

The Well

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

October 2011 - A newsletter of Fir Road Christian Church



Dan's Doodles: The Story Unfolds

We are well under way in our journey through "The Story". We have already discovered many wild and crazy events such as devastating floods, murder, deceit, wrestling with God, last minute interventions by God, betrayal, lust and much more. Basically, we have seen the consequences of a world ravaged by sin and we're just getting started.

Thankfully, God had a plan. He had a plan to restore mankind to himself, but it wouldn't be an easy process. It seemed to take a long time, but we know that God's timing is perfect. In a microwave world it is difficult to step back and understand what we often perceive to be a slow cooker kind of God. Hopefully, as we study God's word this year we will get a better grasp on God's overall plan and how the individual stories of the Bible fit into that plan and ultimately how our stories today fit into that plan as well.

I also hope and pray that the Bible is coming to life for many of you in ways that it never has before. I love hearing comments like, "I don't want to stop reading." That is awesome.

We will continue to work through God's Living Word in the upcoming months so keep on reading, studying and praying that God will work on all of our hearts this coming year.

It's never too late to get in on "The Story" so don't be afraid to invite your friends to come be a part of what God is doing as well. God is working at Fir Road Christian Church and I am excited to be a part of it.

In His Service,

Dan

October Sermon Schedule for "The Story":

Oct 2nd - "Gnats & Locusts & Frogs, Oh My!"

Oct. 9th - "The 9 Commandments" (which one have you taken out)

Oct. 16th - "Should we stop and ask for Directions?"

Oct. 23rd - "Are You Ready to Rumble?"

Oct. 30th - "A Few Good Men...And Women"

Courageous: The Movie - In Joplin Theatres starting Sept. 30th. From the makers of "Fire Proof" comes an excellent movie about the importance of family.

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, they are confident and focused, standing up to the worst the streets have to offer. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood.

When tragedy strikes home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith, and their fathering. Can a newfound urgency help these dads draw closer to God ... and to their children? Protecting the streets is second nature. Raising their children in a God-honoring way? That's courageous. Learn what it means to be a courageous dad. For more information go to www.courageousthemovie.com



Church House Remodel:

More than a year and a half ago, we asked Dan Toney to come and minister to the body of believers here at Fir Road Christian Church. It was a time that we were not sure how we would be able to afford a full time minister with a family. Dan and Holly agreed to come and live in the church's parsonage for at least a year in order to give us a chance to hopefully increase the giving. During this time we hoped to eventually be able to increase Dan's salary so that he would be able to invest in their own home. Currently, living in the parsonage amounts to renting. At this time we are still not meeting the budgeted amount for each week. Dan and Holly have sold their house in Iowa and are ready to settle down here with their own home, but the increased income is not yet there to increase the housing allowance.

Dan has approached us with an offer to stay in the house longer if we can make it more "ministry friendly" which is something that we have wanted to do for some time. As any of you who have been in the house can attest to, the kitchen is too small to be able to move around in when there is more than one person in it. This is something that we have all recognized and would like to change. Dan and Holly have offered to use some of their equity that they received from the sale of their house in Iowa as the up front money to remodel the kitchen and the entry way from the garage. We would rather do it without asking them to loan their money for this work. We would like to know if the Fir Road family would be willing to make some special gifts above their regular giving for the remodel of the house. **We are going to have a special offering on Oct. 9th that will go towards this project. Gifts can be given after that day as well if you aren't able to give on the 9th.**

Beck's Home Repair and General Construction has agreed to enter into a contract with Fir Road Christian Church for the remodel and enlargement of the kitchen area of the house owned by the church. Beck's Home Repair would act as the general contractor and will waive all management fees for this service. Beck's would also provide liability insurance at no cost and absorb all employee taxes and workers comp insurance cost related to the project. Several members of the church who are professionals in the construction trade have also agreed to volunteer their labor in the areas of their expertise.

In Christ,

Jeff Barringer-elder

Annual Congregational meeting

On Oct. 16th after the morning worship services we will have our Annual Congregational Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Non-members are welcome to attend as well, they just aren't able to vote. If you have never attended before, Ministry reports are given and various items are voted on such as the Missions we support, any Elders and Deacons up for election or renewal, and various official offices are voted on as well.

Facts and Figures: (September)

- Average Worship attendance- 180
- Average General Fund Giving- \$3897
(Weekly General Fund Need-\$3750)

Baptism:

Keely Johnson- We celebrate with Keely for the decision she made to give her life to Christ and be baptized on Sept. 10th. Keely is in 5th grade. Her mom is Deborah Johnson. Congratulations Keely on the best decision you will ever make!!!



