

A Church for Today

The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Good News

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

Volume 44, Number 8

September 2009



Notes From the Pastor

We are not a family that spends much time working on puzzles. Sure there was the 10 foot long alphabet train that we would do when the boys were very young, and the occasional mystery puzzle. But overall it seems that vacations are about the only time when puzzles come out of the closet and onto the table. Usually it is at Grandma's in Oklahoma City or at a cabin in Colorado that they make an appearance because of the laid back setting and ... I am not sure what. Maybe puzzles don't appear more frequently because they are challenging and take a great deal of persistence and time in getting them all put together.

Over the past three months we have been working on puzzle pieces here at FCC Sherwood. The puzzle we are putting together reveals a picture of the kind of place we want to be and what kind of things we want to focus on doing. You have offered a tremendous amount of energy and effort in getting us to where we are now (thanks!), and we can now "make out" the design. Yet we are not finished. There are

still key pieces to be put into place and the excitement of being able to see the picture in totality to come.

This Sunday we will put in a few more pieces as we talk about the reflections on the 21 days of scripture passages. These passages give us God's call for what Christian and the Church culture are to be like. They challenge us to put into place particular attitude, priorities and perspectives. You are invited to come and share in putting this next piece of the picture in place Sunday, August 30, at 2 p.m. God Bless, Steve



**GIVE US
YOUR
FEEDBACK**

Included with this edition of the 'Good News' is a 3 page report from your Worship Committee outlining some Sunday morning scheduling formats that are being considered. All members are asked to please spend time in prayer and reflection when reviewing the options; then share your thoughts and comments with the Worship Committee, by putting those comments in writing and placing them in the box located in the Church Narthex or Chalice Hall.



The Gift of Giving ***Stewardship – A Continuous*** ***Journey and a Great Opportunity***

When you hear the word “stewardship” what is the first thought that comes to mind? Do you hear yourself saying “Oh no, here they come asking for money again and getting into that discussion on tithing”? I used to until I rubbed the sleep out of my eyes and started looking deeper into the word of God. When I did this I found that stewardship is more about the use of our God given talents. Of course the financial end cannot be ignored because without the finances it would be impossible for some of those other talents to shine through.

We have an abundance of talent in this church that we are all aware of and I strongly feel we have some hidden talents out there lurking in the shadows. We need to ask people what they are passionate about in life and then we need to find ways to encourage and utilize that talent in a way that strengthens our church and our community.

In September we begin our stewardship emphasis for the fall season. You will see some of our many volunteers highlighted and the impact that those people and our church have on our community and abroad. You will find areas that may peak your interest and ignite a desire in you to become involved. All of this is in an effort to not only give thanks and celebrate, but also to invite you to make a commitment to move towards God’s calling for you by getting involved physically as well as financially.

With all this in mind we must remember that stewardship is a day to day event. It is something we must continually focus on and not forget about. It needs to be a priority in our lives not because of an obligation, but because we have been blessed by God. Our stewardship is our acknowledgement

that we are thankful for the talents and money He has given us.

As we reflect on our cheerful stewardship responsibilities I feel it is important for everyone to have an up to date picture of where our church is at today. So far this year our financial giving is just over 9% below where we have averaged over the past three years. We understand that the economy is down and our families are facing leaner times than before. At the same time however our expenses are up over 14% versus the same period during the last three years. Everyone can help here by doing the simple things such as turning off lights and air conditioning when we leave our facilities after using them. Also by making sure the doors are locked and the building is secure helps protect us and our property. Year to date we are running at a \$6,000 deficit. We have reserves, but we need to really take a close look at what we can do. I have faith in our church and God to know that we will survive through these times.

We also have almost \$10,000 worth of hail damage to our roof. We do have insurance, but we have a \$1,000 deductible. Emergencies happen that we cannot control and these are the types of things our reserves are needed to cover.

We are going along okay but it would be a shame to have to be looking at budget cuts at a time when it is so critical to be building our outreach to the community in an effort to go forth where God is leading us. We have people excited about doing things and we do not need to be discouraging or hindering in any way.

I would ask that all of us commit to prayer and reflection over the next several weeks to really examine what God has intended for us to accomplish. How has God blessed you so that you can have an impact on others? Remember stewardship is everyday. We are blessed with a great opportunity and it is time to answer that call to God’s service. Will you be a blessing today?

