

*A Church
for
Today*

*The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)*

Good News

**... from First Christian Church
of Sherwood**

Volume 44, Number 9

October 2009



When we first moved to Little Rock the house we were buying was not finished leaving us with no place to live and school starting. Graciously we were invited to stay with a family until our house was ready. I remember how wonderful it was to have a place to stay; and it was a very nice place to stay. But I also recall the questions I had and uncertainty I felt. This wasn't our place and I didn't know the expectations, the 'rules', the do's and don'ts. We put on our best manners but we didn't know if we did things the same way as they did.

Over the past month we have been talking about the expectations for our behavior and interactions with one another. Everyone was invited to share in a 21 day examination of Scripture passages and what they call to us to do. The result of this study and reflection is contained in 7 themes to guide our behavior. For the next few weeks we will be looking at one of these each week and the implications they have for how we relate to each other. I invite you to take part

in this reflection and help as we work on how to respond to the call of Scripture.

The themes are:

Doing God's will above all

Be genuine

Committed to excellence (not perfectionism)

Love without Boundaries

Work to raise our internal standards/life

Have a Positive Attitude

Using our freedom to benefit others

I look forward to seeing where these callings lead us and how they bless our community.

God bless,
Steve



Dear CMF & CWF,

You ladies and gents are "over the top". Jim and I were so surprised and delighted.

What was supposed to be a potluck turned into a bonanza for us. Thank you, thank you for the great fellowship time, the gift cards, and the pouring out of your love. I love you all.

Nora Ann and Jim

P.S. You are excellent cooks!



Do you find yourself doing things that just aren't enjoyable as you try to serve God? Do you feel trapped in a role that simply "isn't you"? Have you been searching for "your place" but aren't sure where that place is? Then accept the invitation to "**Find Your Fit**" with **Rev. Stephen Wallace** on Sunday, October 18 from 2-4:30 p.m. This interactive and informative seminar will help you identify the Gifts, Abilities, Experiences, Style and Passion in your life that will have you serving God in a rich and rewarding way. Join the search and let us know you are coming by calling the church office.

Weekly Attendance

September 6:	9 a.m. Worship: 55 Sunday School: 17 11 a.m. Service: 32
September 13:	9 a.m. Worship: 60 Sunday School: 23 11 a.m. Service: 42
September 20:	9 a.m. Worship: 60 Sunday School: 22 11 a.m. Service: 40
September 27:	9 a.m. Worship: 64 Sunday Brunch 11 a.m. Service: 30

Did you greet these visitors?

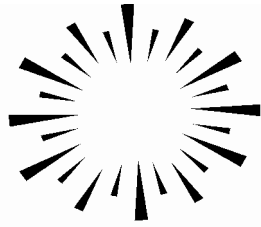
Sept 6: Karen Autry, Hogan Family, Tracy Norman, Debbie Bennett, Kane, Emma, Madison & Greta Woods, Ally Dupree
Sept 13: Karen Autry, Pete & Pat Hampton, Larry Mosier, Cheryl Kaye, Tatum Tompkins, Roberta Jameson
Sept 20: Karen Autry
Sept 27: Rick & Diane McCright, Tracy Norman, Ally Dupree, Hannah & Haley



Debra Holmes joins into membership with FCC Sherwood through transfer of letter. Debra is originally from Indiana and moved to Arkansas when she was 18 to attend Arkansas College (now Lyon College) in Batesville. She decided to stay in Arkansas and claims to have become "Southerner by choice". Debra works in the Strategic Development Dept. at Baptist Health doing market research with an emphasis on patient satisfaction data. Her main hobby is fishing she also enjoys reading and doing nothing when time permit; she enjoys martial arts and has been a student of Living Defense Martial Arts for 16 years. Picky eater? No way! Debra says "whatever you serve is my favorite food." She will surely enjoy our potlucks! Please welcome Debra and make her feel at home here at FCC!



The gardening crew is asking for help. We appreciate all the help you have given us over the years and this season. We really appreciate you! We are in need of someone that will weed-eat for us and help us pull a few weeds. Later in the fall we will need to divide plants and clean up the garden for fall. If you are available to help us please call me at 835-2651. I can arrange to meet with you almost any time. Thanks for your help. Susie Gillihan



New Church Ministry
Care Ministry to
Launch in October

New and exciting things are taking place around our church these days, and you have an opportunity to be a part of a new ministry! Our new Care Ministry efforts are intended to provide an intentional, structured way to connect with one another and remain united as one body in Christ. Three different ministries make up the Care Ministry.