FIR ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 30th from
4:30-6:30 PM

GET CREATIVE & THEME
YOUR CAR OR TRUCK

HOTDOGS AND SNACKS
PROVIDED
BRING TREATS FOR YOUR
TRUNK

SIGN UP YOUR CAR AT THE
WELCOME CENTER!



NEWS AND EVENTS

4 State Christian Men's Fellowship: Oct. 3rd at 7:30pm, Ozark Christian College Chapel. Free Special Concert by Ninth Hour Quartet. Southern Gospel Music at its best. An offering will be taken to help Blendville Christian Church in its rebuilding effort.

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.

Men's Breakfast & Skeet Shoot: Men, join us for a great morning together on Saturday Oct. 29th. We will eat breakfast at the church at 8:00am and then head over to Tom Nutt's house for a skeet shoot after breakfast. Feel free to bring a friend or two.

Fall Celebration Day for Adults 55+ at Ozark Christian College: Monday, Oct. 24th, 9am-5pm at the OCC Chapel. "Taking Life To the Next Level" Life stuck in neutral? Need a boost to get goin' forward? Need more passion and purpose in life? Featuring Amy Hanson who is passionate about challenging adults 55+. Worship leaders and special concert by "The Gateway Singers". NO registration fee. Lunch \$8.

Breast Cancer Awareness Walk: Oct. 16th at CJHS football stadium. Check-in at 2:00pm. Walk if from 2:30-4:00pm. We will register as a group from Fir Road. Last year we had a great turnout from our church. Let's do it again. Sign-up at the welcome center.

Wedding Announcement:

Together with their parents Kylie Gordon & Zachary Porath request the pleasure of your company at their ceremony. Friday, October 14th, 2011 at 7:30pm at Cycle Connection Harley Davidson (5014 S. Hearn Blvd., Joplin, MO) Please RSVP. Call or text Kylie at 417-439-5644 or e-mail kyliegordon04@gmail.com

Thank You:

Dear Church family (and especially the woodcutting crew),

Thank you so much for the wood you cut for me. I appreciate it so much. It will help tremendously to warm my house this winter. It is so wonderful to know I have a loving Christian family who are so willing to give of their time and energy to serve God and others. Thank you again.

In Christian Love,
Lorena

Thoughts from Kelly:

This last month we heard the story of Jacob stealing Esau's blessing and how it divided that family. Jacob had to flee for his life and lived for over fourteen years separated from his family. As you read that story everyone in that family made mistakes that led up to this.

However, the best part of the story is often overlooked. You see it was God's will for them to forgive each other. With prompting from God it happened.

Genesis 33:4 "But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept."

They embraced and they wept. Love and forgiveness is a powerful thing. Anger and bitterness is too. Anger and bitterness separated this family for over fourteen years. Love and forgiveness brought them back together.

I am glad Jacob was reunited with his family. He needed them. You see a short time later his wife Rachel died giving birth to their son Benjamin.

When their father, Isaac, breathed his last, his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. The family was together during another sorrowful time.

This family was fortunate. Love and forgiveness was victorious.

Too often, families have conflicts and separate in anger which leads to bitterness and they never resolve things. Apparently they ignore Jesus' message of love and forgiveness. Jesus' message of compassion and mercy. Jesus' message of "which ever one of you that are without sin cast the first stone." Most of all, Jesus' message of grace.

Life is short. No one knows what tomorrow might bring. I am reminded of that daily. Read the paper; turn on the news, read your e-mail. Tragic things happen every day.

We should be thankful. We need to run to each other, embrace each other, kiss each other, and forgive each other. I am sad to think about what is going to happen if we don't.

Kelly

October 2011

LOVING GOD...LOVING PEOPLE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 3:00pm Baby Shower/Yokley 4:00pm Elder & Deacon Meeting 6:00pm Evening Worship	3 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers 7:30pm 4 State Men's Fellowship at OCC	4 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	5 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	6	7	8
9 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 3:00pm Baby Shower/Tiffany Robinson 6:00pm Evening Worship	10 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	11 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	12 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	13	14 7:30pm Gordon-Porath Wedding at Cycle Connection 5014 S. Heames Blvd, Joplin	15
16 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 11:45am Annual Congregational Meeting 2:00pm Breast Cancer Walk 6:00pm Evening Worship	17 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	18 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	19 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	20	21	22
23 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Evening Worship	24 Fall Celebration Day Adults 55+ 9 - 5 Takin' Life To The Next Level 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers	25 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	26 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group/Life Groups	27	28	29 8:00am Men's Breakfast and Skeet Shoot
30 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 4:30 - 6:30pm Trunk or Treat at Church	31 7:00pm Ladies Bible Study/Colliers					