

The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 19

May 9, 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

Coming Soon

- May 16th-Afternoon
discussion of Commu-
nity Outreach ideas. All
interested are invited
to meet at 3:30 p.m. at
the building.
- Gospel Meeting
May 16-20th
Hazel Street
Pine Bluff, AR.
- Graduate Reception
May 23
Evening Service
- May 30th, Fifth Sunday
evening service at
Burns Park 4:30 Wor-
ship, then Picnic &
games.

Honor Your Mother

Sunday, May 9th

Donuts & Coffee 8:30 A.M.

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.

Worship 10:00 A.M.

Morning Message
“Faith of Our Mothers”

Evening Worship 5:00 P.M.
Congregational Singing
(Ladies Song Request Night)

“Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing
and making melody in your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all
things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father...”

[Ephesians 5:19, 20]

Our Record May 2, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes
138
A.M. Worship
206
P.M. Worship
166
Ladies Bible Class
5/5 17
5/5 TBA

Budget \$9,080.25
Contribution \$9,497.03
Average \$9,782.58

Family News



There will be a baby shower for Chelsea Jahnke today following the evening service. She and Mark are expecting a boy. They are registered at Target and Babies or Us.



GRADUATE'S RECEPTION

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 23rd, and plan to join us for a reception in honor of our graduates following our evening worship service.

Our 2010 graduating seniors are:

Bailie Prince	Holly Huckeba
Brooke Nevins	Jacob Klotz
Heather Bowers	Jessie Carter
Heather Gregson	Kristina Klotz

Wednesday's

Meal

Barbeque

5:30-6:30 P.M.



MONTH OF MAY:

Sugar
Pancake mix & syrup
Muffin mix
Instant potatoes

In Our Thoughts

Health Concerns ~

- **Jonathan Barfield** remains in MD Anderson hospital in Houston, TX. He started another round of chemotherapy last week. Brenda left this week to be with him.
- **Shirley Whitfield** is in room 3011 at St. Vincent's Hospital in LR. Tests revealed an infected gall bladder. She will have surgery as soon as the infection is under control.
- **Juanita Nance** suffered a TIA Wednesday and spent overnight in the hospital for observation and testing.
- **Chester Ingram** is scheduled for cataract surgery on Thursday, May 13th at Springhill Surgery Center (Doctor's building).
- **Brandy Holley's** mother remains in a Memphis hospital in critical condition. More surgery has been scheduled.
- **Scott Diles** (son of Mary and Bob Diles) was diagnosed with mild epilepsy.
- **Bob Mauldin's** (NLR Fire chief /Steve Smith's boss) health has improved some, but has a long road to recovery.
- **Carolyn Moore** (mother of Contessa Moore) is feeling better. Test results revealed some ulcers as a result of long-term medication she was taking.

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); **Brandy Holley's** mother; **Brad Holloway** (Cricket Harper's brother); **Henry Huckeba** (Don Huckeba's father); **Alice Miller** (Haggard's friend); **Carolyn & Charles Moore** (Contessa Moore's parents); **Marie Necessary** (Chad's mother); **John Noles**; **Neva Raper** (Neita Phillips' mother); **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); **Paul Treja** (Steve Smith's neighbor's uncle); **Wanda House**; **Jane Weare**; **Jourdan Wood** (friend of Kathy Trickey) and **Harry Word**.

Contact Elder for May — Mike Penrod

“You have 1 friend request.”

I love Facebook. It is not the future of our society. It is very much the present. It is people sharing the randomness of their lives with others who for strange reasons are not only interested but reciprocate.

And although I do not spend as much time on the site as others do I am able to receive and send status updates via my cell phone. I do look forward to Mike’s poetic waxing or Tressa’s Farmville futures or Sandy’s Mafia hits. And then there’s the Bejeweled racket. You girls know who you are!

