

## 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

February 19  
Somers Ave. Orientation  
3:30pm

February 26  
Navigating our website  
4pm

April 13-15  
Somers' Retreat at Wyldewood

April 20-22  
AR Enrichment Seminar  
Village Church of Christ  
Hot Springs, AR

### Life Support Ministries

None meeting at this time.



# The *OBSERVER*

Issue 8

February 19, 2012



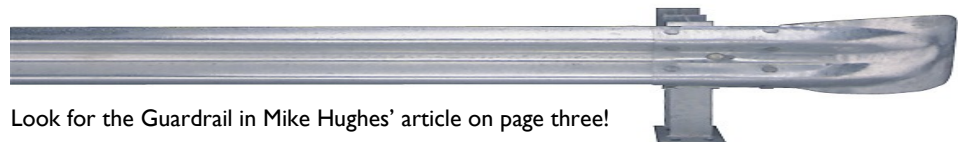
*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Ephesians 5:15–17 (ESV)

They're everywhere. All around you. They get no attention until you need them. They all serve one purpose - to save your life. Today we continue with week two of a six-week sermon series called *Guardrails*. Sean and I will be sharing the preaching during this series.

Where do we need to establish some guardrails in our lives? And how do we do so? Many of us wish we had placed some guardrails up somewhere in our life's journey. Your greatest regret might have been avoided if you'd had some guardrails in your life financially, morally, relationally in your dating, marriage, parenting, or friendships, whatever it might be.

We are going to take this common imagery of a guardrail (which are also guide-rails) and apply it to several areas of our lives and how we can establish some guard-rails - personal standards of behavior - to protect our spiritual lives.



Look for the Guardrail in Mike Hughes' article on page three!

**IN TODAY'S SERVICES**

**A.M.**

**Song Leader**

*Robert Dixon*

**First Prayer**

*Larry Curtis*

**Scripture Reading**

*Butch Gardner*

*TBA*

**Communion Leader**

*Larry Klotz*

**Closing Prayer**

*Frank Stinebaugh*

**Nursery**

*Reagan Workman*

**Training Room**

*Judy Huckeba*

*Judy White*

**P.M.**

**Song Leader**

*Singing Devotional*

**First Prayer**

*Bill White*

**Closing Prayer**

*Terry Herald*

**Nursery**

*Debbie Robinson*

**FEBRUARY PANTRY ITEMS**

Canned Fruit  
Canned Soup & Crackers  
Cake Mix & Icing

**Our Record  
February 12, 2012**

**Sunday Bible Classes  
190**

**A. M. Worship  
259**

**P. M. Worship  
160**

**Monday Night Men's Class  
February 13-No Class**

**Tuesday Night Ladies Class  
February 14-No Class**

**Wed. Morning Ladies Class  
February 15-25**

**Wednesday Night Classes  
February 15-17**

**Budget \$10,125.00**

**Contribution \$ 9,127.35**

**Average \$ 9,675.62**

**Family News**



There will be a bridal shower for Renada Robinson, bride-elect of Jason Burt on Sunday, March 4 after our evening services. Renada & Jason are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Target.

**FRIDAYS—ARE FAMILY GAME NIGHT!—6:00 P.M. in the AC!!!**

**TODAY'S REMINDERS:**

**FEBRUARY 19-Singing Devotional for our evening service.**

**FEBRUARY 19-A member orientation** will be conducted in the OFR from 3:30-5:00 P.M. for anyone interested in learning more about our congregation, including the programs and ministries we offer. Contact Sean Ashberry for more information.

**FEBRUARY 24-26—9th through 12th graders** are invited to **CHRISTeens Youth Rally** in Russellville, AR. Cost is \$50.00 per person and the deadline to register is, TODAY!! If you plan to attend you can pre-order a T-shirt for \$15.00.

**FEBRUARY 26-A training session** will be conducted by Sean Ashberry to better acquaint our members how to use all the resources of our **church website**. Session will be from 4:00-5:00 P.M.



**Children Homes Food Truck Pick-Up Dates:**

*Paragould Children's Home-March 12*

*Southern Christian Home-March 15. Let's fill those grocery carts!!! You will find a food shopping list insert in this week's bulletin!*



**Our men's softball team is forming. Contact Chad Rye at 690-0507, if you are interested in playing.**

**ELDERS EMAIL ADDRESS:** [elders@somersavenue.org](mailto:elders@somersavenue.org).

**In Our Thoughts**

- ◆ **Chester Ingram** is slowly getting his strength back; but still quite confused at times.
- ◆ **Sydney Reedy** is in ACH with low blood pressure & low blood levels. She will have one more chemo treatment and then a body scan. Please pray for good results.
- ◆ **Neil Jenkins**, friend of Steve Foster has been released from the hospital and is now under Hospice care. Please pray for Neil and his family as he continues his fight with lung cancer.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Teresa Triplett**, sister-in-law of Lisa Triplett continues her fight against spinal cancer.
- ◆ **Gloria Strayhorn**, sister-in-law of Brenda McKee is recovering from heart surgery.

**Our sympathy is extended to the family of Claude Lewis of Searcy. Brother Lewis was a well-known gospel preacher in the central Arkansas area. He was a member of the College Church of Christ in Searcy. Funeral services were held on February 17 at the church in Searcy.**

**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.

**Lafe Weston**, grandson of Treva & Charles Voyles and great-nephew of Betty Lewis.

## Viva Buffet!

I love a buffet. Yeah, I know. Shocking isn't it?! Cici's. Chinese. Western Sizzlin. Potluck. It's not really the "all you can eat for one price" that appeals to me. The appeal is in the sheer variety available at these feeding troughs.

I am very methodical and strategic in my approach to buffet. I am no amateur. In order to get the most benefit from the buffet concept I approach it with a simple game plan. I identify my favorite item and eat it first. Sometimes I eat too much of it. After I eat my favorite I will go back and sample the rest. What happens most often is that I am too full from the first plate to eat anything else, even dessert.

I find life to be a great buffet, at least in this country.

I surmise we can live a lifetime and never eat all of the types of food or do all of the activities available to us here. So, what do we do? We prioritize.

My favorite Chinese buffet item is sesame chicken. I load up on sesame chicken. But I also like orange chicken, beef and broccoli, General Tso's dish, crab Rangoon, and fried rice. But after I have eaten the sizeable portion of sesame chicken on my plate, I don't really want any of the other stuff, or I'll only taste a small sample of each.

I love bar-b-q pizza at Cici's. If it's on the bar when I get there I will eat nothing but bar-b-q. But I also like the taco, Canadian bacon with pineapple, spinach, Chicken Alfredo, and Classic Chicken. Again, after I have eaten all of the bar-b-q I

don't want anything else, or at least not as much.

Or, even though I am stuffed, I will cram more of the other varieties down and be miserable the rest of the day. Sometimes I'll lose my appetite for those flavors that were the last to go down.

I see this same pattern in our lives. We have endless choices when it comes to filling the plate of our lives. We have a favorite item on the buffet and we fill our plate with that one first: school, sports, work, family, etc. So if our favorite item is not God, He will become a smaller portion. We will either be too full for God or he will only get a nibble.

Sometimes we try to cram God in after we are full on this other stuff and we become mis-

erable, wrongfully blaming that feeling on the portion of God instead of the gluttony we demonstrated on these other items.

We need some guardrails for our priorities. Unless we establish some boundaries that when we bump up against them we begin to feel their negative effects, we end up driving our priorities over the edge of the bridge and our spiritual life is destroyed. Christian relationships become crippled. Our appetite decreases.

Let me lovingly challenge you to examine your life's buffet and determine where your priorities are placed. If you are too full for God then it might be time to change your diet.

Matthew 6:25-34

Sean Ashberry

## Potter Molds Clay While It is Fresh

Mike Hughes



The potter molds the clay while it is still fresh, soft, and receptive to his touch. If he were to wait until the clay had set and hardened, to make an impression upon it, he would have to break it up, remix the particles in water and then try to remold it into something new.

