

## 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 12  
"Guardrails" - sermon series

February 19  
Somers Ave. Orientation  
3:30pm

February 26  
Navigating our website  
4pm

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

### Life Support Ministries

None meeting at this time.



# The *OBSERVER*

Issue 6

February 5, 2012

## Job's Integrity

Job 31:16-23

"If I have kept the poor from their desire,

Or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail,

Or have eaten my morsel alone,

And the orphan has not shared it

(But from my youth he grew up with me as with a father,

And from infancy I guided her),

If I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing,

Or that the needy had no covering,

If his loins have not thanked me,

And if he has not been warmed with the fleece of my sheep,

If I have lifted up my hand against the orphan,

Because I saw I had support in the gate,

Let my shoulder fall from the socket,

And my arm be broken off at the elbow.

Remember the current opportunities to help the less fortunate people around us with the collection of eye glasses (by Steven McClelland) and the collection of warm coats and gloves (by Jessie Carter). A basket is in the foyer for the eyeglasses, and a box is in the Old Fellowship Room for depositing the coats and gloves. "As we have opportunity, let us do good..." Galatians 6:10

**IN TODAY'S SERVICES**

**A.M.**

**Song Leader**

*Jake Smith*

**First Prayer**

*Don Huckeba*

**Scripture Reading**

*David Holley*

TBA

**Communion Leader**

*Jim Akins*

**Closing Prayer**

*Gary Lewis*

**Nursery**

*Jamie Reedy*

**Training Room**

*Mary Ann Klotz*

*Terri Nevins*

**P.M.**

**Song Leader**

*Tim Ashberry*

**First Prayer**

*Ralph Stewart*

**Closing Prayer**

*George McDonald*

**Nursery**

*Brandy Holley*

**FEBRUARY PANTRY**

**ITEMS**

Canned Fruit  
Canned Soup & Crackers  
Cake Mix & Icing

**Our Record**

**January 29, 2012**

**Sunday Bible Classes**

195

**A. M. Worship**

270

**P. M. Worship**

No Count

**Monday Night Men's Class**

January 30-No Count

**Tuesday Night Ladies Class**

January 31-6

**Wed. Morning Ladies Class**

February 1-20

**Wednesday Night Classes**

February 1-No Count

**Budget** \$10,125.00

**Contribution** \$8,469.06

**Average** \$9,555.41

**Family News**



Remember the "twin boy" baby shower in honor of Shelly Halter  
—February 12, 2:00-4:00 in the OFR!

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

**LADIES WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** —Monthly potluck is February 8. Lunch is being provided by an anonymous donor. Men are welcome to attend the potluck.

**CHRISTIAN WOMAN MAGAZINE RENEWAL:**

Our club subscriptions will expire with the March/April Issue. To renew your subscription, or to become a new subscriber, give your check (made out to Christian Woman Magazine) for \$15.98 to Yvonne Stinebaugh by February 12.

**TEACHER NEEDED: SPRING QUARTER (March-May):** We are in need of a teacher on Wednesday nights for the one-year-old class, please contact Tressa Ashberry if you can help.

**TEACHER'S MEETING:**

On Sunday, February 12, after evening worship services, we will meet to hand out materials for the spring quarter. Please let Tressa Ashberry know if you cannot attend.

**TODAY-Teen Parent Meeting** after morning services in the OFR. Please attend!

**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.

**EYE CARE. I WORE. I GIVE:**

**What:** Eyeglasses for Peru

**Deadline:** Sunday, Feb. 12, 2012. Glasses can be placed in the basket in the church foyer or in the McClelland mail box. For questions, contact Steven McClelland at 785-250-1394.

**TRIP TO HEBER SPRINGS:** On Monday, February 6th, a group from Somers will be going to see the "swans" that nest for the winter near Heber Springs. Bus will leave the church building at 1:00 P.M., returning at about 9:00 P.M. Dinner will be at Mack's Restaurant in Heber Springs. Bus eating is limited to 20 people. Deadline to sign up is TONIGHT!

**PLEASE NOTE:** Somers now has a single email address that will forward messages, suggestions and feedback specifically and directly to all of the elders: [elders@somersavenue.org](mailto:elders@somersavenue.org). The elders want to provide another easy way to be available to the congregation.

**In Our Thoughts**

- ◆ **Chester Ingram** is showing some improvement, but is still weak & confused at times.
- ◆ **Bea Edwards** has returned home to Fox Ridge from the hospital.
- ◆ **John Morgan** remains in rehab at Springhill, room 158.
- ◆ **Ruth Allen**, Tim House's grandmother is undergoing treatments for breast 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 will have heart surgery on Feb. 9.
- ◆ **Muriel Dixon**, mother of Robert Dixon had heart stints placed on January 24th and was able to go home on January 25th.
- ◆ **Charles Moore**, of Frisco, TX, father of Contessa Moore had a heart attack last Sunday. Doctors are trying to regulate his blood and potassium levels.
- ◆ **Betty Eddlemon** is doing a little better since her move to a TN nursing home.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Willie Boultinghouse**. **Brother Boultinghouse** passed from this life on Feb. 1. **Funeral services** were on held on **Saturday, February 4** at Somers Ave.

**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.

## Guardrails

I didn't play many sports when I was a kid. Gave baseball a shot for a couple of years but it wasn't my thing. Football lasted for one year during 7th grade. One hit from Terrance "Juju" Harshaw and I decided that pain was not something I could "play through."

