was designed to bring joyful praise to the Lord God.

How do we find joy? How do we turn the storm clouds in our hymnals into songs of praise? Begin by opening up the hymnal

of life; the Bible. As you read, let the words of truth strum the chords of your soul. Let the truth fill your ears with pure soul music. Let the breath of God blow the storm clouds away.

Sound too easy? Let's try it. Open your hymnal to hymn 150. Hear anything? If not, open your Bible to Psalm 150:6: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Now breathe.

## TEN REASONS TO BECOME A CHOIR MEMBER

Come, join the choir! Psalm 149:1 says "*Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.*" Listed below are ten reasons why one should consider joining our choir (tongue in cheek):

1. Free music lessons.
2. An opportunity to perform on a regular basis.
3. A guaranteed audience.
4. One of the best seats in the house even on Christmas and Easter.
5. A delightful midweek gathering with friends. (No club fees!)
6. The incentive not to skip church on Sundays or special occasions for which your presence is required.
7. A perfect view of the congregation. You can observe who pays attention, falls asleep, has a new haircut, or brings a friend.
8. The satisfaction of knowing that you perform an important ministry within the church.
9. The joyful feeling of praising the Lord with your singing.
10. The elation that comes from keeping a song in your heart.

## *HONORING THE GIRL CHILD AND HER BROTHER*



"Honoring the Girl Child and Her Brother" is a very special mission project that our Church participates in each year! And, you are invited to help by donating new underwear and socks to benefit the children at Our House Homeless Shelters in Little Rock.

A new pair of socks and underwear may not seem so important, but it certainly can be a big deal to a child if they don't have any, or if what they have is so worn out that it's no longer comfortable.

When making your purchases, please remember that children come in all sizes (small, medium and large).

Please bring **NEW** underwear and socks to the collection site located in the Church narthex during the next couple weeks. The items collected will be taken to Our House just in time for the start of the new school year. ~Thank you, CWF

### **We are called to pray...**

All our U.S. Service Men and Women and their families; Brad Neaves; Mike Bolton; Michael Washington; Jimmie's nephew, Kyle; Darius Counts; Jared Rieathbaum; Adam Kangieser; Crystal Anders; Matt Dedman; FCC Sherwood; Jimmie Birdsong & family; the Summers family; Hazel Roberts; John Siebert; Brent, Nolan & Nina Ferguson; Reg Mikesell; Pauline Frazier; Mark Lero; Michael Berry; Bill & Carolyn Hale; Dale & Patty Campbell; Shirley Jones' brother-in-law, George Love; unknown; Zoe Goss; Preston Wallis & family; Mary Magby; Frank Ludwig; Laura Cook; Lisa Smith, son Landon & family; Rose McCabe & family; baby Evan Love & family; Jim Hale

**August CWF & CMF**  
**Meetings**  
**Tuesday, August 10**  
**6:30 p.m.**

CWF and CMF (Christian Women's Fellowship and Christian Men's Fellowship) would like to invite all men and women of the church to join us in this monthly potluck supper and meeting time. Our hosts will provide the main course and you are asked to bring a salad, vegetable, fruit or dessert to complement the meal. Hope to see you here.

## **CHURCH COMMUNITY** **BANNER**

***"Commit your way to the LORD; trust in Him, and He will act. Psalm 37:5***

I have an idea for a banner, so I am asking you to please bring a scrap of fabric (at least 4" x 4") that would express your individual personality or a piece from a special item or piece of clothing from years gone by. For example, if you saw a piece of fabric that had bees on it - who might you think of? Or maybe you saw one covered in M&M characters, who might come to mind? If you don't have anything like this, then you can go to the fabric store and buy a piece of remnant fabric. Please provide a piece that represents EACH member of your family. We can't have too much! There will be a basket in both buildings to collect your special fabric in. We are counting on EVERYONE to make this banner special, so if you happen to visit one of our shut-ins PLEASE ask them if they have something they would like to contribute to our banner. This banner will signify our joint commitment to the Lord AND our individual ones too.

-Jennifer

## Spiritual Reflection

By: Kim Scott

When I was first asked to write about my spiritual walk, I immediately got nervous. Many thoughts started racing through my head. What do I start with? What do I put in the story? What if it is not significant enough to make the cut? Needless to say, I still don't know what exactly to say. I simply prayed to God and asked Him to tell my story. I asked Him to show me what parts of my walk with Him did He want others to see?

The first thing He put on my heart was about my grandmother, my mother's mom. Thanks to her fire and thirst for God, and her love for me and my relationship with Him, I am where I am today. She made absolutely sure that my sister and I were at church with her as often as we could be. She talked about God her Father every chance she could get. She would sit and read the Bible, explaining to me what God had put on her heart. We would pray together, even though at the time I am not even sure I knew what I was doing. Either way, I knew God understood. My grandmother expressed to me that no matter whatever happened in my life, as long as I always looked to God, everything would be just fine. She explained that I would have storms and valleys, but would also have sunny days and mountaintops. She taught me to love to the fullest, never have regrets, and always forgive.

