

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

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

Coming Soon

- 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 29

July 18, 2010

House to House

Sean Ashberry

On September 25th information about you will be distributed to over 2000 homes within the NLR community. Got your attention? Now don't think this is some kind of identity theft! We have partnered with the Jacksonville, Alabama church of Christ to circulate free information through direct mail about the Bible and our congregation. The purpose of this effort is to develop a relationship with and be more relevant to those in our neighborhood so that we can live by the Lord's commission (Matthew 28, Mark 16).

House to House (HTH) began in 1994 with the idea of having churches of Christ throughout the world cooperating to seek and save those outside of Christ through direct mail. HTH is an 8 page bi-monthly publication coordinated by the Jacksonville church that has grown to a circulation of nearly 3 million. It is distributed by over 1100 congregations in 48 states and 8 foreign countries, and has been translated into four different languages. It has surpassed the circulation of the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Oprah Magazine, and the USA Today.

Preachers and teachers often use HTH in their lessons. President George W. Bush quoted from it in speeches, and Jay Leno has once featured an issue. Most importantly, HTH puts a positive face on the churches of Christ in the minds of millions of people. There is not a more effective way to reach our entire community. If you have never seen an HTH issue, they are sleek, relevant, and rival any modern publication vying for the attention of an inattentive world. Each issue will contain meeting and contact information for Somers Avenue, information about our free Bible study opportunities, biblical articles, stories with biblical application, and any upcoming special event or service available to our community.

Because the publication deadline is 2 months prior to the distribution date there will naturally be some events that will not be included because they are scheduled after the deadline. However, our intent is to stay ahead of these deadlines in our planning so that each publication is most inclusive. Although each issue will be mailed directly to the community on our behalf, we will receive extra copies for you to give to friends, neighbors, or even leave at work. If this is well received, as we expect it to be, opportunities for wider distribution may also present themselves.

I want to express our "thanks" to bros. Joe Ellis and Gil Myatt for doing the research on the distribution area and gathering the information for us to begin this outreach. We also ask each of you to remember this effort in your prayers. As I mentioned, our first issue will be in the mail on September 25th and successive issues will follow every two months thereafter. We will be evaluating this ministry over the next 12 months to monitor its effectiveness. We also know that the kingdom impact may not be determinable today but if we are faithful to sow seeds then God can, has, and will bless that work to His glory. As Paul told the Corinthians:

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7



Information about the House to House ministry was taken from their website at www.housetohouse.com

IN TODAY'S SERVICES

A.M.

Song Leader

Larry Curtis

First Prayer

Calvin Taylor

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 2:1-5

Don Huckeba

Communion Leader

Elwood Whitfield

Closing Prayer

Jerry Ellis

Nursery

Lynette Gilliam

Ruth Busby

Greeters

Danny Rye

J.L. Simmons

P.M.

Song Leader

Chester Ingram

First Prayer

Charles Voyles

Closing Prayer

Jovan Hill

Nursery

Mary Ann Klotz

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.

Attention Ladies:

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



An old-fashioned **ice cream social** tonight 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 2nd 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 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 and 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 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.

JULY FOOD PANTRY

- Dried Beans
- Tuna
- Canned Fruit

Our Record

July 11, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes

180

A.M. Worship

256

P.M. Worship

164

Wednesday Ladies Class

19

Tuesday Night Ladies

Bible Class

9

Midweek Classes

191

Budget	\$9,080.25
Contribution	\$10,844.00
Average	\$9,684.47

In Our Thoughts

- **Jonathan Barfield** is not doing well— his body has rejected his bone marrow transplant and he has 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** is recovering from cataract surgery.
- **Tom Edwards** is in room 208 at Springhill Hospital for observation. Doctors are treating him for fluid retention.
- **Joe Gibbins'** recent body scan indicated a possible cancer spot in his neck. Please pray for Joe as he deals with this latest health concern.
- **Mark Phillips** is recovering at home. He has shingles, an upper respiratory infection and dehydration.
- **Betty Gibson's** granddaughter, Michelle Zwack remains in St. Vincent's North following thyroid cancer surgery on Thursday.

SYMPATHY is extended to the Carl Reynolds family in their recent losses.

