

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

- 37th Annual Labor Day
Gospel Meeting
Lectureship
McAlmont Church of Christ
September 5-6
- Annual Homecoming
Minister's Appreciation
Airport Church of Christ
September 25-26, 2010
- Coming in October
"Grief Share"
(Real Help for Deep Hurt-
a grief recovery support
group)

- Change for Children Cans

The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 35

August 29, 2010

Bible Classes—Fall Quarter—2010 September, October & November

Sunday A.M.

Auditorium Class

"Seven Days That Changed the World"
Elwood Whitfield

Adult #1 —MPB-M-1

"20's & 30's"
"The Story of God's People"
Mike Carter

Adult #2 —MPB-M-2

"How To Grow Our Faith"
Calvin Taylor

Adult #3—Fellowship Room

Revelation
Tommy Kidd

Wednesday P.M.

Auditorium Class

"From Tablets of Stone to the Human Heart:
The Ten Commandments for Today"
Oran Burt

Adult #1—Fellowship Room

Ladies Class
"Paul, By The Grace of God"
Tressa Ashberry

Adult #2-MPB-M-2

Foundations—Gospel Advocate
Chester Ingram

Adult #3-MPB-M-1

Men's Class
"A Man's Guide For Inevitable Events"
Sean Ashberry

*"And all your sons will be taught of the Lord,
And the well-being of your sons will be great." Isaiah 54:13; John 6:45*

IN TODAY'S SERVICES

A.M.

Song Leader

Dall Dixon

First Prayer

Adam Gibson

Scripture Reading

Tom Cloninger

Luke 2:25-35

Communion Leader

Chester Ingram

Closing Prayer

Steve Mosley

Nursery

Brandy Holley

Meridith Smith

Greeters

Wanda Nowlin

Cindy Taylor

P.M.

Song Leader

TBA

First Prayer

George McDonald

Closing Prayer

Mike Carter

Nursery

NA

AUGUST FOOD PANTRY

Canned Mixed Vegetables

Tea Bags

Sugar

Our Record

August 22, 2010

Sunday Bible Classes

248

A.M. Worship

315

P.M. Worship

186

Tuesday Night Ladies Bible Class

8/24-11

Midweek Classes

8/25- No Count

Budget \$9,080.25

Contribution \$10,011.82

Average \$9,968.64

Family News

ATTENTION LADIES:

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

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Class— 10:00 A.M. in OFR—September 8th, the regular weekly classes will resume. Potluck lunch following class!

Wednesday Night Ladies Bible Class—

Class will resume on September 1 for the fall quarter. Contact Tressa Ashberry for more information.

CARE GROUPS:

Our care groups will resume on the 3rd Sunday in September!



FIFTH SUNDAY PICNIC- will be held at Burns Park (Eldor Johnson pavilion) tonight! The worship service will begin at 4:30, meal and play time to follow. Please bring your favorite sandwiches, finger foods and drinks. Invite your family and friends to come and join in the fun and fellowship. Maps will be available.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN:

On September 19th, Micah Brinkley from Children's Homes in Paragould will pick up the "change for Children" cans after our morning worship service. Please turn in your cans on or before September 19th to the church office, one of the elders, Joe Gibbins or Joe Ellis.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS RESUMES:

On September 1, the adult class taught by Chester Ingram in MPB2 will resume for the fall quarter. We will continue our study from the Gospel Advocate Foundation series—*The Kingdom of Israel*. If you plan to attend this class, please sign-up on the sheet available on the table at the back of the auditorium or online.

PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday night meals will be provided on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays only since no one has volunteered to help do this the other two Wednesdays of the month.



CONGRATULATIONS : To Holly and Michael Moody on the arrival of their son, Kaden James. Kaden was born on August 20 and weighed 8lbs -3 oz. Proud grandparents are Don and Judy Huckeba.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

- 1st— Sometime Finale Presentation
- 5th— Young men will lead songs and prayers at 4:30 P.M. in the auditorium
- 11th— To Save A Life—free movie in MPB
- 9th— Kidsongs at 4:30 P.M. in the auditorium

In Our Thoughts

- **Bea Edwards**-is recovering at home from a recent fall.
- **Imogene Swaim**-recovering from a recent fall.
- **Gwen Rapier & Dorothy Powers** (Aunts of Neita Phillips) are both recovering from recent injuries/falls.
- **Charles and Carolyn Moore**-(Parents of Contessa Moore) recovering from surgeries last month.
- **Bonna Faye Massey** of Corinth, MS (niece of Pansy Johnson & cousin of Debbie Mosley) has been diagnosed with terminal liver cancer.

