

Those to Serve

Sunday 08-23-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Frankie Sargent
 Song Leader..... Randy Eubanks
 Opening Prayer George O'Neal
 Closing Prayer Bob Hedges

Lord's Table—Month of AUGUST 2009

South Side:

Rance Robison
 George O'Neal
 Cody Sparks

North Side:

Weldon Miller
 Darrell Cooper
 Roger Grimes

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Frankie Sargent
 Song Leader..... Rance Robison
 Opening PM Prayer..... Grady Duncan
 Closing PM Prayer..... Rodney Cook

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Frankie Sargent Tim Jones

Serving Wednesday Night—August 26, 2009

Announcements Bob Hedges
 Song Leader Grady Duncan
 First Prayer..... Daniel McCary
 Closing Prayer..... Jon McCain

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

Attendance for the week of 08-16-2009

Bible Classes..... 87
 Morning Worship..... 124
 Evening Worship 99
 Tuesday Ladies ClassMeets again in September
 Wednesday Night 89
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,752.30
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -0-

Averages To Date This Year

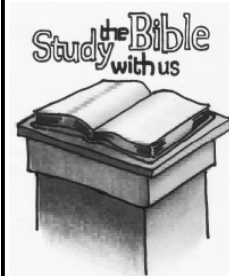
Bible Classes.....103
 Morning Worship.....141
 Evening Worship102
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 94
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,382.80
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 77,647.07
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

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: Devine Deliverance
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: Practical Christianity
Kris Groda, Preaching



Assembly Times

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM



Website:
www.njcofc.com

Email:
njcofc@sbcglobal.net

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

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 11 No. 26

Founded on the Word—Focused on the World

August 23, 2009

'Add to Your Faith Patience'

By Kris Groda

Patience is not waiting. When you wait in a waiting room to see a doctor, depending what you are there to do, you might wait dreading (not in a hurry at all) what will happen in the examination room or because your time is valuable, you might be impatiently waiting wondering why they made a 2:30pm appointment only to see you at 3:30pm. No, waiting isn't patience. Patience is an attitude that must influence how we wait (Romans 8:25). We are to follow after patience (Titus 2:1), which means we need to pursue it, go after it, grab hold and don't let it go. Notice the conviction the Lord expects us to have in developing this trait.

Also, patience is also translated "longsuffering". "Longsuffering is that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish; it is the opposite of anger, and is associated with mercy..." (W.E. Vines page 377). If we are going to be the Lord's servant we must be patient. Paul instructed Timothy, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25B In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26B And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will" (2 Timothy 2:24-26). In this text, the Holy Spirit teaches us to behave ourselves in spite of other people's ill and unrestrained behavior who, the Bible says, are held captive by Satan at his will. There are people who have chosen to be the servants of sin (Romans 6: 6, 12-13) and are not happy unless they are bringing others down and sucking them into their vicious vomitos vacuum (2 Peter 2:22). Nevertheless, we must not strike those who try our patience, nor sink to their level. We must exercise meekness, which is a bridled strength. The Bible teaches the Christian to, "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13B Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye" (Colossians 3:12).

It is true, we find it easier to tolerate and "put up with" those we admire, respect and care for. It is more challenging to "be patient toward all men (1 Thess. 5:14). If we love all we will be patient towards all, for love "suffereth long and is kind" (1 Cor. 13:4).

Satan works the workplace, schools, our families, and even in the body of Christ (our church family) against itself by flaws in our character. It is natural for any relationship to be stressed by the idiosyncrasies of another. We see marriages that fail because the couples fail in being on their best behavior and because they fail to develop their patience toward one another.

People can say some ugly things to each other and about one another. The Bible teaches us that if there is "ought" (something sinful) between brethren, work it out, resolve the conflict, and be reconciled (Matthew 18:15). We are not to broadcast our personal grievances to the world. If a sinner needs to be marked and their sin announced to the church so that we can avoid their leavening influence, then there are proper channels for that to take place (Matthew 18:16-18; 1 Cor. 5). We are not allow our imaginations to run out of control and exaggerate our experience conveying that to our friends, neighbors, parents, children or other impressionable members of the church. The Bible calls that "slander" (Pro. 10:18); tale-bearing (Prov. 18:8); and lying (Col 3:9). We sometimes have a way of blowing things way out of proportion and making mountains out of mole hills. Let us remember that we are the servants of Christ and children of the Most High.

Yes, Satan can sure get the best of us if we are not careful. Peter said, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile (1 Pet. 3:10). So, while we wait for those less mature in the faith to grow spiritually or the worldly people in society, we must exercise the virtue of patience and that of a bridled tongue (James 1:26). May God help each of us as we strive to achieve the moral excellence of the Divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) and add to our faith the quality of patience (2 Peter 1:5-6).



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

A Simple Remedy for Depression

By Chris Smith

The late William L. Stidger, a famous minister and teacher, once had a nervous breakdown. He was enclosed in gloom and depressed, caring for nothing. In the midst of his despair, a friend suggested, "Think of those who have benefited you in life and ask yourself if you have ever thanked them." Stidger responded that many people had helped him, but he could not recall ever having thanked one of them. Stidger's friend encouraged him to write some helpful person a letter of thanks.

After giving it some thought, Stidger remembered a teacher named Miss Smith, who had given him a love for literature. He wrote Miss Smith and expressed his appreciation for her influence in his life.

Soon he received a letter in shaky handwriting: "Dear Willy, I remembered you as a little fellow in my class. You have warmed my old heart. I have taught school for fifty years. Yours is the first letter of thanks I ever received from a student, and I shall cherish it until I die."

