

The Well

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

November 2011-A newsletter of Fir Road Christian Church



Dan's Doodles- The Joy of Giving:

Some people stay away from church because they feel like the church just wants their money. They think that all the church talks about is money. Of course, that is not true and in reality we should probably talk about money more often because the Bible talks about it so much. The truth is that Jesus talked more about money and possessions than any other topic. Sixteen of the 38 parables that Jesus gave were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the 4 Gospels, an amazing one out of every 10 verses (288 in all) deals directly with the subject of money. Overall, the Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. We obviously wouldn't say prayer or faith are not important, but it does show you what a big deal the Bible makes about money.

I think part of our problem is the way we view giving. We look at it as a burden instead of a blessing or we look at it as what we do with our left over money at the end of the month instead of giving God our first fruits. I know that finances are really tight for most people and it often doesn't seem to make sense to give sacrificially to God each month. But I believe that God honors our giving in amazing ways and if you have never experienced that I would challenge you to give it a try.

The truth of the matter is that our finances are extremely tight right now at Fir Road. Our new fiscal year starts in November and we have had to make cuts in our budget from last year. We have had to make cuts in important areas such as Youth and Children and we don't like to do that. Our budget for the coming year is \$3650 per week down from \$3750 last year. The \$3650 is our budget to meet our very basic needs and we are struggling to even do that right now. As a Leadership Team we would love to begin moving forward in our finances instead of just treading water or losing ground. And so we have set a goal of bringing in \$4000 a week. We think it is an attainable goal, but everyone has to do their part. We also believe that God has huge things in store for this church and we would hate to see finances get in the way of what God wants to do.

We also know that many people in this church already give sacrificially and we are very thankful for those sacrifices. The challenge is for all of us to think and pray about our giving. Maybe you will feel led to increase your giving. Just a warning though, if you do step out on faith in your giving, be prepared to be blessed by God and to be a blessing to Fir Road.

In His Service,

Dan

P.S.- Thank you to those who have given to the kitchen remodel for the church house. So far we have brought in \$4630. Praise the Lord.

Facts and Figures: (October- 1st 4 weeks)

- Average Worship attendance- 167
- Average General Fund Giving- \$3024
(Weekly General Fund Need-\$3650)
(Weekly Goal- \$4000)

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

The Resolution

In case you missed it on Sunday, the message was geared mainly towards our dads who still have kids at home. In our chapter last week of "The Story" Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The movie "Courageous" builds on that theme as well. In the movie, a group of men decided to adopt a resolution about being better dads based on scripture. Dan passed out copies of that resolution on Sunday. If you didn't get a copy, you can pick one up on Sunday or Dan can e-mail a copy to you.

We are going to have a special ceremony for dads who are willing to adopt that resolution for themselves. We would like the families to be there and we would like everyone to wear their very best clothes to show what an important occasion it is. **We are going to have the ceremony on Saturday night Nov. 5th at 7:00pm.**

To follow up on this commitment we would like to have these dads meet once a month if possible, to help hold each other accountable to these commitments.

The Story Continues

We want to encourage everyone to stay engaged in "The Story". Do your best to keep up each week with the reading. Try to keep your kids engaged too. You might want to read through it together as a family or read it separately and come together and talk about it. Devotional books are available at the welcome center for free. We still have copies available to purchase for each age group as well. We will take a 4 week break from the story the weeks of December 18 and 24 and January 1 and 8.

November Sermon Schedule for "The Story":

Nov. 6th - Chapter 9- "How Far Would You Go For Your Mother-In-Law?"

Nov. 13th - Chapter 10- "We Want A King!"

Nov. 20th - Chapter 11- "King Saul- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"

Nov. 27th - Chapter 12- "Just Say No King David"

Our Leadership Team:

In Case you didn't know, here is our Leadership Team for the coming year.

Elders: Joel Beck, Art Ryan

Deacons: Steve Powers, Joe Robinson, Steve Gordon, Jason Allen, Philip Peterson

Staff: Dan Toney (Senior Minister) Kelly Ross (Youth Minister) Nick Terry (Children's Minister) Greg Churchwell (Worship Minister) Dan is full time and Kelly, Nick, and Greg are part time.

Please be praying for our Leadership Team.

