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The Newsletter of Santee Circle Community Church

# one MORE

## From the Desk of Pastor Chris

In SCCC's last newsletter, I introduced to our church body the idea of an Implementation Team to creatively communicate and implement the vision God has given to the Elder Body for SCCC to move to a small group discipleship method rather than a Sunday School discipleship method. I am very appreciative of the sacrificial service that has been rendered so far by the members of this Implementation Team and look forward to their continued effort.

Some, however, may question the need to make such a move. This is a question that the Elder Body and I have prayed over and contemplated for months. The motivation given to us by God is to ensure that we as a church are doing what we are called to do; make disciples who make other disciples. Unfortunately, over the past several decades, Southern Baptist churches using the Sunday School method of discipleship have not been very successful *as a whole* at making disciples who make disciples. Likewise, Santee Circle Community Church has also had less than acceptable success in making disciples who make disciples. We believe that transitioning to a small group method of discipleship will give us opportunities to better make disciples.

In a typical Sunday School, members come into class, sit down and hear teaching from a lesson with very little, if any, opportunity for intentional application to specific life situations, questions or communal learning for others in the group. Small group strategy encourages the application of biblical principles through the teaching styles utilized. Small groups also encourage the addressing of personal questions that are answered not just by the group leader, but also by fellow participants with biblical perspective on their own life experiences. For these and other reasons, the Elder Body of SCCC has, for some time, sensed God's leading to incorporate the small group strategy of discipleship into our church's ministry.

The next step in this process is the implementation of a combined Adult Sunday School model of discipleship to help prepare for the eventual move to a small group discipleship model. This begins next Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and will continue through August 28<sup>th</sup>. During this period, the adult Sunday School classes will come together at 9:00am in the Multi-purpose room for a joint teaching time. After this 30-40 minute teaching session, the group will then separate into small discussion groups to allow for a more in-depth examination of the material. During this discussion period, each small group is encouraged to share with one another how God is working in their lives from this portion of Scripture, as well as share victories, struggles, praises and needs so that God may use the members of each small group to help meet one another's needs. We are aware that many are already members of small groups that currently separate out of a larger "Sunday School Class" for the purpose of discussion. You are free to continue meeting with this same group. However, you are also free to take advantage of this transition time between April 10<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> to explore other groups remembering the principle of Titus, chapter 2 (*please go read it again*). This may be an opportunity to get to know others within our body a little better so that we learn from and edify one another. Then as the end of this transitional period comes to a close, each member will then choose which group or groups from the SCCC LiF Groups they will participate in. Each LiF Group will choose its own meeting time, day and place.

In the meantime, I ask that you continue to pray for the Elder Body, the Implementation Team, me as your pastor, and the church body as a whole. With God's direction and grace, added to our willingness to follow Him, coupled with a commitment to unity and love; Santee Circle Community Church will be productive in fulfilling the command given her by God: make disciples who worship One God by working through One Body for the purpose of winning One More to Christ.

*In Christ's Eternal Love,*

*Pastor Chris*

# Elder's

# CORNER

I had two eye opening experiences last week (3/27-4/3) that I would like to share with you. The Saturday of that week, after spending the first six hours of the day serving others in various ways, I was greatly influenced by my three wonderful children to go for our first boat ride of the year. So we cruised down the river from Gilligans to the Cypress Gardens boat landing and back. It was a beautiful afternoon and I count it a blessing to see Gods creation from the waterways. As we were nearing the no-wake zone at

Gilligans, my son Jacob said, "I thought you was going to let us jump in." Well I did the most natural thing a father could do, I cut the boat off and then challenged them...."Ya'll aint gonna jump in!" Sarah, Jacob and Emily jumped up and started for the back of the boat, and two minutes later, they were still in the back of the boat. Not one of them was brave/crazy enough to jump in. So, knowing that I have to lead by example, I removed my hat, sunglasses, and t-shirt, and in the river I went. It was an eye opener!

