

# 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"*

## HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTIANS

Most of us love holidays. They are full of family and food — sometimes gifts and trips. From New Year's Day to the Fourth of July, to Memorial Day, to Labor Day, to Veterans' Day, and even to our birthdays, we love the time off and the things that these special days prompt us to think about. And they can be especially meaningful, when they highlight something about our faith; I'm thinking especially about Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. Now the Lord hasn't commanded us to celebrate any particular holy-day above another except for Sunday, the first day of the week, sometimes called "the Lord's Day". So is it OK to do, or not?

Did you know that Jesus Himself celebrated non-biblical holidays? In John 10:22 the Bible says that Jesus attended the Feast of Dedication (what we know as the Jewish holiday of Chanukah). This holiday celebrates the rededication of the Temple after Antiochus Epiphanes (an evil Greek king) had desecrated it with pagan sacrifices. Chanukah was not given by God in the Law of Moses like Passover or Atonement; and it wasn't even given in later inspired scripture like Purim (which is given in the book of Esther). Chanukah was just a traditional holiday — but Jesus was in Jerusalem for it.

So, can Christians celebrate holidays like Christmas, Easter, and even Thanksgiving (an American holiday with Christian roots)? If Jesus could celebrate Chanukah, it would make sense that we can — if we so choose — celebrate Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. No scripture commands that we should, nor is there a scripture to prohibit such celebrations. As Romans 14:6 tells us, "He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God." God has given us leeway to celebrate one day above another as long as it doesn't celebrate something unChristian (Romans 14:5).

*Park Linscomb*

# Family

*"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 .

### SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES AND 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

**LEADERSHIP MEETING** is next Sunday at 4PM

**"BIRTHDAY CAKE" FELLOWSHIP** to celebrate the birthdays of November and December will be on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> They include for November Dale C., Dianna C., Alexandria A., Melinda S., Bonnie D., Elizabeth H., Trelitha B., and Adele S. And for December: Javier P., Suzanne D., Lavonia C., Mike H., Mageretta F., and Martin C.  
**THE LADIES' HOLIDAY PARTY** — Dec. 4 (tomorrow), 6:30PM. All information about food and the game will be found in the back. Got questions? See Linda S or Pam H.



**AN EVANGELISM CLASS** might be formed to teach how to share the faith. If interested, please tell Park and let him know your best time to meet.

**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.

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- The Turners whose daughter-in-law died recently; the memorial service is later this week.
- 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
- 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 3, 2 Cor 5-8
- Dec 4, 2 Cor 9-13
- Dec 5, Galatians 1-3
- Dec. 6 Galatians 4-6
- Dec 7, Eph 1-3
- Dec 8, Eph 4-6
- Dec 9, Philippians all
- Dec 10, Colossians all

*Mark 3:34,35 — "Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, [Jesus] \*said, 'Behold My mother and My brothers! "For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.'"*

# 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.

## THE VALUE OF HOSPITALITY TO YOU

One of the greatest demonstrations of love and sacred duty in the near eastern world was, and still is, hospitality. When you invite someone into your home, you offer them almost every privilege of family including food, protection, and help; the story of Lot in Genesis 19 is an example of it. In the first century Christian world it continued to be an important Christian moral duty. Hebrews 13:2 teaches, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." The Greek word literally means "love of strangers", but it applied to more than strangers like itinerant preacher, prophets, or apostles showed up in town; it also applied to times when the church needed a place to meet (Romans 12:13).

But in modern times the teaching about hospitality seems to have been moved to the back row of the Christian virtues. It is probably because we live busy lives, usually have two income families, and find it a lot of work. So, are we, therefore, excused from hospitality? By no means! What we need to do, instead of finding reasons why we should be excused, is find ways to be cheerfully obedient. May I humbly offer a few helps toward that goal?

It must be conceded that hospitality can be a lot of work, but consider who we're offering it to — the Lord. Remember the passage that tells us about the Judge-ment? Jesus tells us, "Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?...' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" (Matt. 25:37-40). Remember, it's not the "Smiths" that you're really entertaining; it's the Lord. Who wouldn't be anxious to do that, no matter how much work?

Second, remember in the midst of all the work you may be doing, the brethren came to your house not to inspect your house and critique your meal, but to see you. Sometimes we get all caught up in the folly of the world and think we need to present a perfect house, meal, etc. While we needn't take the other extreme, we do need to realize that we're family, and that we're all

going to appreciate whatever effort was possible. Wasn't that a great deal of Martha's problem? She missed the joy and opportunity of hospitality to Jesus and the apostles as she tried to be the perfect hostess.

Moreover, hospitality gives you the chance to be a good steward. The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14ff) tells us what the difference between good stewardship and bad stewardship is. The two good stewards used the master's money to invest and increase their master's assets; the bad steward just preserved the master's money. In other words, it is the proper use (by the Lord's definition) of what we've been blessed with that makes us good stewards; but the Lord specifically defined poor stewardship in this parable as non-use. Now we can safely add deliberate abuse to that definition of poor stewardship, but you get the idea. And if we understand blessings like our homes (apartments), our energy, and our food as a stewardship (as they certainly are), then use of them in a God-commanded way like hospitality is a perfect use and stewardship of them, and the perfect way to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master" (Matt. 25:23).

Lastly, it gives us the chance to have better fellowship with one another — a huge priority in the church. The introduction of the TV into the family living room began an antisocial trend in our culture that has only deepened over the decades. Rather than seeking community socialization, we began to be content to stay at home and be entertained. It got worse with computers and grew worse still with mobile phones and their always-on electronic anonymous social networks (there's a real oxymoron there) and text messages — isolating us more and more. On the other hand, hospitality is to the church what the dinner table is to the family; it is the place to reconnect with a real person with a real voice, real tears, real laughter, real concerns, and real encouragement.

So, yes, hospitality is work, just like washing feet; but it can and should be cheerfully and joyfully done in obedience to the Lord. When we do, we gain so much

Park Linscomb



