

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: 10:00 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

January 1 - Singing night

January 6-8-McAlmont C/C
"Three Special Days"

January 8 we will begin a 3-
week series:
"When Life Doesn't Make Sense"

Life Support Ministries

None meeting at this time.



The *OBSERVER*

Issue 1

January 1, 2012

The New Leaf

He came to my desk with a quivering lip;

The lesson was done.

"Dear teacher, I want a new leaf," he said,

"I have soiled this one."

I took the old leaf, torn and blotted,

And gave him a new one, all unspotted,

And into his sad eyes smiled:

"Do better now, my child."

I came to the Throne with a trembling heart;

The year was done;

"Dear Father, I want a new year," I said,

"I have spoiled this one."

He took the old year, torn and blotted,

And gave me a new one, all unspotted

And into my sad heart smiled:

"Do better now, my child."

[Author Unknown]

IN TODAY'S SERVICES

A.M.

Song Leader

Jon Nevins

First Prayer

Terry Herald

Scripture Reading

Jim Akins

Matthew 5:10-16

Communion Leader

Elwood Whitfield

Closing Prayer

Mark Phillips

Nursery

Meridith Smith

Cecily Story

Training Room

Mary Ann Klotz

Terri Nevins

P.M.

Song Leader

Singing Night

First Prayer

Tim Ashberry

Closing Prayer

Duane Quesinberry

Nursery

Mary Hughes

JANUARY PANTRY ITEMS

Oatmeal or Cereal
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Jelly

Our Record

December 25, 2011

Sunday Bible Classes

No Classes

A. M. Worship

256

P. M. Worship

No Service

Monday Night Men's Class

No Count

Tuesday Night Ladies Class

No Class until January 4

Wed. Morning Ladies Class

No Class until January 10

Wednesday Night Classes

December 28-142

Budget	\$9,830.00
Contribution	\$8,787.06
Average	\$9,911.31

Family News

REMINDERS:

Family Game Night —every Friday night at 7:00 P.M. in the Activities Center!!! Meal begins at 6:00 P.M. Games will follow until????? Come join in the fun and fellowship!

REMINDERS:

Our "**Wednesday Night Meals**" in 2012 will be on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month only, unless someone volunteers for the other 2 weeks.

Church office will be closed: Monday, January 2

Employment Opportunity: Paragould Children's Homes, Inc. has 2 positions available in 2012. They have an opening for one caseworker and they need 2 sets of house parents. Contact the church office for more details.

REMEMBER:

Young Men will lead singing today at 4:30 P.M.

Wednesday morning ladies Bible class will resume on January 4, at 10:00 A.M.

Ladies Tuesday night Bible class will resume on January 10, at 7:00 P.M.

Care Groups will meet— January 15



Farewell to Mark, Bobbie, JR and Michael Evans. They will be moving to Tennessee this week.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Our "transportation" ministry is in need of more drivers to provide a ride to worship services. Please call the office if you can help!!!



Begin 2012 by sending a card of encouragement to our sick and those unable to attend services!!!!

In Our Thoughts

- ◆ **Chester Ingram** is still very weak and needs our prayers.
- ◆ **Cecily Story** had surgery last week and is now recovering at home.
- ◆ **Steve Foster's uncle** had a heart cath on December 28. He has ventricular tachycardia; which is causing problems with his pacemaker settings.
- ◆ **Mary Ricks**, sister-in-law of Linetta McDonald fell down a flight of stairs last week. She has multiple injuries to her shoulder and foot. Surgery may be necessary.
- ◆ **Davy Carter**, father of Brittany Smith is waiting to be placed on the list for a kidney transplant. Please pray that his health is stable until then.
- ◆ **Scooter Turnbull**, brother-in-law of Lisa Triplett was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Hot Springs on Friday and is now under Hospice Care.
- ◆ **Teresa Triplett**, sister-in-law of Lisa Triplett continues her fight against spinal cancer.
- ◆ **Staci Young**, sister of Shelly Halter continues her search for treatment for Lyme's disease.
- ◆ **Kathleen Adams**, mother of Robin Callahan had total knee replacement on Tuesday, December 27. She is in St. Vincent's Hospital (South). If there are no complications, she hopes to be home by the end of week.

SYMPATHY EXTENDED: To Diann Simmons and family in the death of her aunt, Erma Richards. Sister Richards was a member of the England Church of Christ.

Prayers For Our Military Personnel:

Austin Sharp, grandson of Charles & Treva Voyles
Brad Cook, grandson of Oren McSwain
Landon Crawford, husband of Charles & Treva Voyles' granddaughter, Tona
A. J. Williams, son of Diann Simmons
Ashley Sharp, granddaughter of Charles and Treva Voyles

New Year Thoughts

Sean Ashberry

One thing I love about this time of the year is having a brand new calendar to fill with plans and projects and vacations. Some events are recurring each year, some will be one-time occasions, others will become traditional. It's all part of the process of life. We plan. We adjust. We plan. We adjust.

