

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Somers Ave Church of Christ
4801 Somers Avenue
North Little Rock AR 72118

Phone: 501-758-5256
Fax: 501-758-1047

Office@somersavenue.org

Schedule of Services:

Bible Classes: 9:00 A.M.
Worship: 9:45 A.M.
Evening Service: 5:00 P.M.
Midweek: 7:00 P.M.

For Our Guests:

Attended Nursery at
back of the Auditorium—
infants

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

Wireless Hearing receiv-
ers available in sound booth at

Coming Soon

- Gospel Meeting
May 16-20th
Hazel Street
Pine Bluff, AR
- Graduate Reception
May 23
Evening Service
- Gospel Meeting
May 23-25
Cabot, AR
- May 30, Fifth Sunday
evening service at Burns
Park, 4:30 Worship,
then picnic & games

The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 20

May 16, 2010

Scriptures of Strength

Alex Wells

Last fall I asked Chad Necessary if he would be interested in teaching the senior high class on Sunday mornings for the winter quarter. He agreed and he did a great job with them.

Chad had a series in mind that he would like to study with them, and the students were challenged to think deeply and answer some of the common questions that people give for not needing to become Christian. It was a great class.

One thing that Chad did apart from the curriculum of the class was to ask our high school students to think about the scriptures that bring them comfort, encouragement and strength when life's struggles would get them down.

Each week one student would share their scripture with the rest of the class and discuss how that passage strengthens their personal walk of faith.

One Thursday at our regular S.O.S. lunch meeting Chad asked Oran, Sean, and me what we thought about sharing those verses with the congregation. We knew that it was a great idea, and

shortly thereafter we began incorporating the reading of those scriptures of strength into our Sunday morning worship.

The young men who were part of that class, along with the men who work closely with the youth ministry, would rotate reading those scriptures. For some of the young men it was their first time to read scripture in the congregational setting. They have all done a great job.

For me it is an inspiration to see the way our high school students were able to share with one another and with the rest of us some passages that are a source of strength for them.

The promises of comfort, protection, strength, and provision are just as real and meaningful for those who are striving to serve Christ in their youth as it is for those who have trusted and walked with God for decades. We share common ground at the foot of the cross. Below is the list of verses that the senior high class shared with us. Perhaps some of these verses serve as scriptures of strength for you. Perhaps

you have other verses that you would add to this list. You may want to clip the list below and keep it in your Bible, on your mirror, or on the refrigerator—really anywhere that will keep it in your thoughts and make it accessible for those times when you need a refuge.

My prayer is that the sharing of these verses has served to encourage and build up each of us.

Deuteronomy 31:8

2 Samuel 22:2-3

Psalms 18:2

Psalms 117:1-2

Psalms 139:14

Proverbs 3:5

Proverbs 22:2

Ecclesiastes 10:11

Isaiah 40:28-31

Isaiah 43:1-5

Jeremiah 6:16

Matthew 6:25-34

Matthew 17:20

John 14:1-3,6

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Ephesians 3:16

Philippians 4:13

Our Record
May 9, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes
153
A.M. Worship
296
P.M. Worship
149
Ladies Bible Class
5/12-21
Midweek Classes
5/12-No Count

Budget \$9,080.25
Contribution \$9,841.84
Average \$9,785.70

Family News

Ladies Luncheon on Friday, May 21st at “*Rochelle’s Tea Thyme Treasures*” at Lonsdale, AR. The bus will leave the church building at 10:30. Please contact Nadine Herald by Wednesday, May 19th if you plan to go.

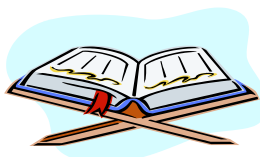


GRADUATE’S RECEPTION

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



LADIES BIBLE CLASS SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 9th
July 14th
August 11th (Potluck Each Month)

Wednesday’s

Meal

Pizza

5:30-6:30 P.M.