A **TeleCare Ministry** will soon take its inaugural flight, and you're invited aboard! If you have a passion for caring for others, are comfortable talking on the phone with both friends and strangers, can keep confidences, and are a good listener and communicator, then we have an ideal spot for you; and/or, if you have a heart for praying for others, are willing to join with others to lift up prayers, and can keep confidences, then this is the ministry for you! This Ministry's teams will meet in the evening at the church for about two hours every three months. You may participate in one or both areas of the TeleCare Ministry. Training for this ministry will be led by Steve Wallace on Sun. Oct. 25 at 2:30 p.m.

In addition to the TeleCare Ministry, we've given name, structure and definition to some existing areas of ministry. We now have a **Visitation Ministry** that will focus its attention in two different areas. One team will be making regular contact with our homebound members through personal visits and sending cards, etc. A second team will be making visits to those who are hospitalized. You may sign up for one or both of these visitation teams. We also have

given name, structure and definition to our **Food Ministry** whose focus will be to provide food in times of crisis or celebration.

If any (or all!) of these ministries sound like an area of service you'd like to be a part of, then please contact Georgia Pounders at g.pounders@comcast.net or by phone at 771-1417 for more information or to sign up. You may also email or call the church office for information or to sign up. You may serve in as many areas as you feel led. Printed information will be available in the narthex and in Chalice Hall. Teams are forming now, so go ahead and make that call or send that email to sign up!



One quarter of all families that visit FCC's Food Pantry have at least one family member who is diabetic. In order to help those families in need, the Food Pantry will be collecting **Sweet and Low and Splenda** for the month of October. 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!

*But grow in spiritual strength and
become better acquainted with our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 3:18



Stewardship An Opportunity for Service

Our church has ample opportunities for everyone to get involved in something that they like to do. It doesn't matter whether the task is big or small because it takes all parts to function properly.

During the first full week of October you will be receiving pledge cards from the Stewardship and Finance Committee. You will have the chance to respond to your financial calling as well as your commitment to service for the coming year. You should view this as a goal that you set not because of pressure or obligation but as a response to God's blessings in your life.

I would ask that you give serious thought and prayer to what you can offer your church to help in its mission of making disciples and spreading the good news of Christ. Then fill out one or both of the pledge cards. On Saturday night October 24 there will be a commitment dinner at Chalice Hall to celebrate your giving nature. Your admittance to the dinner will be a filled out a pledge card(s). There will be various soup and chili dishes with all the fixings. Then during our service on Sunday we will celebrate and emphasize our commitment to service before God.

The Stewardship and Finance committee hopes you will join us this year in achieving our greatest potential by becoming involved and listening to God's calling. We are also here to help you in any way possible to fulfill your calling and enhance your inner talents.

Let's celebrate all the great things that God can do if we'll just listen to his voice. Peace in Christ! Doyle Phillips – Stewardship & Finance 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; Susan Branstetter; Kim Ferguson; Hazel Roberts; Olive Fenton; Lynley & Steve Summers; Ben Maness and family; Mary Straw; John Siebert; Reece Much; Brent, Nolan & Nina Ferguson; Ron Coins; Pauline Frazier; Carolyn Smith; Reece Much; Pauline Frazier; Bill Hale; Rod Kimball; Jared Rieathbaum; Donnie Rieathbaum's father; unspoken; Robert Smith; Aileen Silliman; Zoe Goss; Preston Wallis and family; Mary Magby; Frank Ludwig; Junne Jackson; Sharon Pennell; Bill Gallucci; Willie Cullins and family; Angela Powell; Daniel Eppinette and family

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to the Jackson family and Tink Dedman and family upon the recent death of Tink's son, Leigh Jackson.



Boy Scout Popcorn

Please help support FCC's Cub Scout Pack 255 by purchasing delicious Boy Scout Popcorn. Popcorn information & order forms are in the Narthex; the last day to place an order will be October 18.

You do not need to pay for your popcorn until it is delivered in November.

Thank you FCC for your continued support!!! Joy Cagle, Cubmaster

A Spiritual Journey

By: Lisa Vest

A couple of weeks ago Ms. Susie came up to me after Praise Service and asked if I would write an article for the 'Good News' about my spiritual journey. Without thinking I answered "yes", as that is my nature and I would do anything for one of my favorite people, Ms. Susie. Then I put it away in my mind and honestly forgot about it until I received the reminder about the 'Good News' deadline from Joy. Then I remembered what I had committed to. Oh my....! As I began to think about what I was going to say, it became very clear to me that my "journey" is really pretty boring or benign. By the grace of God my life has been wonderful. I grew up in a loving, God centered family. Yes, as all families, we had our problems (and still do on some issues). But I can't say that any of them affected my spiritual journey. We moved from California to Arkansas when I was 13 (Now, I could write a book on that journey for a 13 year old...! ☺). I met and married my high school sweetheart, Scott. We have (2) wonderful daughters, Sarah and Leah. By God's hands we found our way to First Christian Church of Sherwood.

