

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"*

"LADY, ARE YOU RICH?"

They huddled inside the storm door...two children in ragged outgrown coats. "Any old papers, lady?"

I was busy. I wanted to say, "No," until I looked down at their feet. Thin little sandals sopped with sleet.

"Come in and I'll make you a cup of hot cocoa." There was no conversation. Their soggy sandals made marks upon the hearthstone. Cocoa and toast with jam to fortify against the chill outside.

I went back to the kitchen and started again on my household budget. The silence in the front room struck through to me. I looked in. The girl held her empty cup in her hands, looking at it. The boy asked in a flat voice, "Lady, are you rich?"

"Am I rich? My, no!"

I looked at him and then at my shabby slipcovers. The girl put her cup back in the saucer carefully and said, "Your cups match your saucers." Her voice was old with a hunger that was not of the stomach.

They left then, holding their bundle of papers against the wind. They hadn't said thanks. They didn't need to. They had done more than that. Plain blue pottery cups and saucers; but they matched.

I tested the potatoes and stirred the gravy...a roof over our heads, my husband with a steady job...these things matched, too. I moved the chairs back from the fire and tidied the room. The muddy prints of the small sandals were still upon the hearth. I let them be. I wanted them there in case I ever forget again how rich I am.

author unknown

God has blessed us — everyone!

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 NOTES

- Updated directory pictures will be taken by Nancy J. starting at the beginning of the new year.
- The church's new advertising strategy, using video ads on streaming services seems to be working. We'll be looking for good fruit in the future.
- We are planning on putting a folding divider in the fellowship hall to provide for two classrooms. Specific proposals and costs should come next month.
- We are still looking into anti-flooding solutions. Hugh R. volunteered to help Charles with this project.
- The city's PGA Parkway project was explained to the leadership meeting. It will require that our entrance/exit be moved to the east of our property. This cannot be avoided because of state highway safety regulations. Work begins in the spring.
- Park has two Gospel meetings planned for 2024; one in Delaware in April and another in Maine in September. He will also be taking 1 week of vacation right after Christmas Day.
- Steve Comer from the Haiti children Home would like to speak at our congregation on either Jan 21 or 25 — Jim B. will finalize the dates.

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE and the elders have decided to cancel evening services to allow us all to enjoy family time.

A NEW BIBLE CLASS started this past Wednesday. It is a topical study featuring your questions or those of friends. Submit a question and come study with us on Wednesday evenings.

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 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.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Sandy L's sister, passed away on Monday. Services are scheduled for Wednesday in Mississippi.
- Bev Weldon is having knee surgery Wednesday

OUR PRAYER LIST...

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

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

LONG TERM REQUESTS

- 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 24, 1 John all
- Dec 25, 2 /3 John/Jude all
- Dec 26, Revelation 1-3
- Dec 27, Revelation 4-8
- Dec 28, Revelation 9-12
- Dec 29, Revelation 13-16
- Dec 30, Revelation 17-19
- Dec 31, Revelation 20-22

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on his shoulders: and his name will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of his government or of peace. On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with

justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.” (Isaiah 9:6,7)



A word of Encouragement

"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.

TAKE IT UP A NOTCH OR TWO...OR MORE

Christmas Day is one of the two holidays that draws more attendance in church than usual. The other, of course, is Easter, celebrating the resurrection. These are traditional days of giving the Lord special attention and recognition of the two most important events in the history of the world — the incarnation (God becoming man) and the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Jesus. I am grateful that the world recognizes them — it suggests that there still may be hope for this old world. And if you are among those who come to church mostly around these holidays, we're really glad you're here.

But while you're here, could I persuade you to consider taking up your recognition of what Jesus did up a notch or two?

There's a good reason that the birth of Jesus and later His resurrection are celebrated. They are profoundly important. I wasn't exaggerating at all, when I called them the two most important events in the history of the world. And here's why they are so important, they tell us that the spiritual realm is not a fairy tale and that there is much more to life than *this* life.

I often hear from skeptics and atheists that they might believe if they could only see or touch God, if they could only have empirical, tangible proof. Well, Christ's incarnation, God becoming man, is just exactly that. Now, of course, anyone can *claim* to be God; the proof is in pudding, as they say. And Jesus gave them proof with fulfillment of prophecies, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, strength to the lame, and even raising some from the dead — empirical proofs, proving the incredible by doing the impossible. In fact, Jesus raised a man named Lazarus from the dead; he wasn't just dead, he was dead enough (4 days dead) to begin stinking — witnessed by hundreds and thousands. Jesus came in the form of a man — in part, at least — to give us the ability to see, touch, and speak to God face to face. Yes, God came to earth to give overwhelming, historical, witnessed-by-thousands proof

that God exists. There are other reasons, too, why Jesus became a human being, but here's one in particular that you might want to pay attention to.

And Jesus' resurrection goes on to demonstrate beyond any doubt that 1) He is the Son of God and 2) there is life beyond this life. The Scriptures tell us that His resurrection predicts our own resurrection and entry into eternity — Heaven or Hell. Death is not extinction, it is *not* ceasing to be nor to be unconscious. Rather after death there will be a reckoning for deeds of our lives.

Given these two realities, then, may I kindly urge you to give more thought to your spiritual, religious life. It is far more important than the world around us would admit to, and it deserves some serious attention. So let me make a couple of strong suggestions.

First, get a Bible (use your old one, buy a new one, or let us give you one) and start reading it — not just to say you're reading it, but to "get" what it's saying. Starting in Matthew is not a bad idea, since that is one of the places where Jesus' story and teachings are told.

Second, start making a point to come to church (here) more often. It actually is a command in the Bible to meet every first day of the week (see Hebrews 10:23-25). This will be a surprising source of spiritual strength to you. God gave the command not just to have something for you to do, but for your (and my) spiritual benefit.

Third, ask for or accept an offer to study the Bible with our preacher, one of our elders, or deacons, or Bible class teachers. They'll help answer questions for you, by pointing you to Scripture — all answers need to come from the Bible.

Make this holiday season truly meaningful by letting it be about more than Santa, the gifts, and the decorated trees. Let the season be the time when you began to take your soul and eternity seriously.

Park Linscomb

