

The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 17

April 25, 2010

For Our Guests:

Attended Nursery at
back of the Auditorium—
infants

**Attended Training
Room** at back of the auditor-
ium (East side)
[for 1-3 Yr. olds]

Wireless Hearing re-
ceivers available in sound
booth at back of auditorium

Congregational Assessment



Flavil Yeakley

After months of study and data gathering and entry by several in our congregation, and sending that to Flavil for analysis, we will hear his conclusions and analysis of trends for us.

Known across the brotherhood as an expert in the area of church growth and trends in religion in America, Bro. Yeakley has expanded upon his definitive book "Why Churches Grow"

His work among us is really just to hold up a mirror so we can clearly see ourselves.

He will discuss our history of attendance, gains & losses, programs & practices, and other pertinent information.

This is intended to help us define our purposes for the future of the congregation's work and also point to options that will give some direction for the road ahead.

Sunday April 25

9:00 A.M. Combined adult classes
Taught by Flavil in Auditorium

10:30 Morning Sermon

11:15 Congregational Potluck Lunch
Yeakley Continued Detailed Report

Afternoon Session with Yeakley
(for Elders & Ministers)

5:00 P.M. Evening Worship &
Shepherd's Challenge

Coming Soon

- Wyldewood Retreat
April 30—May 1
- Gospel Meeting
Higden, AR
May 2-4
Mack Lyon Speaking
- "Fit Families for Life"
Seminar
May 6, 6:30 PM
Verizon Arena

Family News

Our Record April 18, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes
202
A.M. Worship
266
P.M. Worship
148
Ladies Bible Class
4/21 15
Midweek Classes
4/21 197

Budget	\$9,080.25
Contribution	\$7,304.46
Average	\$9,653.29



Caleb Kelley placed membership at Somers on Sunday, April 18. His address is 107 Sherwood Avenue, Sherwood, AR 72120. His contact number is 501-993-9064.

AN OUTDOOR WORK DAY is planned for Saturday, May 8th from 8:00-12:00. Help is needed to mulch the flower beds and trim shrubs and trees.

AVAILABLE FOR SALE: An individual has contacted the church concerning two cemetery plots available at North Hills Memorial gardens. Contact Oran Burt for more information.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

- There will be a free preview on Tuesday, April 27th in MPB-M1 from 7:00-7:45 P.M.
- The next course is scheduled for May 3rd—July 19th in MPB-M1. Register online at www.somersavenue.org under forms or contact Sean Ashberry. *Childcare will be provided with advanced registration.*
- If you would like to help with child care, please sign up on the list on the back tables. There is financial compensation for this.

Wednesday's

Meal

Catfish

5:30-6:30 P.M.



THIS WEEK:

Tea bags

MONTH OF MAY:

Sugar
Pancake mix & syrup
Muffin mix
Instant potatoes

In Our Thoughts

Health Concerns ~

- **Jonathan Barfield's** knee biopsy indicated "Chronic Myeloma Leukemia". He was scheduled for surgery on Friday, April 22 to put a steel plate in his knee and a steel rod in his femur. Following this surgery, he will begin chemotherapy treatments. They are pleased that his liver levels are showing improvement. His doctor advised him of another patient with CML recurring after a bone marrow transplant that is doing well following treatment. This was very encouraging to Jonathan and he maintains his positive attitude.
- **Charles Moore** (Contessa Moore's father) is recovering at home.
- **Burt Newell** (friend of Kathy Trickey) was injured in a bike wreck in Mt. Ida last week.

