

Those to Serve

Sunday 09-06-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements.....Bob Hedges
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer Weldon Miller
 Closing Prayer Wade Miller

Lord's Table—Month of SEPTEMBER 2009

South Side:	North Side:
Royce Armstrong	Gene Campbell
Ron Traughber	Bob Hedges
Rodney Cook	Chuck Kyle

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Bob Hedges
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening PM Prayer..... Doug Abbey
 Closing PM Prayer..... Charles Kyle

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Daniel McCary Fred Harkrider, Jr.

Serving Wednesday Night—Sept. 09, 2009

AnnouncementsBob Hedges
 Song Leader Weldon Miller
 First Prayer..... Open
 Closing Prayer..... Open

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

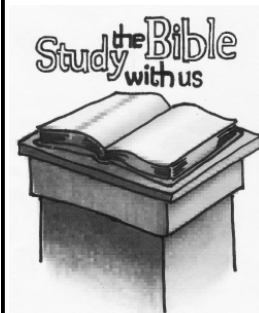
Attendance for the week of 08-30-2009

Bible Classes..... 107
 Morning Worship..... 134
 Evening Worship 89
 Tuesday Ladies ClassMeets again in September
 Wednesday Night 93
 Regular Contribution \$ 4,231.55
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -00-

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes.....103
 Morning Worship.....140
 Evening Worship101
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 93
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,371.21
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 77,467.07
 (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: Hope for the Hopeless
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: The Christian in the Workplace
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



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 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. 28 Founded on the Word—Focused on the World September 06, 2009

“For Unto Us a Child Is Born”

By Kris Groda

Considering the events of the week, I couldn't help but think of Jesus. Earlier in the week, I got up and went outside (coffee in hand) to check gopher traps. As I looked up I beheld a magnificent sunrise. And positioned about two o'clock from where the sun was cresting over the horizon was the bright and beautiful morning star (we call it Venus). But the Bible uses it to illustrate hope and cheer that a new day is dawning.

Peter, in his second epistle wrote, “16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:16-21).

This light (the Word of God) shines on those who are lost. The lost are spiritually in a “dark place”, a word that denotes a filthy, dark dungeon. The idea is that as darkness is expelled by the light, so the gloom of a sinful world fades as the daystar is allowed to throw its light upon the heart. Peter teaches, when we see the morning star heralding a new day, it reminds us of prophecies concerning Christ. That, coupled with the

lesson learned from the transfiguration event (Matthew 17:1-5), would bring light and hope to the gloom of a sin-darkened world. Jesus affirms that He is the bright and morning star (Rev. 22:16).

But another prophetic scripture about Christ came to my mind this week, and that was Isaiah 9:6-7. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

This text causes us to remember the following:

- The birth of a child was a blessing to any family. The birth of Christ was not only a blessing to the Davidic line it was also a blessing to the nation of Israel because it was the fulfillment of a promise to Abraham (Acts 2:30-31; 3:25; Gal 3:8,29).
- This son was “given”. Jesus was a gift (John 3:16).
- Jesus would govern. He's our king, our judge, our deliverer, our savior, our advocate, our great physician, “he is our everything, he is our all”.

His kingdom and kingship would be established, the government would be about His shoulders (He carries it.) and there will be no end to the increase of his government and peace. We are reminded from Acts 2:30-31 that Jesus took his place “on the throne” from or by His resurrection. Yes, my brethren, it is amazing the things that can cause us to think about Jesus!



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

Pass This On ...

By Steve Higgenbotham

I'm sure you've received many of them ... an email that says: "If you pass this on to ten people in your address book, God will send you a special blessing. It worked for me."

Have you ever wondered how to respond to such emails? I'm sure many of you have no problem finding the "delete" key, but judging from the number of emails I get containing such statements, I have concluded that many must believe it.

Friends, here's my suggestion. Next time you receive an email like that, kindly reply to the sender and share the following points:

- Too late. God already blessed me before I sent anything to anyone in my address book.
- The God I serve, and who is my Father will not withhold blessings from me simply because I didn't forward an email to ten people in my address book.
- How do you presume to speak for God in this matter? To whom has he revealed this promise to bless those who forward an email message? Emails that, at my whim, obligate God to do this or that are presumptuous and border on superstition. Remember, Bill Gates is not going to send you on a free trip to Disney if you forward an email to ten people in your address book, and neither is God going to bless for doing the same thing. Same message, different benefactor.

By the way, if you like this email...pass it on! ;-)

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Strange Focus

From the Preacher's PC

Upon his retirement as CEO of the Coca-Cola Company, Donald R. Keough spoke to the graduating class of Emory (1993). To those young men and women who would soon be facing a very tough and critical world, he said, "I have an architect friend who says, "I can take the newest building, built by the finest builders anywhere in the world, and if you give me a camera and the ability to focus various lenses, I can make that building look like it's about to fall down because I will find five or six minor imperfections, focus on them and convince you that the entire structure is about to topple.

