

The Courier

Investments

by Keith Langley

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” ~ Matthew 6:19-20 ~

I am a bona fide financially challenged individual. Oh yes, I understand the basics of finance. For instance: you put in a fair day’s work for a fair day’s wage. Never spend more than you have. Invest wisely.

While I understand these broad concepts in the world of finance, I will never understand the ins and outs of the financial world. My mind is just not wired that way. However, that does not mean that I do not understand investing. Not investing my money, but investing myself.

To see a pay off with our money it takes time, patience and investing in the right areas of growth in our economy. To see a payoff in our spiritual lives is little different. It

takes time. Before you go bolting ahead of me, let’s think about that for a minute. We need to invest time in our spiritual journey with Christ. In today’s world, time is quite often a commodity that is more valuable than money. Our schedule has become sacred, holy territory that we defend with vigor. The question would be what are we keeping out of our schedules, and what are we building into our schedules? As Christians we know that few things are more valuable than relationships. We further understand that there are two relationships that need to be in the top spots: our relationship with God, and our relationship with our family. While our family’s importance cannot be overstated, our relationship with God still takes the first position in our lives, or at least it should. So how much time are you investing in your relationship with God?

The second thing we said about investments is that we need to have patience. If you withdraw your money from your investment of choice too early, you do not see the payoff you desire. If you think that your money should double overnight, you will be sorely disappointed come morning. The same is true of our relationship with Christ. If we think that we will become like Christ overnight, we will be disappointed. It takes time and effort to cultivate a Christ-like character. If we become impatient and look for a shortcut, or worse, cut and run from our faith, we will never become more like Christ.

How patient are you on this journey to Christ-likeness?

The final comparison we made with financial investing is that we must invest ourselves in the right areas to see growth. Here is where the rubber meets the road. If you have been doing the same things for 5, 10, 20 years and you wonder why you feel like you have stalled out in your relationship with God, perhaps you need to invest yourself in new areas. Common example: some people come to church on Sunday mornings, and that is the extent of their relationship with God. If they are seeking to truly become like Christ, they are missing out on a number of other investment opportunities that could help them grow. What opportunities? Here is a small list:

- Personal devotions, and Bible Study
- Small group Bible Studies
- Prayer and fasting
- Prayer, reflection and journaling
- Discovering and using your spiritual gift

That is the short list. There are many, many areas in which you can invest yourself. If you are interested in pursuing new areas of investment for your personal, spiritual journey I would strongly encourage you to speak with someone in leadership today. Don’t put off this investment! Just like financial investing, the sooner you begin your investment, the bigger the dividends.

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Youth Ministry News

By Pastor Keith

My, oh my, the school year is upon us again. The kids are back in class, the routine has begun again, and Keith's sanity has almost returned (but then again, can you ever truly claim that the youth pastor is sane?) While many things have changed, many have remained the same. We have both groups meeting on Sunday nights at the church in the evenings. We have begun a series entitled "How To Live With Your Parents Without Losing Your Mind." We are two weeks into the series and things are going pretty well so far.

This year we noticed something. We realized that being a small town works for us in reaching teenagers after the football game. Kids love to hang out. After a community event like a football game, kids want a place to go and be with their friends.

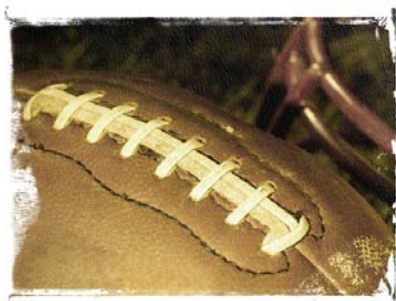
Unfortunately, some of the places that they can go are less than desirable.

We wanted to offer a place where students could come and hang out

with friends and be safe.

In light of all of that, we decided to open up the church from after the game until midnight for students. We have video games, board games, card games, arcade games, a DDR machine, air hockey, ping-pong, and food, food, and more food! There is no agenda for the night. We simply want to offer a safe place for students and their friends to have a good time. Our desire is that through building relationships with the students, we may earn a hearing for the gospel.