SYMPATHY: Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of **Jonathan Barfield**. Jonathan lost his 8-month battle with leukemia last Sunday, August 22. Funeral services were held here at Somers Avenue on Thursday, August 26. Please remember this family in your prayers.

SYMPATHY: **Sammie Wilson** (uncle of Pam Lewis) last his battle with cancer on Wednesday, August 25th. Please remember Pam and her family in your prayers.

Really CleanSean Ashberry, *Involvement & Outreach*

I have never really minded changing one of my children's diapers. ("Oh boy, where is this article going?" Don't worry. Stay with me). I have also never minded giving them a bath. In fact, I enjoy the process of making my children clean.

I can put Johnson and Johnson on myself all day long but it will never smell as good as it does on my children. There is a cleanness about a freshly bathed child that is better than anything you can package in a spray can or plug-in.

Jackson and Callie are reaching the age where they want to "wash" for themselves. But no matter how much they "wash" (which usually just entails splashing the rag around in the water a little bit) they can-

not do as thorough a job as I can.

For one thing, they don't fully understand the benefits of real cleanliness. I mean, they'd go from the bathtub right out to the playset and then to bed - dirty sweat and all. But most significant is they do not have the ability to completely clean themselves. No matter how much they try they cannot make themselves clean - really clean. They need help.

For centuries God required His people to complete rituals and sacrifices as a process of purification. And while God's requirement was perfect the results were not. Namely because creation does not have the ability to do what the Creator Himself must do - make clean, really clean.

In Hebrews 10:4 we read, "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." How could the imperfect make perfect? How could the corrupt make incorruptible? How could the stained make clean? They lacked the ability to make completely clean as did the imperfect priests who offered them (Heb. 5:2-3).

Only God can make clean the heart stained by sin. "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified" (Heb. 10:14). We can go through our lives splashing around and dabbing a little "goodness" on here and there. But until and unless we receive the covenant sacrifice for our sins we are not clean. Only then can we draw near to God with a true heart in full

assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." (Heb. 10:22)

The saying "cleanliness is next to Godliness" is said to mean that except for worshipping God, the most important thing in life is to be clean. But God has said that without cleanliness, spiritual cleanliness, there is no worship. There is no relationship. There is no hope. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:12). And that's really clean.

Check out my blog:
seanashberry.wordpress.org

Follow on Twitter:
@seanashberry

The Redemption of Holly Hobby and MeOran Burt, *Pulpit Minister*

Our daughter went on a trip to Branson, Missouri during the summer after her high school graduation in 1990. She traveled with a friend and her parents. The girl's parents often referred (jokingly) to our Jennifer as their "adopted daughter."

As they shopped around in flea markets and antique shops, Jennifer was astonished to find her old Holly Hobby lunch box from her elementary school years. She found two, actually, one was Strawberry Shortcake, and the other was Holly Hobby. They had both been hers—her name scratched into the paint—positive I.D.!

We had sold those here in

NLR in a carport sale for about 50 cents each. Originally they cost about \$3.95 each. But now, in an antique shop, they were very much "in demand" as collectibles and were priced at \$17.00 each. Jennifer only had a few dollars to spend but really wanted them. Her friend's dad began to try to talk them down in the price, and in the discussion said, "this is our adopted daughter..." and the shop owner was a bit touched it seemed and came down to a price of \$9.00 each.

Jennifer had enough to buy only one, and chose Holly Hobby (I would have chosen Strawberry Shortcake, but in reality, my chromosome 14 should not have allowed the original sale...it must have been a weak moment).

When she came home, sporting the lunchbox, I was amazed at the story. And, I am perplexed that the other lunchbox is still out there somewhere.

Doesn't this sound familiar? Lost and found, sold and

bought back, redeemed, ransomed...all common threads in the story of mankind.

Some of the elements of the story do no match the story of lost humanity. Our original owner, God, did not sell us. But through Adam, we all are subject to sin by our own choice.

However, of particular similarity is the high price paid for something dear to the owner. Satan is the great counterfeiter and usurper. For every authentic and good thing God has provided, Satan has offered a fake substitute. And, he has usurped man's crown and glory, offering him happiness and fulfillment, while actually bringing him lower even to destruction.

So, we belonged to God all along. But through sin, and death by sin, mankind sank down, losing his home, his dominion and his purpose.

And all the sacrifices in the world could not take away our sins (Hebrews 10:4).

But our owner wants us

back. And He expresses His willingness make payment when He spoke the stories of the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son (Luke 15).

Jesus Himself stated part of His mission as being "to seek and to save that which was lost." (Matthew 18:11).