FRIENDS & FAMILY Prayer Requests

~ **James Akins** (Akins' grandson); **Janet Akins**; **Eric Alexander** (Jodie Grice's son); **Ruby Chandler** (Shirley Whitfield's mother); **Tom, Jr & Susan Cloninger** (Tom & Barbara's son & daughter-in-law); **Annie Culpepper**; **Scott Diles** (son of Bob & Mary); **Betty Edlemon**; **Jonathan Esquivel** (Wilma Ingram's nephew); **Bill Frazier** (friend of the Haggards); **Ruth Fuller**; **Wanda Gadberry**; **Ann Ghee**; **Joe Gibbins**; **John Goodin**; **Billy Hale** (brother of Gerald); **Gerald Hale**; **Myrtle Henry**; **Alice Herbert** (sister of Jodie Grice); **Gail Jenkins**; **Vivian Johnson** (Carl Reynolds' sister); **Brad Holloway** (Cricket Harper's brother); **Henry Huckeba** (Don Huckeba's father); **Alice Miller** (Haggard's friend); **Charles Moore** (Contessa Moore's father); **Marie Necessary** (Chad's mother); **John Noles**; **Neva Raper** (Neita Phillips' mother); **Dorothy Ricks & Mary Ricks** (Linetta McDonald's sisters-in-law); **Kyle Rye** (Danny & Judy's son); **Mary & Radine Shock**; **Jenny Smith** (Steve Foster's aunt); **Mary Stehle** (mother of Mike Hughes' co-worker, Theresa Rogers). **Raymond Taylor** (Calvin Taylor's father); **Wanda House**; **Jane Weare**; and **Harry Word**.

Contact Elder for April — Mike Hughes

“Turn right. Then join the motorway.”

Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

Being lost is one of life's most unsettling experiences. Our first instinct is to find a point of reference to recover our bearings. A driver might look at the road signs. A hiker will survey the landmarks or direction of the sun. Sailors study the sky.

I went to Oklahoma last week and was thankful to have borrowed a TomTom GPS unit to navigate for me. But you know, one thing I learned about the TomTom is that it provided only as much help as I was willing to accept.

See, there was one point where it was telling me to turn but I didn't think the directions were correct because the way it was telling me to go didn't "feel" right.

My manly instincts were stronger and they overrode that little square box with the British accent. So, I disregarded the instructions.

I soon found myself traveling in the exact opposite direction of my intended destination and by this time the TomTom had given up asking me to "make a u-turn" and now with his authentic British accent was just saying "Fine Yank, I hope you enjoy the detour!" Well, not really but he probably wanted to say as much.

I failed to rely on its authority to guide me through unfamiliar territory and I drifted farther away from my destination. I found my bearings only when I surrendered

to the GPS and allowed it to guide me.

But you know, a greater concern is for the many who fail to rely on God's authority for spiritual direction. Without a proper point of reference, spiritual renewal is impossible. If we take our bearing from the wrong source we may drift farther away from God and we should in no way rely solely on our own instincts. We must set our bearings by the Word of God.

Many people have lost their spiritual bearings and have detoured down a road of religious confusion. Redirection begins with a commitment to surrender one's will to the will of God through determined study, prayer, and

shared experience within the community of faith. You cannot have a relationship with Christ separate and apart from a relationship with his body, that is, his church.

When it seems you have found yourself traveling opposite of the direction God intends for you to go, check your bearings. Then turn right and rejoin us on the motorway.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.com

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TEAM Is Synonymous with What?Oran Burt *Preaching Minister*

His father-in-law had the answer. Moses, you need to put together a team! You can't do this all by yourself. When Jethro saw Moses trying to handle everything himself, he recognized the problem—a bottleneck in the operations. Everyone came to Moses as they sought God's help. Jethro said to Moses: *"The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone."*

He further suggested that Moses appoint able men who fear God and let them handle the day-to-day needs and issues among the people.

What a concept! And from a man rather than directly from God. In our exercise of our dominion over the earth, God has designed us to think, reason, plan, act and produce.

Yet even Jethro included the idea *"if you do this thing and God so commands you, you will be able to endure, and all these*

people will go to their place in peace."

Often in scripture we see this concept of teamwork, team-building and shared commitment recurring.

Jesus was the only one who could accomplish our redemption, our reconciliation to God. No one else could do it, nothing else would work. He trod the winepress alone and bore it all. However, for that finished work to have its timeless, global impact, there would need to be others involved in God's eternal purpose.

Christ chose, trained and empowered His apostles to turn the world upside down with the gospel. Twelve ordinary men with hearts tuned to God's heart could be transformed into men who would live and die carrying out their commission.

Six deacons took on the daily ministrations to the widows in the church so that the mission of the gospel would not be deterred.

Elders appointed in every congregation always included a plurality of men. There is wisdom in sharing the work, burdens, decisions, directions and oversight.