I was a Bantam Bowler at Pike Lanes for several years during elementary school. I even traveled to some out of town tournaments. Bowling was more of my speed and the zip-front shirts you could put recognition patches all over was pretty cool for a young fella.

The thing about each one of these sports is that they are played within boundaries. There are some clearly defined markers that the player is required to remain within. Too far to the right? Out of bounds. Too far

to the left? Gutter ball or a foul ball. The players understand and recognize these boundaries and there is no mistaking when you cross one. You can see the line. A whistle blows. A buzzer sounds. There's some official to indicate you have crossed into no-play territory.



We need to establish more clearly defined boundaries in our lives. On the highway we have guardrails that keep us from straying into dangerous territory like driving off of a bridge or down an embankment. The

guardrails are there for a reason. If you strike a guardrail you may do some damage to your vehicle but it's not near as bad as if the barrier wasn't there and you careened over the side of a mountain.

Nobody plans to mess up their life. Nobody wakes up and says, "You know what? Today I'm going to drive my life off of a cliff by making some terrible choices." We don't plan to do that. But we also don't plan not to do it.

What steps do you take to make sure these things don't happen? Set up guardrails. You can tell yourself that you'll "be careful." Well, setting up guardrails is how you "be careful."

Oran and I are excited to present you with a 6-week series called "Guardrails - How to live proactive in a reactive world."

Sean Ashberry

We will examine certain areas of our lives where we need to establish guardrails to prevent us from wandering onto dangerous terrain. It's much easier to recover from a near crash than to drive over a cliff and total your life. We hope you will make plans to join us.

*"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

## You Can Buy a Tiger, But You Can't Buy Common Sense

Oran Burt

This is what we think— warm fuzzies with docile sweetness— just wanna squeeze and hug this nice tiger.



But things are not always as they appear. Some animals turn out not to be good pets. They don't belong in a cage in someone's home or in the back yard. There is an intense conversation going on right now between owners of exotic animals, conservationists groups, the public, the government, wildlife management officers and others, over the rights and privileges to keep exotic animals. Some terrific problems have occurred in the Florida Everglades due to hundreds of

Burmese Pythons being released into the wild by Hurricane Andrew. These snakes multiply prolifically. Stories abound where chimpanzees, by far the most dangerous to keep as pets, have attacked their owners. Big cats and other exotic animals can create huge concerns over public safety, the safety of first responders, as well as the safety of the animals.

All this of course involves politics, preferences, perception of rights and the like. We struggle to balance animal rights, human rights, freedom in America, and all that.

I can't settle that or even grasp every single argument, though I think I do see merit in both sides, or all sides of the issues.

But beyond the "right or wrong", the "should or shouldn't" of it all, there is another factor to consider: Just plain old common sense.

But common sense suffers when someone has **cognitive bias**, a common term used to describe observer effects in the human mind, resulting in "...perceptual distortion, inaccurate judgment, or illogical interpretation." In clinical psychology, **selective abstraction** is a type of cognitive bias in which a detail is taken out of context and believed, while everything else in the context is ignored.

That seems to describe people with fatal attractions to deadly poisonous snakes, or other dangerous animals. It seems that people can get to thinking that a snake can "love" them back, the same way they "love" the snake. Imagine that. And they block out some facts.

So-called "Reality TV" shows can fool people into thinking that when they get their own tiger (or whatever) that it will be as lazy and cuddly as the one on TV. But then come actuality and reality together,

that this big cat has claws and teeth. Some have died, having bled out through every orifice on their body, after being bitten by their loving snake.

Unbelievable? Not really. Some will push the envelope, drive as close to the edge as they can, bend every rule, thinking that they are immune, unsinkable, un-touchable, and bullet proof. After all, would a snake that loves me this much try to harm me? [You can order an Indian Cobra online and have it delivered to your house within 48 hours]

Christians, lulled into thinking



that their worldliness can continue without their being torn or consumed by it need to be on the alert for a **roaring lion!**

## OUR ELDERS

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

## ELDERS OF THE MONTH

Tim Ashberry

### Available

Sunday, February 12  
6:00—6:30  
Wednesday, February 29  
7:15—8:00

**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

This Sunday, **February 5th**, after evening services the teens are invited to Mike and Jan Penrod's house for a **Super Bowl Party**. Food and drinks will be provided.

Sign up deadline for **CHRISTeens is Today, February 5th**

Also **February 5th**, there will be a **Teen Parent meeting** right after Sunday morning services in the **OFR** about the Summer Calendar. Parents please plan on attending.

*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.*

# Refiner's Fire

Malachi 3:3a - *And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver...*

There are many verses in the bible like the one above. Verses that contain messages that were written to people who, at the time, would understand the meaning behind them. However, in today's world most of us do not know what it is like to be a shepherd, work fields, or refine silver. It takes a little extra work for us to be able to get the full meaning behind a parable or example that is used in scripture.

I heard a story one time about a group of ladies who were studying this very verse and became confused about the message. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says:

*"And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver"*

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered,

"Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it"

What an encouraging thought to know that God not only is there with us when we go through trials, but that when we come out of them we will be more like him. There are so many great messages in the Bible. Next time you come across a verse that uses an example you might not quite understand, take the time to learn more about the topic. There may be a message there that you will never forget.