



# Good News

... from *First Christian Church  
of Sherwood*

Volume 44, Number 10

November 2009



We are focusing on one norm a week with Scripture passages, ways that it challenges us to live, and questions it raises. The seven norms outlined by the congregational meetings are:

1. To do God's will above all
2. To be Genuine
3. To be committed to Excellence (not perfectionism)
4. To Love without Boundaries
5. To work to Raise our Internal Standards/Life
6. To have a Positive Attitude
7. To use our Freedom to Benefit Others.

I hope that you will take time to pick up a sheet (or download the email), read and reflect on them, pray about them and see how you can help them to be lived out here at First Christian.

The second effort that I want to lift up is the start of a program to reach out to our active members and active participants on a regular basis. Beginning in November we will start a telephone ministry in which we will be calling just to see how you are doing. This is not a recruiting call or a call to demand anything of you. We will be inviting you to share prayer requests for the team of people to lift up that evening as well as just letting you know you are

important to us. If you are not a member but are an active participant (attending at least 3 times over the past 3 months) we would like to call but need you to let us know that you would like those contacts. We do not want to intrude so if you do want to be contacted please call, leave a note in, or email the church office. Likewise, if you are a member and do not want to be contacted please let us know.

We are looking forward to how these efforts will strengthen our community and our individual lives. There is so much to celebrate here at First Christian and we believe that Christ has many more wonderful things for us in the days ahead.

God Bless,  
Steve



Mark your calendar! You certainly won't want to miss a thing! Sunday, November 22, Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m., we will come together with one Worship Service at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by our annual Thanksgiving Potluck in Chalice Hall. Turkey, Ham and dressing will be provided, you are asked to bring a vegetable, casserole, fruit, salad or dessert for this wonderful feast. We hope to see everyone there!

# A Spiritual Journey

By: Mike Grundy

I suppose the most important things I can share about my understanding of God are the stories of how God has influenced my life. As a child, I remember attending a church with my mother that taught the nature of God in absolute terms. For example, God is absolute love, or Omnipotent (all powerful), or Omniscient (all knowing), or Omnipresent (everywhere), or Immutable (unchanging), to explain God's relationship to creation. For a long time, I defined God by these absolute statements. As a result, I tended to describe God with a lot of big words that were kind of empty. Years later, when I was in seminary, my Systematic Theology professor would say, "To make an absolute statement about God is to say nothing at all about God." In other words, to say that God is "everything" is to make God indistinguishable from anything. In other words, it is easy for me to declare that God is big. It is much more difficult for me to declare that God is big enough. I have no problem saying that God is everywhere. But it is an entirely different thing to believe that God is "here."

Let me tell you a story about how I began to realize the presence of God. For as long as I can remember, I have believed that God is always present with me in some way. But, I don't think I began to understand what God's presence meant until the summer of my sophomore year in college (that would be about 1986). I had taken the opportunity to be a counselor at a popular Christian athletics camp in Missouri called Kanakuk. I was in Houston, Texas attending college at the time; and I thought that this would be a nice summer adventure. Most of the counselors for this camp were recruited during the school year from basketball, football, gymnastics, and other programs in colleges across the country. These recruits represented some of the most talented and physically fit athletes in college sports. In contrast, I was a 27 year old who had never played sports. I was a little uncoordinated and definitely out of shape. By signing up to teach sailing and archery--two sports that involved only nominal physical activity—I believed that I could "fit in" well enough to make it through the summer. But, I

didn't realize how physically challenging that summer would be.

By the middle of the summer, I was dragging. It was hot, and the camp cabins had no air conditioning. The days were long, hot, and physically intense. On top of that, my girlfriend (Joyce) was several hundred miles away, counseling at a camp in Texas. We were allowed to have every other weekend off, but the only communication to the outside world when we were at camp was "snail mail". When we could take leave, the normal drill was to find another counselor who had the same weekend off and split a hotel room in Branson, in order to save some money. Once you checked in, you would turn the air conditioning up all the way and sleep all weekend in the cool, dry air. Going back to the camp on Sunday evenings became harder and harder with each weekend leave. I really began to wonder whether I was going to be able to complete my obligation. I was a determined guy, and I didn't give up on things easily. But, I was a long way from home and way outside my comfort zone.

During the week, cabin counselors would take turns having a private morning devotional before the kids got up to start their day. We all had different ways of getting away for a brief morning devotional; mine was to go as far into the woods as I could for the 45 minutes or so that I had. On one particular morning, I had gone off trail a considerable distance, until I came upon a fallen tree trunk hidden away in the brush. As I sat there in the solitude for a while, alternately praying and feeling sorry for myself, I began to wonder if God might be too big to bother with my issues. After all, God had much bigger things to deal with in the world than my complaints. I began to wonder if God was even conscious of my situation. But, as I got up to leave, I happened to notice a small red object at my feet. I bent down to get a closer look and discovered that it was a friendship bracelet—one of those braided cloth bracelets that kids gave to each other. It was popular back then for the campers to weave them out of red bandanas and give them away as reminders of the relationships they had built during their stay at camp. As I marveled at how it got this far into the woods, off of the "beaten path," it began to dawn on me that God had been sitting there with me on that fallen tree trunk the whole time. Even though

my loneliness and my problems were insignificant, the all-powerful God of the universe had taken time to be with me for a while, and to remind me that he was my "listening" friend. I wore that bracelet for the rest of the summer, and into my junior year of college, until it fell apart. And, it always served to remind me that God is not only omnipotent and "omni-present," but was also small enough to sit with a lonely guy in the woods one day and remind him of his undying friendship.

