

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

Somers Ave Church of Christ  
4801 Somers Avenue  
North Little Rock AR 72116

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.

### 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 the sound booth  
at back of the auditorium.

### Coming Soon:

Annual Summer Lectures-2011  
June 8-August 31  
Higden, AR  
Various Speakers


Gospel Meeting  
Keith Sharp, Speaker  
West 65th Street  
Little Rock, AR  
June 12-17


"Does God Exist"  
John Clayton, Presenter  
Central Church of Christ  
Little Rock, AR  
June 24-26

VBS-2011-June 26-28 at  
Sylvan Hills 9:30 —11:30 A.M.

### Life Support Ministries

None at this time

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 @somersavenuecoc

# The *OBSERVER*

Volume 42, Issue 75

June 12, 2011

## There is an "I" in Family

Mike Hughes

As I studied I Corinthians to prepare for my teaching assignment for an adult class this summer quarter, I saw something I had not seen before. Isn't that the way it is sometimes? I have read I Corinthians several times and led classes and study groups on it a couple of times as well. This time I saw something different.

Paul implied that once we are part of the body, we have a higher responsibility. He said that what I want really doesn't matter. It's what the church wants that is important, or rather what Christ wants. Don't get me wrong here. I'm not about to go off on a "majority rules" tangent. No, not at all. I'm just saying that the church's needs over rule the wants of the individual.

Let me explain. Out in the world some of the members at Corinth were of some importance; Jewish leaders, businessmen of some prominence. They tried to use that social status to sway the way the congregation did things. Traditions can and do change, but scripture does not ever change, for no man or woman. When those that would have the church cater to their individual wants to forsake the congregational needs, the individual wants will not and should not take priority. Paul was quick to call their hands on these issues.

When I was added to the church in 1972, I became a member of a family, a body of believers of like mind. Not like minds as far as the business, political, social world was concerned, but as the church was concerned. God does not want our political views to cloud our concern or love for a brother or sister. God does not want the financial status of a brother or sister to hamper or hinder that person's acceptance into the body of Christ. God does not want preconceived notions of ones character to cause gossip or whisperings by those that do not even know an individual other than "what they've been told".

Sometimes we want something so strongly that we assume that everyone else wants that same thing too. When we find out that is not the case, if we are paying attention, we can alter or edit what we want, get the opinion of others to see if what we want it really possible and try again, or we can get angry, spout our intentions to get even and even belittle the thinking of those that don't think the way we do. James reminds us that we should "be quick to listen and slow to speak." Rightly so I think.

I am very proud to be a member at Somers, honored to serve as an elder for such a loving congregation. I've heard people say, "At so and so congregation they do such and such this way. Why don't we do that?" Or, "So and so preacher preaches this way. Why doesn't our preacher do that?" Or, "So and so elders are doing this and that. Why don't we do that?" I can't answer those questions. Somers is as unique as Levy, or Central or Sylvan Hills and that is what makes the Lord's church so great, no over shadowing governing body to tell us what traditions to do and not to do. Here at Somers, we hear the word preached, smile on his lips, finger on the verse, arrows of truth pointed at our hearts, just the way it should be. Isn't it great to be a Christian and be a member of the family of God? Amen? Amen.



Mike has served as a shepherd of our congregation since June 2007. Mike is involved with our men's prayer ministry, service groups, Care Groups, and leads a men's Bible study on Monday nights.

**IN TODAY'S SERVICES**

**A.M.**

**Song Leader**  
Robert Dixon

**First Prayer**  
Elwood Whitfield

**Scripture Reading**  
Chris Colclasure  
John 3:22-36

**Communion Leader**  
Mike Penrod

**Closing Prayer**  
Ryan Hunter

**Nursery**  
Jan Medlock  
Sue Simmons

**Training Room**  
Phyllis Kelley  
Genevieve LeMay  
Judy White

**P.M.**

**Song Leader**  
Chester Ingram

**First Prayer**  
Jonathan Penrod

**Closing Prayer**  
Matt Miller

**Nursery**  
Meridith Smith

**JUNE PANTRY ITEMS**

Canned Meat & Vegetables  
Bar Soap  
Tooth Paste & Tooth Brushes

**Our Record**  
May 29, 2011

**Sunday Bible Classes**  
205

**A. M. Worship**  
289

**P.M. Worship**  
171

**Monday Night Men's Class**  
No Class in Summer

**Tuesday Night Ladies**  
No Class

**Ladies Wed. Morning Class**  
No Count

**Wed-Midweek Classes**  
No Count

**Budget** \$9,830.00  
**Contribution** \$10,856.97  
**Average** \$9,869.40

*Family News*



*Together with their families  
Mendy Nicole Cooper  
and  
Steven Michael McClelland  
request the honor of your presence  
as they unite in marriage  
Saturday, the twenty-fifth of June  
two thousand and eleven  
at three-thirty in the afternoon  
Cone Chapel  
Harding University  
Searcy, Arkansas*



