

December 10, 2023

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



## The Rock Hill church of Christ

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### Worship Times:

- Bible Class — 9:00AM
- Sunday Worship — 10:00AM
- Sunday PM Worship — 6:00PM
- Wednesday Bible study — 7:00PM

### Elders:

- Jim Boles
- Charles Haley
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

### Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

### Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

*"We're Here  
and We Care"*

## WHY NOT IN JOHN?

Each of our brethren do an excellent job in regards to their initial statements while serving communion at the Lord's Table upon the 'First Day of the week'. It is a time of remembering the commitments we have made to serve the Lord, and the sacrifice Jesus made for us upon the cross. Many of the New Testament writers have included a description of the institution of the Lord's Supper for example in **Mathew 26:26**, **Mark 14:22**, **Luke 22:14** as well as Paul's more lengthy discourse in **I Corinthians 11:23-29**.

Yet the apostle John, being a profound writer and powerful witness for Christ, has no parallel account in his writing. It would seem strange that no similar record has been discovered within the writing of about the same time in history. However, upon closer review, it should be noted of the days and events leading up to the arrest of Christ are intricately detailed beginning in **John 5:1**. On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus is accused of breaking the sabbath, is confronted by the Scribes and Pharisees, claims to be the Son of God, and feeds the 5,000.

It is notable that Jesus mentions in **John 6:4** "*now the passover, a feast of the Jews was nigh.*" Being the very event at which the introduction is presented when Jesus said in **Luke 22:15-16**, "*with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say unto you, I will not drink any more thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.*"

John's account of the time before the arrest greatly expands the emphasis placed upon what occurs. Jesus tells all in the audience in **John 6:53-56**, "*except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, ye have no life in you...he that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood dwelleth in me and I in him.*" Many of His disciples said this was a hard saying, and no longer walked with him. Significant historical events are recorded in the next few chapters of John's record including **John 12:48**, "*the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*"

John's final remark up to the final submissive act by Jesus, written in **John 13:2-5**, "*and supper being ended, Jesus girded himself, and began to wash the disciples feet.*" He didn't leave it out; he just recorded it differently.

Doug Jones

# Family News

*“For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:18,19*

If you are visiting our congregation, welcome! Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection tray as it is passed. If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

## N . E . W . S .

**LEADERSHIP MEETING** is today, Sunday at 4PM

**AN EVANGELISM CLASS** — there's a sign up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Learn how to share the greatest news ever told!

**THE LADIES' HOLIDAY PARTY** was a tremendous success; a wonderful time was enjoyed by all the sisters and their guests.

**NEW DIRECTORY PICTURES** — Nancy Jones is wanting to take new pictures for our directory and we need to add a few new folks

### CHILDREN'S HOMES CHRISTMAS

**FUND** — Linda S. will start collecting money for this annual good cause.

### THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH

We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute.

### SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES & TEACHERS

- **Teens class** in the foyer of the Bible class building — Burley S., teacher
- **The young single adult class** in the back of the fellowship hall — Scott W, teaching
- **Young adult professionals class** in the fellowship hall — Doug J. teaches
- **New Christians class**, upstairs of Bible class building — Charles H. teaches
- **General adult class** in the auditorium — Park teaching.
- **Kids classes**, ask for your child's age



### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- The Jones family in Doug's brother's very serious medical condition.

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Zeke Rodriquez for his PTSD, depression, and issues with the VA.
- Zeke's sister in law Carmen Rodriguez, macular degeneration.
- John Smetzer asks for prayers for Rose Smetzer, pneumonia.
- Alene Turner asks prayers for husband Lynn (cancer).
- Dianna C. for cancer treatment changes
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. at home
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- Fernando Z's father, Ramon

- Sandy L's sister, in hospice in MS
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our congregational leaders

### LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Sarai Lyons' friend Tiffany M.
- Isela Hughes' sister Griselda's illness & friend Jeff with cancer
- Bonnie B.
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- The Zapata's friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Ken C.

### READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Dec 10, Colossians all
- Dec 11, 1 Thess all
- Dec 12, 2 Thess all
- Dec 13, 1 Timothy 1-3
- Dec 14, 1 Timothy 4-6
- Dec 15, 2 Timothy all
- Dec 16, Titus/Philemon all
- Dec 17, Hebrews 1-4

*Because for me the word of the LORD has resulted in reproach and derision all day long. But if I say, "I will not remember Him or speak anymore in His name," then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire shut up in my bones; and I am weary of holding it in, and I cannot endure it. (Jer. 20:8b,9)*



# A word of Encouragement

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"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

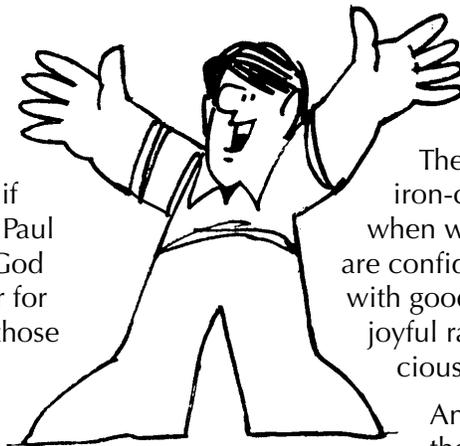
## LET YOUR JOY SHINE!

Christian is not a negative religion. The world—very unfortunately—sees God's word, Christ's church, and Christians generally as very negative—a religion of "No". We know why, of course; God often says, "No," to the evil and harmful things that people in the world seem to love, but which hurt themselves and others, and violate God's very nature. However, those who know the Lord understand that Christianity is very positive—and more than merely optimistic, it is full of faith and hope! The very things that make men pessimistic, cynical, curmudgeon-like, and defeatist have no power over the Christian! And it is why we can sing, "Joy to the World!" this time of year and always!

For example, Christians know that our troubles will ultimately be turned upside down, if we follow the Lord's commands. Paul reminds us, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28, NAS95). There is no problem so difficult that God cannot fix it, if we are willing to follow His solution.

And of course, one of the two greatest problems that man has ever had to face is death (the other being sin)—the Lord has solved it! While other religions may make a claim to some sort of afterlife and "salvation", Christianity has proven it through the resurrection of Jesus. Let that sink in; the event in this world that brings the most sorrow and dread has been solved! "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" (1 Corinthians 15:55, NAS95). Death is not the end of existence; there is much more. And for the Christian, the "much more" is more wonderful than words can express. With this sort of hope, it's hard to threaten a Christian with death!

And here's another, the nature of individual men can be changed! In Jesus, where a new kind of life is revealed, a clean slate is offered, and forgiveness is bestowed, the lives of men and women can be radically changed, not just for the better but for the best! God's word and Jesus' cross can make amazing changes in individuals and in the world, when it is sown into the hearts of men and men submit to it. God through Isaiah said, "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11, NAS95).



There is real joy in the fellowship of the saved. There is delight found in the commands of the Lord.

There is hope for men in this world and iron-clad hope for the world to come. Even when we are persecuted in this world, we are confident in our victory, overcoming evil with good. We have abundant reasons to be joyful rather than cynical, dark, or suspicious.

And when we do dwell on the joy, on the hope, on the faith; we discover a strength for perseverance, endurance, and zeal in doing the Lord's will—"Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."" (Nehemiah 8:10, NAS95).

This week, ponder the positive, enjoy the joy, and affirm the affirmative in your Christian life! Let that joy shine; people will wonder what you're smiling about—and you can tell them. God is so very good, and He has given to us the hope, the peace, and the joy that cannot be touched by the world—if we don't let it.

Park Linscomb

