



# Good News

... from *First Christian Church  
of Sherwood*

Volume 45, Number 4

May 2010



## Hello church family!

I am enjoying getting to know some of you better and I look forward to that process with each of you. I am so happy that God has called me to be here as part of this congregation and I am very excited about where He is leading us. It is obvious to me that God has blessed this church very richly in the past through what many of you have offered of yourselves. Those gifts are still blessing many of us today and will for a long time to come. True to God's nature there are new blessings flowing here also. The first time and returning visitors, the resolution of some issues and questions, a spirit of renewed energy and increased joy are some that you have mentioned to me as blessings for which you are grateful.

I am also thrilled to see an emerging vision as I pray and talk with different ones of you about our Church. You have done such good work this year on the norms that will keep this a safe place to grow and connect with God and each other. In addition to the vision for our atmosphere, God is beginning to show us some possibilities for opportunities in programs offered and the impact we can have on the world around us. Some of the highlights on my agenda in the near future include a spiritual gifts

identification and training program, continued training and support for elders, deacons and other leadership teams and volunteers, marriage workshops and date nights for couples, and additional opportunities for children, college age, singles, families and seniors in the areas of fellowship, learning, and service. I look forward to watching God unfold His plan in our midst and I know that there are tremendous blessings in store for each of us individually and for the family as a whole! Thank you for letting me serve along side with you.

With grateful excitement,  
Julie

## Congregational Meeting

We will have congregational meetings immediately after services on Sunday, May 9, to vote on our slate of officers for the coming year of service (6/1/10 – 5/31/11). Copies of the ballot are available thru the church office or you may pick up a copy at Church on Sunday.

Section G3 of FCC's Constitution states "Additional nominations from the floor may only be made if prior consent of the nominee has been secured in writing, and submitted to the board chair or the board secretary at least 48 hours prior to the election." Please see Tony Blackwood, Board Chair, or Anita Norman, Board Secretary, if you will be making additional nominations.



**Service of Installation of  
Dr. Julie Wallace  
& Time of Prayer**

Please mark your calendar now and make plans to join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday night, May 12, at 7:00 p.m. for a special Time of Prayer and Service of Installation of Dr. Julie Wallace as our Pastor. A reception will be held in Chalice Hall after the service.



All **Youth Summer Camp** applications and fees are due to be returned to the church by **Sunday, May 9**. Please make checks payable to FCC for 1/2 of the registration fee listed below. When looking at the camps offered, our Youth will attend the camp based on the grade they are currently in. You can get a camp application from the church office, Lisa Vest, or you can go to the Great River Region website. [www.grcc.org](http://www.grcc.org)

- CYF Conference - **June 13-19** - \$260 – grades 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Discovery Camp - **June 19-20** - \$85 – grades K – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- JYF Camp - **June 20-23** - \$195 – grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- CHI RHO Camp - **June 23-27** - \$205 – grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- FIS2H Camp - **July 4-10** - \$270 – 9<sup>th</sup> grade

(Fis2h Camp will be held at Buffalo Lodge, AR; all other camps will be at Camp Couchdale in Hot Springs.)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
2010 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:  
Ashley Lee, Brandy Lee and  
Hunter Jenkins**

Our Church will recognize these special students during our 9:00 a.m. Worship on Sunday, May 16, and we will have a cake and punch reception in Chalice Hall at 12:15 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend!

The Education Ministry would like you to participate in making a scrapbook page for each of our graduates. Please take one or two sheets of paper for each graduate and make a page for each one that will be meaningful for them. The pages are on the table in the Church Narthex and in Chalice Hall.

Please take a few moments to jot a favorite scripture, note of encouragement or fond memory on your paper and return it to the Church no later than Saturday, May 15. We ask that you please limit yourself to no more than two pages per family, so there is room in each book for all to participate.



Brandy and Ashley's graduation ceremony is Friday, May 14, at 8:00 p.m. in the James B. Abraham Stadium located by the school in Lonoke.

Hunter's graduation ceremony is Friday, May 21, at 7:00 p.m. at Pulaski Academy on Hinson Road in the Conner Performing Arts Center.

Jean Jenkins would like to invite everybody to a dual graduation party honoring Danielle and Hunter on Saturday, May 22, at Maumelle Park from 12 – 6 p.m. No gifts please, just stop by for food and fun.

