

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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### 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 auditorium East side)  
[for 1-3 Yr. olds]

**Wireless Hearing** receivers are available in sound booth at back of the auditorium.

### Coming Soon

- Gospel Meeting  
July 11-15 at 7:00 P.M.  
Geyer Springs  
Little Rock, AR
- 6th Annual  
River City Run/Walk  
July 17, 2010
- Gospel Crusade  
Ida Waldron Auditorium  
Conway, AR  
July 18-23, 7:00 P.M.
- Higden VBS  
July 26-30
- "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 28

July 11, 2010

## The Influence of Youth Work

*(A message that was delivered by Mike Carter to our parents and teachers)*

"I was asked to talk a little bit about the rewards of working with young people.

First let me share some experiences that led up to my involvement with the youth. As I look back over my life, many people have been great influences over my development as a person. As I grew there were four main areas in which I interacted with adults: home, school, work and church.

**At Home**, Parents laid down rules, corrected me, were disappointed in me, were proud of me, fed me, clothed me, gave me a place to live, taught me a work ethic and took me to church. They were a big influence on me.

**At School**, teachers taught me to read, write and do math. They, too, molded and shaped me. Through the school, I became involved with band, wrestling, 4-H and Boy Scouts. All of these had adult leadership. Some had plans and goals of what they wanted us to accomplish. Others were just there as a warm body trying to keep kids from killing each other. I liked some of these adults and others I did not. I respected some and others disappointed me greatly.

**At Church** Elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, and other parents had a tremendous influence on my life. As I looked at these adults as well as neighbors, business men and farmers that I worked for, there were certain individuals that really stick out in my mind as people I respected and learned great truths from.

While the good influences on my life are too many to name, one man and woman touched my life in a positive way more than any others during my teenage years—that was Mr. and Mrs. Sutherlin. Mrs. Sutherlin was a Bible class teacher for the elementary age groups. She not only taught us Bible stories and made us memorize verses, she also had a box filled with Bible trivia questions which she tried to get us to answer. She taught us a lot about facts and places in the Bible, the Bible lands and where it was on the map. My brother and I have talked about how the Bible came alive and we remember more truths from her class than any other class we had growing up.

As a young boy you always have heroes that you dream of being like. I always thought it would be great to be like Mr. Sutherlin. In Scouts he took us camping and backpacking once a month.

He taught me how to winter camp when it was 20 below zero. Mr. Sutherlin was my scoutmaster but also he was always working around the church building fixing things that were broken.

When there was a work day at church or at Bible camp he was always there working. When we had a church family retreat at camp he took the kids out fossil hunting and showed us how to crack open rocks and find the fossils inside.

At Scout camp around other leaders and kids who were not Christians, Mr. Sutherlin was always the example of a Christian man. He grew up on a farm during the depression and he knew how to do everything. In any situation with teenagers involved, he was always prepared to do first aid or to fix any problem, and I wanted to be just like him. He was a busy man but he shared his life with everyone else's kids, especially boys.

When I graduated from high school and moved 500 miles away from where I grew up I began to do adult things and didn't spend much time with kids anymore.

Then one day several years ago George McDonald pressured me to get a bus driving license. He said it would come in handy for many years to come. The next thing I knew, Finis asked me to be a deacon of youth and help with the teenagers. I didn't even know what a deacon of youth was. I told him I didn't think I could relate to them very well. I reluctantly said okay with the stipulation that if I couldn't relate well to them I would quit.

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## Our Record June 27, 2010

**Sunday Bible Classes**  
167

**A.M. Worship**  
225

**P.M. Worship**  
141

**Tuesday Night Ladies  
Bible Class**

10

**Midweek Classes**  
198

<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$9,080.25</b>
<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$8,153.10</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$9,641.52</b>

**Brown Bag  
Wednesday-  
MPB at 6:00 P.M.**  
Bring your own  
food and drink and  
enjoy eating  
together before  
Bible Class. No  
drinks will be  
provided.



### **MONTH OF JULY:**

Dried beans  
Tuna  
Canned fruit

## Family News

An “**Electric Fan Drive**” sponsored by the NLR Fire Department is in progress to assist those in need in our community. If you would like to help, please bring your fans to the OFR (east wall). Cash donations may be given to the church office.



**Wedding Shower** for Holly and Michael Moody this evening, immediately following evening service. They are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Target and JC Penneys.



**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.

### **Attention Ladies:**

**Tuesday night Bible** class will meet at 7:00 P.M., in OFR—*The ABC's of a Godly Heart*.

**Wednesday morning ladies Bible** class and potluck will meet on July 14. at 10:00 A.M. A documentary video clip on “How We Got Our English Bible” will be presented. Discussion will follow. Tommie Parker will lead the study this month. Men are welcome to come for the meal.



An old-fashioned **ice cream social** is being planned for Sunday, July 18 following our evening services. Please plan to bring ice cream, toppings and cookies! Come beat this summer heat and join us in a time of fun and fellowship!



