

# The Well

"If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink." John 7:37

A newsletter of Fir Road Christian Church- August 2011



## Dan's Doodles: "Doesn't anyone recognize me?"

One time there was a family that went to the movies. On the way in, a young boy in the family stopped to get some popcorn. By the time he got into the theater, the lights were already dim. He scanned the theater and couldn't find his family. Finally, after what seemed to him like an eternity he cried out, "Doesn't anyone recognize me?"

I'm sure that you've noticed a lot of new faces lately at Fir Road, which is a great thing, but with new faces comes a lot of responsibility to our current attenders. Our job is to make our guests feel welcome and at home. When visitors come to our church they are looking for a church family to call home. Many times the biggest reason that a family will come back is that they felt welcome and accepted. If we are honest, all of us are a little like that little boy that said, "Doesn't anyone recognize me?" Here are some ideas to help people feel welcome.

- Don't assume that somebody else will talk to the visitors. It's everyone's job, not just the greeters.
- Remember what it is like to be the new person? It is a scary thing. Try to make them comfortable.
- A good opening question would be to say, "Have you been coming here for long?"
- Learn names and try to remember them. (You might want to write the names down right after you're done talking to them to help you remember)
- Try to get beyond surface conversations.
- Invite them over for lunch or take them out to eat
- Ask them if they have any questions about anything.
- **DO NOT** be protective of your seats. New people have no idea where everyone normally sits. No dirty looks. Just smiles. Telling somebody "this is my seat" tells them that they are intruding and they will probably never come back. It's not a bad idea to move around a little bit anyway. ☺
- Do not pre-judge people even if they look or dress differently than you do.

Let's all do our part in helping make it a great experience for our guests.

Because of Him,  
*Dan*

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wrap Up "Building On The Past"

It was a great day as we gathered to celebrate the past 30 years at Fir Road. We were blessed to hear from past ministers Lee Williams and Steve Altheide during the service. We welcomed back old friends from as far away as Texas. Lunch was a great time of fellowship and our fellowship area was filled to capacity. A good time was also had as many people stuck around to sing some of the old favorites and share favorite memories. Most of all God was glorified. We are excited to see what the next 30 years will bring. Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible.



The Original Crew



## **Family VBS Wrap-Up**

Well, summer is starting to wind down but it is not without its share of memories. I'd like to take a little time to share with you the highlight of my summer, Family "VBS". We had a great group of families come out and participate in our activities and I believe it's safe to say that a good time was had by all. There were great times of family discussion, teaching by Dan, great meals prepared by Barb and just all in all a great weekend to "get away" from the ordinary stresses of the day. As children's minister, it is a very important thing for me to see families sharing and growing together the way they did over this weekend. Sometimes I don't get to see the family dynamic that was on display during our time together.

We had a great time growing together as families, but also growing together as a church family. The extended free time on Saturday allowed my family and me to enjoy an event that will now become a family tradition in our household I'm sure, and that is floating down Center Creek. Several people took advantage of the heat and sunshine to enjoy a Saturday floating from the Center Creek Park to JJ Highway just down from the church. The time spent together as a church family was refreshing.

We also had a great opportunity to start instilling the practice of family devotion time and family Bible discussion. There were great times of sharing and experiencing the Bible together as families and that was really the push of our weekend together. We have to take Faith to our homes and families, so that we can have the homes and families we always have wanted in a Godly way.

Be sure to keep an eye on the calendar, as I'm sure that we will have another great time together in the future. Keep your eyes peeled for "Family VBS 2012" and we'll hope to see you there!

*Nick*



### **August Sermon Schedule:**

Sermon Series: The Reality Show of Life

Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> - "Extreme Home Makeover" (Making Over Your Spiritual Life)

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> - "The Biggest Loser" (Finding Your Worth In Jesus)

Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> - "The Amazing Race" (Go Into The World)

Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> - "The Amazing Kindness Race" (The Church in Action)

## **THE STORY**

### **Coming Sept. 11th:**

What is It? The Story is a single volume of 31 chapters. Beginning with Genesis and ending with Revelations, the reader comes to understand the whole Bible. Carefully selected Scripture is woven together in a chronological narrative. Beginning Sept. 11 our whole church will embark on this 31-week journey through God's word together. All ages will participate in various aspects of the "The Story". The Sunday morning messages will go through as well as Sunday school and small groups. "The Story" books will be available to purchase in adult, teen, and children's versions.

### **Back to school Party**

Sunday night August 14<sup>th</sup> we will have one more fling before school gets under way. We will gather at the church for homemade ice cream at 6:00pm. We will be looking for volunteers to make the ice cream. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

**4 State Men's Fellowship:** Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm, Racine Christian Church. Program: "Why Should I Work So Hard?" Speaker- Scott Springer. Scott has been in the Joplin area for many years, serving in various capacities for the Lord. Formally, he served at the Christian Church of Carl Junction as a minister. Jeff Henson from The Crossing church plant in Tulsa, will also be there to present an overview of the successes there.

4 State Men's Golf Tournament: 4 man best ball. \$50/ golfer. Lunch included. 8:00am at Schifferdecker Golf Course. Sign up sheets are at the Welcome Center.

**30th Anniversary cookbooks** are still available for just \$10 each. They make great gifts. Buy several.



**"In The Midst of The Storm"** is a booklet put together by Ozark Christian College putting some perspective on the tornado. It contains stories of the tornado and how the presence of God was evident throughout the storm and afterwards. They did an excellent job with this. Free copies are available at the Welcome Center.