In Our Thoughts

Health Concerns ~

- **Jonathan Barfield** has improved. He was released from the hospital last Wednesday. He will continue his current medications of antibiotics and steroids as an outpatient.
- **Shirley and Elwood Whitfield** were released from the hospital last week.
- **Chester Ingram** had cataract surgery on Thursday, May 13th at Springhill Surgery Center (Doctor’s building). He is recovering at home.
- **Joe Gibbons** has been released from the hospital. He cannot have visitors for at least 10 days. He will continue chemo treatments once a month for 3 months.
- **Charles Culpepper** is being treated for kidney stones.

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); **Bob Mauldin** (NLR Fire Chief/ boss of Steve Smith); **Alice Miller** (Haggard’s friend); **Carolyn & Charles Moore** (Contessa Moore’s parents); **Juanita Nance**; **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**.



MONTH OF MAY:

Sugar
Pancake mix & syrup
Muffin mix
Instant potatoes

Contact Elder for May — Mike Penrod

“Spittin’ Image”

Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

Have you ever wondered where some of our phraseology originated? I admit I have used phrases and slang only later to find out their embarrassing origins. I did look this one up.

Seems like there is no clear winner as to the original meaning. “Could be...might be...during this time it meant”...seem to be the most common answers. For me, this phrase has meant that one person so closely favors another, usually reserved for the close likeness to a relative. “He’s the spittin image of his...”

Early on I heard that a lot about my daughter Callie.

“Boy, you couldn’t deny that one!” “She looks just like her daddy!” Not something a teenage girl wants to hear but I don’t think my 2-year old really cares.

Isn’t that the way life is supposed to work? Every seed reproducing after its kind? Shouldn’t we expect two roses on a vine to look like they came from the same seed? Doesn’t the tiger in our local zoo look like the one on the nature show? Can’t you go in McDonalds in Florida and find the same heat lamp hamburger that is in Arkansas? (Okay, sorry for the food reference Jim! But it HAS been a couple of weeks!).

God created us in His image. That has deeper theological meaning than I have space here to discuss. But if we are made in the image of God why don’t we look more like God? It’s because we have gone under the knife. In an effort to be who WE want to be we have performed our own plastic surgery.

Instead of getting a tummy tuck on our selfish desires we have enhanced our pride. Instead of lifting our eyes up to see the needs of others we fat graft more waste in our lives than we have storage for. What we really need is to shed the makeup and let our true image show again - an

image crafted by God.

My daughter may not grow to look as much like me as people think she does today, but I pray that all of my children continue to grow into the image of the one who made them.

Ephesians 4:17-32

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.com

Follow me on Twitter:
[@seanashberry](https://twitter.com/seanashberry)

Connect on Facebook:
[sean.ashberry](https://www.facebook.com/sean.ashberry)

Elders Find Assessment Is Providing Useful Tools

Oran Burt Pulpit Minister

Recently, on a Sunday night, our elders spoke to the congregation and gave some challenges to us related to our responses on the congregational assessment questions.

In order to let some of these ideas incubate longer, I have reproduced here part of the content of **Mike Penrod’s** observations:

“I’d like to talk a little about a couple of areas that jumped out when reading the results- as areas where our family of Christians at Somers believe we can do a better job and ask you for your help in improving. If you look on the balcony wall in the back of the auditorium, the Great Commission of Matthew 28 is printed as a continual reminder of one of the key responsibilities God has given His church. The elders believe this is something each individual Christian at Somers is responsible to do in some way or another and based on what you said in the survey the vast majority of you agree we all have an individual

responsibility to share God’s story with non-Christians.

In a strange twist, this also seems to be an area where our congregation believes we can most improve. Nearly half of the respondents believe Somers is not well known in our community and almost 70% said they believe the number of activities designed to reach out to non-Christians is too little... here are a few samples:

- *“We welcome newcomers to our body well but I struggle to find our impact outward”*
- *“I think we are very good at taking care of our own but do not quite know how to reach out to the local community”*
- *“It seems as though most of our activities and Bible classes are very inwardly focused”*
- *“We need more opportunities to reach out and invite our neighbors in*

this community - more service work”

- *“The elders and deacons can not provide outreach to everyone outside the church. The members need to get more involved.”*

Mike continued,

I personally agree with these comments and would like to provide one more quote that seems to sum things up well - “Honestly, we could do more”.

