

## 2009 Attendance Numbers (to date)

*Sunday Morning Average = 83*

*Monday Night Celebrate Recovery Average = 10*

*Tuesday Night Adult Bible Study Average = 17*

*Wednesday Night Teen Devo Average = 15*

*Tues/Thurs Discipling Classes Average = 8*

## Baptisms in 2009

To date, our ministers and interns have assisted 18 people in deciding to follow Christ and wear His name.

## How You Can Help

1. Financial support for Don & Deanne Williams
2. Financial donations for our building renovations
3. Sunday morning Bible class teachers (starts at noon)
4. Be a mentor for our teens
5. Become a mentor, teacher, tutor (math & reading) or business partner in the HopeWorks program
6. Continued prayers



River City Church  
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### Staff:

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### Sunday Schedule:

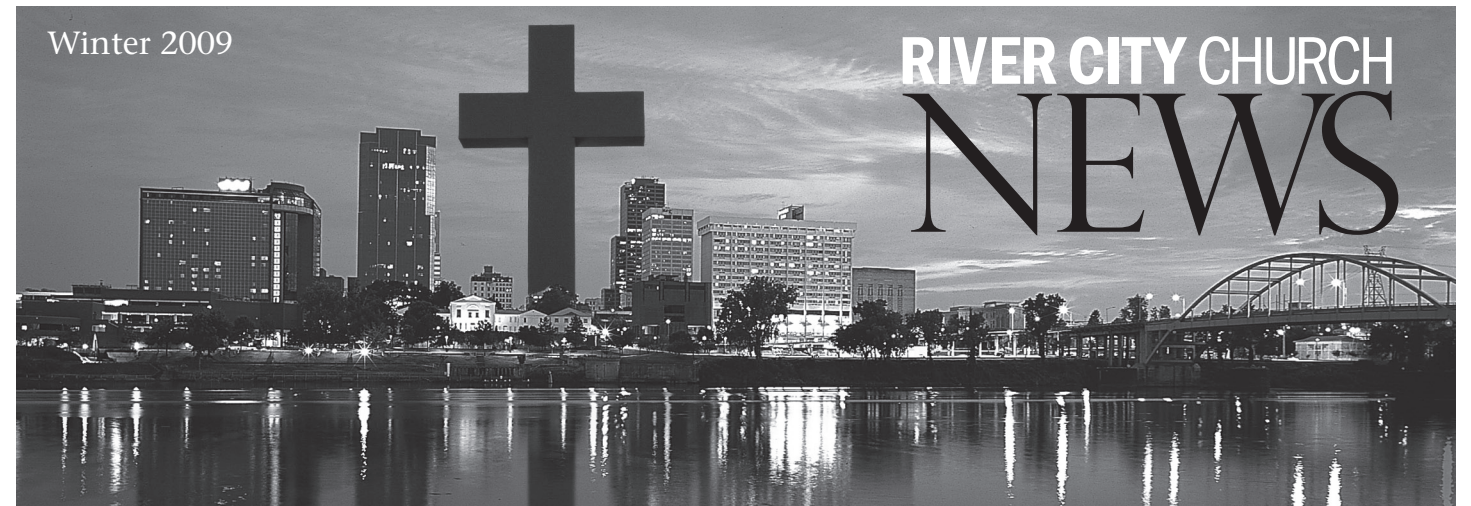
11:00-1:00  
Worship & Bible classes  
620 E. Curtis Sykes, NLR



# CHRISTmas Toy Store: December 12

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L I F T I N G   U P   J E S U S   I N   T H E   I N N E R   C I T Y

## Our New Building: A WORK IN PROGRESS

Over the last half year, we have taken a significant step of faith. While we were not actively looking for a new facility in which to meet, we did learn of an available 5,000 square foot building, four blocks from the green gym. We discovered the owner of the facility was willing to rent it to a church for \$150/mo (just to cover his expenses). The occupants, however, would be responsible for the modifications and maintenance of the building.

After some months of prayer, discussion, consultation, and experimentation with the facility, it was decided we would sign a five-year lease. This summer, we began modifications and repairs to the building with the help of many individuals and groups. Sunday, September 6, we began meeting in the building for worship and classes, as well as for our mid-week gatherings. By the end of the month, we moved our offices in, as well. For the first time in nine years, all of our operations are happening out of one location (instead of 3 or more). This has reduced our monthly overhead and is increasing our ministry capacities — enabling us many more options for activities and events.

For example, HopeWorks now has permanent office and classroom space in our facilities. More recently, a Mother's Bible Study has started meeting in our building on Monday evenings.

To date, we have invested \$30,710 in this project. Of that, we have had \$13,550 contributed from sources outside of our church specifically for this project. It is

estimated we have “in kind” donations of labor, services, and materials to the tune of an additional \$30,000. Our members have invested a considerable amount of sweat equity, as well as their own financial resources.

There are a number of things still needing to be done in order to complete the process. Our estimated cost for these improvements

is \$34,300. We have essentially depleted all of our reserves and are now down to monies needed for regular operations. A list of projects completed, as well as an itemized list of things to be done (along with corresponding estimated costs) is available upon request. If you are so moved to help with this effort, we would be grateful. Further inquiry into these matters is welcome. Please keep us in your prayers.



The new River City Church building located at 620 E. Curtis Sykes in North Little Rock.

# 2009 Summer Intern: Kaleb Lape

I wanted my internship to stretch me, to take me where I didn't feel comfortable, so I could grow and depend on God. While serving at River City Church and River City Ministry, I got that opportunity. I had grown up around these situations without ever really diving in. This summer it was my job. Excitement and uncertainty summed up my feelings as I breathed a prayer and determined not to look back.