### Did you greet these visitors?

**April 4:** Scott & Megan Hairston, Tracy Norman, Karen Autrey, Chris & Ann Cook, Lisa & Trevor Cook, Jennifer Diaz, Rod Fanning, Sandy Fanning, Mark Luther, Robin & Jordyn Hutchins, Drew Kientz, Kris Harder, Martha Goodman, Trish & Kyleigh Chamblee

**April 11:** Scott Hairston, Ron Selby, Karen Autrey, Tracy Norman, Spence & Kathy Churchill, Cary & Sharon Elbert

**April 18:** Spence & Kathy Churchill, Cary & Sharon Elbert, Trina & Jason Lee, Nancy, Marilyn, Matt & Emily Barrow, Rea Van, Preston Dances, Ronnie Morgan, Glen Evans, Scott & Megan Hairston, Tracy Norman

**April 25:** Tracy Norman, David Ferguson, Erik & Dena Holbrooks, Scott & Megan Hairston, Hogan family, Lee & Kim Zimmerman, Fannie Henson, Ryan Lapsley, Joy Wilkerson, Robert McAdams, Shannon Sanford, Tyler Smith

#### Weekly Attendance

<b>April 4:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 127 Sunday School: 25 11 a.m. Service: 68
<b>April 11:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 63 Sunday School: 22 11 a.m. Service: 48
<b>April 18:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 63 Sunday School: 22 11 a.m. Service: 52
<b>April 25:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 74 Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. Service: 55

### *Church Women United "May Friendship Day"*

Church Women United invites all women to attend May Friendship Day at Bethel AME located at 6<sup>th</sup> and Cedar in North Little Rock on Friday, May 7. The meeting and program will begin at 10:30 a.m. and a lunch will be served following the program.

## *Interfaith Hospitality Network Arriving*

Once again it is time for our church to host of the guests of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. As you may remember, this ministry provides shelter, meals, and support services to families in crisis. Our host date is May 16 through May 22, 2009.

The families will arrive on Sunday, May 16, at 5:00 p.m. During this week we will need volunteers to cook and serve meals, play with the children and/or help with homework, spend the night, and interact with our guests during the week. Please check your schedules and pray about this opportunity for service. I promise you will receive just as many (and maybe even more!) blessings as our guests.

If you are interested in being a part of this amazing outreach, please contact me at 650-1014 or Joy in the church office (835-5505 or [sherwoodfcc@aol.com](mailto:sherwoodfcc@aol.com))

Thank you,  
Jimmie Birdsong, Missions Chair



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

The Food Pantry will collect canned soup and canned meats for the month of May. The Food Pantry can always use Sweet & Low and Splenda for diabetic guests. 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!

# A Spiritual Journey

By: Ron Flowers

Please don't compare what is put down here in some sort of competitive way. A spiritual journey is not in any way a race. In fact, the entire idea of using the word "journey" to describe spiritual development is a bit of a misnomer. Journey usually implies that there is a destination and the "spiritual journey" really has no end and only a rather fuzzy beginning. So as this is read, please take it for what it is, a simple list of places I have been, feelings I have had, and thoughts that have occurred to me as I have moved thru my life with Christ.

People argue to this very day about when life actually begins. Is it at conception, birth, or somewhere in between? The beginning of my spiritual life is just as unknown as the beginning of my physical life. I think the beginning was somewhere about the time that I first heard the Christmas story without Santa being mentioned. I know that I was a little child but I think that somewhere about this time it occurred to me that there was a god who was God and was worthy of my interest. I think when I first heard the Easter story without the bunny that it occurred to me that this god that I had discovered also had some interest in me.

Somewhere along in here I began to pray. I prayed almost every night and still do. I did not get on my knees and fold my hands like a child in a picture. I would simply close my eyes and turn my mind toward God. Initially my prayer efforts were centered entirely around me. "Please God let me make an "A" on that report card." "Please let me catch a lot of fish tomorrow." "Please let me see better or be less clumsy or run faster." "Please let me punch that kid in the face." I was very polite in my prayers. I always said please. They were, just the prayers of a child who knew no better. I believed only that there was a God

who was all powerful who loved me so much that he would give his own son's life for my benefit. Certainly any God who loved me that much would get me that new bicycle.

At about the age of ten, I was introduced to the idea that people who believe in God get baptized, so I did. I cannot say that I felt much different coming out of the water than I did going in. I had went in dry and came out wet but for the most part I continued along in my own way only now, people knew I was a Christian by the act of baptism rather than just by the fact that I was a pretty good kid.

