



Good News

... from First Christian Church
of Sherwood

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“Where are we going?” When the four of us get into the van and back out of the garage that is a question that our six year old often asks. It is important to know the answer because it gives the opportunity to make plans, to head in the right direction, as well as to get excited about the future.

Knowing where we are headed is vital for a church to know as well. Over the past six months we have been listening, reading Scripture, talking, reflecting, suggesting possibilities and compiling answers. Where does FCC, Sherwood want to go? From the listening conferences held a few months ago the answer from the congregation was that we want to be:

1. A place of Safety and Accountability – so we have been working to identify what are the patterns of behavior (“Norms”) that God wants us to have with each other and will be presenting them for acceptance by the congregation in the near future.

2. A place of Connection – so we have held a workshop to look at our denomination’s history and structure, our beliefs and our history as a congregation. We have also been offering opportunities for people to share their thoughts (e.g. through meetings and surveys) on various

issues. Finally we have put into place several additional ministries to help connect us with one another through calls, visits, prayer and more.

3. A place of Purpose/Vision – so we have been focusing on listening for Christ’s call upon our lives and our congregation (e.g. what does Jesus want us to be doing and how). We have also been training Elders, callers, visitors and more to be able to carry out Christ’s work effectively.

4. A place of Growth in the Faith – so we have hosted workshops on what spiritual maturity looks like and how we can pursue it. We also have examined things that we need to consider is looking at where Christ wants us to serve.

Where are we headed? We are on the way to growing to be more like Christ, to serving as our Lord calls, and in making that journey as a community.

God bless,
Steve



**Christmas Eve Service, Thursday,
December 24, 6:00 p.m. Come and
celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Season's Greetings to you all. I wish to announce congregational meetings will be held Sunday, December 13, 2009, immediately after each worship service. The purpose of which is to vote on the proposed budget for 2010, along with, voting on the adoption of the "NORM" process.

You will remember that during the last six months we have journeyed through listening conferences, twenty-one days of Bible study, and learned about the Seven NORM Reflections:

1. Doing God's will above all.
2. Be genuine.
3. Committed to excellence (not perfectionism).
4. Love without boundaries.
5. Working to raise our internal standards/life.
6. Working to have a positive attitude.
7. Use our freedom to benefit others.

Your presence is most valuable and know that your vote always counts.

Thank You,
Tony Blackwood, Board Chair

The Contemporaries would like to sponsor an adult **co-ed volleyball tournament** inviting area churches to participate. The tournament will be held in Chalice Hall on a weekend in March or April. We would like for our church to have at least two teams in the tournament.

If you are interested in playing volleyball or would like to offer to help officiate, run concessions, keep score or help run the tournament, please contact Philip Cullins or the church office and sign up.

We will have our first practice on Tuesday evening, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Chalice Hall. Please come if you can.

Weekly Attendance

November 1:	9 a.m. Worship: 64 Sunday School: 25 11 a.m. Service: 30
November 8:	9 a.m. Worship: 64 Sunday School: 33 11 a.m. Service:
November 15:	9 a.m. Worship: 61 Sunday School: 19 11 a.m. Service: 30
November 22:	Sunday School: 30 10:45 a.m. Worship: 120

Stewardship Report

November 1:	\$2,505.00
November 8:	\$2,497.50
November 15:	\$3,106.05
November 22:	\$2,640.00
YTD Offering:	\$114,446.96
YTD Expenses:	\$118,259.95
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$131,384.00

Chalice Hall 2009

YTD Gifts:	\$26,401.50
YTD Payments:	\$25,993.00

Did you greet these visitors?

Nov. 1: Rick & Diane McCright, Karen Autrey, Tracy Norman, Ally & Thomas Dupree

Nov. 8: Karen Autrey, Glen Evans, Brad Clark, Debbie Stepp, Ally & Thomas Dupree, Hannah & Hailey Figley, Tracy Norman

Nov. 15: Doug Manes, Tracy Norman, Karen Autrey, Kathy Bartlett, Hannah & Haleigh Figley, Ally Dupree

Nov. 22: Courtney Boswald, Tracy Norman, MaLinda Campbell, Ally & Thomas Dupree, Angela Lawerre, Trisha Chamlee, Mark Brunke



Dear Church Friends,

There are not enough words in the dictionary to tell you thank you. Never have I ever been presented with so much love and tenderness with hugs, cards, phone calls, and emails. This whole year all of you have carried me through Leigh's sickness and more than ever, after his death.

Thank you all for being such a loving church family.

God bless all of you,

With Love, Tink



FEED THE HUNGRY

The Food Pantry will be collecting **cake mix and icing** for the month of December, for kids who will not get a present, but they will have a birthday cake. Please remember the Food Pantry when you are shopping and put these items on your shopping list then bring it with you to Church anytime during the month and place your gift in the basket located in the Narthex.

Thanks so much!

