

**Those to Serve**

**Sunday 10-10-2010**

**Sunday Morning Worship:**

Announcements..... Grady Duncan  
 Song Leader.....Rance Robison  
 Opening Prayer ..... Rance Robison  
 Closing Prayer ..... Wade Miller

**Month of October 2010**

**Sunday Morning Lord's Table**

**South Side:**

Jerry Freeman  
 Jody Sparks  
 Alec Capel

**North Side:**

Weldon Miller  
 Bob Hedges  
 Austin Neal

**Sunday Evening Lord's Table**

Ron Traugher Fred Harkrider, Jr.

**Sunday Evening Worship:**

Announcements..... Grady Duncan  
 Song Leader..... Royce Armstrong  
 Opening PM Prayer..... Weldon Miller  
 Closing PM Prayer..... Darrell Cooper

**Serving Wednesday Night—October 13—2010**

Announcements ..... Grady Duncan  
 Song Leader..... Daniel McCary  
 First Prayer..... Jerry Freeman  
 Closing Prayer..... Ron Traugher

*\*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.*

**Attendance for the week of 10-03-2010**

Bible Classes..... 86  
 Morning Worship..... 140  
 Evening Worship ..... 96  
 Tuesday Ladies Class ..... 14  
 Wednesday Night ..... 102  
 Regular Contribution ..... \$ 4,003.25  
 New Construction Fund Contributions..... \$ 4,633.67  
 ( Includes transfer and interest earned)

**Averages To Date This Year**

Bible Classes..... 91  
 Morning Worship.....133  
 Evening Worship ..... 89  
 Tuesday Ladies Class ..... 09  
 Wednesday Night ..... 93  
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,084.21

**New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 108,527.87**

*(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: "Let the children come to Me  
 Matthew 19:14"  
**Kris Groda, Preaching**

PM: "The Authority of Jesus"  
**Kris Groda, Preaching**



**Assembly Times**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes .....9:00AM  
 Worship .....10:00AM  
 ..... 6:00PM

**Tuesday**

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

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes .....7:00PM



Website:  
 www.njcofc.com

Email:  
 njcofc@sbcglobal.net

**Church Office:**  
 903.572.1136

**Elders**

Gene Campbell  
 Grady Duncan  
 Weldon Miller  
 Hal Roper

**Deacons**

Jim Duncan  
 Jerry Freeman

**Gospel Preacher**

Kris Groda

**Secretary**

Rhodney Freeman

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

**Address Correction Requested**

# 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 12 No. 32 **Founded on the Word—Focused on Saving the World** October 10, 2010

## The Firstfruits of Christ and the Resurrection

By Kris Groda

What an interesting concept to detail the doctrine of the resurrection! Just how important is the resurrection to the Christian faith? Paul put it this way:

*"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." (1 Cor. 15:12-20).*

Paul taught this to correct the Corinthians regarding the truth of the resurrection. Some among them were saying there was no resurrection from the dead. Paul emphatically declares two things: 1) that "Christ is risen from the dead"; and 2) Christ had "become the firstfruits of them that slept". In this we gather that Christ's resurrection was God's firstfruits for the general resurrection. But what does that mean?

The word "firstfruits" comes from a Greek word that means "beginning of sacrifice". To better understand the metaphor, it is helpful to refresh our knowledge of the firstfruits concept.

*"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it. And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf an he lamb without blemish of the first year for a burnt offering unto the LORD. And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin. And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations in all your dwellings" (Leviticus 23:9-14).*

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The firstfruits were the earliest gathered grains, fruits, and vegetables, prior to the big harvest, that the people dedicated to God in acknowledgement of His goodness and providence He has shown and will show. God is good and has given *"us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness"* (Acts 14:17). Thought the firstfruits always were offered to God, it was a prelude to a bigger harvest.

Along this line of thinking Paul taught that the bodily resurrection is like a harvest where Jesus was the first of the produce. But some have trouble understanding how Jesus can claim to be the first person to resurrect from the dead. The Bible student certainly recalls the resurrection of the son of the widow of Zarephath and the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:8-37); Lazarus (John 11:43); Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:35-43) and Eutychus who was taken up dead after falling asleep and falling out of a window (Acts 20:9). Even after Christ's resurrection Matthew records: *"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many"* (Matthew 27:52-53).

Unlike all these that were raised from the dead and died again sometime later, Christ, was raised from the dead, never to die again because *"death hath no more dominion over Him"* (Romans 6:9). Jesus conquered death and is declared to be *"the firstborn from the dead"* (Acts 26:23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5).

*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (1 Thess. 4:13-14, 16)*

In essence, when Paul said that Christ had *"become the firstfruits of them that slept"*, he not only reinforced the certainty of the bodily resurrection, he also said Christ was the prelude of a bigger harvest to come of which **all redeemed will be a part**. No wonder Christians are to look forward to his appearing (2 Tim. 4:8)!

(A couple of Hallie's favorite poems)

**REMEMBER ME**

-Judith Karen Bulock

*Remember me when flowers bloom**Early in the spring**Remember me on sunny days**In the fun that summer brings.**Remember me in the fall**As you walk through the leaves of gold**And in the wintertime—remember me**In the stories that are told.**But most of all remember**Each day—right from the start**I will be forever near**For I live within your heart.***AFTERGLOW**

-Carol Mirkel

*I'd like the memory of me**To be a happy one.**I'd like to leave an afterglow**Of smiles when life is done.**I'd like to leave an echo**Whispering softly down the ways,**Of happy times and laughing times**And bright and sunny days.**I'd like the tears of those who grieve**To dry before the sun**Of happy memories that I leave**When life is done.***Please Remember These in Your Prayers:**

Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billye Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Gene Garner, La-Wanta Garner, Bob Hedges, Wade Miller, Thelma Reed, Helen Roper, and Karen Roper.

**Also:** Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Odis Duncan, Denise Hess, Terry Jackson, Margaret Laurence, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Mike Norfleet, Kristen Powell, Kent Stephenson, Kaitlin Taylor, and Charles Whitney

**Congregational Shut-Ins:**

**Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Doris Jean Bell, Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Following the evening service, in the Multi-Purpose Room. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

**HEALTH UPDATES**

**Hallie Wells Freeman Lang** passed away on Tuesday night at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. Services were conducted Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at North Jefferson church of Christ with burial at Nevill's Chapel Cemetery in Titus County. Hallie was always present for church services every time we met, unless she was terribly sick. She was a faithful Christian. Even when she did not feel good, she always had a smile and a kind word to say to you.

**Karen Roper** had some medical tests on October 7. She requested prayers that the results of those tests may turn out OK.

Monies are being collected to send to **J. J. and Autumn Jones** to help alleviate their

financial burden due to many months of unemployment and medical bills. J. J.'s medical insurance was recently canceled. If you would like to contribute, please see Karen Roper or Keely McCary.

**BIBLE BOWL TEST AT 7:00 P.M. HERE AT THE BUILDING, MONDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 4TH.****MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

We will have a covered dish luncheon after worship services on Sunday morning, November 14, 2010, which is the first day of our Gospel Meeting. We will remind you again later.

**Ladies Bible Class**

Tuesday, October 5th  
10:00AM

Topic: Women of Genesis  
(a book by Cindy Colley)

The class will be led by Lena Groda.

**THANK YOU CARDS**

"For all your caring, the food, cards, prayers, hugs and expressions of sympathy. We thank you. We are happy to be a part of this Christian family.

—Lovingly, Doug & Betty Abbey  
And Delores Williams"

"Thank you so much for providing such a wonderful meal. Our family is so thankful for all the love and support from your church family. We are blessed to have you all share in the celebration of Mable's life.

—Love, The Cameron Family"