It is exciting when I open my Facebook page and find a message directed only to me. Someone was thinking about me. Or like the other day

when I looked on my page and there it was in the margin: “1 Friend Request.” Who could it be? Do I know them? Or did they find me through someone else’s page?

One fabulous thing about Facebook is that you can connect with people you have never met through the life of a mutual friend. They have requested to be my friend and a new relationship has formed simply because of a connection we shared. Some people make it a challenge to see how many “Friends” they can acquire. Even if they never communicate again their page still shows “1264 Friends!” But the thing about a friend request is that you can either accept it or reject it. It’s your choice.

Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

Abraham is referred to as a “friend of God” several times throughout the Bible and the word used in those instances refers to “loving dearly.” That relationship began because God sent him a friend request and Abraham accepted it. Then through the life of Abraham God’s invitation for friendship was carried to a nation of people. Some accepted it and some rejected it.

When Jesus came he reiterated the request for friendship when he asked Peter whether or not he ‘loved’ Jesus. The same root word meaning “loving dearly” described God’s relationship with Abraham. Jesus said if Peter loved Him he would feed Jesus’ sheep. Being a

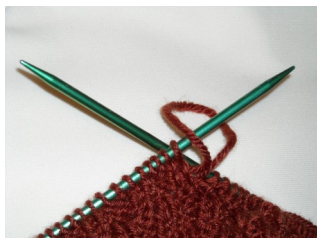
friend to Jesus means more than adding him to your friend counter. It is deeper and broader than randomly sharing the message of Christ. Accepting a friend request from Jesus means connecting people to Him through your life - a mutual friendship.

Facebook has found its niche in my life and because of it many others have found me. May Christ say the same of me. Christ is not the future of our society. He is very much the present. We may accept it or reject it.

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.com
 Follow me on Twitter:
 @seanashberry
 Connect on Facebook:
sean.ashberry

Mother Sewed Every Stitch With Love

Oran Burt *Pulpit Minister*



My Mother’s Last Stitch

Well, it may not be due to chromosome 14’s influence that I keep everything. But I do keep everything. And I have my reasons.

Pictured above is my mother’s last knitting project, showing a final loop in the thread—her last one. The unfinished sweater, in chestnut-brown, lies neatly in a box.

From the time when I was a small boy, I remember my mother’s sewing, crocheting, embroidering, quilting, tatting and knitting. She once showed me how to “knit one, purl one...” and so forth. I even made some lazy-daisy stitches on an embroidery adventure. I don’t know why it intrigued

me, unless it is just the hands-on, creative energy outlet that I love. (Anything built myself, with my own hands, my own design. I not only love building things but also sometimes building the tools themselves).

Looking back to the time I lived with my grandparents, there are fond memories of getting to prowl through my grandma’s sewing machine drawers—long wooden drawers. There were two on each side of the treadle style Singer (foot operated)—filled with trinkets more fascinating than a pirate’s treasure.

After mother died two years ago, I was slow to turn loose of some of her things. Throwing things away doesn’t appeal to me. Just recently I made the connection with some ladies in a quilting club to take some of mother’s old quilt scraps that were solid colors in brilliant red, white and blue cloth. These ladies are making quilts and things to send to soldiers in Iraq—nice American colors. That makes

me feel good.

Tomorrow, five big boxes of knitting thread will go to another lady who will make good use of it.

Tonight, I found some coins in the last purse mother carried. Tomorrow they will be placed in a can to be sent to the children’s homes.

As I meticulously dispense with these things, and a hundred more, I think about what Jesus said after the miracle of feeding more than five thousand people from just a small amount of bread and fish.

“Gather up every fragment that none be lost.” (John 6:12).

Among the many things my mother taught me, was this business of “use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.”

Her hand-knitted sweaters were not for style, but for warmth. They were *practical*. Warmth first, and if they actually fit nicely, well that’s just a bonus. But you will be warm.

When I was young, mother

would wear a red rose to church on Mother’s Day. She explained that her mother was still living, but that if one’s mother had died, then you would need to wear a white rose to church.