We have already held one of these events that we have called "Fifth Quarter." Students were notified through word of mouth. We had twenty-five students show up the first time. The following week I had several students ask me if we were



doing the Fifth Quarter again for the next football game. While we have chosen to only hold the Fifth Quarter

for three of the five home football games, it was

encouraging that several students were excited and looking forward to future FQ's.

Coming up this month, we will be having our annual Hayride for the teens. This event has always been one that the teens look forward to each year. This year we will be going out to the Kmetz's home for food, games, fun, and of course the hayride itself. Check your calendars, or the website for dates and times at www.almontfcc.org

Allow me to thank the congregation for all of its support of the youth ministry, as well as your support of me personally. I appreciate the prayers, encouragement, and the way in which some many have stepped up to help the church out during our transition time.

Men's Ministry

Men's Fraternity—Winning at Work & Home

This fall we will be doing “Winning at Work & Home” as we continue learning what “It Means To Be A Man.” We will be offering two opportunities for you to participate. Our morning group will be meeting at 6:00 a.m. on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall. We will also have an evening group that will be at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays in Taylor Chapel.

Winning at Work & Home is a 16-week DVD series that helps us men focus on the two areas that are central to a man's life: career and family. It will begin to build the walls of manhood through study dealing with a man's chief responsibilities. It explores how a man can enjoy and engage his work and how he can relate to a woman in a whole new way.

Men's Fraternity begins Thursday, October 5th

Other Cool Guy Stuff

Paintball at the OK Corral

Saturday, October 14th, 9:30 a.m.

Ok...so it's not the OK Corral...its more like at the Young's Residence but that doesn't have the same ring to it.

Looking for father-sons, father-daughters, young, old, guys who just want to shoot Steve or someone else (and not hurt them). More details to come... But the date is set...

Men's Small Groups

There is talk buzzing around of several Men's Small Groups getting ready to start this fall. Please contact the church office to relay days, times, material used, contact info and openings. We have several men inquiring about opportunities.

Life is a TEAM sport!

Children's Ministries!

AWANA: The clubs are for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We meet Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m. If you have children in these grades please join us!

The Volunteer staff is doing a fabulous job helping the clubbers learn songs and the memory verses to gain knowledge about God and His purpose for our life.

Please Welcome: Rachel Owen, our very special song leader! We are very fortunate to have her lead us in the songs.

Basic Training will be Tuesday October 3, 2006 from 6:30-9:30 at the church. Please join us to learn more about AWANA. If you volunteer, feel free to bring your kids (they can be our "clubbers" during training). Snacks will be provided.

There is always room for more volunteers. If children are important to you and you would like to donate your time, please contact Melody Webber (586) 372-1948.

JUST FOR OUR AWANA CLUBBERS...

Fill in each blank with the missing word. Keep up the good work on your memory verses!



"For _____ a _____ so loved the _____ b _____ that he gave His _____ c _____ and only Son. That whoever _____ d _____ in Him shall not _____ e _____ but have eternal _____ f _____." John 3:16



"Know that the _____ g _____ is God. It is He who _____ h _____ us, and we are _____ i _____; we are His people, the _____ j _____ of His pasture." Psalm 100:3

Answers: a) God, b) world, c) one, d) believes, e) perish, f) life, g) Lord, h) made, i) His, j) sheep

NOT THAT I HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED, OR AM ALREADY PERFECTED; BUT I PRESS ON, THAT I MAY LAY HOLD OF THAT FOR WHICH CHRIST JESUS HAS ALSO LAID HOLD OF ME.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12

Women's Ministries

Helping Women Reach Their Full Potential in Christ

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 3	First Tuesday Ladies Prayer at 11:00 a.m. in the library
October 27	Craft & Hobby Night 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

SING TO THE ORCHESTRA

Recently I read this story shared by Jennifer Rothschild. I hope it will stir your heart as it did mine:

Last Sunday night was a big choir and orchestra concert at my home church. What a fabulous evening! We had gospel quartets singing about their "First Day in Heaven" and contemporary sounding soloists singing "I Can Only Imagine." The whole night made me want to turn in my seat so I was facing East - I just new that Jesus Himself was going to split the sky that very night and rapture us into His presence!