Mary Jones, 28 yr. old daughter-in-law of North little Rock died on July 10th. Her service was Saturday in Benton, AR.

Vivian Johnson, Carl's sister, died on July 12th. A memorial service will be held for her today at the Alliance Bible Church, 295 W. Military Rd., NLR, at 4:00 P.M.

“D.i.Y”

Home ownership is wonderful when everything seems to be working, leak-free, and in order. But I must confess that when something needs to be fixed I find myself longing for the days of rental when it was someone else’s problem. I am not a DiY’er. (That’s “Do it Yourself” for those who don’t watch HGTV, which I do but to no avail).

So a while back our kitchen faucet began to drip. Not bad but with enough frequency to keep water droplets in the sink. And trying to keep a family of 5 on a budget all I could see in my mind was my water meter spinning out of control. But nevertheless I dreaded dealing with this faucet.

I had never messed with a faucet or even really had to

(remember the DiY thing?). So for weeks I would walk by the faucet and pull the handle down with a little extra force, hold it for a few seconds, and then I would do what any good minister should...I would pray.

“Lord, you know I have no fix-it skills. You seem to have not gifted me with the handy-man gene. Please stop this drip as only you can.”

Then I would walk away. But the faucet kept dripping. Day by day. Drip by drip. After no providential response from God I kept coming up with excuses for not attempting to fix it. “I need to play with the kids.” “I need to check something on Facebook.” “I need to straighten

my closet.” Then as time passed the drip became tolerable. It was...okay. But it also became worse. My failure to act resulted in a bigger and bigger problem.

So I finally decided I would attempt to fix it. It took me 20 minutes and about \$1.75 to stop that leak. All of this time I had been ignoring, procrastinating, excusing this project that ended up being so simple to fix.

Don’t we do that in our lives? I mean, how many of life’s leaks do we pray for and then never attempt to fix?

- ◆ Failing to forgive and to reconcile a damaged relationship.
- ◆ Dealing with our anger.
- ◆ Sharing the gospel with someone.

Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

- ◆ Accepting God’s invitation for relationship.
- ◆ “Add yours here.”

Fixing faucets that drain our faith is so much easier and less expensive than the price we pay for procrastination.

“So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” James 4:17

When it comes to doing the right thing, you gotta DiY.

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.com

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

Are we friends on Facebook?

Eternal Life Found in the Hair of a Dead Princess?

Oran Burt, Pulpit Minister

Just let the paragraph introducing the new line of surreal jam explain that bazaar title:

“Since the dawn of time man has struggled to unlock the secrets of eternal life. Occult Jam is a small triumph over mortality. Base ingredients are preserved through their transformation into jam and enhanced with powerful artifacts...the jams include: Absinthe and Pineapple with sand from the Great Pyramids; Plum and Oak with wood from Nelson’s ship, The Victory; Milk jam infused with a speck of Princess Diana’s hair.”

This jam, sold at \$7.95 for a five-pound jar (June 2010), was put together as a challenge to “come up with a response in food to the exhibition’s surrealist theme” (Barbicon Art Gallery, London). Sam Bompas, creator of the jams, said he got to thinking about “food marketing and how language enhances the everyday eating experience.”

Even though it is likely not claimed by any of those involved in the project that you

could actually seek and find eternal life in the hair, or in the wood of the ship, or the grit of the pyramid, [though I wouldn’t put it past them to think it] the language does betray a bit of the occult thinking that obviously underlies the themes: “Occult Jam unites the twin Surrealist concerns of the occult and food.” Here is the language that caught my eye;

“Secrets of eternal life”

“Triumph over mortality”

“powerful artifacts”

While this may be seen on the one hand as ridiculous, laughable nonsense, some actually do search in all the wrong places for meaning in life, fulfillment, and even immortality.

Some got close to the answer through their great and unshakable respect for the Word of God. And those people, dedicated to upholding truth, getting it right, doing it right, and honoring God above

all—still found themselves coming up short of the answer.

Though they had put such a high regard on the value of scripture itself, they actually missed the answers found in those same scriptures.

“You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me.. And you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.”
(John 5:39,40)

They were close. But they missed the central message found in those scriptures: that Jesus was Immanuel—God with us—and only through Him could anyone find eternal life. Jesus explained that if they had truly believed Moses, they would be believing in Jesus!