Among elders, each man's wisdom is tempered by the wisdom of the others. No one man can handle a congregation's needs by himself. God knew that. And when we do things God's way, we too "shall be able to endure, and all these people will go to their place in peace."

So how does *TEAM* fit here? I looked for a synonym for *team* and my Thesaurus didn't even list the word "team." But my bible does give a host of ideas and relationships similar to the concept of *team*.

Fellowship, friend, camaraderie, partner, joint participation, joint heirs, partaker—each of these adds to the dynamic of "we are in this together."

To illustrate the joint participation and joint responsibility

each Christian shares in the church, God used the mechanics of the human body: One head (Christ) one body (the church) many body parts (members).

Team players. I like individual sports, individual accomplishments. But I see the great value in team sports.

Look at that spiraling pass! But is there a receiver? What a pitch! But is there a catcher? Can you imagine the Super Bowl being played with empty stands? So even the fans are an integral part of the game somehow.

Back to the body. Paul said that the proper working of every part *causes* the growth of the body. Could there be a greater illustration of teamwork?

As we move about in our relationships we remember that when we share in the work, no one is worn out and everyone can go to their place in peace. [Scripture Ref: Exo. 18; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Acts 6; Acts 20:28]

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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We're On the Web:
www.somersavenue.org

Upcoming Teen Events

This Month

- April 25—Devotional
Hosts: Millers

Later This Quarter

- May 2—Devotional
Hosts: Ashberrys
- May 16—Sr. Devotional
- May 23—Graduates Reception
- May 28-30—Summer Kick Off

Looking Forward

- June 4-6—Poverty Plunge
- July 8-17—Mission Trip
- August 2-8—Florida Trip

*The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift his countenance upon
you and give you peace.*

Mark Your Calendar

- **May 2** Keith Myric, missionary in Stuttgart, Germany will speak at 5:00 PM evening worship.
- **May 30** Fifth Sunday evening services and picnic at Burns Park
- **June 27-30** VBS Levy hosting
- **August 29** Fifth Sunday evening services and picnic at Burns Park



More Things You Can Do

On Our WEBSITE:

- Link to other sites

- Check Calendar of events

- Read Blogs from Somers

- Print picture directory or pdf list of members & much more: www.somersavenue.org

Sabbath

There is something about sleep that I just don't understand. It is something that we obviously need. And it is something that we want more of, as witnessed in my life by my grumpy disposition in the morning as I attack the alarm clock and hit snooze. I doubt I am alone in that.

At the same time sleep is something that we avoid, staying up late, loading up on sugar and caffeine to stay awake. We watch one more show, read one more chapter, eat one more snack. We do whatever it takes to stay up just a little longer.

And this starts at such a young age. There is an occasional exception, but for the overwhelming majority of children nap time and bed time are a fight. The crying, the begging, and the fit throwing are all too often a regular part of the proc-

ess. All of this because we want to stay awake. We just don't like the idea of sleep.

There are a thousand reasons why. We might miss something exciting. We have more work to get done. We don't want the day to come to an end. Our sleep is tormented and haunted. Our bodies are restless...

But then again we love sleep. We have entire rooms devoted to it. We plan for it: bedtime, our Sunday nap, watching the ballgame or the race. We find a blanket and doze off.

It's just funny to me how we treat sleep and how we live in this tension between loving sleep and avoiding sleep.

It reminds me of Sabbath – of rest. Sabbath is much more than a day of rest that God instructed the nation of Israel to

observe. Sabbath is more than one more distinction between Christianity and Judaism. God's intent for Sabbath was regular, structured, intentional rest. Sabbath is all about rest, reflection, meditation, peace, family, spiritual focus and re-centering. Sabbath is about being still to know that he is God.

I'm not sure how well most of us participate in the blessing of Sabbath. I am not sure, in a world that is whirling about us, how well we stop, not to catch a breath, but just to breathe.

I know that we are no longer bound by the command to keep the Sabbath, as a holy day. However, Jesus regularly kept Sabbath by withdrawing from the crowds to times of peace and silence in the presence of God. May we follow his example. To quote Jesus, "Peace be with you."

Alex Wells
Youth Minister