

# The Well

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

A newsletter of Fir Road Christian Church- Sept. 2011

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## Dan's Doodles: "The Story"

Have you ever been overwhelmed by the Bible? Maybe you set a goal to read through the whole Bible but you could never make it through the whole thing. In fact, you got bogged down somewhere in Leviticus or Numbers. Maybe you just wish you had a better understanding of the Bible in general. Maybe the Bible seems like a bunch of unrelated stories. Beginning Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be beginning a 31-week journey through God's Word, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation designed to help put all the pieces together.

In the Bible we really have two things taking place. We have an Upper and a Lower Story. The Upper Story tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God's plan unfolding throughout history. The lower story contains the sometimes exciting, sometimes appalling, sometimes scary particulars of human experience. Without the lens of the Upper Story, the Lower Story often seems out of focus and difficult to understand.

To aid us in our journey through the Bible we are going to be going through "The Story". What is "The Story"? "The Story" is a condensed version of the Bible in chronological order with human narratives included to connect some of the different parts of the Bible. All book and chapter references have been removed so it truly reads like one continuous story. The scriptures that are used are designed to help us get a better understanding of The Upper Story of God's plan which will then help us understand our role in the ongoing story of God's plan. Our Life Groups, Adult and Children's Sunday School classes, and the Youth Group will be following along with "The Story" as well. I think it is going to be an amazing journey this year. Get ready for "The Story."

In Christ,  
Dan

## Other Information related to "The Story"

- Invite your friends. The best way to get new people to come is through a personal invitation. We have special invitation cards made up for "The Story" that you can pick up at the Welcome Center.
- "The Story" books for all ages are available to buy for \$10 each. Do not let money be a factor though. We want every family to have at least one book and several people have donated extra money to insure that everyone gets a book.

## September Sermon Schedule for "The Story":

- Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>- "It's Story Time" (An introduction to the next 31 weeks)
- Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>- "Life, Death & Devastation" (Creation, Sin & the Flood)
- Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>- "The Blueprint" (God Builds A Nation Through Abraham)
- Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>- "Can't I Catch A Break?" (The Story of Joseph)

## 72 hour Prayer Event to help launch "The Story"

Beginning Sunday Night Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and going through Wed. night the 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm we are going to try and have 72 hours of continuous prayer as a church family to prepare our hearts to go through "The Story" and in general to be lifting up our church in prayer. We will have sign-up sheets at the church. Would you be willing to pray for at least 1 hour? We will have a guide sheet to help take you through your prayer hour and give you ideas about what to pray about. The prayer room will be set up at the church as well for you to take advantage of.

Making sure that prayer is a foundation of everything we do is one of our main areas of focus as a church and we believe that this is going to be a great year for the church, but we know that Satan wants to knock us down so it is so important that we completely bathe this year in prayer.

**We will kick this Prayer Event off with a Concert Of Prayer on Sunday night the 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

# The Amazing Kindness Race 2011

Our first ever day of service on a Sunday morning was a great success. All ages were able to plug in and find a place to serve and it was a great day of being a light to our community. Here is a sample of our people "worshipping God" through service.



## It's Time To Join A Life Group

### **LIFE GROUP Details**

**What is the purpose of Life Groups?** Life Groups are just like their name implies, about Life. They are about sharing, doing and exploring the Christian life together. They are groups of real people, who have real questions, who are not perfect, and who want to develop deeper friendships with each other and a deeper friendship with God.

#### **What do you do at a Life Group?**

-Bible Study                      -Prayer                      -Fun, Food, & Fellowship

#### **What else does a Life Group do?**

-Service Projects              -Fun Gatherings              -Minister to One Another and others

**When do the groups meet?** Most of the groups will meet on Wed. nights, but we realize that might not be the best night for everyone.

This year we will have 2 sessions.

**Session 1 - The week of Sept. 11 - Dec. 11**

4 week break at Christmas and New Years

**Session 2 - The week of Jan. 8 - May 6**

We will be following the same schedule as "The Story" which we will be going through on Sunday mornings.

**Where do the groups meet?** Most of the groups will meet in homes but they are welcome to meet in the church as well.

**How are the groups formed?** The groups from last year will have a choice on whether or not they will continue. Some groups still have space to add people. For new groups, we will try to match people up based on factors such as stage of life and location that you live. A lot of prayer will go into forming new groups.

**How many people are in a Life Group?** Ideally, they are in the 8-12 range but occasionally they may be a little smaller or larger than that.

**If I join a group, am I tied to it forever?** If it isn't working out in a particular group, you are welcome to bow out gracefully. A good time to do that would be in between session 1 and session 2 or at the end of the year. Hopefully, we can plug you into another group.

**How are the groups organized?** Each group will have a leader and a host. The leader is responsible for directing the discussion each week. The host will provide the location and help organize the refreshments. It is possible that the host and the leader are the same person/couple.

**What about child care?** Ultimately, each group is responsible for coming up with solutions for their childcare needs. The church will do what they can to help with this. On Wed. nights there are activities at the church for pre-k through high school from 7:00-8:00pm and many of the groups meet during that time.

