

February 1, 2010



# Sharon Baptist Church



## Finance Update

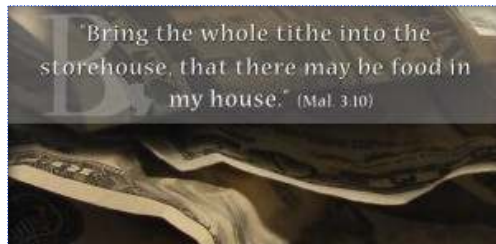


Looking back at 2009, I continue to be blessed at what a fantastic year we had. Although we were technically about \$15,000 below budget, we still had everything we needed and not once did we fall short of making a missions payment to the ministries we support outside the church. You may wonder how you can be \$13,000 below budget and still function. Well, first, in the area of church ministries people donated many items and we avoided about \$5,200 in expenses. Also, we had over-estimated last year on insurance and were more than \$4,000 under what we budgeted. Finally our building and utilities costs were several thousand below what we allowed for. We actually ended the year with almost \$2,000 in the bank after paying all the year-end bills!

As we close out the first month of 2010, things are a bit tight. A few first-of-the-year bills needed to be paid, like the Super Summer deposit for youth and that has used up that little spare cash we ended the year with. At this time, we're currently going from week-to-week just barely getting by. Our budget this year is \$4,518 per week and has less room for shortages than last year's budget. The average offering so far this year has been \$4,140 per week, so you can see why it's becoming an issue. Nevertheless, God is faithful and has continued to meet our needs as we need it. So we start out 2010 taking one week at a time and continuing to trust in Him.

May God richly bless you as you continue to support the ministry here at Sharon.

Richard



### Inside this issue:

From the Pastor	2
From the Youth Dude	3
Small Groups	4

### Ministry Opportunities

If you are looking for a place to serve here at Sharon, we have several opportunities open. There are immediate openings for teachers in the Toddler (18 Mons-4 Yrs) Sunday School and also for the Youth Sunday School class.

We also have 2 Director positions open. The Men's ministry and the Women's ministry.

Please be in prayer to see if God is leading you in one of these directions. Please contact the church office if you are interested .

## I Got Nuthin'!

Today has been hectic for a Monday. I have a lot of personal things that must be done before I go to bed tonight, and I knew I had several projects due here at church this morning when I got here. I also realized that Bev may need to be gone later this week so I knew I needed to start early on my sermon. But about an hour ago while I was working on my sermon Bev paged me and asked in her ever sweet voice, "Do you have an article for me?" Today is the first of course and I knew that I was supposed to have one but all I could think was, "I got nuthin'". I promised her I would get it as soon as possible, and then I started typing. The more I typed the worse it got. After wracking my brain I finally stopped and started to pray. After a few minutes the Lord said, "Be still and know that I am God." That is Psalm 46:10. Then I read the entire Psalm and realized that it is just what I needed to hear this morning and likely many of you are in the same situation.

Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah. Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has wrought desolations in the earth. He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariots with fire.*

*"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.*

God is our refuge and strength. We must be still, or quit fighting or striving to do or accomplish whatever it is we need, and know (understand) that God is our strength and refuge. He really does have all the answers. He is all we need.

God says, "Be Still and Know that I am God." Just ponder that thought for a few minutes before you go back to your day.

I love being your pastor,

Russ



OverGround Newsletter

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Over the past couple of months God has been laying on my heart the importance of challenging ourselves to truly be disciples of Christ. About a month ago, I asked during the sermon The Power of Poverty several questions as a “test” to see if we are disciples. Those questions were:

- Do you believe Jesus was born of a virgin and fulfilled all prophecy?
- Do you believe Jesus lived a perfect life?
- Do you believe the Bible is the Perfect Word of God?
- Do you believe that the only way to heaven is through Jesus?
- Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead?
- Do you believe that the Bible is historically accurate? Do you believe Jesus to be the Son of God?
- Do you believe Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father?
- Do you believe that Satan and his demons know these things too?

If we believe these things are true, what separates us from Satan and his demons? Like it or not, we agree with Satan and his demons on all 8 things, and yet for many Christians, that’s about all!

The difference between us and Satan is DISCIPLESHIP. For the next several articles, I will be exploring several areas of what discipleship means, and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. We’ll be exploring these characteristics of a disciple:

### A DISCIPLE IS ONE WHO:

- Submits properly (Eph 5:21; Phil 2:3-4)
- Is a Spiritual soldier (at war with old nature, godless influence (Eph 6:10-12)
- Is Self-trained (not self-reliant) 1 Tim 4
- Has a Godly worldview (Gen 1 – Rev 22)
- Is a Student of the Word (2 Tim 2:15)
- Is Eternally focused (2 Cor 4)
- Has a hope in Christ, in His resurrection (1 Cor 15)
- Helps the Bride/Is Part of the Body (1 Cor 12)
- Has the fruits of the Spirit. (Gal 5:22-25)
- Makes of other disciples (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Has a deep and unquenchable passion and “thirst” for God (Psalm 42:1)
- Genuinely loves (1 Cor 13)

I look forward to these articles, and can’t wait to explore further what it means to be a true disciple of (not just a believer in) Christ!

In His Love,

Casey “The Youth Dude” Carter

## **Small Groups Forming**

### **Sundays**

Study of Acts –Sunday evenings 6:00 pm at the church beginning February 21st. Led by Russ Preston

### **Mondays**

Andy Stanley Series-Dealing with personal problems 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall beginning February 8th. Led by Andy Stanley, facilitated by Tom Collins

### **Wednesdays**

Parenting-Dealing with personal problems 6:35 pm (during Awana) beginning February 10th. Led by Gary Smalley, facilitated by Tom Collins

### **Thursdays**

Andy Stanley Series-Dealing with personal problems 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall beginning February 11th. Led by Andy Stanley, facilitated by Brenton Collins.

There are still openings if you have not signed up for one of these groups and are interested please call the church office at 829-2111.

Sharon Baptist Church  
13020 South Black Bob Road  
Olathe, Kansas 66062

Phone: 913-829-2111

Fax: 913-829-2173

web page: [sharonbaptistchurch.com](http://sharonbaptistchurch.com)

*We exist to worship God and exalt His Son Jesus*