In a society where a handful of people focus the camera of life on the events of the day, if you and I allow them to use their camera to focus on our lives, then we will be often disappointed, frequently fearful and generally miserable. Be wary of those who want to focus the camera forever on the warts and blemishes and shortcomings (sometimes so-called or fabricated) of our existence.

They did it to Jesus; they'll do it to you. Our greatest question and concern should be: Are we pleasing God? "Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you. (Mat. 5;1-12)

2009-2010 Bible Bowl Practice Starts Today!

Topic: *The book of Acts.*

First Test: *Acts Chapters 1-4*

Date: *October 12th*

Time: *7:00- 8:30pm*

Host: *North Jefferson - Mount Pleasant.*



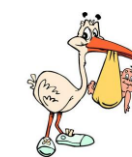
Prayer List: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, Suzanne Charlton, Jim Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Dorothy Kyle, Ben McCain, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Brenda Riley

Also: Debbie Bauer, Starlyn Black, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Nancy (Chastain) Clamen, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, 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:



The stork delivered the long awaited baby to Kris and Lena Wednesday night. (Naturally it was a boy, as expected.) **Kendall Taylor Groda** weighed in at 7 pounds 5 ounces and 19 inches long. Lena and the baby were able to return home Friday. Father is doing fine, but a little high strung right now. Grandparents and Aunt are helping out.

Jon McCain is leaving Tuesday, September 08 for Basic Training for the military. He will be gone for 3 months. Keep Jon (and April) in your prayers.

Health Updates:

Patsy Duncan is doing much better. She was at services Wednesday evening.

Julia Terrell has been admitted to Pleasant Springs Nursing Center, Room 161, for a couple of weeks of rehab.

Suzanne Charlton is still in the hospital in ETMC - Tyler. She is currently in Room 3317. Wayne (Charlton) is at home for a few days so he can be with her. Suzanne continues to have problems and we need to keep her in our prayers.

Wade Miller was at services Wednesday evening.

Jim Duncan continues to improve at home. He says it will be many more days before he can drive so Barbara is doing his running around for him.

Ben McCain got a good report from his doctors Thursday. His kidneys are clear, his enzymes are high and his medications seem to be working OK. He does not have to go back to see his doctor for 3 months.

Gene Campbell was taken to ER at TRMC on Thursday because he was experiencing some problems. It was determined he needed a pacemaker and that was installed Thursday by his cardiologist, Dr. Lewis from Paris, and he was dismissed on Friday to return home. Peggy has been

helping with Billye in his absence. Keep Gene and Billye in your prayers. AND ... today is Gene's birthday. Extend your well wishes to him.

It's also Hallie Lang's birthday. (age a secret)

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

Men's Business Meeting next Sunday, September 13. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend as your input is very important to the affairs of the church.

Coming up ... Don't forget about the Bible Bowl, beginning Monday, October 12th. Be ready! Everyone is invited to attend, not just our youth. They need our support.

Our Gospel Meeting is coming up ... October 4 through 7, with Bro. Michael Wyatt from the Handley church of Christ in Fort Worth. Mark your calendars to keep these dates in mind and be preparing for a spiritual feast.

REMINDER FOR ALL THE LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION ... LADIES BIBLE CLASS will begin on Tuesday, September 08 at 10:00 AM. If you are not employed outside the home, we encourage you to attend for an hour of Bible Study and fellowship. Plans for this year include sending cards of encouragements and sympathy, filling Christmas baskets for our shut-ins and others, planning our Ladies Day in the spring and other benevolent activities as opportunities arise. We will also be eating lunch together once a month. If you have friends or family you would like to invite, post cards and information sheets are available. For these and also for study books, if you need one, see Ann Pickrel at 903-572-7206.

We will begin in 2 Timothy, as we continue our studies in the New Testament. If you would like to attend but need transportation... please let us know. We would love for everyone who can to attend and make this a great a productive year.

Joyce Lee passed away Monday night about 10:30 p.m. at ETMC Hospice Unit in Tyler. There was a grave side service and a visitation was scheduled for 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th at Bates-Cooper-Sloan Funeral Home. She was buried in the Monticello Cemetery.

Elizabeth Hester Laden of Irving (wife of late Arvin Kenneth "Buddy Laden and sister-in-law of Nelda Dunn and Elna and George O'Neal, and Marie Holloway of Odessa, and kin to many of this congregation) passed away on Tuesday, September 01, 2009 in Irving, Texas. A graveside service was held Friday at 10:00 AM at Restland Memorial Cemetery in Dallas.