

## 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 auditor-  
rium (East side)  
[for 1-3 Yr. olds]

**Wireless Hearing** receiv-  
ers available in sound booth at

### Coming Soon

- Gospel Meeting  
McAlmont  
June 20-24
- Gospel Meeting  
Mabelvale, AR  
Brad Harrub, Speaker  
June 20-23
- Vacation Bible School  
June 27-30  
Levy Hosting
- "Build Your House  
On the Rock"  
Sunday, August 22  
Somers Avenue  
B. J. & Tish Clarke
- Change for Children  
Cans due back by  
September 19

# The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 25

June 20, 2010

## Reflections - A Father's Day guest editorial

Jay Shock

In the book of John we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God". We know and understand that this verse is referring to God the Father and Jesus the Son. In Genesis chapter two and four we read of the creation of man and the development of the family. Early in the Bible we are given God's plan for the home – father, mother and children. From generation to generation Jewish traditions and teachings were passed on from parent to child. The Jewish people were known for emphasizing the value and importance of the family as a social, economic and religious unit. The Old Testament has many examples and teachings of stories about families and their lives together.

In the book of Proverbs the writer(s), through their wisdom, share with us instructions for God's people to deal successfully with the issues we face in everyday life: how to relate to God, parents, children, neighbors and government. In chapter 22 we have the teaching of "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it". The Old Testament provides us with Jewish history indicating the genealogies of various fathers, sons and daughters. The books of Matthew and Luke provide us with the bloodline of Jesus, both from Joseph and Mary's lineage, which represents many generations of fathers and sons.

The teachings of the New Testament focus on the beginning and the development of the church. However within these teachings we are also given instruction on the roles and responsibilities of the family. The apostle Paul tells us in 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 5 and in Titus 2, how we should treat older men, younger men, older women, younger women, to honor widows, the responsibilities of children and grandchildren and for women to love their husbands and their children. In 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3 and Titus 1, he tells us of the roles and characteristics of husbands, wives and children in the qualifications of elders and deacons. In Ephesians 5 we are given specific instructions as to how a husband is to treat his wife and that the wife is to respect her husband. In chapter 6 children are told to obey their parents in the Lord and to honor their father and mother, and for fathers to not provoke their children to wrath but to bring them up in the training and the admonition of the Lord.

So, as I approach this Sunday in June that the world celebrates as Fathers Day:

- ◆ I am thankful that I have a Father in heaven that cared enough for me to send his Son as my redeemer.
- ◆ I am thankful that I am a son of a father and a mother who demonstrated to me their belief in God's word.
- ◆ I am thankful that my wife is the daughter of a father and a mother who demonstrated to her their belief in God's word and through our marriage has been a help for me in my daily walk and has provided me with a family.
- ◆ I am thankful that I have a daughter, a son, and a daughter-in-law who demonstrate their belief in God's word in their lives.
- ◆ I am thankful that I have a grandson who is learning about God's word.

I would like to share with you a proverb that I found years ago. I believe it and it provides me with great comfort.

*"Whoever teaches his son teaches not alone this son but also his son's son and so on to the end of generations"*

[Jay Shock "grew up" at the 6th & Maple/Somers Avenue congregation serving as teacher, deacon, elder, and faithful member. He is the son of L.J. & Radine Shock who were foundational pillars for this congregation, the husband of Myra who is his foundational pillar, father to Sara and Jacob, father-in-law to Lola, and Papa Jay to his grandson Lewis. Jay & Myra currently live in Searcy.]

### Our Record June 13, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes  
No Count  
A.M. Worship  
247  
P.M. Worship  
165  
Ladies Bible Class  
N/A  
Midweek Classes  
6/16-No Count

Budget	\$9,080.25
Contribution	\$9,909.10
Average	\$9,781.11

**Volunteers are needed for the Wednesday Night Meal for the 3rd week of the month beginning in September. If we do not have volunteers we will skip that week.**



#### MONTH OF JUNE:

Peanut butter  
Jelly  
Toilet paper  
Crackers

### Family News

**Tuesday Night Ladies Bible Class** will begin on Tuesday, June 22nd at 7:00 P.M. in the old fellowship room. The topic will be "The ABC'S of a Godly Heart".

**Reminder:** Summer Tailgate parties beginning on Friday, June 25th at 6:00 P.M. Bring your food, drinks, chairs and outside games and join in the fellowship on our parking lot.

**Area-Wide VBS** will be hosted by Levy this year on June 28-30 from 9:30-11:30 A.M. for K-6th grades. Childcare will be provided for children birth through pre-school. A special kick-off service and sandwich supper will be held on June 27th at 5:00 P.M. For our contribution, we need to collect cookies and juice boxes for 250 kids and old t-shirts. Place these items in OFR by the water fountain by Wednesday, June 23rd.

**Wedding Shower** is being planned for Holly and Michael Moody on July 11th. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target and JC Penneys.

**Responses**-Cheryl Fossler and Steve Smith for prayers-June 13

**Welcome Home** to George McDonald!! George just returned from a recent tour in the Middle East. Glad to have you back home!



Congratulations to Chelsea and Mark Jahnke on the arrival of their son, Tucker Allen. He was born on Monday, June 14th at 7:08 P.M. Tucker weighed 8lbs - 12oz and is 21-1/2 inches long. Mother and son are doing fine. Proud grandparents are Steve and Meridith Smith. Great Grandmother is Ann Camp.



Christina Campbell and Kyle Mosley will wed in a private garden ceremony on Tuesday, July 13th. Christina is the granddaughter of Elwood & Shirley Whitfield and Kyle is the son of Steve and Debbie Mosley.

**Sympathy** is extended to Mallory Yauch (cousin of Sally Sides) whose husband Chris was killed in the Middle East on June 10. Funeral services will be today at 2:00 P.M. at the N. Heights Church of Christ in Batesville.

### In Our Thoughts

- **Joe Gibbins** is recovering at home.
- **Boyd Kelley** is in St. Vincent's North (310). He is being treated for pneumonia.
- **Jonathan Barfield** has begun a new leukemia trial study.
- **Michelle Zwack** (Betty Gibson's granddaughter) has thyroid cancer. She is scheduled for surgery in 3 weeks.
- **Karen Kidd** fell last week and broke her right humerus.
- **Jim Mayhue** (friend of Steve Foster) had heart surgery on Monday.
- **Ruth Allen** (mother of Mary House) had a pacemaker implanted on Tuesday.
- **Carl & Carolyn Davis** (friends of Rocky & Shelly Halter) were killed in a plane crash last week in Howard County.
- **Betty Sapp** (cousin of Ann Camp) had cancer surgery on Tuesday, June 15. Betty is a member of the Lord's church in Tuckerman.

### FRIENDS & FAMILY Prayer Requests

~ **Jim Akins**; **Rick Beason** (friend of Micah Sexson); **Susan Cloninger** (Tom & Barbara's daughter-in-law); **Annie Culpepper**; **Betty Eddlemon**; **Jonathan Esquivel** (Wilma Ingram's nephew); **Bill Frazier** (friend of the Haggards); **Ruth Fuller**; **Wanda Gadberry**; **Ann Ghee**; **Joe Gibbins**; **Page Gibson** (Treva Voyles' family); **Billy Hale** (brother of Gerald); **Myrtle Henry**; **Gail Jenkins**; **Vivian Johnson** (Carl Reynolds' sister); **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); **Judy Rye**; **Kyle Rye** (Danny & Judy's son); **Marshall Sexson** (brother of Matt and Micah); **Mary & Radine Shock**; **Jenny Smith** (Steve Foster's aunt); **Pat Smyres** (friend of Huckeba's); **Jourdan Wood** (friend of Kathy Trickey) and **Harry Word**.

Contact Elder for June — Tim Ashberry

## The Sincerest Form of Flattery

You've probably said it. It's likely you've at least heard it. That phrase that identifies a moment in our life when we cease to be who we are and have now assumed the personality, mannerisms, quips and quirks of someone else:

*"I can tell who you've been around!"*

Usually that phrase is not offered as a compliment. If I've heard it once I've heard it a thousands times in my life. You see I'm one of those people who are predisposed to what I like to call "subliminal assumption."

It can be a bold way of gesturing, a distinct way you inflect your phrases, or a repetitive facial expression. I'll

grab onto that and ride it for a few hours, sometimes longer if I spend more time with you.

Now, the funny thing here is that all of you are going to be paranoid for a while worried what I might pick up from you. First of all, it's not that easy. And second, the point I am making is deeper.

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, right? Well, that depends on who, what, where, when, and how you are imitating. My children try to imitate me whether it's a goofy facial expression, a crazy dance across the living room, or even how I handle a situation. It's a scary reality, especially for Tressa!

Many times I will see them do things and think, "They got that from me!" But I should

want my children to imitate me because I am supposed to be imitating God. Not while monkey-dancing across the living room but imitating God in my character, my relationships, my life.

Paul urges his readers to be imitators of those who are following Christ, imitators of Paul because he was an imitator of Christ who was an imitator of God. Our English word translated in Paul's letters as "imitate" is from *mimetai* in the original language. It means *to use as a model or to emulate*.

We are to model God in every aspect of our lives. But how can we imitate an invisible God? How can we know what He looks like? Jesus told Philip, "*Whoever has seen me*

*has seen the Father*" (John 14:9). We can look at the character, relationships, and life of Jesus Christ and know our Father.

Christians are to be imitators of God. Our lives should be a mirror to hold up for others to see how God wants all of humanity to live and to relate. "*Imitate us!*" should be our cry. And when they do we should welcome anyone to say of them, "*I can tell who you've been around!*"

Check out my blog:  
[seanashberry.wordpress.com](http://seanashberry.wordpress.com)

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

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

## Pillars of Skulls or Living Stones?

The Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of the Bones), in The Church of St. Francisco, at Evora, Portugal, contains pillars embedded with human skulls.

And neatly placed along the walls, and sculpted like frieze-relief decorations are thousands of bones.

The church building was the handiwork of Franciscan Monks between 1460 and 1510.