The highlight of the evening for me though had to be when the choir sang to the orchestra. At one point in the concert, our Worship Pastor, Dr. Joe Crider, turned to the congregation and began to tell of how talented and faithful our church orchestra had been for over twenty years. He spoke of how they consistently and skillfully rehearse each week and never fail

to move us to heights of worship each Sunday morning.

He then choked up as he said, "So, tonight, we as the congregation, choir, and I as your grateful leader, want you to lay down your instruments and just listen as we attempt to tell you thank you." The piano began to play softly as a soloist came on stage. A beautiful tenor voice began to sweetly sing..."Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a life that was changed."

I could hear sniffles from the orchestra pit. Eyes in the congregation were moist. What a beautiful surprise for those dedicated musicians to receive, and what an appropriate honor.

It got me to thinking. I bet I have an orchestra in my life and ministry that I need to sing to. In fact, we all do. It is often those unseen, those who seem to blend into the background that contribute so greatly

to our success. It is those who quietly support, consistently follow, and humbly serve that make the music of our lives and

ministry so beautiful.

So, this has now served as one verse of the song I sing to my orchestra. Thank you for giving to the Lord, I am a

life that has been changed. I may be on stage, but you are part of the unseen foundation upon which I stand.

So my friend, tune up and tune in. Is there an orchestra to whom you need to sing today?

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thessalonians 1:2-3

Is there an orchestra to whom you need to sing today?

Prayer Chain Requests:

If you have a prayer request that you would like to add to our Prayer Chain, please call Shirley Wallace at 798-3208.

If Shirley is unavailable, please call Shelli Bourque at 798-8168.

Or you may submit a request at our website, www.almontfcc.org.

Women's Ministries Continued

THE SUN AND THE MOON

Recently the ladies in our Tuesday morning bible study learned about our purpose to glorify God. These words from Nancy Leigh DeMoss give us a wonderful image of what that looks like and challenges us to always seek God's glory:

"The moon's light and the sun's light are a lot different. The moon only reflects light, while the sun has enough power to create its own. We were created to be like

the moon. We don't have light of our own; we merely reflect God's glory.

When we try to draw attention to ourselves, we're being like Lucifer who tried to steal glory from God. His name means, "shining one" or "light bearer." He was created to reflect God's light, but he tried to steal it instead. When he came to Eve in the garden, he tempted her to disobey and said, "You will be like God."

We all face that same temptation. Will we embark on a futile attempt to bring glory to ourselves, or will we do what we were designed to do—reflect the glory of God?

What's your focus today? Are you trying to draw attention to yourself, or are you pointing people to the true source of Light?

Nancy Leigh DeMoss, *Seeking Him Radio*, September 1, 2006

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SECRET SISTER REMINDER

Ladies, don't forget to send notes of encouragement to your Secret Sister. Haven't remembered your Secret Sister in a while? There is still time to finish strong. Send her a card, or a handmade gift. Make her feel special and remind her that God loves her and that you are praying for her. It's really that simple.

And don't forget that our Secret Sisters are unveiled at our Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 1st. So make plans to be there for a wonderful evening of fun!

*"You are my witness,"
declares the Lord,
'and my servant
whom I have chosen,
so that you may know
and believe me and
understand that
I am he'"*

(Isaiah 43:10)

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OUR VISION IS
TO FOSTER A
COMMUNITY OF
DISCIPLES WHO ARE:

Communing
with God

Connecting
with each other

Cultivating
our commitment

Communicating
the love of God

Caring
for our community

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*We exist to SERVE God by SHARING the
Good News of Jesus Christ and His
unconditional LOVE for all.*



Sunday Worship Schedule

Worship Service @ 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School @ 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service @ 11:15 a.m.
Jr. Church and Child Care available

CHURCH STAFF:

Keith Langley, Youth Pastor
Melody Webber, Dir. of
Children's Ministries
Audrey Minter, Secretary
Rob & Mary Kalmanir,
Custodians

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Fri

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

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Fax: 810-798-7092

www.almontfcc.org

Articles are to be submitted
for the Courier by **15th**
of the month via e-mail to:
courier@almontfcc.org