*Reception to follow*

**New Member Contact Information:**

**Jake & Brittany Smith**  
45 Weatherwood Lane  
Ward, AR 72176  
501-388-0340

**Vera Ricks**  
# 77 Cardinal Valley Drive  
Sherwood, AR 72120  
501-833-8407

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

**Family Game Night**—every Friday night at 7:00 P.M. in the MPB.

**June 13**—Wednesday Morning Ladies Class—"Family Life in New Testament Time"

**June 26-29**—VBS at Sylvan Hills from 9:30-11:30 A.M. Ages 4 years—6th grade. There will be a sandwich supper and carnival following the meal on Sunday, June 26 at 5:00 P.M. Also, on Wednesday, June 29 at 7:00 P.M. there will be an ice cream social following VBS.

**SOMETIME**~is well underway and our children are enjoying their classes on Wednesday nights. **KIDS**—invite your friends to come and learn more about Jesus!!!

~Check the bulletin board by WBS classroom for a thank-you note from Atkins family~

*In Our Thoughts*

- ◆ Janet Akins had carpal tunnel surgery on her wrist Friday, June 10.
- ◆ Joe Gibbins is in Lakewood Nursing Home/Rehab. He can now have short visits.
- ◆ Francis Ford—battling kidney disease, diabetes, anemia and depression.
- ◆ Annie Culpepper is experiencing eye problems.
- ◆ Floy Blanchard is doing well following the insertion of 3 stents in her leg.
- ◆ Dottie Ricks, sister-in-law of Linetta McDonald is battling cancer.
- ◆ Jurita Hooks, grandmother of Stacy Alberson is at home with Hospice Care.
- ◆ Paul Hollaway, father of Scott and Lesa Hollaway is not doing well at this time.
- ◆ Oscar Swain of Kensett, brother of Eunice Taylor has been diagnosed with lung cancer.
- ◆ Stephanie Maxson's newborn son Jensen is in Children's Hospital with kidney problems. Stephanie is a friend and former co-worker of Crystal Lee.

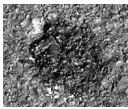
Sympathy is extended to the family of Radine Shock. Sister Shock's funeral was held on Friday, June 10th at Roller-Owens Funeral Home in N. Little Rock.

Remember Our Military Men: Brad Cook, grandson of Oren McSwain.

## Odoriferous

Monday and Thursday mornings are unique at the church building. When I open the glass door to enter the building I am always met with an aromatic blend of various perfumes and colognes, evidence that many people have recently been here. It's a pleasing odor. The fragrance of so many people gathered in one place permeates the air throughout the building. Lingering throughout the day. Finally dissipating as new air is circulated by the air conditioner.

Actually, the evidence is present even before I step out of my car. It's right there in the parking lot.



An oil spot.

All over the parking lot you can see tiny blobs of oil that have been deposited while we are gathering together as the body of Christ. There is no doubt by the physical evidence here that these facilities house a church, people who believe in God and meet on a regular basis to worship Him together. But what about the rest of our week?

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage*

## Sean Ashberry, Involvement & Outreach

*war against your soul. Keep you conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation."* 1 Peter 2:9-12.

There is plenty of evidence that we are glorifying God on a weekly basis by coming together to worship and to commune with one another at the Lord's Supper. How much evidence is there that we are doing the same on a daily basis?

Many times we will do things that make sense to us and ask God to bless our actions rather than looking at the things God promises to bless and acting accordingly. I think this is especially true when it comes to social injustice. We are quick to help out someone who has fallen on hard times but maybe

not as quick to forgive someone who has infringed upon what we perceive as our rights. We harbor religious ill-will on the grounds that they have infringed upon God, as if God cannot stand for Himself. Perhaps we do leave our evidence around. But it may be tainted evidence.

*"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere?"*

2 Cor. 2:14.

We are leaving evidence of our presence every day. Everywhere. But is that evidence pointing others to Christ or just to ourselves? And is that evidence dissipating over time or are we working to renew that fragrance daily? This is our calling. Let's make it our doing.

## Victory Bulletins And Position Report

*Oran Burt, Pulpit Minister*

The German U-boat commander was handed a message from central command. He clinched his teeth and crumpled the page and said *"Another position report! I want a victory bulletin, not more position reports!"* (line from the 1984 movie "Das Boot").

It would seem that, in the war with the darkness of this world, Christians could use some more "Victory Bulletins."

Sometimes we find ourselves feeding on a constant diet of negative press reporting all the problems within the church, (the entire brotherhood or even locally). And while these things may be factual and true, they are not the whole story. We find ourselves thinking: "Another position report. I want a victory bulletin."

