

ARKANSAS CRUSADER

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES ABOUT THE FAMILY OF GOD.

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12700 Goldleaf
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Newsletter #3

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.

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.choark.org. They would appreciate any special news to be added to the state web.

“**PARTNERS IN MISSIONS**” is taking applications for their next trips. Contact Karvin Adams, First Church in Crossett for more information.

MINISTERS RETREAT, MT. MAGAZINE

February 8th/9th, 2007, sponsored by the General Assembly and Southwest Assembly. This should be a time of refreshment and Renewal for our pastors and their spouses. Additional information will be coming but You need to schedule this on your calendar Now so your congregation will know your Plans to attend. Contact Jerry Riddle or Cheryl DeYoung for more information.

CHRISTS BIRTHDAY OFFERING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

As of this newsletter, the total sent to our treasurer for the 2006 offering is \$6,574.00. The churches that have responded so far are Grape Chapel, El Dorado, Eagle Point, First Church/Little Rock, Crossett, New Song, and Piggott, The offering should be sent to Dollie Brink, State Treasurer, 225 Sparling Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913. (If you sent a check direct to Anderson please let us have the amount sent so we can add it to our total.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPRING MEETING, MARCH 8/10TH

Eagle Point Church, Little Rock.
See Page 2 of this newsletter

Grape Chapel Concert 2-10-07

Youth Convention 3-30/4-1-07

WCG Convention 4-20/21

Women of Faith 4-13/14

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. (Eagle Point is checking on providing nursery help during the meeting so pastors with young children can attend.)

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.

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 \$140.00.

- 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

Our men's group will have a fund raiser on Wednesday January 24th, proceeds will go to support Living Link missionaries, Jeff and Nancy Ingram and other missions.

Our Women of the Church of God, are having a special group "Centerpoint Quartet" for a Concert on February 10th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend, Come and join us. A Free will offering will be taken.

The Sunshine Ambassadors purchased another goat from Heifer Intl program to help support a needy family, and are also planning a trip to Pine Bluff.

The youth are looking forward to a "Lock in" at the church as soon as the renovations are complete. The church is getting a new kitchen downstairs, new bathrooms, break room, wall decorations and floor covering upstairs. We are looking forward to getting this work done. We have communion the first Sunday night of each month, our attendance continues to grow. There is a beautiful spirit in our worship and God keeps blessing the Grape Chapel Family. We Are thankful!

BENTON/BRYANT

NEW SONG COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ray Borel, Pastor

New Song celebrated Christmas with a Children's program Sunday morning and a youth program Sunday night. The youth service closed with the baptism of Sarah Stanley, one of our youth. New Song also provided Christmas gifts for over 15 disadvantaged children in the Bryant school district. Mel Gallon works for the school, and helped provide the list of names. The first Sunday of each month, New Song dismisses Sunday evening service and replaces it with small groups. The young adult group meets for lunch after morning service, while two other groups meet in the evening. These ministries are going well.

BENTONVILLE/SPRINGDALE

SONBRIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

Bill Reynolds, Pastor

The growth in NWA has been phenomenal. The building we have been using for the Church facilities has changed ownership 3 times this past 12 months. Each time God has blessed and the new owner has allowed us to continue to stay. Three large apartment/duplex complexes are now being completed around us and we are making plans to have newcomer packets in the complex offices to give to new occupants. The Church sponsored a free "Get Acquainted with Sonbridge" fair including a "Yard Giveaway" patterned like a yard sale. This was a great success bringing several visitors to the Church and gaining us a new family. We are planning another similar fair for spring. Please continue to pray for us as we minister in NWA.

CROSSETT

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Karvin Adams, Pastor

We had a good year in 2006 along with completing our new sanctuary recently. Average Attendance increased by: S.S. 2%, Am 14%, Pm 23%, Wed 6%. Bro. Karvin started a series of 5 sermons/lessons on Sunday nights "Financial Planning and Stewardship". We ask for your prayers as we pray for the state in it's work.

ELDORADO

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

James Geahlen, Interim Pastor

Happy New Year from El Dorado. I wish for you the best year ever. This will be my last letter to you as my resignation goes in to effect January 1st, 2007. I am thankful for the many of you who have supported me and for the privilege to come into your home every month through the newsletters.

I am happy to announce that our church already has an Interim Pastor to fill my place. A person whom I highly recommend to you and a person that many already know. Robert and Dianne Ballard have consented to be the new interim pastor's and will begin on January 1st. Mary and I will be taking some time off to do some of things we wanted to do when we retired. But we will be back and will continue to pray for all of you.

FORT SMITH

JACKSON STREET CHURCH OF GOD

Stanley Farrar, Pastor

Church of God Jackson Street was treated to a performance by their volunteer Christmas Choir during their program on December 24th. The youth also performed their skit "Star Search" at that time and did a great job. The congregation spent New Year's Eve together with food, fun, and games before praying the new year in.