Paul could then announce the good news—that in Christ, we have restored to us all that we lost in Adam (Romans 5:12-21). And how that through one man, (Adam) sin entered the world, and death by sin... 5:12, yet we have through one man, (Jesus, the Christ) redemption, salvation, eternal life! (See Romans 5:17).

There I was, like the little lunchbox tucked away in the obscure shop—away from home, away from the one who loved me first, yet of high value in my original owner's eyes. And His purpose all along was redemption: "with a view toward the redemption of God's own possession." (Eph. 1:14)

And Strawberry? Would anyone go bring her back?

OUR ELDERS

Jim Akins
Tim Ashberry
Mike Hughes
Mike Penrod
Danny Rye

ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Jim Akins
Danny Rye

Available

Sunday, September 12
6:00-6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, September 29
7:15-8:00 P.M.

Upcoming Teen Events

Regular Weekly Activities

- Teen Room will be open Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 3:00 - 5:30.
- Monday 6:00 Disc Golf at Burns Park
- Friday Family Game Night in the MPB 7:00

This Month

- August 29—Devo hosted by Necessary family

Looking Forward

- September 4-6—Area Wide Retreat

Want to Host a Devo?

Each month gracious members of the congregation offer their homes as a place to host our weekly teen devotionals. Many of you have hosted for us in the past. Several have yet to share with us in this experience. If you would like to host a devo this fall you can sign up now on the table in the rear of the auditorium.

*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

How far would you be willing to go to save a life?

This movie is a raw and real look at the life of today's teenager. *To Save A Life* offers a refreshingly honest portrayal of the pressures and challenges of teenagers and their families.

September is national suicide awareness and prevention month. Efforts to bring the struggle of suicide into the light and into public discourse will be taking place across our nation.

One such effort will be Arkansas' 3rd annual *Out Of The Dark-*

ness Community Walk on Saturday, September 25th.

The movie *To Save A Life* deals frankly about one young man's struggle with the loss of his friend to suicide.



We will be showing the movie, *To Save A Life* in the multipurpose building on Saturday, September 11th at 6:00PM.

Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided. After the movie we will spend some time hanging out together, discussing the movie and the struggles that its characters go through.

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this eye opening event with their teens.

Sign up online if you plan to attend, and invite your friends.

Comfort

*Beyond this land of parting,
losing, and leaving
Far beyond the losses,
darkening this,
And far beyond the taking
and the bereaving,
Lies a summer land of bliss!*

This and other songs like it speak the pain and the hope of our hearts. They put into words and melody the anguish and the longing of our souls – a longing for the time when God will wipe every tear from our eyes and we will no longer see anything but his glory and grace.

What a blessed assurance we have as Christians to know that one day, when this life is over, we will be with God. And what a deep peace we have, knowing that our God is not far removed from the pain and grief of loss, but that he has experienced those feelings as well. As a man, Jesus experienced the loss of those whom he loved dearly. One poignant example is that of Lazarus. Jesus joined in Mary and Martha's grief and wept over their loss and his. No doubt Jesus had also suffered another grief of his own with the loss of his father, Joseph. Though we do not read of Joseph's death in scripture, I am sure that the

humanity in Jesus was very broken at his passing.

But for the Christian, this is not our only hope. We have an even greater comfort and hope in our loss than simply the knowledge of God's experience of grief and loss.

As Jesus drew nearer and nearer to the reality of his departure from this life he prepared his disciples for that separation. He tried diligently to teach them all that the Father had given to him. He made every effort to instill in them the truths of the Gospel message, so that when all was complete they would call to remembrance those things that he had taught them and they would tell others of that tremendous news. And finally, perhaps most importantly, he promised to send them another Comforter. He promised to send them the Holy Spirit of God to help guide them in their journey, to help them call to remembrance all that Jesus had taught them, and to comfort them in their time of grief. He would turn their mourning into laughter and dancing. He would turn their sorrow into joy!

And the beauty of it all is that we have that same promise. We, who have chosen to follow

the Son of God and have become obedient so that his blood can cleanse our every sin-stain, have also received the Holy Spirit of God to live inside of us. He too leads us into the paths of righteousness. He too calls to remembrance the things that we have learned in Christ. He too comforts us in our times of loss. What peace that brings to our hearts and minds when all else seems to have been stolen from us by such tremendous and meaningless loss.

It reminds me of another song I hold so dear:

*Farther along we'll
know all about it,
Farther along we'll
understand why;
Cheer up, my brother,
live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it
all by and by.*

Check out my **blog**:
alexwellss.wordpress.org

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[@salexwellss](https://twitter.com/salexwellss)

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www.facebook.com/alexwellss