Over the next few years my "technical" knowledge of God grew thru Sunday school and sermons I didn't sleep thru. Like most teens and tweens I got the evangelical urge. I thought that everyone should go to my church and that everyone that didn't must have something wrong with them. I went with the church youth and did some door knocking and some tract placement but for some odd reason I never had anyone say "I would have never heard of Jesus had it not been for you. Let's go down to your church so I can be baptized." This seems like a childish outlook on the whole situation but to be quite honest, I have not progressed far from this today. I still find it difficult to believe that our own church at Sherwood FCC is not packed with people every Sunday.

Sometimes I want to scream at people and say "God, the real god, the one god, loves you and wants to be a part of your life!" I don't do this because I have watched "Cool Hand Luke" and I don't want to go to jail. I am, however, often left sad and a bit hollow feeling when I see that so many turn their back on God.

Once I entered my late teens, my family stopped going to church on a regular basis. We would go four or five times a year. How could this happen? You might ask. Well as I recall, some group in the congregation said or did something that some other group in

the church found so offensive that they left and ran the pastor off at the same time. Can you imagine such a thing? I remember being a bit baffled by it all.

For the next 10 years I rarely went to a church service. I was at college or at the lake or just out to late to bother. At the same time, I never left God and he certainly never left me. My day still usually ended in prayer but now I had realized that other people actually might interest God just as much as I interested him.

Eventually I ended up in Little Rock and started attending church with Carla's grandparents at a Baptist church. Everything seemed fine. I occasionally went to Sunday school and was in the family pew most every meeting. Then Carla and I decided to marry and I got a rude awakening. I had been raised in a Church of Christ and was not "equally yoked" with my fiancé. It took a bit of explaining from the young minister of that church before I finally understood that not only was I wrong in my religious upbringing but since Carla had been previously married and her ex-husband was still living that what we were planning was just simple adultery. For the first time in my life someone was actually telling me to my face that I was on the wrong side of "the rules". At first I was confused, then I was angry, and finally we found a different Baptist minister that was more than happy to unite me with a woman I loved and two children that I would one day make my own.

Since the minister that had so graciously declined to marry Carla and I was the permanent pastor at the family church, Carla and I took a hiatus from active church attendance. For about 3 years we did whatever on Sunday morning, unless it was Easter or some other special occasion. Then our daughter Breanna came along and changed our mind about active church attendance. This was when we found FCC Sherwood. There is nothing quite as good

as a life altering tragedy to get you to reevaluate your religious status.

Now I had no idea exactly what it meant to be a Disciple of Christ and at this point in time I didn't even care. I was however, totally enamored of the congregation and minister who had reached out to my family without reservation. Jesus tells us that whenever we feed the poor, clothe the naked, tend the sick, and welcome the stranger that we really do it to him. It is certain that the membership of FCC at that time did a great service to Christ because they really made us feel as if we had come home.

Throughout my time at FCC I have been blessed by hearing the good word from the pulpit, having great Sunday school teachers and classes, and having wonderful examples of Christian love and support not only for myself and my family but for the community at large. One might think that all these things might convince me that I should become a Disciple of Christ but, in fact, what they have done is to convince me that I have been a Disciple of Christ since before my own baptism over 35 years ago.

This is where my "spiritual journey" has taken me so far. I have had some great moments in my life and some horrible moments as well. I think if I have learned one thing and learned it well; it would be that God is, indeed, always there.

## May CWF and CMF Meetings

The Christian Women and Men's Fellowship Groups invite all the men and women of the church to attend their monthly potluck supper and meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. This month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, at 6:30 p.m. in Chalice Hall.

The evening hosts will provide the main dish, and you are asked to bring a salad, vegetable, fruit or dessert to complement the meal.

## We are called to pray...

Military men, women and families, Brad Neaves, Derrick Coleman, Mike Bolton, Michael Washington, Jimmie's nephew Kyle, Darius Counts, Jared Riethbaum, Matt Dedman, Crystal Anders, Adam Kangieser, FCC of Sherwood, Ron Coins, the Summers family, Lucy Flewellen, John Siebert, Hazel Roberts, Brent, Nolan, Nina Ferguson & Sabrina, Bill & Carolyn Hale, Mary & Mike Walker, the Hutsell Family, Selina Rice and family; unspoken, Zoe Goss, Preston Wallis & family, Mary Magby, Frank Ludwig, Junne Jackson, Sharon Pennell, Laura Cook, Lisa Smith, son Landon and family, Rose McCabe and family, Karen Cornwell, Katherine Mayers (Peggy's sister-in-law), Baby Evan Love and family, Angel Palmer, Ulysses Robertson



I would like to thank everyone for their loving care and prayerful support during this difficult time of Barbara's death. We are all so thankful and appreciative of the kindness and generosity of the Church family to our family.

