

## From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Tony

### Imitators of Christ - For God's Glory!

I was reminded not long ago by one of the BOE members about God's goodness to us here at Riverchase Community Church. He said, "God has been faithful to supply our every need." I immediately thought about how God has supplied our finances. I thought about many individuals that our church has helped financially, and whom we have supported through prayer. I thought about the generous giving of the people of RCC. We are a blessed church! God has been faithful. All of us can, if we look in the right direction, stand amazed at God's faithfulness and His answers to our prayers.



Yet in the midst of troubling economy, a divided country, news of doom and gloom, it is always easy to look at who we are, what we are doing, and find displeasure, discontentment, and despair. It is unfortunate and dishonoring to God that some individuals want to bring that spirit into His church and among God's people.

Yes it is true, we can look at our building and can find a several things wrong with it. But I am so blessed because I see individuals who work hard to fix it, to restore it, to maintain it. I am encouraged by the number of individuals who paint walls, fix faucets, install hot water heaters, fix doors, work on gutters and clean out downspouts. Our church is truly blessed to have persons who care, who give their time, their resources to make our building much better than it is.

It is also true that we could look at leadership and find fault. This is not new. Moses had grumblers and complainers, Jesus had grumblers and complainers. I can tell you there will always be those who will find fault with God's servants. But I am humbled by individuals who have hearts of gold and humble spirits who are truly surrendered to the Lord. There have been a number of persons who have encouraged me because they have been blessed in the last few months by the anointed services and messages. We are also blessed to see how special events like "Family Fun Night" and "Vacation Bible School" led by our Children's Pastor has reached a number of preschool families, and families in the community. We are blessed to see how our Pastor of Student Ministries has a student leadership team that is bringing in new students. Our youth are a vital part of our church and our ministry right now. We could find fault and grumble and complain about every aspect of ministry, every leader in ministry, and even every blessing we don't want to recognize, but that is not God's plan.

Why does every church have to deal with those who bring despair and discouragement to the people they worship with, to the place they share fellowship, and to the community of believers where we see God blessing the most? That spirit is a carnal spirit, it is an attitude that is not from God. It is an unholy attitude, it is un-Christlike in word and deed. God has instructed us as His believers to love God with all our heart, our soul, our mind, and our strength. He told us to love our neighbors as ourselves. He told us others will know if we really are his disciples by the way we love each other. Not long ago I preached God's clear word in Ephesians 4:29, "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*" We can also read Paul's words in Phil. 2:14, 15 "*Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*"

My word in that message and my word to you today is God's word...*Give life to others, not death; speak grace, not despair; give God's love and forgiveness, not ill-will and rebuke. Let every one of us be imitators of Christ and committed to exalt His church. Do all that you can to lift up the body of Christ. Be encouragers, grace-givers, lovers of the word and followers of Christ. Let us seek ways to build up the body of Christ, to support it. God is faithful to us, let us be faithful to Him. Everything we have belongs to the Lord so let us be good stewards to give as God has blessed us!*

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## RCC STUDENT NEWS

### Revolution

The first few weeks of the school year are focused around "Revolution." The first step was taken on August 12th where we met and spoke about the importance of each student taking responsibility for the student ministries at RCC. I invited each student to minister alongside me to impact their family and friends.



Most of September will have a similar theme. We will be participating in an evangelistic curriculum centered on relationships and prayer called 360 Revolution. Evangelism is a scary term for most and even myself. It's scary because we often invasion those people yelling on the street corners or running up to us in malls giving a tract while in some way trying to convince you of your need for Jesus. *360 Revolution* does not revolve around these awkward and impersonal interactions but rather natural and personal relationships.

This easy to remember evangelism tool will have the students pick 3 friends who aren't believers, praying for them 6 times a week, and miss 0 opportunities to share the love of Christ.

Josh

*My purpose is that they may be united in heart and united in love... Col. 2:2*



### Up-Coming Events

#### September

*6th IYC Parents' Meeting after Sunday school in youth room.*

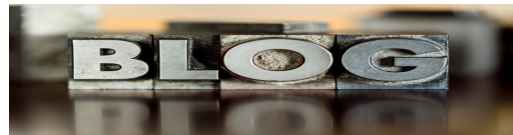
*13th Teacher Appreciation*

*13th SALT Team meeting after Sunday School*

## PARENTS



IYC2010 is not far away and there is a lot of planning ahead. Right now we have planned to take a week long trip with other groups from Alabama and around the country to Orlando, FL. If your student(s) are interested in attending this awesome event. I ask that you attend the parents' meeting September 6th.