Once in a great while, mother’s birthday, May 14, would fall on Mother’s Day. One day, she stood by a rose bush (when she lived here with us her last year). She leaned over to smell the blossom for me to take her picture.

Mother was responsible for the beginning of my faith, like Lois & Eunice were for Timothy.

Mothers remember, children are only young once. And parents are only old once. So gather up every fragment of time, energy, opportunity so that none are lost. Every moment spent with your family is like a single stitch, among thousands, that, when put together, make a whole garment. Sew it with love.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

Upcoming Teen Events

This Month

- May 16—Sr. Devotional
- May 23—Graduates Reception
- May 28-30—Summer Kick Off

Looking Forward

- June 27-30—VBS @ Levy
- 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.*

Avoid the Curb

At our Saturday morning men's group meeting a few weeks ago, one of the men was telling us how unstable he used to feel on a two-wheeled scooter. He was driving his scooter through town with someone following him, and the following car was caught at a light. What to do? Pull over at the first available place, keep going and hope they caught up, or split the difference and drive on a while to a completely safe spot? Being indecisive and unstable, he turned quickly into the lot beside him.

But, what he thought was a driveway was a curb. Already unstable on the two-wheeler, he ended up with a cut chin and a bruised ego. We joked at the time about him being a "double minded man, unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8). Just across from James 1:8 in my Bible is James 1:17. Because of the contrast in the two verses, it is ironic that they are also "opposite" one another in my Bible. Vs. 17 tells us that with God, "there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." He is trustworthy, faithful and dependable. He will not run you into a

curb. The first part of vs. 17 reminds us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights". Isn't it interesting that this verse connects God's good gifts with God's dependability/stability? Do we go through life running ourselves and others into curbs? Or, do our friends, family, neighbors see us as stable, dependable people who are responsible for "good gifts", or blessings, in their lives. What can each of us do to avoid the curb and bring a "good gift?". —**Jim Akins**



The Wedding

I love weddings. I think most of us do. It is an exciting time when two families come together to give a little and gain a whole lot. It is a time of celebration and congratulations. There are flowers, candles, cake, tuxedos, and a white dress. It really is a beautiful occasion.

It is no wonder that God uses that image time and again to paint in our minds a picture of who we are and what our reunion with him will be like in the resurrection.

From the time of the prophets God and his people are spoken of with the language of the wedding. "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you," Isaiah 62:5. And in Jeremiah God laments, "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown (2:2)," "What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? (2:4)," "Can a bride forget her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number (2:32)." If you get a chance you should read the imagery of

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries

Jeremiah in context. It is poignant and very powerful. Ezekiel continues the imagery of Israel being a faithless bride in his prophecy (ch.16). Hosea and Joel also make reference to this marriage between God and his people.

And so we come to the beginnings of a new covenant, and find the same imagery surfacing. Following Jesus through the villages and countryside we hear him talk about weddings on at several occasions. He even chose to perform his first miracle as just such an event. And the language of love which Jesus uses to speak of the Church, himself, and the Father is that of deep, intimate, abiding love.

It is no wonder that Peter and Paul repeatedly use Jesus and his Church to teach husbands how to love their wives and wives to respect their husbands. It is no wonder that John uses the language of the wedding to try and share with us the glory and wonder that will be our eternal union with God in the resurrection. As John comes near to the close of his Revelation the picture is that of a great wedding feast: a great

multitude crying out praises, a herald calling the guests to the banquet, a groom unparalleled with visions of strength and glory and purity. He has armies following him clothed in pure, white, fine linen, riding white horses

And the church is his chosen Bride. The church is the one he has chosen to fight for – to bleed and die for. The church is the one he is waiting for, longing for. And what a union that will be. It has already begun. We are the bride of Christ. We are chosen and blessed. We are purified. And we are joining with our groom in his mission of reconciliation. "The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."

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alexwells.wordpress.com

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