The second experience I had was earlier in the week. Due to a series of events that started on Monday and continued as the week progressed, by the time Wednesday rolled around, I was near the end of myself. Ashamedly, I had come a little unraveled. The past few weeks have been tough emotionally and physically and it all came to a head. Ever been there? I was really struggling and it was obvious to those who know me well. The sad thing is, my family became the innocent victim. Ever been there? But praise be to God, because of the bonds that have been made in a LIF (Living In Fellowship) Group, my dear brothers in Christ ministered to me. They called me daily and gave me words of encouragement and they prayed for me. Through those talks and prayers the burdens I had allowed to collect on my shoulders were removed. Those men have no idea how much the words of encouragement meant to me and my family. They were a God-send. I mean that from the very center of my soul. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 puts an emphasis on the obvious benefits of a true companion. (9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. 11 Again, if you lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? 12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.) When we are willing to share our lives with others, it prevents the problems that are associated with isolation and loneliness. A brother or sister in Christ will offer assistance, comfort, and defense. Matthew Henry said this "Surely he has more satisfaction in life, who labors hard to maintain those he loves, than the miser has in his toil. In all things, union tends to success and safety, but above all, the union of Christians. They assist each other while they converse together the love of Christ, or join in singing His praises. Then let us improve our opportunities of Christian Fellowship." What I experienced, and what Gods word says about the importance of a brother or sister in Christ, a true friend is just one of the many benefits we stand to gain as we step out in faith and move towards a structured discipleship process that will consist of Lif Groups. It creates an environment where people feel comfortable enough to take off their mask and get real with one another. It is a better way to get people connected where we can grow in community. In order for us to be a healthy part of the Body of Christ, we need to be growing in our spiritual walk, and serving out of the overflow of what God is doing in our lives.

We need to be connected and growing before we can truly be effective in the ministry God has for us. A healthy Lif Group provides us with love, friendship, accountability, and spiritual strength. Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Join us as we step out in faith, with the sole desire to make disciples who make disciples. This requires us to willingly step out of our comfort zone just like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses. By faith, we can overcome. Or, by a lack of faith, we can remain the same. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

In Christ's Love,  
*Shawn Trotter*

Has God ever given you  
a **SECOND CHANCE**  
at life?  
Has He ever given you  
a  
**SECOND CHANCE**  
with family?  
Has He ever given you  
a  
**SECOND CHANCE** to  
serve Him?  
Whatever  
**SECOND CHANCE**  
God has given you,  
other people need to  
hear it and be  
encouraged by it. If  
you are willing to share  
your  
**SECOND CHANCE**  
story, please send or  
email it to us at the  
church office at  
[santeccc@homesc.com](mailto:santeccc@homesc.com)  
Your story may be used  
in the upcoming ser-  
mon series entitled  
"God of  
**SECOND CHANCES**"!

# Changed Lives Ministry

## News

I would not have thought that Galatians 6:1 would be one of my life verses, but find that it fits with the mission of Changed Lives Ministry. A paraphrase of the verse is this: If someone stumbles let those who are spiritual restore this person in a spirit of love, humility, caring, gentleness. **BUT** be careful that you yourself do not stumble. This is a call to front line duty, being in the trenches, reaching out to those who in many cases have nowhere else to turn. We are to roll up our sleeves, get down and dirty and make a difference. And so that the term "spiritual" doesn't give you a big head, we are cautioned that we need to guard that we do not find ourselves fallen, needing restoration ourselves.

Seeing God work in the lives of the men who God sends to our program is miraculous. What humbles me is that it is not what we as a board do, but what God does when we are obedient to

His call to restore. Each graduation I look out at the church that is SCCC and am in awe because each person has provided part of the protective shell needed for us to be obedient in this ministry. We are making a difference, not because we are great, but because we have humbled ourselves to be obedient in God's work.

In 2010 we had 42 men successfully graduate from CLM. The cost for each student for the ten week program is about \$2500 (Doc would say \$2570) per student. That is amazing when you compare it to the cost of other programs. Well it is really a God thing. I am proud of the work being done, but am reminded by Paul that we have not arrived yet. We work to make our program more pleasing to God, an offering of time and effort that will please Him.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, during the graduation, we had one of the residents rededicate his life to his Savior. This is powerful stuff!! God is moving, and we are all a part of His great work. My prayer is that we run the good race and finish well (Paul again). May God be pleased, and may we always remember that God is good all the time.

We will be having our annual Appreciation Banquet on May 12<sup>th</sup>, where we say thank you to the community who has joined with us in this mission. We will have our open house on May 15<sup>th</sup>, where we will have our evening church service on the grounds. This is a time to gather together, lift our hands to heaven, and give God the glory for being willing to become Gal. 6:1 Christians.

Since our last newsletter, we've had 8 men graduate from our program: Chad Whaley, Kermit Clough, Michael Wereski, David Penn, Robert Jones and Jason Hardee, Cody Fullwood and Scott Vaughn. Michael, Jason, Robert and Scott have all moved into the Transitional House bringing it to maximum capacity. David Penn has joined our staff at CLM, and this has allowed James Riffle to move to the Transition House and help Larry Kennedy in overseeing this ministry. God is blessing us in so many ways.

Because of the willing hearts, we are able to make a difference in the front lines of God's work.

*Steve Meadows*

Check out our website @ [www.scclm.org](http://www.scclm.org)



## Kidz CONNECTION

Being a part of the children's program at Santee Circle Community Church is such a privilege!! We have some absolutely AMAZING kids that have been entrusted to us and we thank you for and continue to covet your prayers as we attempt to minister to and grow up well-grounded, faithful warriors for Jesus Christ.

We really hope that you will be with us this Sunday morning at 10:30 am as our kidz CONNECTION crew will be presenting the "Seven C's of History" for the congregation! God has really been on the move as we have delved into His Word to discover that the "History Book of the Universe", aka The Bible, has clearly documented history beginning with the creation of the world and everything in it, all the way through the consummation, which has yet to come but has already been foretold in Scripture as to how God's plan for humanity will ultimately be completed. The kids have been working really hard to prepare for this exciting Sunday and we hope you will be there!!

Spring break is right around the corner and our awesome children's director, Melony Peters, has an incredible week planned for any and all who would like to participate. The bus will be running and kids of all ages will have the opportunity to go to the Aquarium & Fort Sumter, have picnics, make t-shirts, have daily devotions and much more! The cost is \$20 for four action packed days of fellowship and fun...see Melony or one of the children's workers for more details or to sign your child up! Thank you all for your support and prayers and please keep them coming!!!

## Keeping Onward

Just like the great philosopher once said, it is time to "...keep on keeping on..." I am reminded of Henry Blackaby in his writings in Experiencing God for the Christian to always do what God told him to do last. Thus, in the middle of our leading the SCCC youth, we are doing just that...we are and have been revisiting who God is and why it is important to listen / follow Him.

In Ps 19 and Hebrews 10, God's word is clear for the believer to beware of committing "known" sins and being "willfully disobedient". The youth workers and I have gone to and through great pains getting these loving facts across as they (and you) live their every day lives. God wants to be involved in every aspect of all our lives; this includes the following: normal every day activities, your reading materials, your TV shows, your music, your computer searches, your movie selections, your conversations, your actions, your thoughts and your inner-most thoughts! No matter who you are or what you do, our lives are to be a reflection of Jesus Himself (Gal 2:20).

In the midst of such great world turmoil, it is more critical now that Christians...real Christians...stand firm in the faith and lead by holy example. We have too much lip service these days from "leaders", TV evangelists, politicians, news reporters, etc. that are seemingly influencing our families more than they should. Where is Jesus in all of this? He is in the same place we left Him when we forsook Him. It is time for God's people to listen and obey their Father! If God gave us His holy words in Deut. 6:4-9, he expects us to obey out of our loving devotion to Him. Any act of disobedience only divulges our continued enmity (anger) with the One who loved us first and sent His only Son as a paid-in-full ransom! Is it possible to turn our backs on Him who loves us so...the One who can "...kill the body and damn the soul" (Luke 12:5-6)?

Who are we kidding or trying to fool? God knows all and is in all. Get on board while the "getting is good" and prepare your heart for worship knowing that all filthiness in us will be exposed. Be in good standing with God by praying and confessing. Be motivated by the Holy Spirit in Bible reading and meditation. Exercise the gifts that the Lord has granted you in sharing His love with all folks. Worry not about the evil one, fear God and obey His commands for this is our acceptable act of faith and worship (Ecc. 12:13-14). In other words, continue to press onward to the calling which God has given you (Phil 3:14). God is good...let Him know this by the life you lead!!!

Let's get back to "Ground Zero" where Jesus lovingly gave it all for us!!!...Keeping Onward!!!

*Pastor Robby*

SC<sup>3</sup> → GZERO

### 1st Quarter Comparision of 2010 & 2011 Offerings