### **Facts and Figures: (1<sup>st</sup> 4 weeks of July)**

- Average worship attendance- 191
- Average General Fund Giving- \$3520  
(Weekly General Fund Budget (\$3750))

### **Thank You:**

Dear Friends,

Words cannot express my gratitude to you for all your assistance to me during the recent tornado. Although I did not suffer the extensive damage of many, clean-up was overwhelming. You came in, took charge and got the job done at a time when I could not even make a rational decision. I am humbled that God led you to me. May our Lord continue to bless you as he has richly blessed me. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. You truly showed the love of Christ and I continue to praise him for you.

Sandy Latimer

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Fir Road,

Thanks so much for inviting Sheila and I to be a part of your 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration! What a great day for you and such a tremendous blessing for us to share in it! God bless each of you as you live for and serve the Savior! Sincerely yours in Christ,

Steve & Sheila Altheide

## **CIY Move Conference 2011**

We had a group of 34 go to Move Conference in Southern Illinois July 18-23. We have an incredible group of students here at FRCC. It was a great week and I enjoyed spending time with them. The theme for the week was “Year of the Kingdom Worker”. Each morning would start with encounter time where the speaker introduces the daily theme. They then have a quiet individual devotion time and the group has a Bible study related to the daily theme. They have free time in the afternoon and then each evening the day is wrapped up with a time of worship and a speaker bringing home the theme of the day. Below is a break down of our daily themes. I will be speaking during the morning service on July 31<sup>st</sup> and plan to expand on this in my message.

### **Monday: “Your Servant is Listening”**

The focus on Monday revolved around the story of God speaking to Samuel. The question is: Who are you listening to? Eli was Samuel’s mentor and he told Samuel what to do. He pointed Samuel to God. Do we have mentors in our life giving us Godly advice? Do we have Christian friends to help hold us accountable? The other question is: Do we listen to God and How does God speak to us?

### **Tuesday: “Your Servant is Trusting”**

The focus on Tuesday revolved around the story of Rahab. The question is: Why don’t we trust God with all the areas of our life? God wants all of us exactly the way we are. Rahab and her family were rescued when the walls of Jericho fell because she trusted the Lord God of Israel completely. Real faith is trusting that things will be better with God than without God.

### **Wednesday: “Your Servant is Seeking”**

The focus on Wednesday revolved around the story of Josiah. He was eight years old when he became king. His father and grandfather were evil kings that forgot about the Lord God of Israel and brought about worship of idols and foreign gods. When God’s word that had been lost was found in the temple and Josiah read it... he responded to God’s Word with humble repentance. He tore down all the idols and things that were getting in the way of him and his people being connected to God. The questions are:

What idols are getting in your way from being connected to God? Can you commit to having God’s Word be an important part of your life?

### **Thursday: “Your Servant is Standing”**

The focus on Thursday revolved around the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to bow to the golden idol. They stood up for what was right. They stood up for God. They were a light in the darkness. They stood in the face of persecution. The question is: Are you enslaved to fitting in to the world around you? Are you going to stand up for what is right under pressure? We watched a powerful film on Thursday “Love Cost Everything”. It was a film about the persecuted church. It was a documentary about several missionaries and the persecution they have endured.

### **Friday: “Your Servant is Speaking”**

The focus on Friday revolved around the story of John the Baptist. He pointed people to Jesus. He told the people following him... “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” and that “He must become greater; I must become less.” The question is: What would happen if I made my life MORE about Jesus and LESS about me?



## Youth Events:

**Youth Retreat at Camp Redbud:** August 5-7 Make plans for lots of fun at the beautiful Lake of the Ozarks. We will be hanging out at Camp Redbud and going to Big Surf Water Park. Sign-up early as the camp only has room for 44 people.

## Children's Events

BBQ and Pool Party after church on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Kids, bring your family along. Also, please bring a bag of chips, 2 liter of pop, or a dessert.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Family Night.

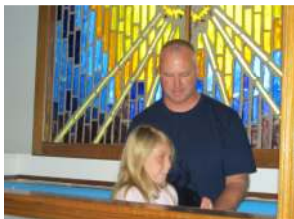
Remember, beginning in August we will not have any scheduled church activities on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday night of each month. We are encouraging families to make that a special night for their family. On months with 5 Sundays we will have an all-church activity on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday night.

## Baptisms:

**Esther Ryan**- Esther is the daughter of Art & Becky Ryan. Esther had the opportunity to spend some time in Joplin this summer and while she was here she made the decision to be baptized by her dad on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great decision Esther, we are happy for you.



**Tyler and Megan Davids**- They are the son and daughter of Tim & Mendy Davids. Tyler is going into 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Megan is going into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. They both made the decision to give their lives to Christ and be baptized. Their new birthday is July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. Good job Tyler and Megan.



# August 2011

WITH ONE HEART...Glorifying God!

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday                    | Saturday  |
|--|---|---|---|-----------|---------------------------|---|
|  | <b>1</b><br>7:30pm 4 State Men's Fellowship/ Racine | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group                       | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                  | <b>6</b>  |
|  |   |   |   |           | Youth Retreat/Camp Redbud |   |
| <b>7</b><br>9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 4:00pm Elder & Deacon Meeting 6:00pm Evening Worship        | <b>8</b>  | <b>9</b><br>4:00 - 7:00pm Blood Drive C J United Methodist Church | <b>10</b><br>7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group                      | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                 | <b>13</b>   |
| <b>14</b><br>9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm All Church Ice Cream Party                          | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b><br>7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group<br>C J School Starts | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                 | <b>20</b><br>8:00am 4 State Men's Golf Tournament |
| <b>21</b><br>9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Children's BBQ & Swim Party 6:00pm Evening Worship | <b>22</b>   | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b><br>7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group                      | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                 | <b>27</b>   |
| <b>28</b><br>9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service NO Evening Worship (Family Night)                          | <b>29</b>   | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b><br>7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group                      |           |                           |   |

