

**August 16, 2009 marks a celebration for two Anniversaries of the Altman's.**

**August 5, 2009 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Joe and Lisa Altman. August 2, 2009 marks the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Altman's ministry at First Christian Church in Somerset, KY.**

**When the Altman family arrived in Somerset, their son Gabriel was about to turn 9 years old, and their daughter Nowelle was 5 years old. When the Altman's arrived at the church on South Main Street, the sign welcomed them and even had Gabriel and Nowelle's names spelled correctly. The first pictures at the church sign were with Nowelle, being a typical 5 year old girl, not wanting to pose for the photo.**

**Then in a short period of time, the church began its plan to raise money and build a new church building. In December of 2004 First Christian moved into its new building that presently graces Highway 39. As one Elder put it: 'First Christian Church is the steeple on the left on Highway 39'.**

**Through the 11 year ministry at First Christian Church, there have been ups and downs. This growth in God can be characterized like the growth of the Altman children during their time in Somerset. Gabriel went from an almost 9 year old boy to a 20 year old man about to begin his third year of college and Nowelle went from a round chubby-faced 5 year old girl to a young woman of 16 about to attend college. The Altman's say they are so thankful that God led them to First Christian Church in Somerset, Kentucky and look forward to Joe's recovery from cancer so that he can return as the full time pastor.**

**Joe and Lisa's 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary is also being celebrated. Joe and Lisa's first date was on August 15, 1982. On a Sunday in an outdoor setting, Joe and Lisa were married on August 5, 1984. Following their wedding they moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Joe began his education to become a minister at Johnson Bible College. He graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary in May of 1993, then he served as a student minister in Garrard County and in Hustonville in Lincoln County. Prior to coming to Somerset, Joe served the First Christian Church in Irvine, Kentucky for almost 5 years.**

**The Altman's feel so blessed to live in Somerset, Kentucky and have been so appreciative of the love and well wishes that have been showered upon them during their time here in Somerset.**