Check out what the students are experiencing and learning on Wednesday nights at <http://242studentministries.wordpress.com>

You can also find this link on our website at [www.riverchase.cc](http://www.riverchase.cc) under the "Student Ministries" link.

*\*Don't forget how important it is for you to discuss your faith and encourage your child!*

## Preschool/MDO

Mrs. Mel

RIVERCHASE COMMUNITY CHURCH

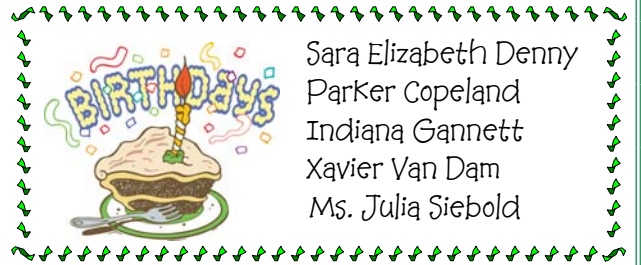
RCC



LC  
LEARNING CENTER

The preschool has a new look! We are now called the Riverchase Community Church Learning Center. Special thanks to those who helped create this new logo.

We'd like to welcome Austin Weiger, Sadie Sayers, Campbell Jenkins, Katie Ponder, Rama Zuaiteer, and Ethan West as new students to our facility.



Sara Elizabeth Denny  
Parker Copeland  
Indiana Gannett  
Xavier Van Dam  
Ms. Julia Siebold

*We will be closed on September 7th for Labor Day!!!*

## Counseling Corner

Alan Swindall

One of my family therapy teachers emphasized over and over – “relationships, relationships, relationships - they are not only interesting, they are all that is. Everything that is, is, because it is in relationship to something or someone else.” Certainly this appreciation of relationships is central to Christian beliefs. The Bible itself underscores the significance of relationships, for “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,” begins our scriptural pilgrimage. While relationships are central, they are not always easy – especially those with other people! A common analogy often used to explain family relationships is found in baking. The cake that comes out of the oven is more than the eggs, flour, oil, baking soda, and vanilla that make up the *parts* or *elements* of the cake. It is how these elements combined to form something larger than the ingredients that make the cake. Such is true with families. It is more than ‘who makes up a family,’ it is how they come together or relate to one another that defines that family,” (<http://family.jrank.org/pages/597/Family-Systems-Theory-Basic-Concepts-Propositions.html#ixzz0NFSMOBUB>.) Over the next several issues of *Currents* I will share some thoughts on healthy family relationships.



Alan Swindall, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist is director of RCC Counseling Center and provides family life coaching for church and community. He can be contacted at 668-2344 or [AlanSwindall.org](http://AlanSwindall.org)

## College Ministry

Continue to keep up with our college bound students:



**Harold Cooley**  
10 Forest Lake Drive  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
**Sarah Hunter**  
173 Cedar Bend Drive  
Helena, AL 35080

**Matt Pledger**  
1448 Secretariat Drive  
Helena, AL 35080  
**Drew Oldham**  
127 Weatherly Way  
Pelham, AL 35124  
**Connor Portwood**  
920 16th Street South  
Box #442  
Birmingham, AL 35205

**Joy Rolader**  
4477 Lee Rd 137, Lot 60  
Auburn, AL 36832  
**Laura Scollard**  
UM Box 2819  
PO Box 6571  
Montevallo, AL 35115  
**Taylor McDowell**  
106 St. Charles Drive  
Helena, AL 35080



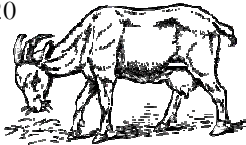
# RCC Kid Chat

Fall 2009

## Upcoming Opportunities

- Oct 2 Kids Rally/Parents Night Out
- Oct. 31 Fall Festival 3-5pm
- Oct. 14-Nov 4 Scream Free Parenting
- Nov 6 Kids Rally/ Parents Night Out
- Dec 4 Kids Rally/Parents Night Out

Missions Project update:  
 Heifer International goal \$120  
 \*\*\*\*\*Raised \$120\*\*\*\*\*  
 Smile Train goal \$250  
 Raised \$109.52



## Wednesday Night Kids

Are you ready to celebrate? Kindergarteners through 6th graders have a new yearly theme on Wednesday nights. We will learn all about how God's people celebrate. As a part of our program we will have games, snacks, crafts, worship time, story time and an object lesson. There will also be opportunities to earn prizes. Join us on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30.



## A Full Fall

Around here there are not many signs that fall is on the way other than the kids are back to school and a calendar full of opportunities. Fall is, of course, time for our Annual Fall Festival. This year the fun will be on October 31st from 3-5pm. There will be activities planned for the whole family. This is a free event and you are encouraged to bring all your friends and your whole family. Also in October we start our Kids Rally/Parents Night Out events. These events are on the first Friday of the month from 6-9pm. In October we will also begin practicing for our Christmas musical. Practice will be on Wed. nights beginning Oct. 4th. The same night we will also begin a four week parenting seminar. This year RCC will also offer Upward basketball. Sign-up will begin in September and October.

## What did you do this summer?

School has started and the big question is what did you do this summer. If the RCC Kids Ministry had to answer this question this is what they would say. 7 kids went to church camp, 5 kids worshipped under the stars with Northside Church of God, 50 kids came to for a week of VBS, 3 kids learned about baptism and will be baptized in September, we led worship on July 19th, we bought a goat for a family in need, we collected hygiene products for area families, 11 families attended the family fun night, we took a few trips to Snowbiz, 5 of us were trained to be leaders in Children's church, we built a tabernacle in Sunday school, and 16 kids were promoted to new Sunday School classes. As you can see something is always happening with RCC Kids. If you are not already a part of it plan to join us in the Fall.

# State Church of God News

## Fundraiser

Camp Chula Vista is selling t-shirts, lanyards, and wristbands as a fundraiser for the cabin area. The profits will be used for purchasing or replacing canoes, paddles, life jackets, picnic tables, paint ball set, ping-pong table, and equipment.

The items come in many different colors. The front of the t-shirt says "i believe," and "Mark 9:23." The back says, "camp chula vista," and "everything is possible for him who believes." The cost for Small to Extra Large is \$12. For sizes 2X and 3X, the cost is \$15. The lanyards are \$3 and the wristbands are \$2. To purchase these items, contact Christa Little at 256-466-2407 or [christalittle@charter.net](mailto:christalittle@charter.net). Visit their facebook page called "[i believe.](#)"



## Women of the Church of God



The WCG Fall Retreat is September 11-12th at Camp Chula Vista. The theme is a "Weekend of Praise." The group wants this year's retreat to have the largest crowd ever. Registration begins on Friday, September 11th at 4pm with dinner served at 6pm. The worship leader this year is Michaelle Basinger, the youth leader at Community South Church of God in Decatur. The speaker Friday night is Faye Asbury, the pastor of Albertville Worship Center. Saturday's speaker is Jan Houston, pastor of the Church of God in Tuscaloosa.

The \$5 pre-registration is due by September 8th. The rest of the registration is \$25, which includes meals. The group is also taking donations for "Granny's Cupboard." Please bring items that are in good condition. Jellies, jams, and hand-made items are always a hit.

For more information about this event, flyers are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, or you can call the church office.

## Senior Quest

The theme for Senior Quest this year is "In Times Like These" and will take place Thursday, October 29th thru Saturday, October 31st. Registration is \$10 and the cost of meals is: Breakfast, \$6; Lunch, \$7; Supper, \$8. To stay in the motel the cost is: one person, \$53; two people, \$26.50; three people, \$20.50; four people, \$17.50. Registration forms are available in the church office if you are interested in going.





# Oak Mountain Missions

## Fundraiser

The third annual *Harvest of Hope Luncheon* will take place on Thursday, September 24 from 11:30 to 1 pm, at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center. The luncheon is the only fundraiser in 2009 for Oak Mountain Missions. The Mission is asking people to prayerfully consider being a table host/hostess for this wonderful event. The approximate price of the lunch will be \$30 per person. Every penny above that will go toward providing help for their clients. Part of the lunch will include a silent auction that begins at 10:00 am. Donations are appreciated.

God has richly blessed Oak Mountain Missions this year with a new facility, an active Ladies Auxiliary, and many caring volunteers from all denominations. In addition, Alabama's First Lady, Patsy Riley, has graciously accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker. Janet Hall will again be the Mistress of Ceremonies.

More information is in the church office. If you would like to host/hostess a table, please email [oakmtnmissions@yahoo.com](mailto:oakmtnmissions@yahoo.com) by August 31, 2009.

*"A generous man will himself be blessed, for he shares his food with the poor" Proverbs 22:9*

## Thank You

To All Who Participated:

Thank you so much for your generous donation of personal hygiene items. We appreciate your organizing and collecting through the vacation bible school. Please let the children know that a lot of needy families have benefited from their participation.

Again, God is always faithful to fulfill the needs of His children.

May God bless your church family richly.

Sincerely, Roddy Cooper, Director, Oak Mtn Missions Ministry



# Looking Ahead

## Get Out Your Address Books!

Riverchase Community Church is making arrangements to celebrate 30 years as a church next year. This is a big anniversary and we want everyone who ever came to church here to attend. The details have not been finalized, but when they are, we want to invite those who were so integral in the 30 year history of RCC. If you still keep in contact with people who attended our church but no longer come, please email [office@riverchase.cc](mailto:office@riverchase.cc) or call the church office (205) 988-8515 so that we can invite them to the festivities.



## September 13

A special service is being planned for the Sunday of September 13th. Abby Smith will come and speak about her upcoming mission ministry in Colombia. We will also have baptisms and teacher appreciation. Pastor Tony also plans to begin his new sermon series "Just Walk Across The Room." Make a special effort to attend this service!

## Coming in



- 2nd—Kids' Rally
- 3rd—Elders & Strategic Planning Retreat
- 4th—Committee Budgets Due
- 7th, 18th—Choir Practice
- 13th, 27th—MOPS
- 9th, 27th—Choir Practice
- 14th—"Scream-free Parenting" Class begins
- 15th—Gideons' Meeting
- 17th—GNO Baby Luncheon for Megan Romero at Cheesecake Factory
- 20th—BOE meeting
- 25th—Pastor Josh preaching
- 29th-31st—Senior Quest
- 31st—MDO Open House, Fall Festival



## Men's



September 12th at 8 am

Just Walk Across the Room

New Sermon Series  
Begins September 13th



Wednesday,  
September 9th at  
7:30 pm

Sunday, September 27th at 12 noon



September 8th & 22nd, 6:30-8:30 pm

Scrapbooking September 19th 8:00 am-10:00 pm

**Malachi 3:10** "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty.



July Tithe income:	\$17,754
July Preschool Income:	\$23,847
July Church Expenses:	\$25,835
July Preschool Expenses:	\$19,376
Net income:	<b>-\$3,610</b>

## Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Life of Jesus

Begins September 16th



September 19th, lunch at 11  
Tee-off at 12:30



## GOLF SCRAMBLE Fundraiser

\$50 per person, at R'chase Country Club to support youth leaders trip to IYC & Africa Mission Trip

Budget Planning for Next Year



**Committees start working on your Budgets this month!!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Activities	3	4	5
6 9:30 AM Pastor Christy Preach 12:00 PM 242 Parent Meeting about IYC	7  <b>Labor Day</b> Office & Learning Center Closed	8 6:30 PM MOPS	9 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Activities 7:30 PM Choir Practice	10	11 <b>Patriot Day</b> WCG Fall Retreat	12  WCG Fall Retreat 8:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast
13  9:30 AM Teacher Appreciation, Abby Smith, Baptisms 12:00 PM SALT mtg.	14	15 6:30 PM Board of Elders Meeting, Committee Budgets	16  <b>New Bible Study Series</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Activities	17 6:30 PM Gideon's Meeting	18	19  MOPS Scrapbooking 11:00 AM Golf Fundraiser Lunch 12:30 PM Golf Fundraiser Tee-off
20	21	22 <b>First Day of Autumn</b> 6:30 PM MOPS	23 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Activities	24 10:00 AM OMM Silent Auction/lunch	25	26
27 Meal at Jessie's Place 7:30 PM Choir Practice	28	29  Oak Mountain Mission Golf Tournament	30 6:30 PM Wednesday Night Activities			



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Welcome to  
William James Clowdus  
Born August 19th to  
Michael & Indra.  
Grandchild of Bill & Lucy Oldham.