

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 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 2

January 8, 2012

JUST LIKE JOB

David Anguish

On the morning of May 17, 1996, my 38-year-old sister got out of bed, collapsed, and died of an aortic aneurysm. Besides my brother-in-law, she left behind a daughter, 10, and a son, 7.

In the years since, I've observed some things that I suspect might be at least partial answers to some of the “why” questions that occurred when Jan died. I say “might” because I don't have enough evidence to know. Truth is, I may never know.

That raises a bigger question: Can I live with not knowing? Many struggle with that idea. Surely, “there must be a logical explanation.” There may be, especially if I understand that God is the source and standard of all that is logical. But, that does not mean I'm always going to understand, or even know, what that explanation is.

Again, can I live with that? Am I just expected to accept that, “Sometimes, bad things just happen”? That life comes without a warranty? Or, as my mother told me her grandmother used to tell her, that “The old will die; sometimes, the young do, too”?

It is permissible, biblical, to ask why. Read Habakkuk, concerned about Judah's sin, but more concerned about God's solution. Read Abraham's response as he tried to get his head around God's announced intention to destroy Lot's hometown (Gen. 18:22-33).

Read Job. The man whose life was the test case planned in a Heavenly Council Meeting. The man who had it all – and lost every bit of it in a heartbeat. The man whose wife told him to curse God and die. Whose friends came to console and stayed to prosecute. But, Job endured (Jas. 5:11), kept declaring his innocence, asked to hear from God – and wondered *why*.

In contrast to his friends, God exonerated Job (Job 42:7). He also answered him (Job 38-41), but not in the way Job hoped. Job heard question, after question, after question – but no explanation. When the book ends, Job still does not know why.

Could Job live with that? Oh, yes. Because he got something better: a bigger view of and deeper faith in God (Job 42:5-6).

Why did Jan die when she did? Why did this or that happen to you? To ask those questions in faith is to be just like Job. May our knowledge of the Holy One also be more like his.

IN TODAY'S SERVICES

A.M.

Song Leader

Larry Curtis

First Prayer

Tommy Kidd

Scripture Reading

Gil Myatt

Psalm 139:1-24

Communion Leader

Chad Necessary

Closing Prayer

Justin Smith

Nursery

Sheila Gardner

Lorey Phillips

Training Room

Phyllis Kelley

Genevieve LeMay

P.M.

Song Leader

Marc Hubbell

First Prayer

Jonathan Penrod

Closing Prayer

Jerry Ellis

Nursery

Melissa Quesinberry

JANUARY PANTRY ITEMS

Oatmeal or Cereal

Pancake Mix and Syrup

Jelly

Our Record

January 1, 2012

Sunday Bible Classes

148

A. M. Worship

216

P. M. Worship

115

Monday Night Men's Class

No Count

Tuesday Night Ladies Class

No Class until January 10

Wed. Morning Ladies Class

January 4-16

Wednesday Night Classes

January 4-143

Budget \$10,125.00

Contribution \$8,473.65

Average Not Available

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.

REMEMBER:

Tuesday night Ladies Bible class will resume on January 10, at 7:00 P.M. We will continue our study by Cassandra Martin—*Set Free*

Care Groups will meet— January 15

TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES COMING IN THE SPRING QUARTER (March-May):

Contact Tressa Ashberry as soon as possible, if you are interested in teaching in our Cradle Roll - 1st & 2nd grade classes! Teachers are needed for 1 year olds on Wednesdays, 2 & 3 year olds on Sunday and Wednesdays and on Wednesdays for 1st & 2nd grades!

MOVING:

Tom Eddlemon will be moving to Kenton, TN soon. Betty has been transferred to the Tennessee State Veterans Nursing Home at Humboldt, TN. Tom's new address is 304 Woodlawn, Kenton, TN 38233.

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!!!

In Our Thoughts

- ◆ **Chester Ingram** is still very weak and needs our prayers.
- ◆ **Mary Ricks**, sister-in-law of Linetta McDonald is recovering at home from a recent fall.
- ◆ **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 is now in St. Joseph's Hospital in Hot Springs under Hospice Care.
- ◆ **LaVerne Prince** of College Station, TX, friend of Sue and J. L. Simmons fell and broke her elbow and hip. She had surgery last Tuesday.
- ◆ **Kelly Sanderson**, friend of Sue and J. L. Simmons has been recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer—please pray for her and her family.
- ◆ **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.

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

Don't Put Jesus First

Sean Ashberry

(How are your New Year priorities coming along after one week? Yeah, I'm with 'ya! While thinking about resolutions and priorities I came across this article by Steven Furtick and am happy to share his good thoughts with you today).

Don't put Jesus first this year. Yes, you read that correctly. Before you label me a heretic, let me explain. I imagine that many of you are going through a similar process as me right now of setting and resetting your priorities. Personally, I love this time of year. I'm a very goal-oriented individual, and I've found that reprioritizing and recalibrating your life is an indispensable activity if you really want to actualize your potential.

And here's what it usually looks like. We start by putting

Jesus at the top. Then family. Then maybe career. And so on. So our priorities look something like this:

1. Jesus/God
2. Family
3. Career

Looks good. However, I've found that this isn't very effective when you get down to the grind of everyday life. For example, what does it even mean to put Jesus before my family? Do I ignore my family to spend more time with Jesus? Or with your career, do you stop working to put Jesus first?

The essential problem with this approach is that it segregates the different priorities of life. You end up removing Jesus from where you spend the majority of your time and putting

Him on an island by Himself. The biggest island maybe, but an island nonetheless. I don't think this is the way it was ever supposed to work.

Colossians 1:15-20 repeatedly tells us that Jesus is first before and over everything. But it also says that all things were created through and for Him. That in Him all things hold together. That the goal of the cross was to reconcile all things to Himself. So Jesus is first. He is first in order. He is first in importance. But He is so because He is the center of everything. That's what He should be in your life. And consequently, the thing that is at the center of your life is the thing that is ultimately first in your life.

This year, instead of worrying about putting Jesus first in

your life, what if you concentrated on making Him the center of every area of your life? Not just the top priority in front of every other priority, but the top priority in every priority?

Not Jesus, then my family. But Jesus in my family. Not Jesus, then my career. But Jesus in my career. We'd probably be a lot more successful in actually keeping Jesus at the top spot on our list. And we'd be much more likely to do an exponentially greater job at accomplishing our other goals and maintaining our priorities.



I pray we will each make Jesus the center of our lives in 2012...Sean

Is The Lord Among Us or Not?

Oran Burt

If God is blessing me, then why do I have these problems? And the familiar quandary, why do such bad things happen to such good people?

Sometimes following God leaves us wondering what's going on. Why this road? Why this place?

When the Israelites had crossed the Red Sea, led by God with the fiery cloudy pillar, they found themselves without food for a time. Manna from heaven fell to them, free for the taking, as well as plentiful quail blown in by the wind.

Then, at Rephidim, there was no water for the people to drink. They complained against Moses and demanded water. God instructed Moses to smite the rock at Horeb with his staff. Water flowed from the rock and the people drank. Moses named the place Massah & Meribah, because the people tested God saying, "**Is the Lord among us or not?**" (Exodus 17:7).

And at Marah, (Exo. 15) the water was bitter so that the people could not drink it.

Israel's story shows us that life has a variety of trials. These tough places teach us that this world alone cannot provide lasting satisfaction.

When the heart breaks, material things fade into obscurity and irrelevance.

They blamed Moses, again, accusing him of bringing them out of Egypt to kill them by starving them, and depriving them of water.

And they were not lost. They were following God. But He has led them to a place where they will have to completely depend upon Him.

We have a tendency to lash out when we are confused and hurting. Looking back on them and their behavior, we are tempted to think they were worthless complainers and God should have just left them alone and let them suffer. But God didn't give them what they deserved. Where would we be

if God gave us what we deserve instead of what we need? We would be facing "Judgment without mercy" (James 2:13).

The Pharisees thought that because their sins were not like the Gentiles' sins, they themselves were better people and deserved special treatment.

Sometimes we are tempted to think that just because our own sins are not as blatant or as "bad" as other people's sins, that we somehow should escape any consequences. Sometimes, we think that if we are living a righteous life, we should escape any trials or tough predicaments.

The soul can become dry and thirsty for God (Psa. 42:2) and needs spiritual food. Knowledge, great learning, cannot satisfy the soul's need for spiritual truth. Talent, and ingenuity cannot satisfy the soul's deep need for fellowship with God.

Our souls have a spiritual thirst for forgiveness, for meaning & purpose in life, for holiness and for salvation.

Christ, like this water, is the satisfaction for spiritual thirst.

"Now on the last day of the great feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.'" (John 7:37).

Paul explains in his first letter to Corinth that what happened to Israel was to serve as an example to us. Referring to this very incident at Horeb, he writes: *"...our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ." (1 Cor. 10:1-4).*

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that He could give "Living water."

The Lamb will lead the redeemed to springs of the water of life (Rev. 7:17).

Is God with us? Furthermore, are we with God?

"Let him who is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take of the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17).

OUR ELDERS

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

ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Mike Penrod

Available

Wednesday, January 25
7:15—8:00 P.M.
Sunday, February 12
6:00—6:30 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

TODAY: Devotional at the home of
Duane & Melissa Quesinberry

Coming soon...

January 15th - LTC Puppet Team
meeting immediately after morning
worship in the Fellowship Room.
Important that you attend:)

*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.*

Drill Bits

The President of a drill bit making company walked into a meeting one day and asked his advisers to give him a report on how the company was doing. One advisor told him that they have over 200 stores and are in more than 45 states across America, Another told him that they sold sixty percent of all drill bits in America, and another told him that they were the top drill bit manufacturing company in the world. The group advisers praised the president for the job he had done building the company and seemed to be very satisfied with the work they had done until the president stood up and said “you have forgotten what this company's mission is.” The advisers were very confused and asked him “How could this be? We make the best drill bits in the world, are expanding all across the country, and own a huge share of the market. What is our mission if not that?” The President looked at them and said “Customers don't care about drill bits. Customers care about holes. We can make the best drill bits at the lowest price, but if someone else finds a better way to make a hole, we are out of business.”

In the example above the president wisely reminded his advisers that there methods were getting in the way of their mission. These men thought their goal was to make the best drill bits in the world, while their true mission was about the holes the whole time. In the church today it sometimes feels like we are doing the same things. We hold so tightly to our methods or traditions of spreading Gods word that we forget what the true goal is. It does a congregation little good to hold seminars, have gospel meeting, or preach on sin and forgiveness if there is nobody to hear the messages that are being taught. Jesus has told all of us what we need to do (Mark 16:15). We are all missionaries for Christ and if we are not experiencing success in our mission, maybe it is time for us to start taking a look at our methods.