Peace in Christ!

Doyle Phillips, Stewardship & Finance Chair



Want to get a glimpse into who we are as part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)? On Sunday, September 13 at 2 p.m. we will have a 90 minute look at the passions that began our movement, the perspective that continues to drive it and the unique traits that we offer to those searching to build a relationship with Christ. Please call the church (835-5505) or sign up so that we can make the right arrangements for the class.

Find out: what is the 5 finger exercise

- who caused the Missouri State Legislature to cancel its session and why
- what funeral document is key to our beginning
- what are “barking, running, laughing” exercises



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



Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Words cannot express my sincere thank you for the loving shawl made for me. The love contained in that shawl will be a comfort for a long time. When I go to Ironton I am going to take it with me. I want Leigh to feel the love in this wonderful gift.

Many many thanks for your thoughtfulness, your kindness and mainly your love. Blessings to all, Love always, Tink Dedman

The Reline family wants to thank our church family for all the hugs, cards and calls that were given to us. We truly appreciate all that you do; you've really helped us through a difficult time. And a special 'thank you' to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for the beautiful shawl that brings me such comfort. Thank all of you for the love and care you have shown us, we love all of you.

Tom & Kathy Reline

The food was delicious, the service was extraordinary, and the decorations were perfect. The Mexican Dinner was a huge success because so many people care and are willing to share their talents. Thank you to the Youth members who gave their Saturday night to help serve the dinner and clean up afterwards, to Kim S. for the beautiful decorations, to Missy, Scott, Philip and David for their willingness to help where needed and a very special THANKS to Jimmie, Lisa and Sarah who worked lovingly throughout the week chopping, mixing and cooking an absolutely fabulous meal! Thank you to all who supported our missionaries by being there and to all those who helped behind the scenes to make the evening a success!

God's Perfect Plan

By: Cheryl Ferguson

“The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord” Job1:21. Truly this Bible verse reverberates throughout our lives, but none more so than when you lose a loved one. I have to be honest there was a time when my faith was severely tested following the death of our 4-year-old daughter, Amanda, in an automobile accident, nearly 24 years ago. Her death was so sudden and unexpected, it was weeks before I realized a drastic change had occurred in our ability to attend church services. I finally mustered the courage to ask Mark why he kept refusing to go to church (not that I really argued so much, I was still drowning in my own grief). His response brought about one of the scariest moments of my life. He said he was struggling to understand everything that had happened. Honestly, I was frightened to hear this from my husband, the man who taught me everything I knew about our God and was the very reason I had accepted Jesus into my life. It was the wake-up call I needed. No longer could I immerse myself in my own grief, I had to do something. Suddenly, I wasn't as desperately missing my child as much as I was worried that we would lose our eternal souls. I had not doubted that God would care for us, as he always had before. I would love to tell you that it was only days, weeks or even months before we were able to resume our walk with God. It didn't. But, we did find our way back to Him. In the back of my mind I always knew God was just waiting, waiting for the perfect opportunity to wrap his arms around me and tell me everything will be good again. “He will yet fill you with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy.” Job 8:21. We just needed to be ready to meet Amanda again in Heaven. Out of this horrible and unspeakable tragedy grew a deeper understanding and hunger for God's

word. Without our faith in God and the promise of eternal life we have NOTHING. We must be ready to throw ourselves to the ground and praise the Lord for everything he has given us, not what he has taken from us. Through it all God taught me that life on this earth is fleeting. And I have learned a lot. I've learned to love a little deeper, talk a little sweeter and rejoice in each day. We can't always know God's plan for us, but we can change our course to fit into our plan to follow God. “In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his step.” Proverbs 16:9.

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; Susan Branstetter; Kim Ferguson; Hazel Roberts; Olive Fenton; Lynley & Steve Summers; Lucille Flewellen and family; Ben Maness and family; Justin Enloe; Mary Straw; John Siebert; Reece Much; Brent, Nolan & Nina Ferguson; Missy Lee; Tink Dedman and son, Leigh Jackson; Dale & Patty Campbell and family; Susie Gillihan; Ron Coins; Pauline Frazier; unspoken; Robert Smith; Aileen Silliman; Zoe Goss; Preston Wallis and family; Mary Magby; Frank Ludwig; Junne Jackson; Sharon Pennell; Bill Gallucci; Peterson family; family and friends of Charles Bradford; Don & Doreen Darden; Baby Hudson and parents, Liz & Josh; Rowe family; Cailan and family; Joe & Kim Brazil; Mary Hiegel; Baby Brianna Kennedy; Beth Foster; Strain family

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Linda & Tom Farley and family upon the recent death of Linda's mother, Bertie Parker.