There....end of story. Well.....no, I don't think that would pass the Ms. Susie test (and I do so want to please her..!). So I am going to speak to you about my "relationship" with my Father.

As I said, I grew up in a God centered family. So all of my ideas, feelings, and understanding of God and who he is came from others. And all of those things were good, but they weren't "mine", if you can understand this. So I never really had a true relationship with him. I can honestly say that I am a "newborn" believer/Christian/Christ Child/follower. I purposely didn't use the word "reborn" as I consider myself as just now born into my relationship with Christ. Everyday I am

discovering new and wonderful things about this relationship, both about me and about Him. I am learning to find comfort in The Word. But that comfort with The Word comes from my relationship with my Father. I know that I don't understand all that is written or why it is written that way, but I am crystal clear on the parts that matter to me and where I am with my life today. I know, without hesitation, that I am loved, as is, no changes are required. I know that I have a "real" friend for life that has my back in anything I do. I know there is nothing that I could ever do to change that love for me. Because of my understanding of this unconditional love, I have freedom. I don't need to search for that kind of love anywhere else, so I have the freedom to focus that energy on loving others and doing things in his world for Him. As I study The Word, pray and just "be" with my Father, our relationship grows more deeply. Again, I want to say that I am still very, very new at this, but if I continue to strive to have a relationship with my Father and it is this good already, then I can't begin to imagine where He and I will go, together. What a fantastic journey it will be. I can't wait to see....!

Stewardship Report

September 6:	\$3,516.25
September 13:	\$1,680.25
September 20:	\$1,688.00
September 27:	\$2,475.65
YTD Offering:	\$92,385.32
YTD Expenses:	\$99,535.94
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$108,248.00

Chalice Hall 2009

YTD Gifts:	\$22,686.50
YTD Payments:	\$21,267.00

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

Where Love is a way of Life

Truckers Chapel Ministry

Sunday I spoke about the Truckers Chapel Ministry and I wanted everyone to understand that this is an outreach mission field from our church. You all are a big part of this mission. It's a combination of Spiritual Life and Evangelism Ministries. This is an outreach ministry that really needs your support – not with money but with your interest and involvement. There is a big need for these truckers to have a feeling of belonging to a Christian community that will accept them as they are. These folks spend lonely hours behind the wheel of these rigs for our benefit. We get the results of their hard labor. They are away from family, friends and church. As an outreach from our church they reap the benefit of having a chapel service just for them. Yes, this is their chosen field of work but as Christians we can make it a little easier with a Sunday service for them. I'm inviting all of you to come any

Sunday and sit in on a service and get the feel of some of their huts and chat with them. You would be amazed at the blessing you could receive. This is our mission and Christ's command to go out in the field and preach the gospel. If you cannot come, that's okay; but say a prayer for them and their families. I have dedicated the service to be held in the movie theater at the Petro Truck Stop on I-40 East at the Galloway exit #161 to be held at 12:30 p.m. The manager there was very interested in having a minister come since he had tried to get one but no one answered the call until I came there. This is your ministry as well. You are a part of the big picture. I let them know what church has sponsored this ministry for them and they are grateful for this. There are not that many truck-stops that will allow a minister to come and have a service in the truck-stop. We are fortunate to get this opportunity to be a blessing for the. Peace. Marilou Coins

OCTOBER SERVING SCHEDULE

Table Preparation: Pauline Frazier and Mark Lero

Ushers: Rod Kimball and Tom Reline

Greeters: Mike and Georgia Pounders; **Front Porch Caller:** Betty Tompkins

DATE: OCTOBER 4

Worship Leader: Ron Flowers

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

Deacons: Peggy Griffin, Missy Lee, Don Cagle and Nicholas Cagle

Children's Church: Jean Jenkins

DATE: OCTOBER 11

Worship Leader: Marilou Coins

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

Deacons: Brittney Flowers, Eric Flowers, Kim Scott and Nicholas Cagle

Children's Church: Joy Cagle

DATE: OCTOBER 18

Worship Leader: Doyle Phillips

Elders: **Offertory** – Reg Mikesell; **Communion** – Betty Tompkins

Deacons: Brittney Flowers, Eric Flowers, Kim Scott and Hunter Jenkins

Children's Church:

DATE: OCTOBER 25

Worship Leader:

Elders: **Offertory** – Lisa Vest; **Communion** – Anita Norman

Deacons: Philip Cullins, Missy Lee, Ashley Lee and Mark Lero

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.