We are the instruments of God's love



## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Once again, it is our scheduled time to host the families in the Network. They will be arriving on Sunday, November 8 and will be living in Chalice Hall until the following Sunday a.m. I am not sure how many families we will have at this point as it changes on a weekly basis. Your service is very much needed during this week. Please consider cooking a meal, spending the night, or just spending time with the families. If you have questions or would like to sign up for a specific day, please contact me @ 650-1014. You may also, as always, contact Joy in the church office.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration to this incredible mission.

Jimmie Birdsong  
Chairman, Missions Ministry

<u>Weekly Attendance</u>	
<b>October 4:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 69 Sunday School: 25 11 a.m. Service:
<b>October 11:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 85 Sunday School: 25 11 a.m. Service:
<b>October 18:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 59 Sunday School: 24 11 a.m. Service:
<b>October 25:</b>	9 a.m. Worship: 41 Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. Service:

### Did you greet these visitors?

**Oct. 4:** Karen Autry, Hogan Family, Tracy Norman, Ally Dupree, Hailey & Hannah

**Oct 11:** Ally Dupree, Hunter, Martha, Hannah & Haleigh Figley, Tracy Norman, Hogan Family, Brad Clark, Debbie Stepp, Rick & Diane McCright

**Oct. 18:** Ally & Thomas Dupree, Hannah & Haleigh Figley, Tracy Norman, Brad Clark, Debbie Stepp, Kyleigh Chamlee, Hogan Family

**Oct. 25:** Brad Clark, Debbie Stepp, Tracy Norman

*My feet stand on level ground; in  
the great assembly I will praise the  
Lord.*

*Psalms 26:12*

**Help**  
**Wanted**



If you are interested in working with children ages 3 and up, please contact Missy Lee for a great opportunity!

982-0795, [missy.lee1970@yahoo.com](mailto:missy.lee1970@yahoo.com)

### Stewardship Report

October 4:	\$3,808.00
October 11:	\$2,241.01
October 18:	\$2,243.25
October 25:	\$2,970.00
YTD Offering:	\$103,715.50
YTD Expenses:	\$110,897.18
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$119,816.00

### **Chalice Hall 2009**

YTD Gifts:	\$24,616.50
YTD Payments:	\$23,630.00

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

*Where Love is a way of Life*

## 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; Reece Much; Brent, Nolan & Nina Ferguson; Bill Hale; Ethan Isgrig; Charline Meadows; Pauline Frazier; Mark Lero; unspoken; Robert Smith; Aileen Silliman; Zoe Goss; Preston Wallis and family; Mary Magby; Frank Ludwig; Junne Jackson; Sharon Pennell; Willie Cullins; Laura Cook; Mary Howell; Lisa Smith, son Landon and family

*We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Tom & Susan Hensley and Ken & Diane Taylor and families in the death of Olive Fenton.*

## November CWF and CMF Meetings

Christian Women's Fellowship Group will not meet on November 10, 2009 as FCC is hosting families from Interfaith Hospitality. Tuesday is the night that the counselors come in with the families so there wouldn't be time for a meal (that we usually share with them) or our meeting. Interfaith will need Chalice Hall for the counselors beginning at 7:00. Also, our Cub Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall, so that is not available. We will meet on our regular night in December, (Dec. 8) for our Christmas Party. I will keep you updated for the party.

Also, someone suggested we might get together and go out to eat this month and have an evening of fellowship. If this idea sounds good to you, just let me know. And, if CMF wants to join in, that would be great too.

Thanks,

Anita Norman, CWF President  
833-3567/835-1303/920-6762



## FEED THE HUNGRY

The Food Pantry will be collecting **canned soups and canned meats** for the month of November. 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!

# NOVEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

**Table Preparation:** Joy Cagle  
**Front Porch Caller:** Betty Tompkins; **Greeters:**  
**Ushers:** Rod Kimball and Tom Reline

**DATE: NOVEMBER 1**

**Worship Leader:** Betty Skyles

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

**Deacons:** Tink Dedman, Peggy Griffin, Harry Skyles and Cindy Lee

**Children's Church:** Joy Cagle

**DATE: NOVEMBER 8**

**Worship Leader:** Don Cagle

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

**Deacons:** Linda Hampton, Tyler Hampton, Kelly Phillips and Doyle Phillips

**Children's Church:** Jean Jenkins

**DATE: NOVEMBER 15**

**Worship Leader:** Ron Flowers

**Elders: Offertory** – Marilou Coins; **Communion** – Jimmie Birdsong

**Deacons:** Derrick Cagle, Kelly Phillips, Doyle Phillips and Ashley Lee

**Children's Church:** Anita Norman

**DATE: NOVEMBER 22**

**Worship Leader:** Marilou Coins

**Elders: Offertory** – Anita Norman; **Communion** – Reg Mikesell

**Deacons:** Joy Cagle, Jean Jenkins, Mark Lero and Averie Summers

**Children's Church:** Missy Lee

**DATE: NOVEMBER 29**

**Worship Leader:** Doyle Phillips

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

**Deacons:** Philip Cullins, Jean Jenkins, Jennifer Mikesell and Hunter Jenkins

**Children's Church:**



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.