

Dan's Doodles: "Growing Pains"

When I was physically growing as a child, I developed something called Osgood-Schlatter disease. It is most common in adolescent males who are growing quickly and active in sports. It causes a painful lump below the kneecap. Actually, I still have lumps below my kneecaps today. It is no longer painful, but it does give me some pretty ugly looking knees. If I had it to do over again though, I wouldn't change a thing. I wouldn't have stopped playing sports and I certainly wouldn't have wanted to stop growing.

As you have looked around on Sunday mornings lately you have probably noticed fewer empty seats. We are growing as a church and that is an exciting thing, but there can be some growing pains along the way. For example, you might be frustrated that you don't know everyone. You might not be able to sit in your regular seat. The newer people might feel a little lost in the shuffle at times. And we need to be aware that Satan doesn't like it when good things are happening in the church and ultimately for God's kingdom and he is going to do everything he can to try and be divisive.

Here are a few thoughts that will be helpful as we inevitably experience some "growing pains."

- 1) Be patient. We have a lot of works in progress as we move forward. None of us are perfect and we will make mistakes along the way.
- 2) Resist Satan's temptations to divide us. James says, "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" Let's send him scurrying.
- 3) Take it upon yourself to reach out to new people. Try to remember names. Try to go beyond "hello".
- 4) Newer people: Don't be afraid to jump right in. If you have been here for a while, go ahead and start reaching out to other people and keep the cycle going.
- 5) Keep praying. We want God to be the center of everything we do. If that happens we can't go wrong.
- 6) Give God all the praise and glory. This is a God thing and he deserves our praise.
- 7) Have fun. Isn't it fun to be a part of what God is doing? Let's enjoy it.
- 8) Invite others to be a part of what God is doing here.

As we grow, there will be some trials and some setbacks, but that is part of the growing process. So jump on board and help us as we strive to be a church that is all about "*loving God...loving people*". I am so thankful to be a part of this awesome church family. I love you guys.

In His Service,

Dan

Annual Dinner Theater

If you are new to Fir Road, every year our Youth Group puts on a Dinner Theatre. They provide food and entertainment. It is always a wonderful evening. This years Theatre will take place on Feb. 11th at 6:00pm. Mark your calendars and make plans to attend.

This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group. This money helps with sending kids to things like CIY, camp, and other events throughout the year.

It is always a fun evening of food, fellowship and entertainment. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center.

10 Reasons to Join a Life Group

- 1) To grow spiritually
- 2) For fellowship
- 3) To build friendships
- 4) To have fun
- 5) To strengthen one another
- 6) To have a group to “share life” with
- 7) Accountability
- 8) To have a group of people who will specifically pray for you
- 9) Good discussion
- 10) Because Dan said so 😊

Talk to Dan if you are interested in joining a group.

Upward Soccer 2012

We are starting our 4th season of Upward Soccer! Over the last three years this ministry has ministered to over 500 children and families in our community. It has been exciting to see FRCC using the twenty acres across the street from the church as a ministry tool for our community. The Lord blessed us with this property and we are using it in service for His Kingdom. We have also been blessed with people that have embraced this ministry and served in many different ways. This ministry would not be possible without them. We look forward to another year of soccer this spring.

Jesus talks about the importance of children many times in the Gospel's. Below is a break down of His words recorded in Matthew Chapter 18.

1. We Must Welcome Children. (Matthew 18:5)

“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”

2. We Must Be Good Examples for Children. (Matt.18:6)

“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

3. We Must Encourage Children. (Matthew 18:10)

“See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.”

4. We Must Save Lost Children. (Matthew 18:14)

“In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”

Caz McCaslin the Founder of Upward Sports...

“It is a race to the heart of a child and the first one there wins.”

He is right. It is a race to the heart of a child and the purpose of Upward is to introduce children to Jesus Christ through sports. We want to continue teaching our children about Jesus and providing them with coaches, referees, concession stand workers and prayer partners that welcomes them, that sets good examples for them, that encourages them and teaches them the Gospel message.

Last season the highlight for me was when Charli and Olivia accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and were baptized. I hope many more children come to know Jesus through this ministry this season.

You can get involved in this ministry in many ways. We need coaches, referees, concession stand workers and prayer partners. We also need people to help with advertising, fund-raising and devotions. If you are interested in serving in any of these areas you can sign up at the table in the foyer or contact me.

