

# The Messenger

SLICER STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

"How beautiful...are the feet of those who bring good news..." Isaiah 52:7

Vol. 18, No. 33

August 29, 2010



## S H A K I N G T H E S A L T B Y S P E N C E R F U R B Y

What a wonderful weekend! We were able to meet and enjoy Jerrie Barber. He is an interim minister who is now serving at Cookeville, Tennessee. He has a wide experience and deep insight from his experience. He shared that with us as 15 men from Slicer Street journeyed to Crowley's Ridge Youth Camp for a retreat. The men behaved themselves, which should make the church proud. We ate well. We had good fellowship. And we learned some things. I would like to tell you what we did, but that is all in confidence! But I will say one thing: we were asked to draw pictures of how we see our leadership now and what we hope it to be in 20 years. That was a touching time and I am most impressed with the humility of our guys. These are men who want to be strong and holy while also being fully aware of their weakness and shortcomings. But even apart from this, we had a great Family Day with Mike Cravens. He did a good job of instructing and motivating us to show love for one another and to be family. The potluck was the largest in a long time. It was delightful to see the huge gym area full, with elders scrambling to get more tables up! Dr. Cravens then met with parents in the initial meeting for our sexuality education class. I was pleased with how he arranged that and the information he shared. In coming weeks we will unveil the whole series of lessons. And we will encourage our young people to invite their friends as well. Parents will be given a heads up on what we are

talking about so that you can be prepared for reinforcement and for questions. We consider this a vital work of the church and we take it seriously. But Brother Cravens did ask a crucial question. Who is ideally responsible for teaching this material to our young people? I will be clear in my opinion: it is not the church and it is not the school. But the reason we have this discussion is that the home is not teaching it. And which is worse: the school and church having to teach it or it not being taught at all? In reality, the latter option is not real. They will learn this stuff somewhere. But you wouldn't like how that comes about. Keep in mind that we will have a Friends Day real soon. Art Smith from Paragould will be with us on Sunday, September 12. And by the way, that will be the very date when our TV programming started in 1975! So be inviting your friends on that day as we make an effort to reach out.

This Sunday our morning lesson will be "Our Incomparable God" as we look upon the second "half" of Isaiah. Sunday night is our monthly singing, but we will have a clear theme to our songs. They will focus on what the death and burial and resurrection of Jesus mean to us. Those who did not take the Lord's Supper on Sunday morning will be asked to move to the front during the devotional time. And we will have the supper served in the auditorium. For those of us who took it, it will be further reflection time. Our lesson will focus on Matthew 26:17-29. Keep shaking!

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Bible Class	9:00 am
Worship	9:50 am
Evening Worship	5:00 pm

#### WEDNESDAY

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Reaching UP

Reaching IN

Reaching OUT

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## REPORT FROM FIER

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All the things on this earth, has an end, but the "Word of God" stays. It is the Word of God that has brought changes to many people. It is The Word of God that made a lot of people to think and dream in a different way.

Through God's Word we serve here in Fier we are doing what we can to proclaim God's Word, in order that others will hear it so that they can change their way of living because of God.

We are continuing to meet our contacts as we live our daily life, and of them is Klodi and we are glad that we have developed our friendship with him on many levels, we are continuing to spent time with him.

### Wednesday Bible Class

We are studying the topic "Offense" This past Wednesday we studied the topic "**If we don't have in mind things of God, It is an offense to God.**" Helping one another to understand, that we need to think and have in mind things of God, so that we may be able to have a good relationship with one another.

### Sunday Worship Service

We rejoice for the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that gives the hope that we will have the same ending with Him. We were glad to see Nertila the one that was baptized on the Summer Camp; she is a young lady from Fier.

I delivered the lesson from Proverbs 20:27 "*The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the innermost parts of his being (NAS)* For God also puts His Spirit on our baptism and accepting Him to be our Light of our lives. Letting the Spirit of God to dream our dreams and to think our thoughts, and do our actions.

### Prayer Requests

Pray for the sister of Dezi (Dezdomena) now the director of the High School in Zharrez Dezi is one early Christians here in Fier but she is not attending anymore Worship services. So pray for her sister which had a car accident and is very bad on hospital. Also pray for Dezi to remember that only in God there is hope.

Pray also for us as we are trying to build redemptive relationships in Fier.

### ***Overcoming The Aging Process (by Joe Chesser)***

It seems like it was just last week when school let out for the summer. And now, here it is, the first week of another school year. Where has the time gone? It brings to mind the lyrics of an old song, "... *ain't it funny how time slips away.*"

While it may be funny for some to sing about, others see the swift passing of time as somewhat depressing. I'm sure that's why people have tried for many centuries to fight the aging process. Everything has been tried from searching for the fountain of youth to the invention of miracle wrinkle creams, from hair coloring to hair implants, from exercise & vitamins to plastic surgery. But deep down we all know that there is

nothing we can do about the aging process. We can try to lengthen our life-span. We can help our bodies look and feel better longer. But is there anything we can do to overcome the aging process? Yes, and no.