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of me.” (John 5:46)

Jesus also explained that had they been truly honest with themselves, they would have

believed John’s testimony concerning Jesus Christ. And they would have been able to understand and believe John had they fully imbibed the truth of the written word.

“You sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth.” v.33

Jesus further indicates that they still had one more opportunity to find eternal life, and that would be through believing the words of Jesus.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life...” (John 5:24)

Even after the great teachings, “I am the bread of life” and scores of other truths; after the miracles, and the direct claim “I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the father but by Me.” (John 14:6) Philip still needed more. “Show us the Father” he said. Jesus said “He that has seen Me has seen the Father.” (Jn. 14:9)

Eternal life? It is IN CHRIST.

OUR ELDERS

Jim Akins
Tim Ashberry
Mike Hughes
Mike Penrod
Danny Rye

ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Danny Rye
Tim Ashberry

Available

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6:00 - 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, July 28th
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- July 25—Devo Hosted by the Heralds

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



Bill Laird

Summer Series 2010

“The Imitation of Christ: Until Christ is Formed in You”

Bill Laird has served as the pulpit minister for the Southwest church of Christ in Little Rock since 1985. He received his B.A. from Harding University, and his M.A. from Texas Tech University. He also attended Harding School of Biblical Studies.

He was a high school teacher and coach from 1966-75 and 1989-95. Part of that time was with C.A.C. Bill has done mission work in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Bill and his wife Mary Kathleen have three grown children: Daughter, Tammy Stafford; Son, Craig (wife Tracy) Son, Jerry (wife Paula); and nine Grandchildren

He will be with us Wednesday July 21st to speak on the subject: “Imitating Jesus in Intercessory Prayers of Jesus For Others”



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

The Cross

It's everywhere. You find it in religious buildings, on jewelry, in art, in architecture, gracing the stationary of churches, pixellated on webpages and digital billboards. You also find it in unexpected places, like the meeting of roads on a city map, the 20th letter in our alphabet, in the framing work of a new house being built, in highline wires, in the lines that separate the dates on our calendars, in the form of street signs, on our phone's keypads, and in so many other places that our eyes take in every day.

It's true that we don't think of it that way. When we hear that word, cross, we imagine two wooden beams bound together perpendicularly with the horizontal beam set considerably higher than center of the vertical—we think of images we have seen for years of the instrument of execution used by the Romans centuries ago.

I wonder sometimes. And I have been wondering lately about God's choice of instrument used

in his Son's execution—the cross. It could have been stoning. That would have been much more in line with the punishments he himself had prescribed in the law. It could have been beheading, impaling, the lions, being sawed in two, lethal injection, the electric chair, or anything in between.

God had all of time and all of mankind to choose from. And he chose the cross. And I don't believe that it was an accident or by default. God doesn't play the game of let's just wait and see what will happen. He is always intentional. So why the cross?

The truth is that the cross was an excruciating experience—a bloodbath that was designed to keep the condemned alive as long as possible, to experience the most pain possible before succumbing to the torture and dying. Some propose that it is precisely this truth that drew God to choose the cross. To extend the suffering of the Christ to the highest possible state.

But I think that misses the point

Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries

of Christ's entire message. Christ is constantly teaching that what is most real is not physical at all, and thus the real pain of the cross, the highest sacrifice, the scandal of the cross was not the physical torture, it was the death of the divine.

The Cross—an intersection, 2 beams. Perhaps it was precisely because of its simple visual simplicity and commonality that God chose the cross. You can see it anywhere. Your eyes can at any time be taking in the form of the cross. And perhaps God hoped that when you saw that your mind would be taken back to a bloody hill outside of Jerusalem. Perhaps God has left reminders all over the place to help us refocus and reflect. Perhaps we have just been overlooking them all along.

