

Visit us at our website:

www.nsfcc.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

DECEMBER

- 4 Annual Church mtg 12N
Caroling /soup supper 3pm
- 10 Christmas program dress rehearsal 10am
- 11 Children's Christmas Program
6:30 pm -with fellowship
- 17 Ladies Christmas Brunch
10:30am
- 25 CHRISTMAS
- 31 New Years Eve party TBA

JANUARY

- 14 Variety Show 6pm
with refreshments

FEBRUARY

- 11 GTF Valentines Banquet 6pm

REGULAR MEETINGS:

Mom's Bible Coffee 1st & 3rd Weds.
10am.

Bible Study 1st Weds night each
month @ 6:30pm

Ladies Bible Study 2nd & 4th Thursday
6:30pm

Faith & Politics Bible Study
First Thursday every month 7pm

Promisekeepers 5:45am every Wed .

Saturday night prayer 6-7pm

UFC (Youth) - Sundays 6-8pm

Building committee 1st Tues. 7pm

Elders mtg 2nd & 4th Tues.

Prayer Shawl mtg TBA

Ministry Council 4th Tues 6:30pm

Loyal Daughters—2nd Thursday at
1:30pm

Goodtime Fellowship—1st Sunday
night @ 6pm

WINTER 2011

PASTOR'S PEN

At a recent conference I attended, Richard Blackaby posed this question, "Why do you suppose it is, when God wants to do something big, He sends a baby?"

His question intrigues me. When the Israelites needed deliverance from Egypt, He promised young **Moses** to Amram and Jochebed. When the Philistines were ransacking the promised land, baby **Samson** arrived to the household of Manoah. A short time later when Israel was starved for spiritual leadership, God promised baby **Samuel** to Hannah and Elkanah. As the time of Messiah neared, God sent a baby to Zechariah and Elizabeth to prepare the way. Baby **John** was the last and greatest of all the prophets until the night the angels sang.

On that holy night, the long awaited Savior arrived; not as a prince on a stallion; not as a king with an army; not as an emperor in a chariot. He came as an illegitimate baby to a peasant girl, wrapped in strips of second hand cloth, lying in a crude manger, and surrounded by the ordinary.

God's ways have always bordered on the mysterious, yet childlike in their simplicity. It's like He wants us to know that ALL the eternal questions of the universe can be answered in the quiet cry of this tiny Baby. In coming into the world as a helpless infant, Christ demonstrated the childlike trust required to enter his Kingdom. In being welcomed by the wealthy Magi and the common shepherds, He showed that God is no respecter of persons. By His humble barnyard surroundings, Christ demonstrated that humility and servanthood are the heart and soul of His kingdom.

I admit, I can't fully answer Dr. Blackaby's question, nor can I begin to fathom God's ways. But I think I can understand this simple verse. It is my claim to eternity in Heaven. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

May the Blessing of Christmas fill your hearts and homes!

Pastor Phil



To: Parents

The goal of this page is to help you improve and build better relationships with your children. One of the major concepts I am trying to teach your children is that Christianity is about relationships. So, one of the best ways to allow students to experience not only Christ but the relationships that Christ wants us to have is to be in a good and intimate relationship with their parents. My hope is that not only will your relationships with your children be stronger, but that your children will be more likely/willing to build these types of relationships with their friends, other believers and non-believers.

Task #3---From Devastation to Revolution

When Jesus died, it was over! The Apostles scattered in the garden when Jesus was arrested. Peter denied him in the courtyard. And aside from John, only women came to support him at Calvary.

Do you understand? **Christianity was dead** for the three days the Lord was in the grave. These men were not brave champions; they were not noble revolutionaries who would fight through the pain of their leader's assassination. I'm not saying they were pansies, just that they were normal. They were a lot like you and me—ordinary people, excited to follow Jesus but sometimes clueless in how to do it.

So what changed these normal guys into powerful revolutionaries? What released them from the locked doors of the upper room to thrust them into the very center of the hostile temple? The answer to that question is your quest to discover how God can do the very same with you. **Are you ready?**

Let me get you started by giving you the initial answer to that question. What changed Peter from a coward to a courageous lion; what changed Paul from a persecutor to a preacher; what changed Thomas from a doubter to a martyr: The resurrection of Jesus Christ. What would cause you to make a **radical change**?

When they saw Jesus alive, I mean actually alive, they were radically, instantly, permanently changed. You can be too. If you could just see him for who he really is you would be forever changed.

I'm not saying you would be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. But I am saying that **you would have the power to live differently than you do now**. You know how you constantly look to see what your friends are doing and what they think is cool. If you really saw Jesus and knew he was alive, you would first ask what he is up to and what he thinks is cool. You know how you have to keep up with the latest thing—the hottest band, video game, clothes. You know what? They won't last. But the revolution will. It is from ancient days to distant eternity. When you see what Jesus is really all about, suddenly your vision is expanded to far horizons.