We also will need funds to help scholarship children that cannot afford to pay the full registration cost. We have been blessed over the last three seasons to have individuals and business that have helped in this area. Finally, please keep this ministry in your prayers. Be praying for every child and family that will be participating. Be praying for our leadership team, coaches and referees.

In Christ,

Kelly Ross

Thank You:

Dear Fir Road Christian Church,

Thank you for being so generous with the church. The space was perfect! The run wouldn't have been possible without you. Thanks again! McAuley FBLA

(We allowed McAuley high school to use the church as the home base for a fundraiser run that they had)

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for the wonderful gifts and toys for Christmas! Each year you bring smiles and joy to so many of our women and children. Wishing you all a blessed new year. Sincerely, Lafayette House Staff & Clients

4 State Men's Fellowship: Feb. 6, 7:30pm- College Heights Christian Church

Series for 2012: "Living Straight in a Crooked World." Program: "Experiencing Joy in a Crooked World". Speaker: Rusty Hedger. Rusty is the Young Families Minister at College Heights Christian Church.

Preaching-Teaching Convention 2012: Ozark Christian College. Feb. 27-29. This is open to everyone. Cost is \$60/single and \$99/couple. Call 417-626-1234 Ext. 2100 to register or go online to www.OCC.edu/PT. There are 50 seminars to choose from and 8 main sessions.

Upcoming Youth events:

- CIY Believe 2012- Feb. 3-4, Tulsa Convention Center. Cost- \$90 (For Middle Schoolers)
- Super Bowl Party- Feb. 5, 5-9pm
- March 9-10- The Sandwich at MBC (for Middle Schoolers)

Senior High Winter Retreat:



January Statistics (1st 4 weeks):

- Average Worship attendance- 193
- Average General Fund Giving- \$3812
(Weekly General Fund Need-\$3650)
(Weekly Goal- \$4000)

Children's Corner:

- Feb. 26th- Family Laser Tag and lunch after church
- March 25th- Family pizza lunch at Gambinos
- April 29th- Family bowling and lunch after church

•**Jr. Bash** 2012 for 3rd-5th grade. Maranatha Bible Camp. 2 Sessions: JB 1- April 13-14, JB 2- April 20-21, Cost- \$35. See Nick for Details.

For more information visit us on FB or MXM website or contact Nick at 529-2059

Don't forget to sign up for the weekly newsletter with prayer requests and updates.

February Messages- "The Story" Continues

- Feb. 5- They Don't Even Smell Like Smoke
- Feb. 12- There's No Place Like Home
- Feb. 19- Such a Time as This
- Feb. 26- Rebuilding Walls

The Dollar Club

We are encouraging each person to consider giving \$1 extra each week and put it in the box at the Welcome Center. Once a month we will take this money and give it away to somebody in the community to help meet a need that they have. If you know of people with special needs that they aren't able to meet on their own, let us know.

We are off to a great start. We have been averaging over \$100 a week that we will be able to give away to someone in our community who has a special need.

Helping Hands Ministry:

Current Grocery needs: pancake mix, pancake syrup, spaghetti sauce, ketchup, potatoes (instant or box), canned meat, canned fruit, soups, cake mixes, oatmeal (regular or instant), mustard, jelly, frosting, corn muffin mixes.

If you are interested in volunteering please call Mary Ann Thurman- 649-7507.

Helping Hands is next to Summer Fresh in Carl Junction and is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:45-2pm.

February 2012

LOVING GOD...LOVING PEOPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7:00pm Youth Group, Children's Church, Care Groups	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CIY Believe - Tulsa</div>	4
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 4:00pm Elder & Deacon Meeting 5:00pm Youth Super Bowl Party 6:00pm Evening Worship	6 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study at Colliers' 7:30pm 4 State Men's Fellowship College Heights	7 10:00am Ladies Bible Study at Ross' Building in use for Primary Election	8 7:00pm Youth Group, Children's Church, Care Groups	9	10	11 6:00pm Youth Dinner Theatre
12 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Upward Soccer Prayer Concert	13 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study at Colliers'	14 10:00am Ladies Bible Study at Ross' Valentine's Day	15 7:00pm Youth Group, Children's Church, Care Groups	16	17	18
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Evening Worship	20 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study at Colliers'	21 10:00am Ladies Bible Study at Ross'	22 7:00pm Youth Group, Children's Church, Care Groups	23	24	25
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service NO Evening Worship Family Night	27 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study at Colliers'	28 10:00am Ladies Bible Study at Ross'	29 7:00pm Youth Group, Children's Church, Care Groups			