

ARKANSAS CRUSADER

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES ABOUT THE FAMILY OF GOD.

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Newsletter #4

Thank you to the churches that have responded to my request for information about your church and activities. This newsletter will only be as successful as the information that you submit. If you have suggestions or information you would like included please let me know. There is too much to be excited about from the responses I have, see the section on News from the Churches, and rejoice with the progress in our state.

I will be saving this newsletter in two different formats, hopefully you will be able to open one of the newsletters formats.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPRING MEETING,

The Church of God in Arkansas Spring Meeting will be March 8-10, 2007 at Eagle Point Church in Little Rock. The speaker will be Rev. Doug Talley. The meeting will start with the Thursday night service. Saturday morning will be our state spring business meeting. A complete schedule will be sent out in a few weeks. Mark your calendar now. If you have questions, please contact Bernice DeYoung, Program Committee chair. (501-794-1777) (Eagle Point will provide nursery workers for children up to 4 years old, older children will need to go into the service with their parents or arrange for other child care).

WEB SITE FOR THE CHURCH

Bert Brown and Bill DeYoung are working to update this site. Those who would like can check out their progress at the following Web site. www.chogark.org. They would appreciate any special news to be added to state web. APPLICATIONS AND FORM FOR VARIOUS CAMPS, ETC., WILL ALSO BE ON THE WEB SITE.

Youth Convention 3-30/4-1-07

WCG State Convention 4-20/21-07

Women of Faith Convention 4-13/14-07

Web site: www.partners-in-missions.org
"PARTNERS IN MISSIONS" is taking applications for their next trips. Contact Pastor Karvin Adams, First Church in Crossett for more information or check Their web site.

If your church does not have an article in this newsletter perhaps your church needs to appoint a reporter. We need to hear from everyone.

SEE PAGE 9 FOR STATE NOMINATIONS FORMS

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

The Annual Convention of the WCG will be at Snow Springs on **Friday night, April 20th and the following Saturday morning**. The ladies will start to gather about 5:30 for an evening meal and to get settled in their beds before our actual service starts at 7:00. Our Service will be a prayerful time, sharing and a lot of laughter on Friday evening, Saturday morning we will have breakfast at 8:00 am, the Executive Business Meeting will follow at 8:30, the WCG business meeting will follow that with a morning service and closing communion. We try to be finished by noon so the Ladies can start back to their homes or go shopping in Hot Springs.

Our speaker will be Deanne Curtis-Mowry. Deanne is on staff at Mid America Christian University and has been active in the church for many years. Her subject for the convention will be “*The Broken Branch, a story of God’s love and healing*”. For those who have met Deanne you know she is a dedicated but fun person to be with and I can guarantee you will have an enjoyable convention. Deanne is also the daughter of James Curtis who has spoken at several of our Camp meetings.

Our State Projects this year is the purchase of a cow for a missionary family in Uganda, (\$750.) Purchase of a treadle* sewing machine (\$1,200) for a training school to help women become self sufficient, and able to purchase the needs for their children. The balance of the funds received will be decided at the convention. *Treadle machines are used due to the lack of electricity for a more modern sewing machine.

Committee assignments: El Dorado will do reservations/name tags, Grape Chapel will do the Worship/music, Meals will be coordinated by Crossett, Table Décor will be done by Little Rock First Church.

CHAIRMANS NOTES

Charles Wright, Chairman

Greetings, in the name of Christ Jesus! I trust that each one reading this newsletter is experiencing the fullness and joy of the Spirit. I want to share about two important events that will be a part of our Spring Meeting - March 8-10, 2007 at Eagle Point Church in Little Rock. First, Doug Talley, Pastor of Church Health of the Florida Ministries of the Church of God will be our guest speaker. Florida has an intense focus on church health and church planting and they are seeing good results. Pastors, you and your leaders cannot afford to miss what Doug has to share. It could help your leaders and church tremendously. Please make every effort to attend all the sessions.

Secondly, the Campground Study Committee will share their report and recommendations concerning Snow Springs Campground to the General Assembly during the business meeting on Saturday, which begins at 9:15 a.m. The committee has done a tremendous job in research and compiling the data. It is important to note, that this time will be for sharing the report, and for the committee to convey why they reached their particular recommendations.

Continued..

Chairman's Notes Continued from Page 1

This will not be a time for debate or controversy, but a time to reveal the findings and recommendations of the committee. It will not be a time for a vote. That will occur at a later date – perhaps at the July meeting or sometime there after. It will not be a time for political maneuvers or posturing. It will solely be a time for receiving the report and clarification.

The Board of Directors believes that the whole assembly needs to have the information contained in the report, so that the assembly will be fully informed. The Study Committee will be available to help each pastor and congregation to explain the report and recommendations to their home church, in person if necessary. Please make this a matter of serious prayer. We are confident God will lead us.

Blessings,

Charles

STATE YOUTH REPORT

Upcoming State Youth Events and details

State Youth Convention - March 30th - April 1st. It will be held at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center in Little Rock. The speaker will be Dwayne Goldman. Registration is \$110.00.

- This will include Registration, Boarding and Meals. If you would like to know more about the 4-H Center you can go online to <http://www.arkansas4hcenter.org>.
- **Youth Camp is tentatively scheduled for July 23rd - 27th, 2007**
- **Fall Retreat is tentatively scheduled for October 20th - 21st**.

Be sure to put these dates on your Church Planning Calendar and prepare to attend.

State Youth Leadership

The 2007 year brings with it changes to the State Youth leadership. The term for State Youth Director will be ending and with that Rachael has decided not to run for another term. If you have any recommendations for a new State Youth Leader please contact Cheryl DeYoung or Rachael Elder. We will also have the position for State Youth Ministerial Advisor open. Again Contact Cheryl or Rachael with recommendations. There will also be several positions for the planning council that we will need students to run for. Forms will be sent out soon for students that are interested to fill out. They will be elected at the 2007 State Youth Convention.

Rachael Elder

State Youth Director

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

BENTON

GRAPE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

Richard Dunn, Pastor

BENTON/BRYANT

NEW SONG COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ray Borel, Pastor

Our monthly Ladies Night was hosted by Joan Borel. The devotional was on "Becoming New, Becoming Strong", which was inspired by the devotional , "15 Minutes Alone With God"; Telling us we all could probably spend more time with God. It talked about making a prayer basket and have it some place where you will see it all the time so it will remind you to spend time alone with God. Take your prayer basket to your prayer corner, wherever that may be (ex. .kitchen table, sofa, bed, bathroom, any place where you can enjoy your time alone with God). I had a basket there and went over everything that I had in my basket and gave each lady a bag of items to start their own.

Our 50's + Group had a New Years Eve party as Joel and Jackie McPherson. They had a lot of food, fellowship and fun. Most of them made it to see the New Year in but some of them just could not hang. (Getting old are we) LOL!!

The 50's group is doing so well that a lady's quilting group has spun off of that group! These ladies get together once a week and fellowship while learning a wonderful skill.

For their third year the Youth Group will participate in Fuel Week which is Feb. 12th-18th.

The Young Adults went bowling this month. This group is growing and enjoying the time getting to know one another.

The Out Reach group has started their fund raising for their Honduras trip this summer with a Valentine's Banquet at the Gene Moss Building in Benton, AR

Every third Sunday we have a pancake fellowship between the hours of 8:00 am to 9:00 am. This is a time to fellowship on a Sunday morning before our Sunday school classes start.

The Board of Elders has been reading a book called "The Present Future" by Reggie McNeal. This book is helping us to check where we are today in our church and what way we need to go to build God's Kingdom.

BENTONVILLE/SPRINGDALE

SONBRIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

Bill Reynolds, Pastor

The Children's Church ministry is involved with a mission project thru the Voice of the Martyrs, a Christian organization which supports Christians who are a part of the "persecuted" Church around the world. The Kids have learned that the word minister means servant and that as Christians we are to serve one another, both within the local fellowship and wherever there is a need. We are currently filling an "Action Pack" with toiletries, a towel and washcloth, T-shirts, a sheet, blanket, socks, gloves, a warm hat and shoes for a Christian child in worn-torn Iraq or Afghanistan. The Pack will also contain a Bible Story Book, "He Lived Among Us", and tapes in the child's own language.

Christian believers in these countries are subject to personal attack, loss of employment and/or educational opportunities, and even enslavement from Muslim extremists. This is one way we can show a Christian child he/she is not forgotten. "Remember the prisoner as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the body also." - Hebrews 13:3 - Sis. Billie Reynolds, Children's Church Ministry

CROSSETT
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Karvin Adams, Pastor

Crossett is getting ready for it's annual Faith Promise Missions Convention, March 23-25, 2007. Sharon Skaggs with Global Missions will be their speaker. The church supports the following projects through their missions budget and general budget: Sellers in Africa, Jones in Bolivia, Partners in Missions, local jail ministry and Life Choices. The church also sends 6 - 8 persons on short-term missions opportunities each year paying 40% of their expenses. Pastor Karvin believes this is one way to keep missions alive in a local congregation by getting your people on the field. All of their mission trips for 2007 are already filled except for their trip to Prince of Peace Home for Girls in Guatemala in October. If interested, contact Bro. Karvin for details.

Practice has begun on their Easter Drama, which will be held Saturday night, April 7 and Easter morning. Approximately 30 persons will be in the Easter presentation.

The Crossett WCG met Feb.5. The ladies all brought baked potato's and a topping. This is our way of promoting our hunger funds offering. Next month is our Mexican Fiesta. We will enjoy Mexican food and our special guest will be Dianne Ballard's daughter-in-law, Kim Ballard. Kim's Mother and sister, Barbara Wilcoxin, and Jamie Cecil .They will sing for us. We always enjoy them so much.

ELDORADO
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Robert Ballard, Interim Pastor

No report given

FORT SMITH
JACKSON STREET CHURCH OF GOD

Stanley Farrar, Pastor

Saturday evening, February 10th, we held our annual Valentine Dinner. Because the menu typically features Mexican food, we have nicknamed the event "The Heartburn Special". One kind lady even contributed antacids! We all enjoyed our time of fellowship together. The Church Council is scheduled to meet soon to continue plans for Outreach. The congregation recently ordered 100 Bibles to be distributed outside the congregation - probably as part of a newly forming Apartment Outreach Project. We have several apartment complexes near the church building which we are targeting as a new ministry. We would appreciate your prayers of support in this effort.

GURDON
FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

David Owens, Pastor

Development of the Hope Center is underway. The Hope Center is going to be a place where we can minister to our community's needs, share the Gospel, and house our ministries. Our Building Team began polling community leaders, teachers, and citizens to determine the actual needs that need to be met. We are looking forward with great expectations to see how God is going to fulfill this vision and to see the impact on our community for Jesus. Please be in prayer for us and the Hope Center.

HARRISON

CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

No report given

Johnny Walters, Pastor

HOT SPRINGS

OAKLAWN CHURCH

No report given

Charles Wright, Pastor

JESSIEVILLE

JESSIEVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Larry McNeely, Pastor

KINGSLAND

SMITH CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Shane Matthews, Pastor

LITTLE ROCK

EAGLE POINT CHURCH

Jerry Riddle, Pastor

We're off and running in 2007. Each Wednesday at noon our Eagle Point men converge on various restaurants for a quick meal and some Christian connection for nearly 2 years and is still going strong. Early bird registration for the April Women of Faith Conference at Alltel went well as 34 of our ladies have stepped forward to attend. Jimmy McConnell has already begun to make plans for our October Men's Retreat in the mountains near Mena ... this is always a big win.

Two weekly Bible studies are picking up in attendance and enthusiasm since the New Year began. Our ladies meet on Monday morning and are studying, *Teach Me Your Way* by Kay Arthur. Lunch seems to be a group practice following dismissal. Our Wednesday Nighters continue to study the Book of Romans and the group is lead by Tommy and Jerry Lewis. Jeffrey Forrester has also been asked to provide periodic leadership teaching.

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Mark Lewis, Pastor

We are seeing the Lord in all kinds of ways these days. Our Fellowship of Christian Men had a booth at the Big Buck Classic in January. We gave out 400 Bibles and met over 1000 people. We gave away 30 plus pounds of candy and some camping equipment. What a day!

Our small groups are doing very well on Sunday nights. Fellowship, stronger relationships, and teaching in a comfortable setting are the benefits of this ministry.

We are going to Eagle Pass, TX in late March for a short work camp there with Pastor Juan and Diana Rodriguez.

We also are experiencing the opportunity to be involved with Prison Fellowship this year.

The biggest thing the Lord has brought our way is the Relocation of the church. Our leaders are moving us forward and we expect the Lord to provide everything we need to follow Him in this endeavor.

Remember, there is no one to lost to love, No one to low to serve!

HOWARD STREET CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Johnny Nunley, Pastor

PARAGOULD

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Kevin Edgar, Pastor

PIGGOTT

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Gary Laughlin, Pastor

PLAINVIEW

HILLTOP CHURCH OF GOD

Tim Via, Pastor

On the 27th of January the Hilltop Church had a wonderful singing. *The Graves Family* blessed the church with their inspirational singing. On the 24th of February at 7:00, *Rovers for Jesus* will be at the little church. Everyone is welcome to come, if you need directions to the church feel free to call me at (479) 576-2226. Cindi and I truly enjoyed the Pastoral retreat on Mt. Magazine. The facility is world class and the fellowship was worth a million bucks. I truly encourage everyone who can make it to attend next year's gathering. We have some members battling illness so as always keep our church in your prayers. God Bless.....Bro. Tim

TEXARKANA

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Mark Roper, Pastor

TRASKWOOD

HOLY RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Phillip Prenkert, Pastor

VAN BUREN

CROSSPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ronny Mayfield, Pastor

God continues to bless us as we seek out His will for the church here in Van Buren. January was a busy month with wrapping up loose ends from last year and making plans as to how we can best minister to the community in the year ahead. As I mentioned in last months news, we have began a brand new ministry we have titled "Beeper Buddies" This is an idea that we got from some other churches and has really been quite effective for us. To date we have purchased 7 pagers. These pagers are distributed to those who have a special prayer need in their life. Our prayer team is updated each time a pager is distributed and they pray for these needs as God leads them throughout the day and night. After they had prayed for the need, they simply dial that pager number to let the person know they have just been lifted in prayer. We have had a number of testimonies as to where a prayer has gone up at just the right time. Those on the prayer team seem to be blessed as much as those we are praying for. We are excited to see how God grows and uses this ministry in the future.

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Continued from Page 8

We are also excited about committing to a special study during the month of March. We will be going through an outreach study by Bill Hybels called, "Just Walk Across The Room". This study will teach us and reveal to us the numerous opportunities we have to reach out to those around us who need Christ. Really, all we have to do is just be ourselves, "Walk Across The Room" and begin building life-long friendships with those outside of our comfort zones, and in Gods perfect timing, allow His Holy Spirit to lead the person to Christ. Could it really be as simple as walking across a room? We are excited to find out. We will be going through the series in our Sunday morning messages and following up on the study in our evening services.

We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayer, that we will be a body of believers that Christ would be pleased with, and can use to reach those around us. We will be faithful to do the same for you.

In Christ's Love
Pastor Ronny

SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY

No report given

Ivory Curry, Pastor

STATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nancy Roper, Chairman

It is time to look around your church and pray for names for the nominating committee to put on the voting list for the 2007 ballot at the July Business Meeting at Snow Springs. Following is the first draft ballot of the empty slots. We have many places that need to be filled by folks that want to serve our Lord. Please send any names, what position, and qualifications for that position.

I know that God has persons in the CHOG in Arkansas that can do His work in the right state positions. I appreciate all that you have done for God's kingdom in the past and will do for Him in the future.

CHURCH OF GOD MAGAZINES AVAILABLE TO YOU.

Church of God Ministries started publishing a new magazine for the church. It is called ONEVoice! To Celebrate the Message and Ministry of the Church of God. For those who have not seen the magazine you need to request a copy to see how excellent the information is for the church and the range of subjects that are covered. One years subscription is \$20.00, or two years for \$35.00. You can call 800-848-2464, Ext 2203 or use their web site www.onevoicemag.org

There is also a Missions Magazine published by the Church of God Ministries and is informative about our Missions work around the world. The cost of this magazine is \$12.00 per year or \$21 for two years. You can use the above information also to order.

CHOG in AR
1st draft ballot for 2007

Executive Committee

_____, Chairman (2007) Charles Wright
Mark Roper, Vice Chairman (2008)

_____, Secretary (2007) Lisa Mayfield
Dollie Brink, Treasurer (2008)

Elected Members

_____ (2007) Jerry Lewis
Betty Baxley (2008)
Bill DeYoung (2008)

Committee Chairpersons

Board of Christian Education
Board of church Extension
Campground Board
Credentials Committee
Nominating Committee
Program Committee
WCG President

Committees and Boards

Board of Church Extension

_____ (2007) Cheryl DeYoung
Bob Ahart (2008)

David Owens (2009)

Program Committee

Bernice DeYoung (2008)
Rick Dunn (2009)
Gary Laughlin (2009)

Board of Christian Education

Pritchard

_____ (2007) April Matthews
Diann Byars (2008)
Colleen Ball (2009)
Rachael Elder - State Youth Director
McPherson

Nominating Committee

_____ (2007) Linda McConnell
Nancy Roper (2008)
Bill DeYoung (2008)
Greg Bomar (2009)
Doyle Whitesel (2009)

Credentials Committee

_____ 2007 Bob Birchfield
_____ 2007 Mark Roper

Karvin Adams (2008)
Ronny Mayfield (2008)
Jerry Riddle (2009)

Campground Board

_____ 2007 John Baxley

_____ 2007 Adam

_____ 2007 Larry Wilson

_____ 2007 Joel

Byrum Ahart (2008)
Gerald Smith (2008)
Shane Matthews (2009)
Ralph Brink (2009)