Instead of being out of touch, this will make you the most relevant person around. It will make you the most alive, potent, and dangerous person in your circle of friends. I know this seems impossible, but it is altogether true. See Jesus, and you will be transformed into a revolutionary.

So the question becomes, "**How can I see Jesus for who He really is?**" It may take some time to focus your eyesight. In fact, your focus will probably need to be readjusted everyday because of the blinding distractions of this world. But here are some steps to clearer vision.

Read Luke 24:1-8; Revelation 1:12-18 and 19:11-16. Now draw a picture of each passage. Even if you're a horrible artist, draw what you see. Scribble designs and impressions if you like. Let your drawing feed your soul with an image of Jesus.

Find a picture of Jesus that you can cut out and put in your wallet or on your mirror. Now we all know that is not a real picture. But ancient saints found that such pictures, even though they were artificial, helped them focus on Jesus. Stare at it for a few moments each day and imagine what it would be like to stand in his presence—Because you are!

Say this prayer over and over (say it 100 times if necessary):

"Lord Jesus, once again, make blind eyes see."

United For Christ (UFC)

NSFCC STUDENT MINISTRIES

Romans 15:5-6 says, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." This is the goal of the leaders of UFC. To get the students to look at ways they can come together to help and benefit others in the church, community and else where.

Operation Christmas Child was a great success for UFC. We collected 58 shoeboxes for this ministry. Which means that we will have a pizza party on the 18th of December and my head will get shaved that evening as well. But all the leaders will be in on the fun as well, every leader is getting pie in the face and the male leaders are waxing a strip of their leg. Should be a fun night!

UFC is going to be focusing on the Foundations of Building a Relationship with Christ during January and the first part of February. We started this with a study on the Bible. We discussed the history of the Bible, the reliability of the Bible and some tips on how to study the Bible. From there, we are going to be looking at how we can use prayer, the Holy Spirit, other Christians, and a couple other things to strengthen and build up their relationships with Jesus.

Winter Jam 2012 is coming on January 20th. It is a concert of many different bands that will be playing at the Wells Fargo Arena. The cost of the event is only \$10 and is on a Friday night this year. The doors open at 6:00 PM with the concert starting at 7:00 PM. If you would like more details, please ask Pastor Chris or you can look at the poster in the youth room.

Finally, we are looking at getting a couple of new game tables and a pop machine for the youth room. We are hoping to purchase a new ping-pong table, a foos-ball table and air hockey table. Any help in getting these would be greatly appreciated.

Also, we are still selling the UFC T-shirts if you would like one. The cost is \$10.00. Just ask Chris when you see him.

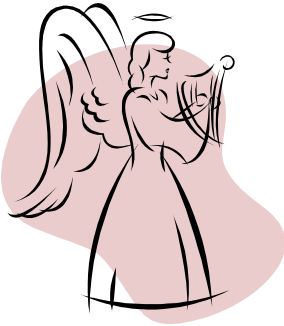
Phone: 641-637-2251

Cell: 641-295-6645

E-mail: sampson7smiles@gmail.com

pastorchris@nsfcc.org

NSFCC KIDS CHURCH PRESENTS . . .



This year's Christmas program, "Twinkle and the All-Star Angel Band", will be presented Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 PM by the children of NSFCC. Directed by Angie Jedlicka, with the help of Kerri Pinkerton, Tonya DeJong, and Katie Nunnikhoven, this musical highlights the true meaning of Christmas from the perspective of the heavenly angels through humor and song. We have approximately 40 children of all ages in this year's program and are very excited to put on our angel wings and halos to share with you the Good News this Christmas season.

Dress rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th at 10 AM, followed by our annual pizza party, courtesy of Jerry Roush and family.

Please mark your calendars and plan to come out for a "dazzling" performance on December 11th. Coffee time to follow.

Please help provide for our guests by bringing cookies or bars to serve. Thank you!

CALLING ALL CAROLERS!!

Everyone is welcome to come and join us as we bring some Christmas cheer to the residents of the nursing homes in Oskaloosa and our home bound friends here in New Sharon. We begin with caroling at 3pm and followed by soup and the works. Ya'll come!! (Goodtime Fellowship will provide the soup and drinks and you bring the rest)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministry of First Christian church would like to let all the women including teens know how much of a gift they truly are by inviting them to a Ladies Tea on Dec 17 at 10:30am.

Come and enjoy brunch with one another as we listen to lovely piano playing from Caitlin Sampson.

Please don't forget to sign up on the red sheet located on the info table in the foyer.