If I take my camera over to the dumpster and get a clear picture of trash and garbage, it will be the truth. It will be factual--but it does not represent a classroom or the front landscape with its curb appeal. It would not be fair & balanced to

point to that dumpster & say "This is the Somers Avenue church of Christ." I think of that sometimes while watching the evening news. Whatever is in front of the camera seems to tell it like it is. And it does.

That part of the picture is that way. However, what is on the other side of that back alley? A guy sleeping under a bridge does not represent all of Little Rock. The Las Vegas Strip only represents a small segment of the society or the city itself. Yet the strip is a fact.

Satan has power. That's a fact. He is destructive. He wins sometimes. He ruins. He inflicts. He seeks me. He shrinks the church. The church is not growing like it once was. But that does not mean that the church is not growing. Furthermore, we will not be judged by what the brotherhood does. Nor even by what anyone else does. Individually, I will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the deeds done in the body. (2 Cor 5:10).

Are there no victories to

report? To Accentuate the positive does not mean that we are not aware of the negative.

Position reports are not always negative. Can we really expect any victories if there are no position reports? What is the enemy's position? Where is he? What's he doing? Is the threat eminent? Modern F-35 fighter jets boast of a full 360 degree situational awareness for the pilot. Awesome.

The scriptures describe how we should always be on the alert to our enemy's position who is constantly stalking us (1 Peter 5:8). Wouldn't a full 360 degree situational awareness be helpful here?

Our "position" on what the bible teaches determines the number of victories over this adversary. Just as a position report may give a life-saving advantage in a battle, or bring victory, so also knowing where we stand on a critical issue may well determine our course of action, which eventually affects our destiny.

With the positions known, we take positive, deliberate action.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57).

**Note:**  
**Oran, will be back in the church office on June 20**

### OUR ELDERS

Jim Akins  
Tim Ashberry  
Mike Hughes  
Mike Penrod  
Danny Rye

### ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Mike Hughes

#### Available

Sunday, June 12  
6:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.  
Wednesday, June 29  
7:15 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

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

### Upcoming Teen Events

#### This Week

- Today - Devo at Wells Home
- Teen Room will be open  
Wednesday 11:00 - 4:00pm
- Thursday 1:00 - Disc Golf
- Friday 8:15pm - Splashdown

#### Coming soon...

- June 18-23, Uplift @ Harding University
- June 24-26, Girls Retreat
- July 2-9, Mission Week, Nashville Inner City Ministry
- July 24-31, 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.*

## Summer Teen Calendar and Sign Up

All Teen families should have their summer teen event calendar and should have returned their student's sign up sheet. If you have any questions or need to make any changes to your student's sign ups please email, txt, call, or catch Alex here at the building and he will help you out.

## Summer Teen Devo Sign Up

If you have been waiting for an opportunity to host the teens in your home for a Sunday evening devotional, your chance has come. We are looking for hosts for our teen devos for the months of June and July. We have had many of you host for us in the past, and we are always very grateful for your hospitality. If you have hosted before, or if you have never had the opportunity or courage to host the teens, we would love to come and share our Sunday evening with you. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the rear of the auditorium with the dates that we are needing hosts for. Please check out the dates and sign up soon. Again, thanks to all who have hosted devos for us in the past and thanks to all of you who will host for us in the future.



### What Is Most Important?

*Alex Wells, Youth and Children's Ministries*

A friend of mine was recently asked, "What do you consider the most important issues facing the Church today?" A fair question. After all, in every generation there seem to be new challenges that surface or old challenges that resurface which need to be acknowledged and dealt with sufficiently for those who are seeking truth in a new cultural context.

And so I asked my friend how she had answered the question. I have to admit that her assessment of the Church today was a little unexpected. I guess the baggage I carry from having grown up in the Church and having been educated for and having all of my professional experience wrapped up in ministering to the Church, had postured me to expect a different answer. In fact, I expected a different

type of answer. I was waiting for the doctrinal feuds that have broken out over the past 2,000 years splitting believers into denominations, factions, brotherhoods, sects, and congregations. I was expecting answers like, "instrumental music in worship, women's roles in the Church, the essentiality of baptism to salvation," and the list could just go on forever.

But that wasn't her response. Her response wasn't even in that ballpark. There wasn't one issue of doctrine on her list. When asked what she believed were the most important issues facing the Church today, my friend answered, "I believe the three most important issues facing the Church today are 1) disintegration of the family unit, 2) confusion of busyness with devotion, and 3) distraction

from our mission as the people of God."

I have to say that I completely agree. These are some of the most important issues facing the Church today. Without strong families, devoted believers, and a clear focus on our mission as God's children we are hopeless. All of the right answers mean nothing if the family is falling apart. When we keep ourselves so busy that the fruit of the Spirit have no room for growth in our lives, right doctrines become hollow forms. And when we lose sight of our purpose in God - our ministry of reconciliation - we become useless in his hands.

Let us all do our part to help the Church of today meet these important issues well so that the Church of tomorrow can flourish and the world will come to know our God.