Weekly Attendance

August 2:	9 a.m. Worship: 72 Sunday School: 28 11 a.m. Service: 43
August 9:	9 a.m. Worship: 47 Sunday School: 21 11 a.m. Service: 37
August 16:	9 a.m. Worship: 68 Sunday School: 20 11 a.m. Service: 41
August 23:	9 a.m. Worship: 73 Sunday School: 20 11 a.m. Service: 40



A reception to honor the marriage of Jim and Nora Ann Goss will be held during our monthly Christian Women's and Men's Fellowship meetings and potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8.

Our hostess will provide ham as our main course and you are invited to bring a salad, casserole, fruit, vegetable or dessert item to complement the meal.

We hope you will join us as we offer best wishes to this happy couple.

Did you greet these visitors?

Aug 2: Karen Autry, Ally Dupree
Aug 9: Mike & Janet Jackson, Karen Autry
Aug 16: Susan Fanning, Karla Evans, Ally Dupree, Karen Autrey, Mike & Janet Jackman, Kristen & Katelynn Rhodes
Aug 23: Rick Hamilton, Dustin Emerson, Tracy Norman, Darwin & Laverne Hedges

*Clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness
and patience.
Colossians 3:12*



Want to know what it means to be spiritually mature? Have you been "doing" many things but not sure that they are getting you to where you want to be? Find out what's and why's of how to grow spiritually and how to focus your actions to get you there. Watch for the Spiritual Maturity Workshop coming in September.

Kroger Card Update

Great news! FCC received its first Kroger rebate check this week! We've had enough Kroger shoppers, using their FCC Kroger cards, that we received a check for \$251 to help with our unified budget expenses. Thanks to all who are using your Kroger card when you are shopping for groceries.

For those who haven't purchased a card yet, please be sure to pick one up from the Church office. The cost of the card is \$5, which is the amount already loaded on the shopping card.

Stewardship Report

August 2:	\$3,641.00
August 9:	\$1,650.00
August 16:	\$2,194.25
August 23:	\$2,249.00
YTD Offering:	\$80,271.84
YTD Expenses:	\$86,263.23
YTD Budgeted Offerings:	\$93,788.00

Chalice Hall 2009

YTD Gifts:	\$19,061.50
YTD Payments:	\$18,904.00

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



FEED THE HUNGRY

The Food Pantry's "food of the month" for September is **peanut butter and jelly**. Please remember the Food Pantry when you are shopping and put these items on your shopping list then bring it with you to Church during the month of September and place your gift in the basket located in the Narthex. Thanks so much!



Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday Morning Worship, please sign up on the list found in the Narthex on the Joy Board. Cost for the flowers will be \$30, payable to Jimmie Birdsong. Jimmie will place the order. Please be sure to let her know if you have made other arrangements for flowers or have a specific request for the flower arrangement.

SEPTEMBER SERVING SCHEDULE

Table Preparation: Pauline Frazier and Mark Lero

Greeters: Elaine Anderson and Tink Dedman

Front Porch Caller: Betty Tompkins

Ushers: Rod Kimball and Tom Reline

DATE: September 6

Worship Leader:

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

Deacons: Derrick Cagle and Don Cagle

Children's Church: Missy Lee

DATE: September 13

Worship Leader:

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

Deacons: Don Cagle, Joy Cagle, Harry Skyles and Jennifer Mikesell

Children's Church: Jean and Hunter Jenkins

DATE: September 20

Worship Leader:

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

Deacons: Tink Dedman, Linda Hampton, Harry Skyles and Nicholas Cagle

Children's Church: Carla Flowers

DATE: September 27

Worship Leader:

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

Deacons: Wes Hampton, Tyler Hampton, Missy Lee and Nicholas Cagle

Children's Church: Missy Lee



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