I also like to evaluate the previous year's experiences and ask myself two questions: Do they satisfy me or do they motivate me. I think there is a big difference in the two.

Satisfied means I am comfortable. It doesn't account for whether or not the results of my choices were just as I had planned or even that those results were for my good. To be satisfied is to accept. It is to be settled. To say I am satisfied is

to say I am content with the way things turned out. This doesn't mean that the end result was beneficial or right. Just that I am at ease with the results.

On the other hand, to be motivated by something brings life to another day. To say something motivates me is to be moved to action. It is to progress. It is to be inspired to not just do as good but better than before.

I thought about these two questions with regards to my salvation. Does knowing that I have been forgiven of my sins and added to God's eternal kingdom leave me satisfied? Or does knowing this motivate me?

When we allow ourselves to be satisfied with how we are living our lives for God then I think we fall victim to routine,

to settling with the thought that "I'm saved and as long as I don't mess up really bad things will be fine." We climb up on the bull called "Life" and hang on with all we've got, praying for the buzzer to ring before we get bucked.

But when we allow ourselves to be motivated by what God has done and is doing for us then we cannot help but be compelled to do for Him. Our service to God, our loyalty to His covenant, our praise of His name, our love for His creation comes not from a sense of obligation or fear. But rather it's source is a deep gratitude that we even have the opportunity to do so.

When I embrace the full realization that the God who created me, the One who I have

disappointed over and over again, has extended to me His grace and forgiveness, I am like Peter who told the Jewish leaders in Acts 4:20 "we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." That's motivation. That's being compelled by what God has already done for me.

If you evaluate where you need to progress in your walk with God (and I hope you do indeed take inventory) ask yourself two questions: Am I satisfied or am I motivated. God doesn't need our satisfaction. He does deserve our motivation.

*All Things Have Become New*

Oran Burt

Any holidays become a nice distraction or an interruption from our usual routine. That can be good, but sometimes a bit intrusive. As we begin a new calendar year, we seem compelled to consider the ending year and a brand new beginning.

Ancient Israel celebrated the new year, the "beginning of months..." with the Passover. The month of Nisan corresponded roughly to our March or April. "This shall be a beginning of months to you..." (Exodus 12:1,2).

I can remember the start of a new school year in the autumn...with the clean, newly waxed & sealed floors, the new pencils and tablets—a new start. A second chance maybe?

There is something about getting a new start or a "do over" that helps us adjust to life's disappointments, unfinished projects, and general failures. Sometimes, the second semester, or the second half, holds promise of redemption. January 1st seems to be a

universal point of starting over or starting fresh. But through the years I have found that particular juncture to be a bit frustrating for life-changing new starts.

Normally, January 1st is a holiday. So what's to be done on a holiday? Go to the gym? I don't think so. And how about that brand new diet? The morning after I have consumed more butter, sugar and lard than any other day in recent memory—and I am going to now eat water?

I have also found, that any day you come to a firm decision to do anything, is a good day to start. And stats seem to show that if you actually finish what you start, you are in an elite group. It is much easier to start, than to finish; much easier to promise than to deliver.

So, here we are on January 1st, the first day of the rest of our lives.

Sometimes I think it would be interesting to see just how many trite, worn out old sayings could be packed into one

essay...such as "A journey of a thousand miles, begins with one step." or some such truisms.

Minnie Louise Haskins, writing in *Psychology of Religion* (p.202), expressed something of our desire for guidance into the future as we have a new beginning, an open door before us:

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me light, that I may tread safely into the unknown.'"

And he replied 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'"

Folksong lyrics would say to us "Put your hand in the hand of the Man who stills the waters..."

We speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, saying "Trust and obey...for there's no other way...to be happy in Jesus...but to trust and obey."

The scriptures say all this, and much more, about follow-

ing God's guidance into the future.

And God says that through Christ, and our submission to His teaching for our lives, we can experience a brand new life, right now, and in the life to come, eternal life.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NKJV)

OUR ELDERS

Jim Akins
Tim Ashberry
Oran Burt
Mike Hughes
Mike Penrod
Danny Rye

ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Mike Penrod

Available

Sunday, January 8
6:00—6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, January 25
7:15—8:00 P.M.

**NEED A RIDE TO
WORSHIP SERVICES??
CALL: CHURCH OFFICE
758-5256
(Call by noon on Friday)**

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

Upcoming Teen Events

This Week

Coming soon...

*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.*

A New Year's Poem

Instead of making a New Year's resolution
Consider committing to a biblical solution
Your promises are easily broken
Empty words, though earnestly spoken
But God's Word transforms the soul
By His Holy Spirit making you whole
As you spend time alone with Him
He will change you from within

-- Mary Fairchild

A 3D rendering of the words "Happy New Year 2012" in a bold, red, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines, with "Happy" on top, "New Year" in the middle, and "2012" at the bottom. The letters have a slight shadow and a gradient, giving them a three-dimensional appearance as if they are floating or standing on a surface.

Philippians 3:13-14

13 "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, [a] but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us".