Christmas Sing-a-Long



We are having a 2nd annual sing-a-long and ugly Christmas outfit contest. It will be in the youth room in Chalice hall from 6-8 pm on Dec. 19. Bring your favorite finger food and put on your ugliest Christmas sweater, shirt or outfit and join us for some good fun and fellowship.

There will be a prize for the person with the ugliest Christmas sweater, shirt or outfit.

Property Update:

We have a new roof on the Sanctuary and on the garage. Our lovely new shingles are being paid for from the insurance proceeds from the hail storm which occurred in Sherwood on June 30, 2009. The insurance claim is still open and under review to determine whether there is hail damage to the flat roof on the Church building.

The Chalice Hall storage area needs cleaned up and kept clean!! For quite some time people have just dropped whatever, wherever they wanted to in the storage area. We are very fortunate to have such a large storage area and we need to keep it straight. Please do not assume that this is your personal space. Please be respectful of this space, as it serves so many areas and ministries of this Church. Please put things in their proper place.

Always be sure the lights, heat and a/c are off when you are leaving the Church and Chalice Hall, please double check all doors to make sure they are locked. Give the doors exiting Fellowship Hall and the Sunday School hallway an extra push from the outside to make sure they are secure.

Thank you,

Reg Mikesell, Property Chair

We are called to pray...

All our Service Men and Women and their families; Jamal Lonesome; Brad Neaves; Derrick Coleman; Mike Bolton; Rick Collins; Michael Washington; Jimmie's nephew, Kyle; Darius Counts; FCC Sherwood, the Search Committee and our Board; Kim Ferguson; Hazel Roberts; Lynley & Steve Summers; John Siebert; Brent, Nolan & Nina Ferguson; Bill & Carolyn Hale; Tommy Isgrig; Pauline Frazier; Mark Lero; unspoken; Willie Cullins; Robert Smith; Aileen Silliman; Zoe Goss; Preston Wallis and family; Mary Magby; Frank Ludwig; Junne Jackson; Sharon Pennell; Laura Cook; Lisa Smith, son Landon and family; Rose McCabe and family; Gary Ripka; Bill Frazier; Carson Shaver; holiday travelers

First Christian Church
2803 E Kiehl Avenue
Sherwood, AR 72120

501-835-5505
E-mail: SherwoodFCC@aol.com

We're on the Web!
www.sherwoodfcc.org

Where Love is a way of Life



**NEW
YEAR'S EVE
Fellowship
7 - 9 p.m.**

Join us in Chalice Hall on Thursday, December 31, for fun, food, games, and fellowship. This is will be a great way to send out the old year and welcome 2010. Everyone is welcome and there will be games for all ages.

Please bring your favorite finger foods to share. You won't want to miss out on some super games! If you don't care for games, you will enjoy the fellowship!

**December
CWF and
CMF
Meetings**



The CWF/CMF Christmas Party will be held on December 8, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in Chalice Hall. Please bring your favorite finger foods and an exchange gift for male or female not to exceed \$10.00. We will be exchanging gifts via "Sneaky Santa". We invite everyone to come and join in the fun and fellowship. If you have not come in the past, this is the year to do it. Just ask anyone who has come to hear about the good time we have. The hostesses will provide "staple foods" and drinks so all you need to do is bring yourself, a favorite treat, your exchange gift and be in the mood for having fun.

Looking forward to seeing all of you,
Anita Norman, CWF President
Ron Flowers, CMF President

DECEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

Greeters: Mark Lero & Pauline Frazier; **Front Porch Caller:** Betty Tompkins
Table Preparation: Joy Cagle; **Ushers:** Rod Kimball and Tom Reline

DATE: December 6

Worship Leader:

Elders: **Offertory** – Georgia Pounders; **Communion** – Mike Pounders

Deacons: Derrick Cagle, Nicholas Cagle, Don Cagle and Jennifer Mikesell

Children's Church: Joy Cagle

DATE: December 13

Worship Leader:

Elders: **Offertory** – Carla Flowers; **Communion** – Ron Flowers

Deacons: Don Cagle, Joy Cagle, Harry Skyles and Cindy Lee

Children's Church: Anita Norman

DATE: December 20

Worship Leader:

Elders: **Offertory** – Jimmie Birdsong; **Communion** – Reg Mikesell

Deacons: Tink Dedman, Linda Hampton, Harry Skyles and Averie Summers

Children's Church: Missy Lee

DATE: December 27

Worship Leader:

Elders: **Offertory** – Anita Norman; **Communion** – Marilou Coins

Deacons: Philip Cullins, Wes Hampton, Missy Lee and Tyler Hampton

Children's Church: Jean and Hunter Jenkins

Upward Basketball



We are blessed to serve as a Church host to Upward Basketball again this year. Basketball practices will be in Chalice Hall Monday and Thursday evenings 6 – 8 p.m. Dec – Feb. Games will be held on Saturday mornings 9 a.m. – noon during Jan – Feb. If you are interested in providing a devotional on a Saturday during each game's half-time please contact Joy in the church office.



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.