With Love,  
Elaine Anderson

Thank you so much for your thoughts and prayers and the wonderful daily visits from Pastor Steve, his friendly attitude and departure with a prayer during my hospital stay and recovery.

Thanks again,  
Ben Maness

## Dear Friends,

The gardening crew hopes you are enjoying the beautiful garden this spring. God has been good to us showering us with an abundance of rain and now lots of sunshine.

We have been blessed to have some new volunteers to help us in the garden this spring. Deb Flynn is a new willing worker. We are also blessed to have Doug Manes helping us out on a regular basis.



You may have noticed some of the changes made in the garden this spring as we have done some much-needed pruning and giving some plants more room to grow and shine.

We are once again asking for help with the expense for the garden. You may recall that the garden is not a part of the church budget and we depend entirely on gifts from you for maintenance. We need mulch for the garden and for the beds in front of Chalice Hall. We are also in need of fertilizers and sprays. We appreciate any help you can give to the garden crew. Just drop it into the plate with a note to Joy.

Thanks from the gardening crew!

Tink Dedman  
Linda and Reg Mikesell  
Doug Manes  
Deb Flynn  
Susie Gillihan

## Stewardship Report

April 4:	\$2,774.00
April 11:	\$3,105.60
April 18:	\$1,623.00
April 25:	\$2,462.84
YTD Offering:	\$42,248.42
YTD Expenses:	\$37,081.35
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$44,251.00

## **Chalice Hall 2010**

YTD Gifts:	\$9,262.50
YTD Payments:	\$9,452.00

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

*Where Love is a way of Life*

Dear SFCC Friends,

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Little Rock ([www.ihn-lr.org](http://www.ihn-lr.org)) is sponsoring a 100-Hole Golf Marathon and Fun Walk to be held Monday, May 24, at Maumelle Country Club. There is no entry fee for this event, but all participants are asked to make a good-faith effort to raise funds for the ministry by sending out 25 sponsor letters to friends and family members.

The golfing part of the event will last all day as the golfers will tee off at 7:00 a.m. The walkers will join in the fun at 4:30 p.m. and will walk the beautiful back nine holes on the cart paths (about 2.5 miles). All the participants will then be treated to a cookout. I am going to participate in the golf part of the event, and with God's help I hope to survive! I imagine Richard

will have to hold my hamburger and feed me as my arms are sure to be falling off by cookout time!

If any of you would also like to participate as either a golfer or a walker (wouldn't a team from our church be fun?), please contact me ([smcoote@att.net](mailto:smcoote@att.net) or 258-2091), and I will get you all the information and sponsor letters you need. If you are interested in sponsoring me or a willing walker, please let me know that, too. I am so glad that our church is one of 19 churches in and around the Greater Little Rock area that make up this great hands-on ministry.

Blessings in Christ,  
Shari Coote



# MAY SERVING SCHEDULE

**Table Preparation:** Kim Scott  
**Front Porch Caller:** Betty Tompkins  
**Ushers:** Rod Kimball and Tom Reline

**DATE: May 2**

**Worship Leader:** Jennifer Mikesell

**Elders: Offertory** – Betty Tompkins; **Communion** – Lisa Vest

**Deacons:** Harry Skyles, Susan Fanning, Wes Hampton and Tyler Hampton

**Children's Church:** Joy Cagle

**DATE: May 9**

**Worship Leader:** Betty Skyles

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

**Deacons:** Peggy Griffin, Doyle Phillips, Kelly Phillips and Nicholas Cagle

**Children's Church:**

**DATE: May 16**

**Worship Leader:** Betty Skyles

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

**Deacons:** Derrick Cagle, Jennifer Mikesell, Philip Cullins and Hunter Jenkins

**Children's Church:** Jean Jenkins

**DATE: May 23**

**Worship Leader:** Kim Scott

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

**Deacons:** Peggy Griffin, Jean Jenkins, Kim Scott and Averie Summers

**Children's Church:**

**DATE: May 30**

**Worship Leader:** Doyle Phillips

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

**Deacons:** Don Cagle, Joy Cagle, Brandy Lee and Jennifer Mikesell

**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.