At RCM, the most unfamiliar environment I experienced, I didn't know what to expect. As a non-spotlight, non-public speaker type of guy, teaching any class, much less RCM's lunch time class, was extremely daunting. Fortunately, I have had the privilege to watch and learn from my father's (Keith Lape) truly Christ-like example. One day Anthony Wood suggested I take a walk with two gentlemen going to get their sack lunch down the street at Friendly Chapel. We talked a little about different things from fishing to homelessness, and one man, whose baptism I had just witnessed, told me some of his story. I really gained a more accurate perspective on inner-city homelessness because of the face-to-face immersion: real experiences with real people. Speaking of reality, I also participated in the eternal reality of the dead coming to life in Christ. While tagging along to watch baptisms before, I found myself actually doing some baptizing in what became great high points of my summer.

Working with RCC, where I've been a member since



I was ten and where my dad works as a minister, one might expect it to be pretty much run-of-the-mill for me. As an intern, though, I gained a fresh perspective in almost everything I did. In the office, I joined morning staff meetings, did odd jobs, read rich study material, and helped trawl through the massive amounts of details that go into planning the week of summer camp that we operate with Silver City Church.

I love Camp Caudle -- my summer home almost as long as I've been at RCC. This year I was a counselor at most sessions and had responsibilities and expectations far above what I normally have as a camper. In short, I led devos, chased kids, was looked up to, and hung with my age group a lot less than in past years. Leading publicly is not my strong point, but I grew so much this year in that area, partly because of camp. Another job at RCC was to work with the 5th and 6th graders. Luckily, I was not alone in this task. Emily, a fellow intern, and I collaborated on the devos for the kids. By God's grace, I believe some of the kids genuinely sensed Christ's love through our love for them during those weekly outings. Working with kids this summer, I found that God turned these familiar faces into a frontier for kingdom work in my mind.

If you want fresh opportunities to break out of the daily grind, all you have to do is open your eyes. Live the abundant life which God offers us at every turn. We know that with Christ all things are possible. Taking His offer at face value, let us run the race with joy and perseverance.



**Note from  
Don & Deanne  
Williams**

HopeWorks of Greater Little Rock is an adult personal and career development program. For over two years, Don and Deanne Williams, along with a host of other brothers and sisters in Christ, prayed for leadership, finances and students to begin this program. On February 17, 2009, the first HopeWorks class began. Seven individuals started the six-week program, and four met all of the requirements for graduation. They received their certificates of completion during our Sunday morning worship service on March 29.

You may be asking, "Why HopeWorks?" There are individuals prevented from meaningful employment due to life situations, cultural barriers, or lack of education and opportunity. Others are prevented due to past mistakes, emotional or mental distractions, and many other reasons. In short, people need hope!

HopeWorks is a Christ-centered educational program that begins to fill the gap of helping individuals holistically by providing open doors to a better life through spiritual training and career skills. We know that through Christ and His leading we can help alleviate poverty and crime in our neighborhoods through this program.

The program offers services in career guidance, jobseeking skills, personal development, counseling, and spirituality. Participants are taught how to aim

their interests and abilities toward a career path not just a job. They are taught how to secure and retain a job. They graduate with an updated resume and the skills to update it as needed. They learn interviewing skills and how to find employment not listed in the open market. Because a person's personal life affects their attitude and behavior on the job, HopeWorks offers personal and group counseling. Participants experience weekly spiritual discussions on topics they choose. They also watch a video series known as Holistic Hardware, a Biblical as well as a life-skills training video, proven effective in educating individuals who have grown up in generational poverty.

HopeWorks has now taught five classes and graduated 19 students. In the words of a recent graduate: *"Today is the first day of a new chapter in my life. I feel so excited, so alive. The HopeWorks program has changed my life. I was feeling down and out. I felt like I couldn't make a change! HopeWorks made me look at myself differently. They gave me tools to look at my life differently. I've got a brand new tool box filled with courage, faith and self-esteem. I have improved my spiritual walk with God, started reading my Bible more, and have learned to forgive myself. I have the courage to make the improvements I need. Thank you, HopeWorks!"*

*Blessings, Don & Deanne*

## Maturing our New Christians

What celebration and rejoicing when a new child is born into a family. However, the newborn is helpless, needing food, cleaning, changing, clothing, etc. Just as this is true physically so it is spiritually. Each new babe born into Christ requires time, attention, care, teaching, fellowship, guidance, correction, and the list goes on.

We've been blessed in our partnership with River City Ministry to witness many baptisms and commitments to Christ; however, it is a daunting task to enfold these

new babes into our church family and help them mature and grow in Christ. Most of our babes are burdened with great challenges of the past which haunt their present, including complex social, financial, legal, and relational problems, as well as toxic patterns of thinking, deciding and reacting. We realize God is in control and the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. Yet, we also want to be faithful -- making the most of our contribution to the kingdom growth process.

One thing that has grown out of our efforts over the past year or so is our Disciples Class that meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 am at RCM's building. It provides a more accessible growth opportunity for these young Christians, and we believe the class is making an impact in our discipling efforts.

In the past, many people have studied the Bible and decided to become Christians at RCM, then are baptized at the Levy building, and are then

encouraged to go to River City's building to worship with us. Often this is confusing as they try to understand the big picture. Upon completion of our new baptistry, it is our hope that baptizing people in the same building where they worship may enhance our ability to connect with them in their discipleship. The fact that our new building is geographically closer to the homeless whom we serve may also enhance their spiritual growth process.