Worship Thoughts by Greg Churchwell

Robert Frost once said, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life. It goes on." And so it does. Most of you know that our lead guitar and technical guru, Bill Kramme, took a new job in St. Louis. It's a great opportunity for Bill and our prayers and best wishes go with him. But, Bill leaves a big pair of shoes to fill. The Lord has always provided and I am confident that He will again. I look forward to what God will do to fill this void.

With that said, you may have noticed some new faces on the stage. On vocals, we have Jennifer McCombs from Grinnell, IA, a student at OCC, and Julie Krueger, from Joplin. On guitar is Tony Sfortunato. We have also had Cheyenne McDonald who has been sitting in with us during Thursday night rehearsal. We are blessed to have them and I look forward to how God is going to use them.

If you have a vocal gift, a talent at playing an instrument, or skills in the technical area and would like to serve on the team, let me know. I will do my best to find a spot for you. If none of the above describes you, keep us in your prayers. I believe I can speak for the entire team when I say we take seriously our responsibility of serving Him as lead worshippers. Though we are 'up front' people we don't do this because we want the attention. Our desire is to direct all the attention, praise, worship and thanks to the One who saves.

NEWS AND EVENTS

4 State Christian Men's Fellowship: Nov. 7th at 7:30pm, First Christian Church, 800 S. Main, Carthage. Program: Should Christians Feel Guilty About Enjoying Wholesome Pleasures of Life? Speaker: Dru Ashwell from Ozark Christian College. 4 State Men's Fellowship is primarily a church-planting organization.

Missouri Christian Convention: Mark your calendars for the 2012 convention. It will take place on March 30-31 at Tan-Tar-A resort at Osage Beach. The theme for the 2012 convention is "The Intersection: Loving God-Loving People". Featured speakers are Ziden Nutt and Mark Atteberry.

Wounded Warrior Hunt: Peterson Outdoor Ministries is sponsoring a wounded warrior hunt on Nov. 11-14. They are asking for prayers and if anyone is interested in helping out with this event or other events that this unique ministry is involved with you can contact the director, Tron Peterson. Their website is www.personoutdoors.org and his e-mail is tron@petersonoutdoors.org.

Living Christmas Tree: This will be the 27th annual Living Christmas Tree production put on by Ozark Christian College. The title this year is "The Christmas Tree Lot." Tickets are \$7 for adults and children 12 and under are \$5. Performances are from December 1st-5th. You can purchase tickets by phone at 417-626-1221 or online at www.occ.edu.

Daylight Savings Ends: Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 5th. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep.

Helping Hands Ministry: They are looking for donations of winter clothing and especially good clean winter coats. Current grocery needs are canned meat (chicken, tuna, spam), jelly, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti sauce, mayonnaise, ketchup, applesauce, pineapple, dried beans, coffee, tea, Kool-Aid, and canned chili.

Life Choices Annual Banquet: The banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 15th at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. This year's special guest will be comedian and friend of LifeChoices, Mike Williams. Just days after the tornado, Mike called to see if LifeChoices was impacted and how he could help. Make plans to attend this night of laughter and hope. Seating is very limited this year so make your reservation now. For more information or to reserve your seat, go to www.lifevoices.org/events.

Ladies Bible Studies:

We currently have 2 ladies Bible studies available. There is an evening Bible study on Monday nights at 7:00pm at Linda Collier's house and a morning study at 10:00am on Tuesday mornings at Sheri Ross' house. Let us know if you have questions or would like more information.

Community Thanksgiving Service:

On Sunday Nov. 20th at 6:00pm we will have our Annual Community Thanksgiving Service. This year it will be at the Christian Church of Carl Junction.

Christmas Parade Float

The Carl Junction Christmas Parade will be Sunday December 4th at 2:00pm. We would like to enter a Fir Road float once again. Last year it turned out great. We will need a lot of volunteers to make it happen.

The Event

For High School Students at Ozark Christian College. Cost: \$35, Nov. 4th and 5th (See Kelly for more information)

November 2011

LOVING GOD...LOVING PEOPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	2 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	3	4	5
					The Event - OCC	
6 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 4:00pm Elder & Deacon Meeting 6:00pm Evening Worship Daylight Saving Time Ends	7 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers 7:30pm 4 State Men's Fellowship	8 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross' Election Day	9 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	10	11	12
13 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Evening Worship	14 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	15 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross' LifeChoices Annual Banquet	16 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	17	18	19
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service	21 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	22 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	23 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service NO Evening Worship	28 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	29 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	30 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups			