

Communication

May 2007 – Issue One

from the O’Fallon Church of Christ

**Scott Rank
Communications Deacon**

Welcome to the initial issue of what the Communications Ministry hopes to be a monthly newsletter that will be used to help pass to you the visions, thoughts, status, and requests for action and support from the O’Fallon Elders, Deacons, Ministers, Ministry leaders and office staff. It is an attempt to help facilitate the flow of information from us to you, the members of the church family, so that we all can work more harmoniously in our vision of Adoring God, Building up the Saints, and Creating Disciples.

Communication is sometimes defined as a process by which meanings are exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols. It takes two for the process to work; one to initiate the thought, idea, request, or insight, and the second to be the one that the message is directed at, the recipient. The role of the Communication Ministry is to help facilitate that process between the two. We are not the creators, nor the receivers, but the conduit between the two. And communication is not just a one-way path, it goes both ways. We hope that those who receive these messages we send give us feedback on how to make it better, more efficient, or what it is that you really want to know about. Tell us what you want to hear, and we will try to make it happen. Feel free to write it down and drop it in the “Rank” Family Communication hanging folder in the lobby, my mail slot in the church office, send it to my home email at drank@centurytel.net, or just tell me in person. I would love to hear your ideas, and especially those concerning this new newsletter we are starting.

Adoring God Worship

Jesus is Lord!

Have you noticed anything different about our worship services lately? More people are singing! The Bible says they sang hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs. We do the same thing today. When a person sings, he/she declares the words they sing. This may be the only time during a week when a person utters anything spiritual or theological. (This is why I like to have people read scriptures along with me!) When you sing you get to say, with all the other saints, the same thing; namely that Jesus is Lord of my life! Some songs speak of it in a round about way but the theme is still there, Jesus is Lord of my life! When a crowd says it together, it is more powerful. When a crowd *lives* it together it is overpowering! So let’s all continue to sing with all our hearts together, as we encourage and reaffirm the thing we know is true, *Jesus is Lord of my life!*

Scott Adair, Deacon Worship Ministry

Trivia question of the month

How many **different** songs did we sing at all of our worship assemblies in 2006? In other words, only count a song once even if we sang that song several times. Turn in your guess to Gary Horn by May 23rd. Winner and answer will be published next month.

Gary Horn, Elder

Worship Planning

We have four generations worshipping together. Each person prefers things a certain way. I could ask what your favorite song is and get 300 different responses. Isn't that great!? The beauty of that is that we can share our favorites and learn different songs together. Here are some thoughts; all hymns, psalms and spiritual songs were new at one time. All hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs are old. The newest ones haven't been written yet. The best one is the one given from your heart to God, no matter what century it was written or what style it may be.

We try to keep a good mix of these in each service. Our goal is to pick songs that fit with what the sermon topic or theme is for the week. At the beginning of the year, we had a theme for each month; A, B, C. We kept the theme Adoring God through January, Building up the Saints in February, and Creating Disciples in March. It can be tough to put something together that fits a theme each week. It is great when it all works beautifully with the sermon, call to worship, communion thoughts, and scripture reading. I hope that those in attendance can appreciate the effort put forth by our servants in the worship service. It can be difficult at times and joyful at times!

Did you know it takes 30 people to operate our AM worship service every week? Yes, it's true (I counted)! Most operate behind the scenes in serving positions like ushers, nursery workers, Power Hour teachers, service coordinators. Needless to say, it is difficult to staff a worship service every week with different people. We try not to use one person more than once per month, but as it is right now, I must ask some to serve several times each month. So I'm asking again for those who do not serve, to please help. I keep a list of servants and what jobs they are comfortable doing. It is not just for worship services. If there is ANYTHING you feel you can help with, please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to my Family Communications hanging folder in the lobby. Remember, any service you perform for others is a form of worship to the Lord. You are becoming a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord. Thank you in advance for stepping up to help. This church will go far, but it will go farther when the whole team pulls together.

Scott Adair, Deacon Worship Ministry

Worship Ministry Sign-Up

Name: _____ **Contact Info:** _____

I'd like to serve doing: _____

Fill out, tear off, and deposit in Scott Adair's Communication hanging folder in the church

It's All One Big Sacrifice

As we press on toward the goal of a heavenly dwelling, we work and live together as a family here on earth. One description of Heaven is; uncounted saints praising and worshipping the Lord for eternity; and we look forward to being a part of that great gathering. Until then, what can we do while we look forward to that time? We can accept Jesus as the Son of God, repent from our sins, be baptized for their forgiveness, and live lives of righteousness. Isn't it *amazing* that we have been saved? Isn't it *awesome* that Jesus provided the way for us to enter eternal life? How can we show others how awesome it is? By presenting your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. In other words; **living the Word**.

How does this translate into what we call corporate worship? Among other things, the Bible is telling us to live our lives sacrificially all the time; giving to others, encouraging others, supporting others, unselfish living. And when we do that, we have become living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. Our corporate worship is the time for us to encourage one another on the road to eternal life. Encouragement, giving, and prayer are direct ways to live sacrificially. The Bible tells us when and where the first Christians met to worship together and we try to follow their example in this. But it did not restrict us. It did not say "when you meet, you must meet in a building on Sunday at 9:00am for Bible School, 10:00am for worship and again Sunday night at 5:00pm, Also Wednesday night at 7:00pm. And the order of worship will always be the same."

The fact is; we can meet anywhere, anytime and give honor to the Lord in many varied ways. For example, the first Christians met in houses; we meet mostly in a building. They ate most meals together, we eat few meals together. They sold possessions and gave the proceeds to the church so others in the church would not be needy. We give money to the church ministries which in turn support our needy. We follow the lead of the first Christians worship style in many ways but have adapted some of the physical aspects of worship without sacrificing the spiritual. We pray, sing, preach the Gospel, remember the Lord's Supper, read scripture, encourage, give, and support one another just as they did.

So when we meet together in corporate worship, let's encourage each other. Let's sing it like you mean it! Let's pray with humble hearts bowed to God. Let's partake of the Lord's Supper with right attitudes. Let's give like we're giving to ourselves! Let's worship God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strengths as Jesus told us. May God see our worship to Him as holy and acceptable.

Scott Adair, Deacon Worship Ministry

... from the study

As I found myself studying God's Word, I became so convicted by a revelation that I wanted to share with you what could be as big a blessing in your life as it was in mine. The following study encompasses the "He who is without sin among you, first cast a stone at her" passage of scripture found in John 8:2-11. This scripture proceeds from the premise that this is just a story of forgiveness for the woman caught in the act of adultery, but I submit to you, brothers and sisters, that this is also a *legal battle between the Lord's accusers and Jesus Himself*. You see, the scribes and the Pharisees brought the woman to Him not to convict her, but to convict **Him**! In the end, of course, it was they who were attempting to discredit Jesus that was convicted, not by Jesus, but of their own conscious. We should also recognize how all of this took place in the temple, and it is here that I wish to make the point.

Our bodies are not just flesh and blood, but the temples of God and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19). In that the accusation, the presentation of the sinner, and the presence of Jesus all occurred within the physical temple, the conclusion can be drawn that the same thing occurs within the temples of our bodies. We have sin that is conceived in our minds.

Satan (scribes and Pharisees) attempts to use that to convict us and to trip up Jesus. It is the part of our minds that guides us away from wrongdoing and turns back the devil that is Jesus working in our lives and defending us.

The scribes and Pharisees did not win in scripture. This tells us that they should not and do not have to win within us. "Greater is He that is within you than he that is within the world," (I John 4:4). We already have the victory. It is up to us to resist the devil, and he will flee, just as the scribes and Pharisees did.

May God richly bless you.

Lee Lewis, Pulpit Minister

Building up the Saints

Fellowship and Involvement

Counseling Ministry Status Report

As the counseling coordinator I was asked as my first task is to put together a resource pamphlet to aide you, your loved ones and friends, if you need help in any way or form, it will be at your fingertips. This information will consist of one or more counseling agency (ies) to help for individual, marriage, and other avenues that might be needed to aide anyone to recovery of any issue. This will not be a stagnant list, but a list that can be added to if anyone has any information that has been overlooked by mistake. I will accept any reference that anyone might have, and take it into consideration. I look forward to finishing this list of references and helping you in any way possible.

I am also looking into having a sign made to put out in the front yard of the building for CFS. This sign will be advertising the days, hours, and phone number of CFS. Janice Wade is the contact person who works with CFS that comes and uses our building. Currently she is here on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. In the past the sign that we have put on our big sign out front has accounted for as many as ten walk in a week. This is a great service to our community. It would be great if we had to have CFS out in O'Fallon on a daily basis, and not just two or three times a week. If you know anyone who has requested counseling, who would like to be a foster-parent, or adopt a child please have him or her call CFS.

Thank you in advance for all the support that you will be giving this work to make our congregation, and community a healthier place.

Lincoln Yowell, Deacon Counseling Coordinator

Member Care Ministry Report

The member care ministry began in April 2006 when the elders asked Reiders Abel to make visits to those in the hospital, homebound or sick at home. It was decided that a team of volunteers to assist in making visits would be helpful; therefore, a visitation team was formed in September. Present members are the Abel, Baggett, Cude, Jones, Longar and Terry families. The team meets twice each month and assignments are made to make sure everyone is visited. Each family usually gets two assignments each meeting or four per month. We call and visit these people and keep others advised of any needs that might arise.

During the first quarter of 2007 sixty nine assignments were made to team members. This team proved to be helpful especially when the weather was severe and many phone calls were made to the elderly and those with health problems. There have been several times when

members of our family needed someone to stay with them, sometimes around the clock, and members of this congregation responded along with some of our team members.

There are times when our youth are in the hospital and we are fortunate that Arby's (located near I-70 and Hwy. K) has given gift certificates to Reiders and Melanie, to help cheer them up. This is a small but much appreciated contribution. Please support Arby's with your business whenever you can.

Reiders and Melanie made 59 visits during the first quarter, some of which are included in the visits made by the visitation team. Other visitation team members make unrecorded visits. John and Lavada Jones are especially busy doing more than their fair share. For many years, they have dedicated their time and energy serving in this capacity. Their efforts, help, and communication has contributed greatly to the well-being of many people as well as the overall success of our team.

Our goal is to make sure the needs of our sick and elderly are met. We welcome additional volunteers to help us make sure your member care ministry succeeds. As a visitation team member your ideas and help in maturing this area of service would be appreciated. If you feel this is a needed service and want to be a part of this team, please contact Reiders Abel.

Reiders Abel, Member Care Minister

Shut-In List

Sybil Asberry	636-278-4880	406 Birdie Hills Rd St. Peters, MO 63376-1940
Rita Harris	314-429-0703	3101 O'Hare Dr St. Ann, MO 63074-3829
Betty Hawkins	636-397-3302	534 Starwood Dr St. Peters, MO 63376-5402
Mary Miller	636-795-8045	1501 Lockwood Ln St. Peters, MO 63376-4341
Sally Scherer	636-940-2518	1025 Jackson St St. Charles, MO 63301-2605
Donna Sellers	636-272-6795	503 Duchesne Ave O'Fallon, MO 63366-2725

Communications

Communications Ministry April Status Report

The Communications Ministry has utilized formats to help transfer information between the ministries and the church family and visitors.

Life Groups which meet the first and third Sunday nights in the homes of many members are now highlighted on the bulletin board in the foyer, using a map which highlights the meeting locations/areas from which each group is drawn. Name, address and contact information is given for each group leader so that those who do not attend, or visitors now can find out how to attend that group. That same info is also captured on the green flyers that hang on the map, and all are encouraged to take one to help in finding a group to get involved with.

The Phone Tree continues to be put into use, and is being lead by Rinda Ontiveros. If you have changes to your phone number, want to be of service as one of the branches who call, or are not one of the leaves, contact Rinda with your information.

The church activities calendar for the year is maintained on the office wall by Debbie Nguyen, and upcoming church events are highlighted in the bulletin each week on the front page. Be sure and stop in to see things in the future so that your schedule can be revised to include them, and you won't miss out on many of the ways in which we serve Him, and reach out to family and the community.

A Welcome Folder has been designed, written, printed and assembled based upon input from many ministries and members, and now can be found on the Visitor Information Center desk in one of the plastic stands. It is modular in format, colorful as each insert is a different color, and able to be updated individually as needed. Here one can find an insert with photos showing all the Elders and short biographies, another listing all Sunday and Wednesday night classes with teacher name and room location, and a floor layout of the church on the back, the Ladies' Ministries with points-of-contact, and others, 11 total inserts in all. Take one to pass to a friend or neighbor. If you see corrections, revisions, or just have a suggestion, pass it on to Scott Rank.

With this Communications newsletter you have the latest addition to our ministries arsenal of methods. Feel free to give us feedback, Shelley Lewis is the editor, as we welcome your comments on what we can do to make it better. With this just the first issue, it will get better and we work out the kinks, and as the ministries see its help in disseminating information from them to you.

Start practicing your smiles. Photos boards are in the process of being built, and then will be mounted on the back walls of the auditorium. Digital photos will then be taken of each family from which color photos are printed and will be used to identify all O'Fallon family members on the wall. The family photo will also be used as the basis of a new 3-ring binder membership directory that will include address and contact information.

The Communications Ministry has been busy and active trying to facilitate the flow of information to you, our O'Fallon church family. Scott Rank, Communications Deacon, is always looking for suggestions on how we can serve you better, and what it is that you want to hear. We look forward to your support as we strive to serve Him.

Scott Rank, Communications Deacon

Study to show yourself approved ... 2Timothy 2:15

Translations other than the King James Version admonish us to correctly handle the word of truth. Whatever Bible translation we choose, it comes down to a simple idea: We need to know God's word.

By knowing His word, we are better able to teach our friends and neighbors. That's obvious. But we also need to know how the Word applies to our everyday life. With a plethora of pop-psychologists and self-help books available, it's easy to forget the source of all wisdom and knowledge. This is as dangerous as it is easy.

Our lives are busy and complicated, but is there really anything new? Can we find a problem in today's world that doesn't appear in the Bible in some form? We can't know unless we study. And by study, I don't mean just when we think we need an answer. I mean every day.

God's word must become part of who we are. If His word isn't in our hearts and minds, then that void will be filled with someone or something else. I'm sure Dr. Phil and Oprah are fine folks. Dr. Dobson and the other Christian radio hosts have much to say that is helpful and uplifting. But the bottom line is that we are told to "study" and to "handle accurately" God's word.

There is another benefit that I enjoy by daily reading of God's word. I often find myself in the morning facing a hectic and full schedule. I have much to do and little time in which to do it. How can I afford the time to sit and read my Bible? Perhaps a better question is "Can I afford **not** to take the time for God's word?"

Time and time again, when I succumb to the temptation to "put off" God until a more convenient time, I pay for it in turmoil and anxiety. But when I tell myself to "STOP!" and take that time for God, I reap the benefits all day. That doesn't mean everything goes the way I'd like it to go. My day can still be tumultuous. It simply means that by taking the time to read His

word, I can face whatever comes my way with calm assurance. Stress is less and less a part of my life.

Study in whatever way suits you. Do the one year study, find a devotional aid at the Christian book store, pick a topic and pursue it, go from Genesis to Revelation. However you wish to get into God's word is fine. Just do it. You'll never regret the time spent with Him. I guarantee that he'll speak to you when you need it.

Charles Ontiveros, Elder

Operations

Transfer of Financial Responsibilities

The Finance Ministry is in the process of transferring responsibilities from Anthony Quintana over to Jared Kizer, Norm Gilbert, and Josh Ayers. The final transfer of financial responsibilities will be complete around the 1st of June.

Josh Ayers, Finance Ministry member

How to submit check requests, and this includes budgeted items

"Check Request Forms" are available in the church office in Anthony Quintana's wall file. The forms should be completed and submitted to Anthony's wall file, two weeks before the money/check is needed.

Debbie Nguyen, Office Staff

Creating Disciples

Outreach

Nursing Home Ministry Report

We began a new ministry at Park Place in the Wingham area here in O'Fallon in October of 2006. Our Sunday morning worship service is presented for both the shut in and independent living wings of the facility. Numbers vary from week to week. We average 4-5 people per Sunday. Please keep in mind the total residency of Park Place is around 50 people (Many still attend their own congregation).

We are very blessed to have two outstanding Christian young women (Michelle Horn and Rebecca Ontiveros) who show so much love for our attendees at worship. We are also blessed by the commitment by Ron Manis, Jane and Gryf Ketcherside in overseeing the service each week, but more importantly, the sincerity of their love for the Lord and for those who live at Park Place who are dear to us.

Short and Long Term Planning

- 1) In the immediate future, our plan is to continue to affirm our love for these people. We believe through these relationships, new residence will be encouraged to start attending our services.
- 2) Plans are in the works for a little "get together" with refreshments and entertainment. This a good means of outreach to the residence at Park Place.
- 3) The long-term goal is to nurture a desire in the people who are able to get out, to come over for the 10:00am worship here at the congregation.

- 4) Start additional worship services at other homes.
- 5) Put more effort into being involved in these people's lives.

Needs

More people who can stop by Park Place to visit with our shut ins. Members who are willing to be involved in the Sunday morning service (song leaders, communion, prayer and sermons).

Personal Bible study at Park Place.

Those who would be willing to conduct Sunday services at other nursing homes.

John McClellan, Nursing Home Ministry Deacon

Evangelism Ministry Report

Following is the Evangelism Team Plan that was initiated 5-21-06 and will be ongoing in 2007. The plan includes the recognition of each guest that we have at O'Fallon Church of Christ. Recognition includes letters, calls, and visits by the team of 7 Elders, 2 Ministers, and others as necessary. Records are maintained on each family unit. Support and bible studies are offered as necessary to make each guest feel they are not a stranger here.

Evangelism Team Plan

- 1. One Year commitment
- 2. Team-12 Men – 7 Elders, 2 Ministers, 3 Deacons
- 3. Team Coordinator/Coach- John
- 4. Team Records-Randy/Debbie
- 5. Follow procedures/record keeping as in previous Evangelism plan
- 6. Team in receiving area before/after class and worship
- 7. Two to stay during class each Sunday (rotate)
- 8. Coordinator to assign visits/contacts
- 9. Visits/contacts and reports to be completed within one week
- 10. Each Team member to recruit 1 visitation team immediately
- 11. Each Team member to recruit 1 Bible Study team within 1 Year
- 12. Monthly Report of visit/contacts, Bible studies, and new members

Additional team members are needed to replace the Elders. Men and Women interested will work with one of existing team member until you feel comfortable. Please see John Burnett 636-294-6161.

2007 Goals will be to continue to maintain the above 12 items

Church Statistics

Year	----- Weekly Averages -----			----- Joining this Church Family -----		
	Contributions	Attendance	Guests	Baptism Individuals	Placing Membership Family Units	Individuals
2000	\$ 3,110	198	24	12	NA	NA
2001	\$ 3,948	226	23	21	21	56
2002	\$ 4,816	223	19	15	13	35
2003	\$ 5,295	226	32	18	26	70
2004	\$ 5,558	262	41	19	20	56
2005	\$ 5,934	276	37	20	23	71
2006	\$ 6,010	279	32	13	13	54
2007	\$ 6,313	278	26	11	5	17

2007 value is Year to Date as of April 22nd

Current Members on the Roll: Family Units – 138; Individuals – 405

John Burnett, Evangelism Minister

Education

Children's Ministry Report

Let me start by thanking each and every one of our many teachers. The work you do each week to equip our young ones and those not so young is very much appreciated.

Did you know that each week the children's education ministry requires approximately 25 volunteers? Did you also know that the number of students taught each week is on average 110, this includes Sunday morning and Wednesday evening? This is why we always need volunteers to teach our young ones.

What does it take to be a teacher? Maybe I should share first what it does not take, following are three myths.

Myth number 1. You must have a degree in teaching to be a Sunday school teacher. Not true. It does not require an advanced degree in teaching to share with our children the wonderful stories of the Bible. (If you do that's fine as well.) Some say "I don't know how to teach" or "Teaching is just not my gift" that's fine, we will be happy to train. Many classes can use a teacher's assistant to help the children with the assignments. What a great way to learn!

Myth number 2. Teaching requires hours and hours of preparation each week. Not true. The material makes preparation time a breeze, usually an hour a week is all that is needed.

Myth number 3. You must know everything to teach. If that was true we would have no teachers. The material provided is easy to follow. There is no better way to learn than to teach. We all know the teacher in any class is usually the one that learns the most. What better way to learn than to teach?

What it does require is a desire to see young students learn simple lessons from the Bible. Some are hearing these lessons for the very first time. Imagine being the one who teaches a child for the first time about Noah, Moses, Ezra, Abraham, and especially Jesus. As a teacher you will have this opportunity.

In the lobby you will find a sign up sheet for next quarter. Sonya Walker is also putting together a teachers schedule for the rest of the year and first quarter next year. Please put your name on the list and if you find next quarter is full, commit to Sonya or myself that you will teach another quarter. Our children are counting on you!

Allen Burnett, Deacon Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry Report

Summer is quickly approaching and with it the excitement of mission trips. I hope that each one of your teens will take advantage of the opportunities to serve this summer. It is always exciting to see the teens working for the Lord. I would like to let you know of a need that has arisen due to the number of trips this summer. I need chaperones. If you are able and willing, I would love to use your talents this summer. We will be going to New Orleans June 10-17 and will work with Church of Christ disaster relief effort at a location that they need on July 29-August 4. If you are able to help, please let Nate know.

I am also in need of a nurse at camp this summer. Camp runs from June 24-30.
Nate Reiser, Youth Minister

Learning Place Preschool Family Fun Fair

The Fair is our opportunity as a church to reach out and fellowship with the preschool families as well as to support the school. The Learning Place Preschool is our most longstanding and continuous ministry for reaching out to our community. Come meet our preschool families and have a little fun next Saturday.

Date: Saturday May 12, 2007

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Booths at the fair:

Usborne Books, Pampered Chef, Creative Memories, Southern Living At Home, Party Lite, Cookie Lee Jewelry, Professional Photography, Gourmet Foods, Mary Kay, and a Bake Sale. There will be door prizes and fun for all!

Genia McCown, Learning Place Preschool

May's Birthday/Anniversary Calendar

Richard/Gery Fischer	Anniversary: 5/1	Jacob Dixon	Birthday: 5/18
Nick Thompson	Birthday: 5/3	Rinda Ontiveros	Birthday: 5/20
Alexa Daly	Birthday: 5/3	Mary Conner	Birthday: 5/20
Jacob Hawkins	Birthday: 5/3	Hien Nguyen	Birthday: 5/20
Jess Mills	Birthday: 5/5	Mike Sisk	Birthday: 5/20
Richard Fischer	Birthday: 5/5	Scott//Sandra Post	Anniversary: 5/22
Shirley Anderson	Birthday: 5/7	Joshua Hawkins	Birthday: 5/22
Katie McClellan	Birthday: 5/8	Richard/Sue Brown	Anniversary: 5/23
Brice Moreland	Birthday: 5/8	Deward Terry	Birthday: 5/23
Jane Ketcherside	Birthday: 5/9	Paige Shinabery	Birthday: 5/23
Twayne/Amanda Harlow	Anniversary: 5/11	Melody Holmes	Birthday: 5/24
D.J. Beal	Birthday: 5/12	Nyla Stewart	Birthday: 5/25
Russell Dillon	Birthday: 5/14	Jacob Sisk	Birthday: 5/25
Jessica McClellan	Birthday: 5/14	Amanda Edwards	Birthday: 5/28
Joshua/Julia Ayers	Anniversary: 5/15	Christiana Horn	Birthday: 5/29
Abby Bextermueller	Birthday: 5/15	Erica Mackey	Birthday: 5/29
Timothy/Wendy Mathis	Anniversary: 5/16	(Waters)	
Austin Roberts	Birthday: 5/16	Gary Horn	Birthday: 5/31
Tommi Shae Peiffer (Dixon)	Birthday: 5/17	Gayla McComber	Birthday: 5/31