Join us for the showing of **Journey to Everest**, a beautiful one-hour documentary following the journey of six Americans to reach Everest Base Camp. This is a family-friendly movie we will show in the MPB on Friday, July 16th at 7:00 P.M. and Saturday, July 24th at 6:00 P.M. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Bring blankets or your favorite folding chair. Please sign up at the back table or on the website.

**Mark your calendars!** Tailgate parties-July 23, August 27 at 6:30 P.M.

**NOTE FROM THE ELDERS:** The elders want to always be available to the members who need to talk with them. Our routine meeting times have been on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 3:00 P.M. to 4:45 P.M. To provide even more opportunities for our members to communicate with us, for private discussions or to request prayers—one or two of the elders (the plan is the elder of the month & the previous elder of the month) will be available in the elder's office on the 2nd Sunday of the month after the evening service from 6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. and on Wednesday night following the 4th Sunday of the month after devotional until classes end at 8:00 P.M. The Wednesday opportunity should provide a time for those members with children to come and talk while the children are in Bible class.

**Dates: July 11, 28—Aug. 8, 25—Sept. 12, 29—Oct. 10, 27—Nov. 14—Dec. 1, 12, 29.** You will find a listing of the elders of the month and the times to meet on the back page of the bulletin each week. The elders are always available to our members—during services, other activities or any time of the day or night.

## In Our Thoughts

- **Jonathan Barfield** is not doing well— his body has rejected his bone marrow transplant and has he contracted several viruses and skin lesions, etc. His body did not respond to the most recent chemo treatment—another series of experimental chemo will begin soon. He is receiving daily blood transfusions to build up his system for a donor bone marrow transplant.
- **Oren McSwain** will have cataract surgery on Wednesday, July 14.

## Encouragement List

Please check the table in the front hallway on the east side of the building for a list of those of our number who need encouragement.

## “Hollow Rocks and Crosses”

There are a handful of times in my life when I have stood in a long line to buy something. I typically lack the patience or the interest to endure the wait. One exception was when Mel Gibson released his movie *The Passion of the Christ*. The build up to this movie's release was so powerful that I knew I had to see it and see it early.

Now considering the obvious creative liberties with much of the screenplay the visual imagery was incredible. I love historical depictions, epic movies, and this one captured my sense of awe and amazement at the thought of how realistic this was. I mean, we don't know what anyone looked like but we have enough archeological evidence and historical racial/cultural charac-

teristics to give us a general likeness of people from that time period.

This movie graphically brought the suffering of Jesus to our imaginations. It allowed us to imagine, if only through the lens of a film director, what those horrible images might have resembled. A story that I had heard and read so many times was experienced not with new truth but with renewed devotion. While it is easy to focus on the physical trauma Jesus endured, let us not forget that the point of the crucifixion as revealed in scripture is **not how much** suffering was endured, but **who** it was that was doing the suffering.

The impact of this movie came from the graphic depiction of the torture and death

which Jesus endured. For many, that is the image of Christ we hang on to. But without the resurrection the blessing of the new covenant would not be possible. We would have no hope of eternal life and our sins would still be separating us from God. It is the resurrection that gives the crucifixion its salvation significance.

*We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.* [Romans 6:4, 5]

This is not a story of death but rather a story of life. From

the beginning God's purpose has been that we might have life and have it abundantly, to share in His creation, to worship our Creator, and to partner with Him in His glorious eternal purpose for mankind.

Does the story of what Jesus did on the cross for you still affect you, or have you heard it so much that you have become numb to it? Let me encourage you to re-read it not from the perspective of a God who delivered His Son to die, or from a Son who willingly obeyed, but from that of a human who would have a hopeless existence except for the free gift of a loving Father.

Maybe we should wear hollow rocks rather than crosses.

## Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

### The Influence of Youth Work (Guest Editorial by Mike Carter)

Oran Burt, Pulpit Minister

[continued from page 1]

It was then that I realized that one thing I remembered about being a kid was that some adults could not remember what it was like to be a kid. As time went by, I realized that I could relate to kids. God blessed me with a part of my brain that never grew up. I'm still a kid on the inside. Hopefully, I have more spiritual maturity than I did at 15, but I haven't forgotten the adventure. I thought of Mr. Sutherlin and how he influenced me by sharing his life. That's why I work with teens today.

There may be a kid that is growing up here now that may decide to stay in the church because he saw an adult with flaws and shortcomings sharing his life with kids other than just on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Oran asked me to talk about the rewards of working with young people and why I do what I do.

Driving a bus for 10 hours is **hard**. Using your personal

vacation days to go on youth trips is a **sacrifice**, so why do I do it? Something about growing things appeals to me. Watching ugly ducklings become beautiful swans, watching acorns become mighty oaks is a great reward. Observing spiritual progress on the journey of life is **fulfilling** to me.

I can't **make** a seedling grow but I can **prepare** the soil, I can **water** the seedling, I can provide it with sunlight, shelter it from some of the hail and wind, and freezing temperatures and provide it with support with the hope that it can someday develop a stem strong enough to survive the storms of life outside our spiritual greenhouse.