Physically speaking, for every generation since Adam and Eve "*there is a time to be born and a time to die*" (**Ecclesiastes 3:2**). It's simply the way God has designed life on earth. It's all a part of the laws God established after Eden. And while we may manipulate those laws to some extent, the aging process continues to plug along.

This would be very depressing if we were only physical beings. But we're not. We not only have a body, we also have a soul. And it is this aspect of our existence that gives us hope of overcoming the aging process. Notice how Paul puts it:

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18***

I don't know about you, but I kind of like the idea of being renewed day by day. I like the idea that what I see in a mirror graying and wrinkling is only temporary at best. I really like the idea that as a Christian, not only am I being renewed spiritually each day, I also have in the future an eternal glory that far exceeds anything this earth can offer, one that overcomes all the troubles and heartaches with which this world so cruelly tries to destroy me. I don't care that my hair is turning gray and turning loose. I don't care that I can't stop the aging process because that would only prolong receiving the eternal glory with God that's awaiting me!

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### Assembly Statistics

Sunday Worship Attendance	265
Worship Average Attendance Year to Date	253
Sunday Evening Attendance	135
Wednesday Evening Attendance	160
Sunday Regular Contribution	\$5861
Average Contribution	\$6352
Budget	\$6200

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### WORSHIP HELPERS

August 29, 2010

AM/PM Nursery	Brooke Hodges & Tana Stewart
Preside Lord's Table	Jeff Bridges
Scripture Reading	Harold Blocker
	TBA
AM Opening Prayer	Bob Hesselrode
AM Closing Prayer	Jerry Hall
PM Announcements	Jeff Bridges
PM Opening Prayer	Larry McDowell
PM Closing Prayer	Anthony Johnson
Nursery Contact	Dana Blankenship (628-3473)
Prayer Leader Contact	Jim Brice (888-3678) or Floyd Coffey (888-3487)

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### TV PROGRAMS - CABLE CHANNEL 5

Monday-Friday: 7:00-8:00 pm      Sunday: 10:30 am (live worship)  
Sunday: 1:00 p.m.

### WEEKLY CLASSES

Tuesday: Dorcas Class(8:30 a.m.) & Ladies Bible Class (1:00 p.m.)

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## The Facts—Numbers Don't Lie! Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

The modern prescription that many follow in order to “fulfill” their religious duties is to meet once or twice a week at a church building. Satan has successfully erected these mental road signs that attending worship and a Bible class is sufficient for the spiritual health of the next generation. Friends, that is not getting the job done! Parents continue to blindly march down the same road believing they have done enough. All the while, our young people continue marching out the back door of the church to embrace the world as Satan chalks up another win for his war. Our Christian religion has been sterilized down to three hours per week rather than a life of servanthood for Him.

Why would I say that Satan has our children in his hands? Consider the following study we recently conducted at Focus Press. The first was an anonymous study conducted on Facebook with 300 young people (the vast majority of whom identify themselves as New Testament Christians). In this research, 39% of the teens admitted to having viewed pornography online in recent months. That's more than 1 out of every 3! Understand this question did not ask how many had ever viewed Internet pornography, as that number would likely be double. We were simply asking how many had viewed this sinful material recently. If 39% of our children admitted that they had viewed pornography recently, one can only wonder what the real number must be—and how many adults are viewing explicit material!

Also, 38% admitted to having cheated in school in the past few weeks. Parents may at first glance not consider this a big deal, but one wonders what type of ethical standard are we establishing for our young people? Are we rearing a generation of individuals who have bought into the lie of situational ethics—that right is not always right and wrong is not always wrong?

The curtain was pulled back on teens' ethical standard in the next question. We asked how many believed that euthanasia—intentionally putting someone to death—was acceptable. For this question, 52% responded that they believed it would be acceptable to end someone's life. This should send chills up the spines of parents who realize these are the same children who will one day make surrogate decisions for their parents' medical care.

Again let me remind you these are our children—young people who have been baptized in the church. And yet, 36% of them believe that homosexuality is just an alternative lifestyle. Have we totally missed instilling in our children what Almighty God views as an abomination? Even more surprising was that 43% indicated homosexuals should have the right to marry! The homosexual agenda has done a far better job at teaching our children tolerance than we have done at teaching them the Truth. You think the battle over same-sex marriage is over? If this is the view of Christian young people, consider where our society will be in 10-15 years when this generation begins voting and taking public office. Now, consider the direction the church is moving toward as these same individuals become deacons and elders in just a few short years.

The question that shocked us to the core was on the topic of abortion. We had assumed that within the church (and at home) Christian parents had done a fairly decent job on

teaching about the sanctity of life and the fact that we were made in the image and likeness of God. And yet, 35% of our children believe abortion should be legal. Friends, society has waged a war on our children! It's time parents and leaders recognize that our children's souls are at stake—and act on it!

### YOUTH STUFF

For those who participated in the Children's Home work trip, consider these two responses sent to us from Terry Austin who worked with us.