I can openly admit I am not perfect. None of us are. However, I do know someone perfect. His name is God, and He is my Daddy. He has been anything and everything for me, and I am forever in love with my God, and eternally grateful that He chose me to love and cherish. These are the things that I had to learn on my own while I was growing in age, and growing in my relationship with God. I would like to say that it came easy, that life's lessons are

“easy as pie.” Maybe if I knew how to make a pie, life would have been easier? Yeah, right. My life was and is full of daily struggles that I have to overcome. I can fake a smile with the best of them, while on the inside, screaming for God's peace and mercy. At the end of the day, when I look back, I can see where God had been and where He is now. How He held me, gave me peace and carried me through the day with His love. Even when I am blind to Him, He is there. When I am deaf to Him, He still speaks. He knows my heart, and how to communicate with it. He is always overflowing me with His love and care, and has promised He will never let go.

Have you heard the promise?

Your sister in Christ,  
Kimberly

### Weekly Attendance

<b>July 4:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 60 Sunday School: 28 11 a.m. Service: 46
<b>July 11:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 70 Sunday School: 22 11 a.m. Service: 50
<b>July 18:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 64 Sunday School: 28 11 a.m. Service: 61
<b>July 25:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 57 Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. Service: 52

### Did you greet these visitors?

**July 4:** Lee & Chris Zimmerman, Karen Autrey

**July 11:** Cary Elbert, Molly Gallaher, Fran Appler-Smith, Parrish Jackson

**July 18:** Jeff, Annie Beth & Bethany Cauley, Justin & Jordan Moody, Cary Elbert, Jason & Trina Lee & daughters, Brown family

**July 25:** Cary & Sharon Elbert, Ally & Thomas Dupree, Haleigh, Hannah & Hunter Figley, Robin Lynch, Erik & Dena Holbrooks, Trisha & Kyleigh Chamlee

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We're on the Web!  
[www.sherwoodfirstchristian.com](http://www.sherwoodfirstchristian.com)

*Where Love is a way of Life*

### **Stewardship Report**

July 4:	\$4,814.40
July 11:	\$2,679.00
July 18:	\$2,398.30
July 25:	\$1,556.00
YTD Offering:	\$75,041.19
YTD Expenses:	\$68,626.13
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$78,090.00

### **Chalice Hall 2010**

YTD Gifts:	\$18,257.50
YTD Payments:	\$16,541.00



You can write only one check for your tithe and building donations; just be sure you note on the check or envelope how you want the money applied.

## **Excellence**

Excellence Honors God and Inspires People! We are cautioned in the Bible about seeking perfection in our own strength. We also are encouraged to do things for God with our best efforts. "Let God help you with any Struggle you have with perfection. Honor God with an excellent job in whatever He calls you to do.

## ***God Never Promised Rainbows***

God never promised rainbows without a bit of rain.  
He never promised comfort without a bit of pain.  
His eye is on the sparrow and every living thing.  
We must endure the winter to know the joy of spring.  
--Copied

# AUGUST SERVING SCHEDULE

**Table Preparation:** Doyle & Kelly Phillips

**Front Porch Caller:** Betty Tompkins; **Ushers:** Tom Reline and Rod Kimball

**DATE: August 1**

**Worship Leader:**

**Elders:** **Offertory** – Reg Mikesell; **Communion** – Georgia Pounders

**Deacons:** Don Cagle, Joy Cagle, Tink Dedman and Harry Skyles

**Children's Church:** Jean Jenkins

**DATE: August 8**

**Worship Leader:**

**Elders:** **Offertory** – Mike Pounders; **Communion** – Betty Tompkins

**Deacons:** Wes Hampton, Susan Hampton, Gary McSorley and Louise McSorley

**Children's Church:** Joy Cagle

**DATE: August 15**

**Worship Leader:** Doyle Phillips

**Elders:** **Offertory** – Lisa Vest; **Communion** – Ron Flowers

**Deacons:** Missy Lee, Tommy Lee, Peggy Griffin and Katie Ferguson

**Children's Church:** Ann Berry

**DATE: August 22**

**Worship Leader:** Lisa Vest

**Elders:** **Offertory** – Anita Norman; **Communion** – Jimmie Birdsong

**Deacons:** Jennifer Mikesell, Philip Cullins, Elaina Grundy and Jean Jenkins

**Children's Church:** Joy Cagle

**DATE: August 29**

**Worship Leader:**

**Elders:** **Offertory** – Marilou Coins; **Communion** – Reg Mikesell

**Deacons:** Nicholas Cagle, Doyle Phillips, Kelly Phillips and Sarah Vest

**Children's Church:** Anita Norman



If you plan to use the Church facilities for any function, please contact the Church office to reserve your time and space on the calendar to help avoid conflicts with other activities.