I don't know all the rewards yet. I know that once I was teaching the high school class and kept telling them to bring their own Bibles to class, then one week everyone who was there that day had brought their own Bible. It was a thrilling moment.

I know that when I don't go on a trip, kids come to me and say, "You should have been there, we missed you." Some of the kids actually talk to me on their computer Facebook. Imagine that! They share their lives with me, they trust me with this personal part of their life sometimes.

By working with these kids, it makes me feel young again and I learn a lot from them.

Another great reward is getting to work closely with Alex Wells. Many of you have no idea how blessed we are to have a youth minister with such spiritual maturity. I get to see him interact with the kids and I get to **share his** spiritual vision for young people.

I remember Mr. Sutherlin telling my dad one time that **"If we are not there to show kids the right way there are plenty of others around to show them the wrong way."**

Thank **you** parents for trusting me with **your** children."



*You can find Mike Carter hanging from the trees out front, to keep them trimmed and healthy; or you might see him doing landscaping around the building, working odd jobs at the church workdays he described; Or, he may be slithering in a cave underground, discovering the wonders of creation and sharing inspirational life-lessons with any teens brave enough to crawl in there with him. You can also find him teaching a bible class.*

*Mike considers his labor as a deacon very challenging and fulfilling. And because of that, his work among us and with the kids, becomes a model for the future generations.*

*Thanks, Mike, for sharing your insights and example.*

Oran Burt

## OUR ELDERS

Jim Akins  
Tim Ashberry  
Mike Hughes  
Mike Penrod  
Danny Rye

## ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Danny Rye (July)  
Tim Ashberry  
**Available**

Sunday, July 11th  
6:00 - 6:30 P.M.  
Wednesday, July 28th  
7:15 - 8:00 P.M.

**We're On the Web:**  
[www.somersavenue.org](http://www.somersavenue.org)

## Host A Teen Devo

If you would like to host a teen devotional this summer please sign up today.

## Upcoming Teen Events

### This Month

- Today—Devo  
Hosted by  
Jerry and Kara Ellis
- July 18—TBA
- July 25—TBA

### Looking Forward

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

*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.*

## Somers Avenue—A place to call HOME



Nick Hamilton

### Summer Series 2010

#### Imitating Christ: Until Christ is Formed in You

Nick Hamilton serves the Pleasant Valley congregation as one of their ministers. Previously, he served as their pulpit minister from 1976 to 1992.

After moving back from Texas in 2004, he “came home” to Pleasant Valley to work with them once again in the area of Pastoral Care.

He and his wife, Kathy Belle, have two grown children, Rachel Wilson (husband Matt), and Sharon Hamilton. They have one grandchild, Madeleine Grace Wilson.

His desire is to connect people and their needs with God and His power. He loves people and he loves the Lord. He longs for opportunities to help other people find God.

His subject Wednesday will be **“Imitating the Compassion of Jesus”**



### 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](http://www.somersavenue.org)

## “I Need Your Attention, Please”

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries

I hate hearing those words. I admit it. The reason I cringe when I hear those words is that it reminds me that my attention has been elsewhere. And so often that elsewhere is not really as important as it seems to be at that moment. Reading a book, writing a blog, listening to a song, cooking a meal, watching the news, checking my facebook... they aren't bad things. The truth is that many times they are all good things.

But now and again my wife will come to me with something on her mind, something big or something small—it makes no difference, and she will wait patiently for about 45 seconds for my full attention and then announce in a childlike voice, “I need your attention, please.” And it brings me right back to the present with her. Now I am here, Now I am listening. Now I am present. Now I am ready to engage.

And she knows that this is how it works. That is why she announces her request this way.

I see it often in children too. The struggle for a parent's attention. They usually don't have the verbal skills to put it in quite the same words, but it is there none the less.

Look at me, Daddy! Look what I can do! Come play with me. And as recently heard on facebook video, “say wee to me!” They sound different, but the subtext is the same, “I need your attention, please.”

Our friends, our children, our spouses, our coworkers, and anyone else to whom we are important need our attention. And if they do not feel that they are getting the attention they need, they will find ways of asking for or even demanding it. Whining, fit throwing, cold shoulders, aggressive behaviors can all be the result of perceived inattention.

But there is one who never needs reminders. There is one who never needs to be told, “I need your attention, please” There is one who is always there to watch, to play, to say wee.

And isn't it good to serve a God who never sleeps, who never grows weary. Isn't it reassuring to know that the God who watched over Israel and heard their cries when enslaved in Egypt, who came to deliver them, is the God who watches over us today? Isn't it comforting to know that the same God who cared for Elijah in the wilderness provides for us today? Isn't it reassuring to know that the God who never gave up on Jacob is the God who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us?

We are so blessed! And how incredible is the love that God has unrelentingly poured out on us that he has called us his children, and we always have his full and undivided attention.

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

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