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Connect on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/alexwells

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

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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"
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The *OBSERVER* Supplement

Volume 42, Issue 29

July 18, 2010

Living In God's Family—the church—Part 3 Ephesians 3— I Must Make Known His Will

Introduction

1. Thursday night, April 21, 1938, there was a public discussion held at the old 4th & State church building in Little Rock. N.B. Hardeman engaged Ben M. Bogard discussing the subject: "The Establishment of the church"
2. Hardeman: "*The Kingdom, friends, has always existed...it existed in **purpose** in the mind of God; it existed next in **promise**, as delivered unto the patriarchs, and it existed in **prophecy**, and then it existed in **preparation**; and last of all, when the New Testament went into effect, it existed in **perfection.**"*
3. Ephesians, Chapter One: I Must Make Jesus Lord of My Life.
Chapter Two: I Must Appropriate The Grace of God
Chapter Three: I Must Make Known His Will (3:10,11)
4. If the church is to show God's manifold wisdom and purpose, and give God glory, then what am I supposed to be doing in relation to that? Answer: Make Known His Will. Why is that the answer?

I. The _____ is God's, not _____. (3:7)

- A. Even the "least saint" could associate with this power (3:8)
- B. The transcendent power belongs to God. (2 Cor. 4:7)
- C. If it is actually God's plan for mankind, that the church would carry the light, then how could I not choose to be involved in getting the message out?

II. Even _____ Proclaims the Message of God's Glory. (3:9,10)

- A. Why was the creation made? (3:9,10).
- B. The heavens declare something! (Psalm 19:1-14)
- C. Only Two things are not functioning the way God created them to function:
 1. _____ that _____.
 2. _____.
- D. Principle intensifies at the judgment: "They are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

III. We Discuss What We _____

- A. The whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name in Christ (3:15)
- B. "By this shall all men know you are My disciples..."
- C. Overcoming the accuser is effectively done "by the word of their testimony" (Revelation 12:11).

Conclusion:

1. May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith...(3:17—20)
2. May we be rooted and grounded in love
3. May we comprehend
4. To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever.

Puzzle Clues

IN TODAY'S SERVICES

A.M.**Song Leader***Larry Curtis***First Prayer***Calvin Taylor***Scripture Reading***1 Peter 2:1-5**Don Huckeba***Communion Leader***Elwood Whitfield***Closing Prayer***Jerry Ellis***Nursery***Lynette Gilliam**Brenda McKee***Greeters***Danny Rye**J.L. Simmons***P.M.****Song Leader***Chester Ingram***First Prayer***Charles Voyles***Closing Prayer***Jovan Hill***Nursery***Mary Ann Klotz***JULY FOOD PANTRY**

Dried Beans

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Bible Class****Midweek Classes**