It seems that it was a practical solution to a problem—as many as 42 monastic cemeteries were taking up valuable space in Evora—so they moved all the bones to a single consecrated chapel. Seeing an opportunity to contemplate and communicate the inevitability of death, the monks chose to display the bones prominently rather than storing them away.

Having never visited there myself, I am content at present to view the beautiful architecture through photographs. Yes, I did think it was

beautiful. How odd. Makes me think of the whited sepulchers Jesus spoke about—pretty on the outside but full of dead men's bones.

Of course, Jesus was addressing hypocrisy when he said that. So He used the idea of how there can be a certain appeal on the outside appearance, only to deliver crusty staleness from within.

The church of Christ, which is not a building, but is made up of people, is God's building. Interesting. Not a building but a building?

"You are God's building," wrote Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 3:9). And when Paul re-visits the concept presented to the Ephesians, he brings the illustration around completely to a spiritual application.

*"built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are*

*being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.*" (Eph. 2:20-22).

Paul clarifies the issue of the nature of the true and living God when he taught the philosophers on Mars Hill that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. (Acts 17).

God is Spirit, and He seeks people to worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4). There we have it—a Spiritual God, seeking spiritual worshipers, worshipping in spirit & truth, as God dwells in their midst.

Stucco along the beautiful walls, arches & columns those lovely bones of the departed saints and what do you have? An above-ground cemetery!

Just by sitting on the premises the modern day Christian can hardly fool himself into thinking that he is actually standing on the promises when his own spiritual life is dim & sluggish—approaching death.

Even Peter invigorates the thought when he references

the bricks and mortar idea and calls Christians "lively stones." "*you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*" (1 Peter 2:5 NASV).

How is that possible? How can I be spiritual, when everything about me is so physical?

Well, spiritual formation does not just happen to us, it is sought after. It comes as we think about it, as we desire it, as we approach spiritual things.

We feed the spirit and not the flesh, having the *mind set* on the things of the Spirit. Having the mind of Christ comes from feeding our spirits on the words of the Spirit of God. Spiritual words are spiritual food.

Physical activities that are motivated by our spiritual values become benchmarks of our spiritual growth. And could it be possible that physical numerical church growth is a sign of our spirituality?

## Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

## Oran Burt, Pulpit Minister

OUR ELDERS

- Jim Akins
- Tim Ashberry
- Mike Hughes
- Mike Penrod
- Danny Rye



Bruce McLarty

Summer Series 2010

Imitating Christ: Until Christ is Formed in You

Bruce McLarty was born in Nashville, TN, and grew up in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Arkansas. He married Ann Hutson and they have two grown daughters, Charity and Jessica.

He graduated from Harding Academy in Memphis, TN in 1975. Received his B.A. in Bible from Harding College in 1978; his M.Th. from Harding Graduate School of Religion in 1982, and is currently working on his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Among the congregations that Bruce has served are Marks, Mississippi; Collegiate congregation in Cookeville, TN; College church in Searcy (1991-2005). He served as a Missionary in Meru, Kenya in 1984-85.

Currently Bruce is serving as the Vice President for Spiritual Life at Harding University. Bruce will speak Wednesday June 23, on the subject: "Imitating the Courage of Jesus in Temptation."

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



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

Host A Teen Devo

This Sunday's devotional was cancelled for lack of a host. We have 8 devotionals this summer and only one family has signed up to host one so far. We need your help. If you can host a devotional this summer please sign up today.

Upcoming Teen Events

This Month

- June 10-24—Uplift
- June 27—Devo

Looking Forward

- August 2-8—Florida Trip
- September 4-6—Area Wide Retreat

Teen Somer Nights

Another reminder: for the summer quarter our Wednesday evening classes will begin right at 7:00 in the senior high room. With our class time extended now we will go right on through the bell, dismissing at 8:30. Topic this summer: Wholeness.

Blessed to Bless

"Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him." In the last four verses of Matthew chapter four Jesus goes from calling his first disciples to delivering what has become known as the sermon on the mountain.

The crowds have come to see this man who so many people are talking about. They say that he heals people of every kind of disease and sickness. They say that when he comes to their synagogues he teaches and proclaims the good news of the kingdom of God. They even say that he casts out demons.

And so the crowds gather. From Galilee, the Ten Cities, Jerusalem, Judea and even from across the Jordan, they come to see this man—to hear his teachings, to see his miracles, to be healed, to see

if this really might be the messiah.

And so Jesus, seeing the crowds, goes up on the mountainside and sits down. Then he begins to teach them...

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek...*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...*

*Blessed are the merciful...*

*Blessed are the pure in heart...*

*Blessed are the peacemakers...*

*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness...*

*Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account...*

Counter cultural at the least. This teaching is revolutionary. Later those who hear his teachings note that he teaches not as others, but with au-

thority. He isn't just interested in the letter of the law or in the righteousness that he can attain by observing God's ordinances. With this man, there is something that goes far beyond that, there is something deeper.

"You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world." There is a bigger picture here than personal blessings and your own salvation. God's message cannot stop with you. It must shine out into the darkness around you. You must flavor the world for Christ, preserving it through the power of the resurrection of the Son of God. For, "not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

May we all come to know and follow in the steps of Jesus.

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries