

# ARKANSAS CRUSADER

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES ABOUT THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Annette M. Rickard, Editor  
501-455-5506  
[Arickard.ret@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Arickard.ret@sbcglobal.net)

12700 Goldleaf  
Little Rock, AR. 72210  
October 20, 2006

**October 20, 2006**

**Newsletter # 1**

*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 at the information which you submit. If you have suggestions or information you would like included please let me know. There is so 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.*

### ***YOUTH RETREAT, SNOW SPRINGS***

*Rachael Elder and her committee are Doing this retreat, October 21<sup>st</sup>, we will Look for a good report in the next Newsletter*

### ***WOMEN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD***

*Prayer Retreat, Snow Springs Campground. November 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>. Grape Chapel WCG Will be the hostess for this event. You do not Need to be a member of WCG to attend, only Be a woman who would like to be a part of The work of God. Friday evening meal, Services and fun time, Saturday morning Breakfast followed by service. Retreat Is over about noon. Then you can go Shopping in Hot Springs.*

### ***JACKSON STREET CHURCH, FORT SMITH***

*On November 4<sup>th</sup>, they will host a Harvest of Blessings Celebration, they will serve chili, Have a Bluegrass Band, and Karaoke for any One who wants to participate. Will be a fun time And they would enjoy having other churches Participate and help with their community Outreach projects.*

### ***WEB SITE FOR THE STATE***

*Bert Brown and Bill DeYoung are working to update this site. Those who would like can check out their progress at the following web address. [www.churchofgodonline.org](http://www.churchofgodonline.org) They would appreciate any special news to Be added to the State Web.*

### ***PARTNERS IN MISSIONS TRIP IS TAKING APPLICATIONS FOR THEIR NEXT TRIPS***

*Contact Karvin Adams for more information, This would be a wonderful trip if your Passport is in order and your bags are packed. Karvin Adams, First Church in Crossett*

### ***MINISTERS RETREAT, MT. MAGAZINE February 8/9<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

## **NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES**

### **BENTON**

GRAPE CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD,

Richard Dunn, Pastor

Pastor Dunn is busy with hospital visitation. We appreciate his diligence. The last Wednesday of each month we have a supper at the church, This is a time of fellowship and greatly appreciated by working people.

The Men's Group had a fish fry on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds were to support their Living Link – Jeff and Nancy Ingram. Their regular meeting is the first Saturday of each month at 7:00 a.m.

The Sunshine Ambassadors are busy with a Neighborhood Watch Program, their work is appreciated.

The "WCG"\* held a yard sale this month to support their various projects. We will be having a craft sale in November. Grape Chapel ladies will also be hosting the State Prayer Retreat at Snow Springs on November 10<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to bring your younger ladies, "WIT"\* which stands for "Women in Training!. (\*Women of the Church of God.)

The Youth are enjoying their special retreat at Snow Springs and we look forward to a good report.

### **BENTON/BRYANT**

NEW SONG COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ray Borel, Pastor

No report given

### **BENTONVILLE/SPRINGDALE**

SONBRIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

Bill Reynolds, Pastor

No report given

### **CROSSETT**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Karvin Adams, Pastor

New Building to be dedicated Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. This will truly be a great Celebration for the Church. Crossett has been working hard to finance this new building and all the purchases that go with it. Such a new facility will be a real asset in their work for the Lord. If you are interested they are selling Memorial Bricks for \$25.00 each if you wish to place a memorial for a loved one.

Also a church wide Fall Festival will be Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> with food, games, door prizes, a cake walk and fellowship for all ages. This should be a fun evening in Crossett.

### **EL DORADO**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

James Geahlen, Pastor

Congratulations to Mary Dean Setliff on her recognition for 53 years as the Song Leader of our church. All of the congregations and her friends were invited to celebrate this very special occasion. This recognition was given during their Home Coming Service on August 27<sup>th</sup> and was a surprise.

Dr. Dan Harden brought a challenging message for the morning, special music and the greatest potluck in El Dorado given by the church.

Please be in prayer for El Dorado as they such for a pastor sent to them by God to help with his work.

**FORT SMITH**

JACKSON STREET CHURCH OF GOD

Stanley Farrar, Pastor

On Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, we will host a Harvest of Blessings Celebration featuring a chili supper, live Bluegrass Band and Karaoke to anyone who wishes to participate. This is the third of our community outreach projects and we will be doing a mass mailing to invite our neighborhood and beyond to this function. We are praying that God will bless our efforts with an increase in attendance, not for the sake of numbers but for the sake of growing the Kingdom of God. God Bless, (Brenda Velosky)

**GURDON**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

David Owens, Pastor

See Pastor Owens report on Page 6

**HARRISON**

CROSS ROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Johnny Walters, Pastor

No report given

**HOT SPRINGS**

OAKLAWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Charles Wright, Pastor

No report given

See Pastor Wright's comments on Page 7

**JESSIEVILLE**

JESSIEVILLE CHURCH OF GOD

Larry McNeely, Pastor

No report given

**KINGSLAND**

SMITH CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

Shane Matthews, Pastor

No report given

**LITTLE ROCK**

EAGLE POINT CHURCH

Jerry Riddle, Pastor

See Pastor Riddle's report on Page 8

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Mark Lewis, Pastor

Things are fast and furious here in Little Rock. After 105 years in the city, and 35 years in our present location, we are considering a move. We are beginning this month to discuss in earnest any and all possibilities in which the Lord might be directing us to move our church. Please pray with us regarding this important time of discussion.

We also are making our facilities available for a new Church of God work in Southwest Little Rock. Pastor Reuben Thomas and his wife Cynthia are just beginning the Great Commission Community of Faith Church. Please pray and consider how your congregation might help this new work. You might consider putting Great Commission in your mission budget next year.

We are also planning a mission trip to Eagle Pass, TX to help with rebuilding/remodeling the church that Bro. Juan is now pastoring. This will be in January 2007 and the dates are not set yet, if you are interested in joining us please call Pastor Mark.

Keep your head up and your eyes clear. Praise the Lord! Mark Lewis

HOWARD STREET CHURCH OF GOD

No report given

**PARAGOULD**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Kevin Edgar, Pastor

Betty Baxley from Grape Chapel and I had an opportunity to go through Paragould on our way to the National Bard Meeting in Anderson for the Women of the Church of God. We asked at the local McDonalds where the church was and the young adults behind the counter knew about the church and directed us there. We found a beautiful, classic sandstone rock veneer church with stained glass windows and cathedral doors. Beside the church is their family life center which looks fairly new. We were sorry to not see Pastor Edgar while we were there but we wanted to update the church in general about the progress they are making. Encourage this church as they move forward.

**PIGGOTT**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Gary Laughlin

No report given

**PLAINVIEW**

HILLTOP CHURCH OF GOD

Tim Via, Pastor

No report given

**TEXARKANA**

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD

Mark Roper, Pastor

No report given

**TRASKWOOD**

HOLY RIDGE CHURCH OF GOD

Phillip Prenkert, Pastor

No report given

**VAN BUREN**

CROSSPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Ronny Mayfield, Pastor

See report from Pastor Mayfield, Page 9

**REPORT FROM THE YOUNG ADULT/YOUTH STATE COMMITTEE**

**STATE YOUTH CONVENTION, MARCH 30/APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**LOCATION; 4-H CENTER IN LITTLE ROCK.**

**Put this date on your church calendars, additional information will be coming from the Committee about the cost for the event, who the speakers will be and special services. We need all the youth and young adults to participate in this event. Put this on the front Burner and give this convention the attendance and support that it needs.**

## **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 year subscription is \$20.00 or two years for \$35.00. You can call 800-848-2464 Ext2203 or use their web site [www.onevoicemag.org](http://www.onevoicemag.org).

There is also the **Missions Magazine** also published by the Church of God Ministries but is informative about our Missions work around the world. The cost of that magazine is \$12.00 per year or \$21.00 for two years. You can use the above information also to order.

**The Connection** is a quarterly publication from the WCG and covers news to those who are members of the Women of the Church of God and comes with your membership.

### **CHRISTS BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

If you attended the June NAC meeting in Anderson, IN you should have been given your information about the upcoming Christ Birthday Offering taken on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. You also should have received a packet from Church Ministries with all the information and suggestions for programs, etc. This is a nation wide program and your church is not required to use the materials but they are a suggestion. The theme this year is "Keeping Watch". The goal is \$1,400,000 and as a reminder the support is for CBH radio broadcasts, congregational health and growth initiatives, leadership Development, communications, National Prayer Ministry, NAC Convention, International Youth Convention, family ministries, Global Missions outreach and Support, Multicultural ministries. Also provides for our colleges and the Board of Pensions. The WCG facilitates the offering and receives some of the income to pay for their expenses and missions work. The offering should be forwarded to the following address so the state will get correct recognition. Dollie Brink, Treasurer, 225 Sparling Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913

**Page 5**

**Page 6 – Report from David Owens, First Church, Gurdon**

**Page 7 – Report from Charles Wright as General Assembly Chairman**

**Page 8 – Report from Jerry Riddle, Eagle Point, Little Rock**

**Page 9 – Report from Ronny Mayfield, CrossPointe, Van Buren**

## ARKANSAS CRUSADER NEWSLETTER

October 20, 2006

Dear pastors:

Attached is a hard copy of the Arkansas Crusader for your Church. There should be nine pages.

Please photocopy and distribute to your church.

Also, I am emailing this lengthy newsletter to the pastors  
So it can be copied or forwarded to those as you wish.

Let me know if you have any comments or questions on the  
Newsletter,

Next month I need your articles by email on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you.



ANNETTE M. RICKARD  
12700 Goldleaf  
Little Rock, AR 72210  
501-455-5506  
Arickard.ret@sbcglobal.net

## REPORT FROM DAVID OWENS, FIRST CHURCH, GURDON

The First Church of God in Gurdon is on the move.

God has been remaking us over the past year. He has refocused our attention and ministries toward our community. We believe we are the church. As the church, we must minister to the community. For example, our women's ministry is not aimed at our members but at the whole community. We have ladies from several churches as well as unchurched ladies attending our ministry. We do not exist solely for our comfort. Rather we exist to grow spiritually mature and to expand God's Kingdom in our area of influence. We have already gone through much change. However, we are still changing to better reflect our mission and ministry. A part of that change includes our name. God has, much like Abram, called us to change our name to a new name; one that reflects His glory and our mission. Although we do not yet have a name picked out, the church has already voted to change our name.

There are many possible names but we want one that truly reflects God's call on our lives. God is leading us out of our building and into the community. We are passionately pursuing God. Where He leads we will follow. We believe that we are called to be CHANGED agents so that we may become CHANGE agents in our community.

One of our needs is for ministry space. While our facility is nice and just suits us for Sunday, it lacks certain things we could use to better reach the people of our community. Plus, we are full. Our sanctuary has growth capacity but our education facility is currently full both on Sunday and for our mid-week ministries. We are in dire need of new spaces for ministry but God has called us to put our community's needs over our needs. God has placed in our hearts the vision of a community Ministry Center. We have been praying about this for some time. We have just begun to spread the word. The Gurdon Ministry Center will be a safe place for children to play, a center of ministry for the people of Gurdon, and a support facility for all of the churches in our town. It will have a gym, educational spaces, and fellowship spaces. We have begun networking with other likeminded churches in the area. God is growing His Kingdom in Gurdon and we don't want to be on the sideline. This will truly be a Kingdom effort with all of the churches that care to participate contributing to the Center. There is a growing spirit of optimism and expectation among the churches in town. God is on the move and His people are responding, taking up the call and following after Him.

May God bless each one of you and may He get the glory from our passionate pursuit of Him,  
David Owens  
Pastor

# REPORT FROM BRO. CHARLES WRIGHT, ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

## Chairman's Notes

On August 23-25, 2006, I was privileged to attend the Strategic Conference of the Church of God held in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference goal was to engage invited leaders in addressing the strategic questions facing the Church of God and suggest how the church might best carry out its strategic goals. Theme of the conference was "Arise!" The acronym below gives greater clarity.

- Announcing God's good news to the world;
- Relating as God's Spirit-born children;
- Investing for the sake of God's Kingdom;
- Sharing in response to God's call;
- Empowering God's gifted people in ministry.

The theme related to five strategic goals that the General Director of the Church of God Ministries had developed with the Ministries Council. Those five goals are:

1. To revitalize the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) in the life of every individual, church, and agency;
2. To engage every individual, church, and agency in Great Commandments (Matt. 22:37-39);
3. To commit to stewardship principles (Matt. 6:33) leading to a flexible ministry future and the management of debt (debt free as the goal) for every individual, church, and agency;
4. To nurture the spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12: 1-7) of every individual, church, and agency;
5. To renew our efforts toward relational connectivity and identity (John 17:21-22) for every individual, church, and agency of the Church of God.

This was the best conference conducted by the Church of God that I have attended. I sensed a great deal of hope for the future and a determination to become more effective. One could sense the Spirit moving among us. Thank you, Arkansas for allowing me to attend.

Blessings,  
Charles

## EAGLE POINT CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK, AR.

Three or four times each year EPCOG targets a Sunday Morning Service as "Southern Gospel Sunday." Event Coordinator, Gena Biswell, provides song selection, schedules rehearsals and oversees those foot-patting times of worship. Our next Southern Gospel Service will be Sunday, October 15, 10:00am. Music is diverse, Christ honoring and the church family and friends always fill the Worship Center with praise and happy faces. This fall our service will be a Prevailing Church Project Outreach Event and we are working diligently to reach our friends, family, work associates, classmates and others. The Eagle Point Church family looks forward to the opportunity of joining brothers and sisters at First Church of God and Howard Street Church of God for a Sunday evening, October 15, 5:00pm Unity Service. Our service will include congregational singing, several specials from each congregation and food/fellowship afterwards.

A group of instrumentalists and vocalist from Eagle Point Church of God known as **10fold** recently won a talent contest at the Attic in Hot Springs and was asked to participate in SHOUTFEST 06 on Lake Hamilton on Sunday afternoon, September 24. They were also featured on Channel 11 during September.

Each Sunday following Morning Worship (9/10, 9/24, 10/1, 10/8) the church family quickly transforms the Worship Center into a setting for enjoying a great potluck. Not only is there plenty of food from great Church of God cooks, but also a time to build friendships. Susan Norris and a team of volunteers help oversee this time together.

Fall Bible Studies are now underway. Ladies gather each Monday at 10:00am at the Solid Rock Café to study the Word and target the topic, *Exploring Islam in the Light of Christianity*. Wednesday evenings, Tommy & Jerry Lewis lead a Bible Study and Prayer Group and are presently studying, *Lord Teach Me To Pray in 28 Days*, also, Brother Bob Burchfield leads our Student Ministries at 6:13pm on the campus of Southwest Christian Academy. Each Sunday evening our Men's Bible Study gather from 5:00-6:30pm to study the Book of Acts.

(Annette, FYI -the 6:13pm for the Youth Ministries is correct ☺ ... it stands for Romans 6:13)

# CrossPointe Community Church

## Van Buren

---

Things are going great at CrossPointe. God is moving and challenging us to follow and trust Him more. We just finished up a study by Andy Stanley, "Go Fish" and will be beginning a new study on Wednesday night October 25<sup>th</sup> called "Jesus- Seeing Him more clearly. Our men recently had a fellowship breakfast at Cracker Barrel and decided that we should make this a monthly event. Our ladies will be holding a women's retreat on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November at the Oaks Manor Convention Center in Rudy, Arkansas. We are expecting God to do great things as our women meet together in His name. We have also gotten back to a project we began last fall and got put on hold because of a busy spring and summer, and that is painting the walls in our sanctuary. The work is progressing well and we are enjoying meeting together to do God's work. We will also be having our annual Kiddie Karnival on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>. This is always a good time to invite our neighbors and friend in the community for a time of free games, food, and lots of candy given away. We are continuing to be blessed by the opportunity to love and support Tate Elementary School as our local mission project. We have been able to do a number of things for them like; furnishing needed school supplies for students as well as teachers, supplying food for teachers meetings, purchasing "Drug Free" bracelets for Drug Awareness Week, just to mention a few. We have also gotten to make a number of new friends through this new outreach to our community. Our choir and drama departments have been practicing for several weeks for our Christmas play. We are looking forward to how God uses them to spread His message. Although we are isolated somewhat from the rest of the state body by our location, we want each and every church and fellowship to know we think of you and are praying for God to move and use you to be a powerful force in winning the lost around you. We ask you to pray for us also as we continue to seek the Lords will for CrossPointe and that we will be submissive and obedient to all He calls us to do.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Ronny