Our first Sunday in January featured a baptismal service and we have at least three more candidates for baptism on the third Sunday of January. We think this is a great start to the new year. We had a little contest to choose a new slogan or motto for the weekly worship guide and the winner is "Salvation is the way to Heaven - Seek the Lord in 2007".

The Church of God Reformation film "Heaven to Earth" was shown during Sunday evening service time on January 8th. The film was shown on one of those big old reel to reel projectors and of course it was in black and white. We all enjoyed it - some for the first time and quite a few of us for one of many times over the years. This film was the kickoff to a study series of Church of God history and doctrine on Sunday evenings.

The Church Council will be meeting soon to set plans for our next Community Outreach activity. Our attendance has been a little slow in growth but steady. Scripture tells us that God gives the increase so we are patiently abiding by and accepting His plans in our outreach and growth.

Happy New Year to all of you from Church of God, Jackson Street, Fort Smith,

GURDON

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

David Owens, Pastor

No report given

HARRISON

CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Johnny Walters, Pastor

We are happy to report the completion of the new 3200 sq ft youth building at CrossRoads. Steel is now going up for our new sanctuary with a projected completion date of June, 2007. God is continuing to bless our fellowship here. Please keep us in your prayers as we will be praying for our fellow churches throughout the state. God Bless you.

HOT SPRINGS

OAKLAWN CHURCH

Charles Wright, Pastor

We at Oaklawn Church wish to extend to each of our congregations a Happy New Year. We have completed the restoration from the fire we suffered last summer. Our facilities look beautiful. Beginning the first of December we launched a new Children's Ministry call the Oasis. Under the direction of Roy Lambert and Amber Westgate. This ministry started with a hand full of children, and as of last week there were 26 children in our Sunday morning ministry. It so exciting and such a blessing to the rest of the congregation as these kids march out of worship to go to the Oasis. Pray with us that God will give us more labors to help with this growing harvest.

JESSIEVILLE
JESSIEVILLE CHURCH OF GOD
No report given

Larry McNeely, Pastor

KINGSLAND
SMITH CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD
No report given but Pastor Shane covets the prayers from others for his congregation.

Shane Matthews, Pastor

LITTLE ROCK
EAGLE POINT CHURCH

Jerry Riddle, Pastor

The church family has recently enjoyed two great fellowships. Our Eagle Point Christmas Dinner and Party that followed was our best special event in memory. Attendance was awesome, the meal delicious and our fun time for all ages off the map. Our New Year's Eve "get together" was also super. Some stayed to ring in the New Year and did not get away until nearly 1:00am. We participated in the annual Christ Birthday Offering and continue to receive gifts. With the coming of the New Year we will continue our Wednesday Nighter's Bible Study in Romans, our Monday Morning Ladies' Bible Study will continue their walk through the Bible Study in Genesis and then on to Exodus. And we anticipate the initiation of a new small group Bible Study in the month of January. Finally, the Elder Guidance Team has initiated strategy building for the coming year and will be recruiting the broad-based input, support and implementation throughout the year. 2007 will be a pivotal part of God's journey for this congregation.

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Mark Lewis, Pastor

The Lord continues to work.

On December 9 our mission committee hosted a fish fry that raised \$250 dollars. At our FCM meeting for December our men raised over \$300 dollars for Christmas Food baskets that we gave away the 16Th.

A Tri-S mission group from Anderson University stayed over night with us and enjoyed our mid-week fellowship supper the 27Th. They were working in Saltillo Mexico. They will be back through again the 7Th.

New Years eve we had a chili cook off and a time of testimonies and prayer, the Lord really blessed.

Our small groups are expanding to two Sunday nights a month this year.

The Fellowship Of Christian Men will have a booth at the Hunter's Expo at the fairgrounds in Little Rock, January 26-28. We will handing out Bible's and talking about the Lord and hunting and fishing. Have a great year!

HOWARD STREET CHURCH OF GOD
No report given

Johnny Nunley, Pastor

PARAGOULD

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Kevin Edgar, Pastor

JESUS is in the house!! Mark 2:1

Let me update you on our past year and then we can go from there each month. January 2006, we were running an average of 120 for church and today we are 150+. During 2006 there was a Tuesday Morning Prayer group formed and boy are they raising the roof. There have been so many prayers answered. What an AWESOME GOD we serve. We have a huge prayer that is going up for either more space or to be able to build another church. We are out of parking space and Sunday School classroom space. But we know GOD answers these prayers in his time.

We are proud to have a lady in our congregation that has the calling to be our Drama Leader and she pulled us through another Christmas play this year which was very eye opening and soul touching. Also our Toddler's Leader did a play of the birth of Jesus with her 2-5 year olds and what a great production that was.

Our Children's Church Leader has been teaching the children about "Living Water". They are currently raising money to help build a water well in Africa, and January 31st is the deadline. Please tune in next time to see how well they did.

We ended the year with fellowship and worship with our sister church. We had tag team preaching and prayed the old year out and the New Year in. What a way to bring in 2007.!

PIGGOTT

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Gary Laughlin, Pastor

No report given

PLAINVIEW

HILLTOP CHURCH OF GOD

Tim Via, Pastor

It is hard to believe that the year 2006 has come to a close. It is amazing just how fast this year has gone by. 2006 was an amazing year. When we look back on 2006 it will be remembered as a year of soaring gas prices. The on going war on terror in Iraq and Afghanistan was often the lead story on the nightly news as was the nuclear standoffs with both North Korea and Iran. Fear of the bird flu and talks of global warming were hot topics with the mainstream media. And former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was convicted in the slaying of 148 Shiite Muslims and just a few weeks ago put to death for the slayings.

With the start of the new year comes hope of new beginnings. Many people try to make changes in their personal life by making New Year's resolution with the hopes of usually changing a part of themselves or aspect of their lives that they are not pleased with.

Now the problem of maintaining these resolutions is that often people depend on their own strength and self-control to conquer or take control of the problem areas of their lives. And as so many of us have learned, we just aren't strong enough nor do we have the self control to endure these battles until the end. We need help sometimes, don't we?

Now what would you say if I told you that I know a man who could totally change your life? I mean every aspect of life from the deepest innermost part of your body, your spirit, to your outward appearance. **People, Jesus can do just that.** Now I do want to tell you that the Christian life is a work in progress. Although we are a new creature this doesn't mean that we have nothing but good thoughts and never have to battle with sin again. But if you keep trying to serve God and keep yourself in His Word, you will be changing all the time. So, as you look back over 2006, do you see a process of change for the better in your thoughts, attitudes and actions? When others are around you do they take notice in your spiritual growth as a Christian or do they see a change at all between the "old" and "new" man.

Please keep the Hilltop church in your prayers as we start the New Years, I look forward to seeing you at the Minister's Winter Retreat on Mt. Magazine.

TEXARKANA

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

Mark Roper, Pastor

TRASKWOOD

HOLY RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

Holy Ridge has the need to expand our sanctuary. Under the leadership of Roy Willis we need more room up front for our musicians. as of now we have a very large oak tree that needs to come down in order to add on. Anyone want to take it down?

Pastor Phil

Phillip Prenkert, Pastor

VAN BUREN

CROSSPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

God is always good and blesses His people. God has certainly poured out His blessings on His people here at CrossPointe. We, like everyone else have our difficult times and times of adversity but the blessings far out weigh our difficulties. December was a great month for us. We were challenged by God's Word to know Jesus more intimately as our Lord and Savior. A number of our people blessed us through our Christmas play, "One Quiet Night". They did an excellent job and Christ reminded us through their efforts of just how easily we can be caught up in the rush of the holidays and miss-out on the time we could spend with Him. We also agreed to leave our sanctuary decorated at least through January. In the past, we saw the tendency to get excited and celebrate up to Christmas and then lose our passion and stop celebrating once Christmas has passed. We agreed that the celebration of our Lord Jesus Christ should be something we continue to do each and every day throughout the year and not just during the Christmas Season.

Ronny Mayfield, Pastor

In our messages over the last couple of weeks, we took time to look back over the last year and briefly focus on the areas where we could have done better as well as to take time to celebrate the times of victory God gave us. We are excited about the upcoming year and all of the opportunities God is going to give us to serve and glorify Him. We have committed to focus on these two thoughts for the year of 2007, **“Everyone Serving Somewhere”** and **“No Opportunities Missed”**. We are going to pray and work very hard to help every person at CrossPointe to discover their gifts and to find their place of service in God’s Church. We are looking to expand our nursery and toddler areas and to install TV monitors in each of those areas to allow our workers to enjoy the live video feed from our worship services. We are also looking to start our own website soon. God has also blessed us with a number of new visitors who have chosen to make CrossPointe their new home. We look forward to getting to know them each better and to enjoy the blessings of serving in ministry with them in the future. Last but certainly not least, we are starting a brand new ministry called **“Beeper Buddies”**. This is a prayer ministry where those who need special prayer will be issued a prayer pager that will alert them every time a member of our prayer team is praying for them. We are excited to see what God does through this new ministry. We would like every church in our state to know that we pray for you regularly, that God would bless, strengthen, and grow each of you. Keep CrossPointe in your prayers that we will be the example and the place of restoration, healing and encouragement He has called us to be.

Blessings,
Pastor Ronny

SOUTHWEST ASSEMBLY
No report given

Ivory Curry, Pastor

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.

ISN'T IT STRANGE?

Isn't it strange that princes and kings,
 To each is given a bag of tools,
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,
 a shapeless mass, a book of rules,
And common folk like you and me,
 and each must make e'er life is flown
Are builders for Eternity?
 A stumbling block or stepping stone.

R. L. Sharpe