**What preparation is there before the group each week?** Each person will be expected to have read that week's chapter of "The Story".

**Who can be in a Life Group?** Everyone

## **Why Not Give Life Groups A Try?!!!**

### **Wedding Announcement**

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Nutt and Mr. & Mrs. Randall Smith request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their children: Amanda Leigh & Garrett Reed as they happily unite their hearts and lives on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 2:00pm at College Heights Christian Church (4311 E. Newman Rd., Joplin, MO). Reception immediately following.

### **Baptisms:**

**Stacy Pounds & Autumn Pounds.** What a blessing it was to witness mother and daughter make the decision to follow Christ through baptism on the same day. Autumn is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Carl Junction. She started coming with Damen and Nicole Bourassa and then she urged her mom to come with her as well. The rest is history. Welcome to the family, Stacy and Autumn.

**Charli and Olivia Kittrell-** Charli and Olivia played Upward soccer this spring. After soccer, they started attending Fir Road with their mom Danya. They are both special young ladies and we are so excited that they have made this decision to follow Jesus. Congratulations Charli & Olivia!

### **Youth Event:**

Getaway at Ozark Christian College. Sept. 16 - 17. For 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Graders. Cost. \$35  
Worship Leader: Jen Scott, Speaker: Tommy Oaks

**4 State Men's Fellowship:** Sept. 12 at 7:30pm, Villa Heights Christian Church. 2650 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., Joplin, MO- Ladies Night- Feel free to bring a spouse or friend. Program: "How Do I Face The Future?" Speaker- Doug Lawson. Doug is currently serving as Chaplain at Freeman Hospital as well as minister of the Seneca Christian Church.

### **Meals for College Students**

If you are willing to provide a meal after church on a Sunday for our College Students please talk to Dan. This is something that the church has done in the past and we would like to get started again.

### **Ladies Bible Study**

The ladies will bible study will be studying through "True Spirituality" by Chip Ingram. It will be starting Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> at Sheri Ross' home. If you are planning on joining them let Sheri know so she can order you a study book.

### **Helping Hands**

Helping Hand is the new community Food & Clothing pantry in Carl Junction. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10-2. See Rose Mary for more information.

## **Children's Happenings:**

Finding that "Back to School" Groove at MXM

School is officially back in session and that means that we are officially back to our "regularly scheduled programming". We have a lot of things to look forward to this school year but let's just have a quick refresher of the things that we have going on at the church for kids Pre-K through 5th Grade.

### **Wednesday Nights**

On Wednesday night we meet at 7 PM at the church and we have the privilege of having Bobbie Field lead our Wednesday Night sessions. We also will be having Whitney Skiles at the church to work with all of those kids who are interested or potentially will be interested in working in our Puppet Ministry. There will be times of worship, prayer, teaching, and fun for all involved on Wednesday nights. Be sure to make it out for this exciting time.

### **Sunday Morning Sunday School**

Our Sunday School classes will be working through "The Story" curriculum that the whole church is studying. This officially kicks off Sunday September 11th and we are all very excited about what this series could mean for our church. The more we can all be here and get the kids here, the more of an impact this time will have on us and our families.

### **Sunday Worship Hour**

During "Junior Church" we also will be using material that follows along with "The Story". This should be an exciting time for kids to get involved on Sunday mornings and really be able to follow along and be part of something great. Be sure to come and see what we're doing for "The Story".

### **Sunday Night "Kids go M.A.D."**

Sunday nights at 6 we are beginning a new "series" called "Kids go MAD" or "Kids go Make a Difference". We are going to be doing a series of lessons and projects that involve service and reaching out and making a difference in this world. It is important to instill in our kids that no matter how small they may be, and no matter how insignificant they may seem at times, they can go Make a Difference.

We are very excited about what this year is going to bring to the Children's Ministry at Fir Road Christian Church and hope to see all of you making an effort get involved, to get your kids involved and to pray for the ministry of FRCC.

Thanks,  
Nick

## **Facts and Figures: (August)**

- Average worship attendance- 189
- Average General Fund Giving- \$3004  
(Weekly General Fund Need-\$3750)

# September 2011

WITH ONE HEART...Glorifying God!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Concert of Prayer/72 Hour Prayer Event	<b>5</b> Labor Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2:00pm Nutt-Smith Wedding at College Heights  Building reserved all day/Debra Johnson
<b>11</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 4:00pm Elder & Deacon Meeting 6:00pm Evening Worship	<b>12</b> 7:30pm 4 State Men's Fellowship/Villa Heights Christian Church	<b>13</b> 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group  Life Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8am to 3pm 17th Annual Country Fair at Spring River Christian Village  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">Get[a]Way - Ozark Christian Church</div>
<b>18</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service 6:00pm Evening Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group  Life Group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:15am Worship Service NO Evening Worship (Family Night)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00am Ladies Bible Study/Ross'	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Children's Group at Church/Youth Group  Life Group	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