Learning is a lot like this example of the potter and the clay. When children hear a foreign language, say, Spanish, spoken along with English, they grow up knowing how to speak both of these languages. I have tried for nearly 30 years to lean to speak Spanish and have yet

to succeed. What is easily absorbed for a child is a monumental task for me.

A small child has the example of their parents to learn from, both good and bad habits. As they grow, these learned habits will become the adult traits of these children. Proverbs 22:6 says, *"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."*

Training a child in the way he/she should go is a very big task. Sometimes, despite our best efforts, it still proves to be an exceptional challenge. Is the church a part of the training of our children?

The opportunity is there at least twice a week, with Bible classes offered on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. I cannot think of a good reason to refrain from placing your child in a Bible

class. How exciting it is for them to be in a room with others their age, with a teacher willing and anxious to share with them the Bible stories that will be with them as they grow older. The stories of Moses in the desert, Joshua marching around the walls of Jericho, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, or walking on the water or calming the storm! Little minds will absorb this with enthusiastic desire. As they grow older they will remember the teachings of a Bible class teacher and hear more detailed versions of these teachings in their Jr. High and Sr. High classes and it will not be alien to them. It will make their time at church more interesting and help them learn the way in which they should go. Let me urge you to allow your children to attend Bible

class. Make it a regular part of your Sunday morning routine. Bring them to class and leave them in the capable hands of our Bible teachers. They have years of experience and are very qualified to share the word of God whether it be in story book form or teaching from pre-selected material. Attending classes on a regular basis teaches the preschool age children to listen to the teacher, how to interact with other children and to become accustomed to their parent not being in the room with them. They will actually have a learning experience with other children and they will be so excited to show you what they have learned that day! Won't you bring your child every Sunday and Wednesday? It will be a blessing for you and for them.

### OUR ELDERS

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

### ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Tim Ashberry

#### Available

Wednesday, February 29  
7:15—8:00 P.M.  
Sunday, March 11  
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](http://www.somersavenue.org)**

### Upcoming Teen Events

Our Sunday night devotional for tonight will be hosted by Jim and Robin Callahan in Activity Center. Teens are asked to bring drinks.

Teen only sign-up deadline for the **D. R. mission trip** (Aug. 2-9) is **TODAY** February 19th. Cost is \$50 to sign up. Please give your money to Mike Carter

Teens that are signed up to go to the **CHRISTeens** youth rally. we will meet at the building at 5:45 Friday night.

Sign-up deadline for the Noah's Ark Trek (July 1-7) is March 4. The cost is \$320.

*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.*

# Love God, Love People

Love is in the air— Tuesday was Valentine's Day and because of that people everywhere are thinking about Love. For Christians, this is an excellent time to think a little bit about the foundation of our belief (Luke 10:25-28).

## Love God

Our first love should always be God. It is our mission as Christians to bring people to him, but in order to effectively do that we need to make sure that our hearts are aligned with his. The only way for us to have a genuine love for God is to be in a genuine relationship with him. We all endure seasons of spiritual dryness, but we need to make sure that those are rare occasions to an otherwise sincere spiritual health.

This week take a little time to evaluate your spiritual health. Meet with a mentor, eat a meal alone, read your Bible, talk to someone who you are having problems with, whatever it is. Just take time to focus on God and remove whatever it is that is keeping you from him.

## Love People

A lot of times loving people is easy for us to do. Humans are created to interact and for the most part we enjoy doing it. However, we sometimes feel like people are needy or draining and because of this we might try to avoid those around us. Fight through this desire. It is crucial for our personal ministries that we spend time with people. Other Christians need our encouragement and non-Christians need us even more.

This week adjust your schedule to spend time with someone you know needs it. Pick a friend who needs encouragement and try to be there for them. If you are the one who needs encouragement try to help someone else and see how it makes you feel.

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**Want to keep up with Somers Youth Group?**  
You can do so in 4 easy steps.

1. Scan the Quick Response code to the right with your Phone
2. Like us on Facebook
3. Scan the QR code again
4. Follow us on Twitter.