We can do more and I’d like to challenge each one of you to find one way you personally can help bring one soul to Christ or return one stray Christian lost to the world back to God during 2010. If there are ideas you have that Somers can put in place to help in this please let me or one of the other elders know. I can’t promise every idea that comes up will get used but every idea will be prayerfully considered.

We have a wonderful congregation of loving people and are in a great position to start reaching out to the community. Because we have so many areas that we are already doing well in that just prepares us to concentrate on bringing in more people to be part of the Lord’s church here at Somers. If we were bickering among ourselves, who would want to be part of that? But we aren’t, you can look around every time we get together and see we are a group of people who love each other and the Lord, care for each other and show it. We have something wonderful here at Somers that many people would like to be part of, let’s all work together to make that happen.”

[Quotes reprinted from Mike Penrod’s comments at the evening service April 25, 2010]

“There is no better way to resist the devil than to draw strength from the words of our Father!”

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 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.

God's Word: Our Strength

Chad Necessary

In Matthew 4, we read the account of a series of three temptations that Satan presents to Jesus, after Jesus had fasted for forty days and is in a weakened state. As Satan offers each temptation, Jesus in turn responds with a defense of Scripture – words from God His Father. Jesus knew His Father's words and from them found the strength to overcome Satan's temptations.

After the third temptation we read that Satan left Jesus. Jesus had turned Satan away. In like fashion today we are being tempted by Satan every day. He knows our weaknesses and he knows when we are at our most vulnerable. We must always be on our guard against him, even at those moments when we experi-

ence some spiritual “mountain top”.

I am reminded of Elijah and his great victory on Mt. Carmel, but very shortly afterwards, he is running scared and in deep despair because of Jezebel's threats (in which we see the handiwork of Satan). Yet how does God lift Elijah back up? He speaks to him in a still small voice at the mouth of a cave providing comfort and strength to Elijah with His words! I would encourage us to allow our Father to do the same for us through His word today.

Our young adults in the Senior High class have provided us some insights into passages that strengthen their hearts and I am (and hope we all are) encouraged by the wisdom found in the pas-

sages they brought forward and have shared with us. I would like to challenge all of us to commit these eighteen passages to memory and be able to draw strength from them in the face of temptations and trials. I believe that in leaning on the wisdom of God found in His words, we can overcome what Satan may throw at us. As James said in his letter in chapter four and verse seven, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” There is no better way to resist the devil than to draw strength from the words of our Father! May God bless us in our efforts to commit these passages to memory.



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

We Are The Body

This week, I had the opportunity to go on a bit of a road trip with 7 of our retired members. It had been a long time since I had spent any length of time with such a group, and it really was a blast! The laughing and storytelling went on for hours. Most of the time I am surrounded by those on the other end of the age spectrum. I teach teen classes. I take the teens on trips where we gather with other teen Christians for worship, learning, and encouragement. I go hiking and camping with our teens. Before and after services each week the people who I talk to are largely teens and parents of teens. I guess that comes pretty naturally when you are in youth ministry.

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries

But there is something very refreshing about experiencing other parts of the body. There is something exciting and fresh about spending time with those in the Church who you usually only speak to in passing or in polite conversation. I remember as a child nearing adolescence going with my dad on the church van to pick up a hand full of elderly members who no longer drive themselves to services. I remember helping them into and out of the van. I remember as a young teen going with my father on Sunday afternoons to the homes of our members who could no longer get out. We would stand there in their living room, kitchen, or at their bedside and we would

share with them the body and the blood of Christ. My first communion prayer was in one of those living rooms.

I am blessed by those experiences, and I am thankful for them. We truly are blessed to have such a rich blessing of generations within the body. We would all be blessed if each of us would reach across those generations a little more often.

Check out my blog:
alexwells.wordpress.com

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 @alexwells

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