

Those to Serve

Sunday 09-20-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements.....Grady Duncan
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer Jimmy Jay Fox
 Closing Prayer Darrell Cooper

Month of SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Royce Armstrong
 Ron Traugher
 Rodney Cook

North Side:

Gene Campbell
 Bob Hedges
 Chuck Kyle

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Daniel McCary Fred Harkrider, Jr.

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Grady Duncan
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer.....Royce Armstrong
 Closing PM Prayer..... Tim Jones

Serving Wednesday Night—Sept 23 2009

AnnouncementsGrady Duncan
 Song Leader Daniel McCary
 First Prayer..... Rance Robison
 Closing Prayer..... Royce Armstrong

Attendance for the week of 09-13-2009

Bible Classes..... 97
 Morning Worship..... 167
 Evening Worship 80
 Tuesday Ladies Class 11
 Wednesday Night 79
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,362.50
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ 180.00

Averages To Date This Year

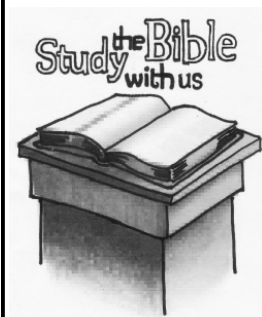
Bible Classes.....102
 Morning Worship.....140
 Evening Worship100
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 92
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,340.03
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 77,827.07
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)

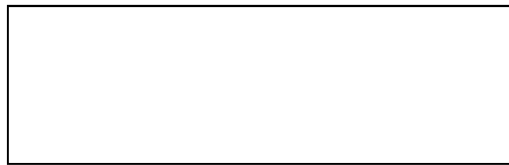
Today's Sermons

AM: Seeking Jesus
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: Exhort One Another Daily
Kris Groda, Preaching



North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

Website:
 www.njcofc.com

Email:
 njcofc@sbcglobal.net

North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow
 in the time of harvest,
 so is a faithful messenger
 to them that send him"
 Proverbs 25:13



Volume 11 No. 30 Founded on the Word—Focused on the World September 20, 2009

People With a Past

By Kris Groda

Sounds kind of shady doesn't it? There are many people who have a checkered record. Somehow, somewhere along the way, someone made poor choices and they have a public record or a bad reputation. The problem is so intense in our society that many businesses and non-profit organizations require background checks for people seeking a position of labor. Church camps and youth organization, in order to be in compliance with the law, can only use people who pass the test of background references. Sex offenders are marked people and they live with the stigma of their past. Many, in some states, have great difficulty in finding jobs and housing. In fact, the government sends out public notices every time they move. Can you imagine the humiliation and regret?

While some sins are obviously more grievous than others, having greater consequences, we must be reminded that each of us has a past! We are all guilty before God in that, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Every Christian, elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, church staff, worship leaders—each person who has been obedient to the Gospel—has been, 'delivered from the power of darkness', and 'translated into the kingdom of his dear Son' (Colossians 1:13).

Many great men and women of faith had a past. Rahab the Harlot had a past (Joshua 2). The woman at the well had a past (John 4:17-18). The woman taken in adultery had a past (John 8:3-11). Zacchaeus had a past (Luke 19).

The Corinthians had a past. Paul said, "Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ESV).

The Ephesians had a past. They "were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Eph 2:1-3 ESV).

Paul the apostle, had a past. After his conversion, "Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus." (Acts 9:26-27). Barnabas had to vouch that Paul was truly a changed man.

(continued on page 2)



“give attention to reading.....” 1 Tim. 4:13

(People With a Past—from Page 1)

Paul explained to the churches of Galatia: “For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:.... But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: 23 But they had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. (Gal. 1:13-23)

If we aren't careful, Satan will use our past to haunt and hinder us from becoming the person God wants us to be. Paul was determined not to let that happen. He knew there were going to be challenges. He knew that He would have to prove that he was a changed man. Paul also preached that *if he* could be changed, anyone could. For he stated, “*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*” (1 Tim 1:15).

It may be that we invite people to come to the assembly but because they know how someone “use to be” they offer objections. Christians are not to become discouraged by the statements of unbelievers. We must, like the apostles, boldly defend the truth, preach the power of the Gospel (Romans 1:16) and not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord (2 Tim 1:8). We ring out the message of the power to live a changed life. We are “*new creatures*” in Christ. “*Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*” (2 Cor 5:17). Christ made it possible that even the most wretched person in the world can be righteous. Remember that, “*I once was lost, but now I am found, was blind but now I see*”.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, **see that ye** love one another with a pure heart fervently: **1Peter 1:22**

Recommended Reading:

Behold! The Word of God (10 chapters, 209 pages)
Exploring the Evidence for the Inspiration of the Bible
By Kyle Butt

Order from: www.ApologeticsPress.org

The Bible on Trial (23 chapters, 278 pages)

By Wayne Jackson

Order from: www.christiancourier.com

How We Got the Bible (18 chapters, 209 pages)

By Neil R. Lightfoot

Order from: Christian Family Bookstore

www.tuckersbooks.com

Fortify Your Faith In An Age of Doubt

(online periodical)

Sign up at www.christiancourier.com

Ascertaining Bible Authority (study book)

(13 Lessons)

By Roy C. Deaver

Order from: Christian Family Bookstore

www.tuckersbooks.com

God the Bible and Common Sense

(13 chapters 132 pages) *An Appeal to Reason*

By Leroy Brownlow

Order from: Quality Publications – Forth Worth –

800.359.7708

The Bible Only Makes Christians Only and the Only Christians

The blood-bought church of Christ and the unity which is in harmony with the eternal purpose of God - - studied in the light of the prayer of Jesus (John 17:20-21).

(37 chapters, 217 pages)

By Thomas B. Warren, Ph.D.

Order from: Christian Family Bookstore

www.tuckersbooks.com

When Is a Bible Example Binding?

(12 Chapters, 165 pages)

A treatise on correctly interpreting the Bible

By Thomas B. Warren, Ph.D.

Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Jim Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Dorothy Kyle, Ben McCain, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed,

Also: Debbie Bauer, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Melvin Norfleet, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Lovelady, **Pleasant Springs Nursing Center:** Julia Terrell

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Miranda Freeman was baptized into Christ last Wednesday night. Please extend your welcome to her and offer any assistance needed by her. She seemed very enthusiastic. Her address is:

6235 FM 1001—Cookville, Texas 75558
Phone: 903-573-5098

The next CHILDREN'S HOUR will be Sunday, September 26th. Mark your calendar so you can have some free time for yourselves that day.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING BEGINS October 4th and runs through October 7th with Bro. Michael Wyatt of Handley church of Christ of Fort Worth, Texas. Please plan to attend and participate in our invitation campaign. A flyer will be furnished for distribution.

There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for those would like to invite Bro. Wyatt for a meal or refreshments after services during our meeting.

Michael Wyatt began his preaching at the age of 19 by filling in for the regular preacher. With that preacher's encouragement he enrolled in the Brown Trail School of Preaching in 1976 and graduated in 1978.

He has conducted gospel meetings and spoken on lectureships in 10 states. He has done mission work through campaigns in Riga, Latvia for the past 8 years. Parnue, Estonia, and Jamaica. He had done Radio and TV work, and taught in the Ma-bank School of Preaching. Michael has several manuscripts in lectureship books. He has served as director in several lectureships. He has worked in youth camps, and spoken at youth meetings.

Michael and his wife, Susie, have two children: Joshua and Jullian. Joshua, who preaches for the Rosemark church of Christ in Rosemark, TN and Joshua has done mission work with his father in Riga, Latvia. Jullian is a school teacher. She is also very active in church work. Jullian (Jules) has done mission work with her father in Jamaica.

Susie has done several Ladies' Days programs), and also has several manuscripts in lectureship books for ladies' classes. Michael and Susie have done combined “Ladies' Days / Gospel Meetings” in the past. Susie has also done campaign work with Michael in Jamaica. She is a school teacher, concentrating on “special needs” kids and is very active in church work. Michael currently preaches for the Handley church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas

Health Updates:

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER (in addition to those remaining on our Prayer List) as they need our “special” prayers at this time.

Nelda Dunn, who has been having trouble with her foot, which has not been diagnosed as gout. She has been in quite a bit of pain.

Elna O'Neal is now back at home following the recent surgery on her leg and a stay in Baylor Hospital. She is in recovery but still having pain. It will take a while for full recovery.

Patsy Duncan continues to improve. She is doing her physical therapy at home.

Suzanne Charlton came back home this past week. She still needs our prayers.

Wade Miller continues to improve.

Jim Duncan is feeling much better, but is still not driving.

Dorothy Kyle continues to recover at home from her back surgery.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

October 10, 2009 ... 15th Annual Mid-Arkansas Youth Lectures—“*Be Thou An Example...*” 1 Timothy 4:11-12. See bulletin board for more details.

Coming up ... Don't forget about the **Bible Bowl**, beginning Monday, October 12th, at 7:00 PM. Be ready! Everyone is invited to attend, not just our youth. Bob Hedges has pledged to have a meal and refreshments for us. The participants need our support.

Women of the church:

Ladies Bible ClassFollowing the Ladies Bible Class, Tuesday morning, all who would like to and can will go to “Sweet Shop USA” candy factory for lunch and to tour the candy factory. Lunch with sandwiches, chips and drinks will be provided. We would like to have a possible head count by Sunday night. See Ann or Amy. Please join us for a time of good fellowship. The factory is on Industrial in the old Mastercraft complex.

Area Events:

Ladies Day 2009 at Marshall church of Christ, 414 N. Washington Ave., Marshall, Texas on Saturday, **October 10, 2009, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.** (located on the corner of Hwy 80 (Grand Avenue) and North Washington in downtown Marshall). Guest speaker will be Cindy Armstrong from North Jefferson church of Christ in Mount Pleasant. Homemade lunch will be served at the close of the afternoon.

Ladies Day at Mount Vernon church of Christ, October 24, 2009 from 9:00 AM to Noon (Lunch provided). Cindy Armstrong of the North Jefferson church of Christ in Mount Pleasant will be guest speaker. Topic will be “Are you Tiptoeing Through the Tulips or Running Through the Daisies?” - 1 Timothy 1:7

Thank You Note:

“Dear Brothers & Sister in Christ: I cannot find the words to adequately express my gratitude for your caring attitude toward me during my days of recovery from my accident, and not to me only but to all of our church family who have suffered misfortune and health situations. Your concern and kindness have been of immeasurable encouragement to me. I appreciate each card, every call and your personal actions of kindness during my time of trouble. I sincerely request your continued prayers as I undergo further treatments and possible surgery. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

—With Christian love, Patsy Duncan

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place.
or call the church office.