This response so encouraged Stidger that he wrote another letter and another. After five hundred letters, he stopped. He was no longer downcast.

All of us have benefited from a host of people - parents, teachers, schoolmates, friends, preachers, fellow Christians. Are you in the dumps, feeling sorry for yourself? Pick up a pen and write a letter. Go dial the number of a friend. Express thanks!

"In everything give thanks." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Window Through Which We Look

A young couple moved into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean," she said. "She doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time her neighbor would hang her wash to dry, the young woman would make the same comments. About a month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?" The husband said, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

"Yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." - 1 Corinthians 12:31.

Only Hold So Much

A gallon jug holds 128 ounces. If one tries to put 138 ounces into a one gallon container, ten ounces will spill over the side.

This is a simple idea. I believe the same concept is part of the reason attendance suffers, especially on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Not only attendance, but participation in spiritual work is lacking in many lives. In our society we have more than enough material possessions and activities with which to fill our time - so many that we are unable to crowd them into the 168 hours we have each week.

Just as with the gallon container, if we try to fill our week with more than 168 hours, some activity must be sacrificed. How often is it that one's service to the Lord is that which is sacrificed?

Let us fill our lives with more activities for the Lord. When we do, we will naturally rid ourselves of things that steal our time.

"A doer of the work....shall be blessed in his deed." - James 1:25

How Old Are You?

by Jay Lockhart, Benton, KY
(from the 2009 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat)

Each person has five ages at any one time.

- Chronological: How many years?
- Physical: How old does one look and feel?
- Mental: How much does one know?
- Emotional: How mature is one's behavior?
- Spiritual: How is one's knowledge and practice of Christian principles?

Save This Nation

In the days of the Civil War, a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln was a visitor at the White House. "I had been spending three weeks with Mr. Lincoln as his guest. One night I was restless and could not sleep.... from the private room where the president slept, I heard low tones, for the door was partly open. Instinctively I wandered in, and there I saw a sight which I have never forgotten. It was the president kneeling before an open Bible.... His back toward me. I shall never forget his prayer: 'Oh, thou God that heard Solomon in the night when he prayed and cried for wisdom, hear me. I cannot lead these people, I cannot guide the affairs of this nation without thy help...O God, hear me and save this nation.'"

-Author Unknown.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation" - Proverbs 14:34

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

Also: Debbie Bauer, Starlyn Black, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Amber Payne, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Home:** Joyce Lee, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Omaha Healthcare Center:** Alice Love-lady

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Last Sunday morning Nancy Craig and her daughter Tonya Larsen made it known that they wished to be recognized as members of this congregation and to work with them. Please keep these ladies in your prayers. Their address is:

**2000 Choctaw Apt. 27
Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455
903-556-0189**

Also attending with Nancy and Tonya was Tonya's sister Jody O'Rand and her daughter Madison (9).

TEACHER'S MEETING This evening at 5:00 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. This will be an organizational meeting for all teachers for any quarter for the coming year. We need men and women who will volunteer to teach our youth. Please help!!!

It's Just Around the corner ... BIBLE BOWL begins in October and will be over the book of ACTS. The schedule of the hosting congregations (all sessions will be held here at our building) and the dates will be published at a later time.

If you have not already done so mark your calendar. Our Gospel Meeting will be October 4 through October 7. Michael Wyatt of the Handley church of Christ in Fort Worth will be doing the preaching. More on this later.

Check the bulletin board in the north hallway for other items of interest.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS resumes on Tuesday, September 08, at 10:00 AM The Subject will be II Timothy

The peach and watermelon fest on the church parking lot was a success and great fun for all, some initiating a seed spitting contest with the kids. Great fellowship for everyone. Thanks to Frankie Sargent.

Thursday the Roper Family departed for Kayenta, AZ to the Indian reservation to deliver a trailer load of clothing that was donated by church member over the last few months. Please keep Hal, Karen, Bronson and the rest in your prayers on this trip and for their safe return.

Health Updates:

Patsy Duncan continues to improve and hopes to be able to get out and about soon.

Julia Terrell is out of the hospital and returned home.

Jim Duncan came through his surgery OK and returned home on Friday.

Mary Glover entered hospital last week. She passed out at work. She has experienced high blood pressure, But I have no updates on her condition at the printing of this bulletin.

Brenda Riley is still having trouble with her health. She will go to the local hospital on Monday morning to begin a series of extensive tests. Doyle asks that we keep her in our prayers.

Wayne Pickrel has been feeling weak from the treatments he is undergoing for his cancer and was unable to be here as often as he would wish to be.

Lou Ella Jones (mother of Brenda Riley) is in TRMC last Wednesday evening. This editor has not been updated as to her condition.

No further updates on the sick or those having or will have surgery has been furnished for the bulletin at it's printing. Folks need to be reminded ... that if they wish to have something updated or placed in the bulletin this needs to be done by Thursday evening.

THANK YOU ...

In a time filled with busy days and often many personal cares and concerns, you took the time to help and support our needs. The many simple gestures and sacrifices that you each made over the past four years of Wayne's illnesses, and more recently during my surgeries and recuperation, mean so much to our family.

To those who sent cards and food, who called and stopped by to visit, to those who came to the hospital, offered prayers and words of encouragement and the many other unselfish deeds, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Now that Wayne is longer here with us, your caring words of comfort and memories of our loved one's life will help us through our sorrow. The food, flowers, cards, thoughts and prayers will always be remembered.

Thanks again for all that you did, you have given us the strength to face the days ahead.

To Weldon, you gave tribute and honored Wayne's life and our memories in a way that will always have a special place in our hearts and we will cherish in the days to come.

God Bless You,

Janice, Darlette, Cole & Ty