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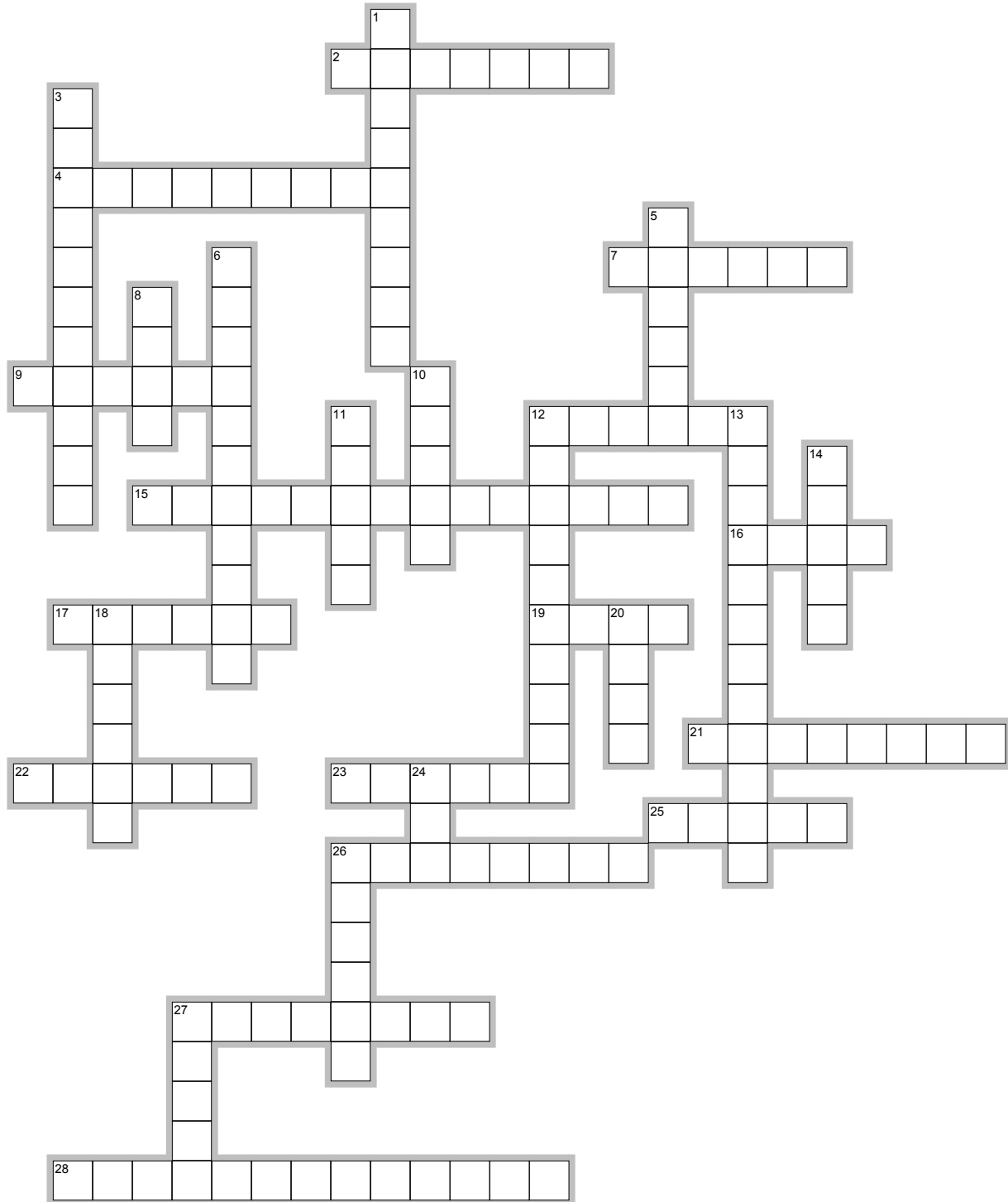
Across

2. Deacon who sells specialty electrical supplies
4. NT Book that presents the church of the Christ
7. Deacon who is moving to Dallas
9. Elder who is a consultant to businesses
12. Evangelist for Build your Home on the Rock Seminar
15. Christians overcame accuser by this too (Rev. 12:11)
16. Minister with only one blog entry
17. Deacon from Tennessee has three daughters
19. Minister who scuba dives
21. Nickname for Randal Matheny's study
22. Deacon with banking background & specializing in leadership training
23. Elder who is Clinical Systems Analyst for Children's hospital
25. Deacon with Engineering Phd & works in aerospace technology
26. Deacon who just returned from Afghanistan
27. Elder who is a Lab Supervisor at Baptist Med Center
28. God's house will be called this (Isa.56:7)

Down

1. Where evening services will be held on Aug 29
3. Deacon who is an accountant
5. Deacon who works at UALR
6. This is made known through the church
8. Christians overcame the accuser with this (Rev. 12:11)
10. Christ dwells in our hearts through this (Eph.3:17)
11. Heavens declare this
12. NT Book which presents the Christ of the church
13. Pavillion on the hill
14. Deacon who is a bank examiner & auditor for FDIC
18. 22nd of this month is our one-day seminar
20. Minister who goes sailing and hot-air ballooning
24. Transcendent power belongs to
26. Deacon whose secular work specializes in tires and automotive
27. Elder who is an attorney

Making Known the Mystery of His Will —Ephesians 3



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Tim Ashberry
Mike Hughes
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Somers Avenue—A place to call HOME

Build Your Home On The Solid Rock *One-day Marriage and Family Seminar*

Sunday, August 22, 2010

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

**Men: What God Wants Men to Know
about Women —B.J. Clarke**

**Women: What God Wants Women to
Know About Men —Tish Clarke**



10:00 Worship

“What If God Wrote A Book About Marriage?”

11:00 Potluck Lunch

1:00 Worship

“What If God Wrote A Book About Parenting?”

No 5:00 Services August 22