

# *Family Focus*

## **SHEPHERD'S CORNER**

### **Are we (members of the Churches of Christ) winners?**

If you just look at the numbers, the results of a Gallup Poll might lead to that conclusion. Americans who stated their religious affiliation as “Church of Christ” were reported by Gallup as being more likely, than people affiliated with any other religious group, to “attend weekly worship services”. The Gallup poll done between 2002-2005, shows that those who gave their church affiliation as “Church of Christ” headed the list of most likely to attend weekly worship services, with 68% likely to attend on a given week. Next among the top five leaders, came the Mormons (67%), Pentecostals (65%), Southern Baptists (60%), and Catholics (45%). The group with the lowest reported attendance was Episcopalians (32%). So, we are winners!

Or, are we? With only 68% (about two thirds) of our membership likely to attend worship on any given Sunday, are we to look at ourselves as “proud winners”? With only 2 out of every 3 of us attending worship, do we see an indication of problems? Is God pleased with such a low percentage of members assembling on the Lord’s Day for worship? Of course, we can say, “Just attending worship does not get us to Heaven.” A true statement, but is our regular presence at worship any indicator of our spiritual growth and maturity? Is our attendance an indicator of our willingness to grow?

One of the areas where the elders have challenged the congregation, in our recently announced plan for growth, is for us to increase our attendance at the Sunday morning worship service by 10%. We believe that by doing that, we will foster Spiritual growth. Worship attendance is just one way that we can all express our commitment to God.

~The Elders

### **Shepherds’ Vision Goals**

#### **Overall Goal:**

To grow spiritually and numerically as “a family growing people to the glory of God”.

#### **Goals for the next 12 months:**

1. Increase participation by at least 10% in these areas: Sunday Worship, Bible School, Ministry Works, and Small Groups.
2. Make a list of 5 folks to pray for & invite to Small Group or Worship.
3. Add 20 new teachers.
4. Total Congregational giving challenge - increase giving by 28%.

Note: The elders will evaluate the giving trends between now and May 1:

13% increase – Will fully fund existing ministries.

28% increase – Will fund an additional minister and more ministries, which is what the elders would like to do.

*Want to learn more about specific plans to reach these goals? Ask an elder or minister or go to our website: [www.fairviewroad.org](http://www.fairviewroad.org).*

**Shepherds** (\*Denotes quarterly Chairman):  
Glen Godsey, Charles Martin, Britt Newby,  
Don Osburn, James Treece, \*Dee Vanderburg