*Wow!! you guys did a wonderful job around our cottage. The shed looks great and the yard is in great shape too. Please convey our gratitude to Slicer Street Church of Christ for a job well done. Thanks again.*

*Hajera*

*Housemom REH #3*

*I am thankful on many levels for the time you carved out of your summer schedule to spend working at the Children's Homes. I hope it was a blessing to you, because I can assure you it was a blessing to everyone on our campus. The amount of work you accomplished, and the joyful spirit you displayed in that work, made a deep impression on all of us.*

*According to our records, you worked eight hours as a volunteer for us. From time to time, you may be able to use this information on scholarship applications, job applications, or for professional groups or service organizations. I encourage you to do so, and please let me know if I can be of help if you need anything from my office in this regard!*

Keep in mind our upcoming series of class on Human Sexuality. They will begin after Labor Day and we encourage you to invite friends to come with you.

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### UPCOMING POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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This week:

Tennis on September 1 at Poplar Bluff (4:00)  
Volleyball on September 2 at Home (6:00)  
Football starts

Coming Soon:

September 12	Friends Day with Art Smith
October 5-8	Abundant Living Retreat, Branson (for Seniors)
October 9-10	Church of Christ Weekend (Silver Dollar City)
October 24-27	Ethics Seminar (Phil Thompson)

## Family News

### Sick & Prayer Needs

**Mylene Archer:** Baptist East Hospital, 6019 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN 38120, e-mail [www.baptistonline.org](http://www.baptistonline.org), click on e-mail a patient;

**Annanette Olds:** Room 2022, St. Bernard's Hospital, Jonesboro, recovering from surgery for removal of gallstone, cards may be sent in care of her daughter Linda Kelly, 125 Bradford Place, Kennett;

**Sharon Rasberry:** dismissed from hospital; **Joy Smith:** dismissed from Twin Rivers Hospital after brief stay this week; **Jim Brice:** doing okay after cataract surgery on Wednesday; **Carol Stuart:** unable to be out and needs our prayers; **David Brown** (son of Joy Dawn): undergoing tests; **Yvonne McDonald** (sister-in-law of the Boggs): Twin Rivers Hospital, second broken hip;

**Remember in prayer:** Barbara Brice, Jeris Warrington, Carol DeGraw, Gerald Robertson, Kassidi Lands, Bill Huff, Hildred Stultz, Florence Coffey, Violet Tice, Betty Smith, Karen Pemberton, Chris Butler, Jim Gregory, Kelly Wilson, Sheila Denton, Sharon Friend, Ken Garrison, Bill Gardner, William Walker, Rita Luye, Jean Riedy, Nita McCoy, Elywon Hughes

### Nursing Homes & Care Facilities

**National Health Care:** Nina Boone, Estella Claude, Verla Coffey, Alma Hollis, Allen O'Neal, Rocina Parker, Jack Raney, Estalee Rasberry, Laura Rasberry, Sharon Rasberry, Christine Roring, Jeff Wheeler, Golden Burden

**September 27 Ladies Night Committee:** Rosemary Burcham & Pat Neal (co-chair), Julie Dunn, Macy Caraway, Marlenia Goodman, Alice Huff, Melinda Dunlap, Monette Collmorgen, Shelby Pelts

**A thank you note** from Jim & Barbara Brice is posted in the lobby.

### **Events for Ladies**

- Ladies Day: "Home Grown Lives", Monette, AR church of Christ, September 18, 9:00 am-12:30 pm, breakfast & lunch provided - details are posted in the lobby.
- Bootheel Ladies Retreat: "Fruit of the Spirit: Treasuring Family Values", September 24-25, at Bootheel Youth Camp hosted by ladies of the Fruitland and Cape G. congregations - details are posted in the lobby.

**Men's Breakfast:** Saturday, September 4, 8:00 am, in the fellowship room

### **Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals Begin September 8**

**Wednesday, September 1, Devotional Speaker:  
Rick Johnson**

**Bus Driver for August: Jeff Bridges (559-6169)  
Bus Driver for September: Matt Hodges (344-0071)**

### Family Milestones

**Birthdays:** Kim Johnson (9/1), Pat Neal (9/1), Melinda Dunlap (9/4), Jeff Ward (9/4), Sherrie Johnson (9/7)

**Anniversaries:** Bill & Sharon Wilson (8/30), Bill & Brenda Branum (9/2), Jim & Linda Strother (9/3)

#### **PULPIT MINISTER & EDITOR**

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#### **ELDERS**

Leonard Boggs	888-4705
Jeff Bridges	888-9544
Britt Burcham	888-5800
Rick Gore	888-6317
Larry McDowell	888-3283
Gaylon Mullins	888-2491

#### **DEACONS**

James Brice	Shawn Sando
Floyd Coffey	David Smith
Bob Hesselrode	Frank Stuart
Matt Hodges	Don Ward

#### **MISSIONARIES**

Altin Koci  
Eduart Hoxha  
Fier, Albania

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THE MESSENGER is published weekly except the weeks of July 4 & Dec. 25 by Slicer Street Church of Christ, 310 Slicer St., Kennett, MO 63857. Periodicals postage paid at Kennett, MO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE MESSENGER, P.O. Box 725, Kennett, MO 63857.