

# 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"*

## GOD'S PLAN, PART 7

The Word of God is neither incidental nor is it accidental. It is a very specific moral standard that only God Himself could have created. It is difficult for us to comprehend such an elaborate plan that has been extended over thousands of years, millions of people, yet concentrates on us as individual souls. It is no small wonder that the inspired writers referred to God's plan as a Mystery. The apostle Paul said it best, a reference to true worshippers of the New Testament; **1 Corinthians 4:1**, "Let a man so account of us as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God." Unfortunately, to so many today, the "mystery" remains.

Although Paul is making reference to the apostles and current disciples of Christ as "stewards of the mysteries of God" he also passes that responsibility to Christians today by inspiration. In **Ephesians 3:1-11**, Paul gives a most insightful explanation as follows; "by revelation, He (God) made known unto me the mystery...as it is now revealed to His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit...to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God...to the intent that now unto principalities and powers in heavenly places...might be made known by the church, the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord..."

The significance of The Church must be included in the 'Purpose' of God for redemption and the 'plan' to get us there. In **Matthew 16:18-19**, Jesus first tells us of the plan to build the Church and His (Jesus') intention to give the authority to the apostles to facilitate the inspiration by which "The Word" would be delivered. Before His ascension in **Acts 1:4-8**, Jesus demands "they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence...But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses of me...unto the uttermost part of the earth." In **John 14:26**, (the Holy Ghost) he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." The guidance from the Holy Ghost is the inspiration the apostles needed to "bind and loose" as Jesus indicated in **Matthew 16:18-19**.

Doug Jones

# Family News

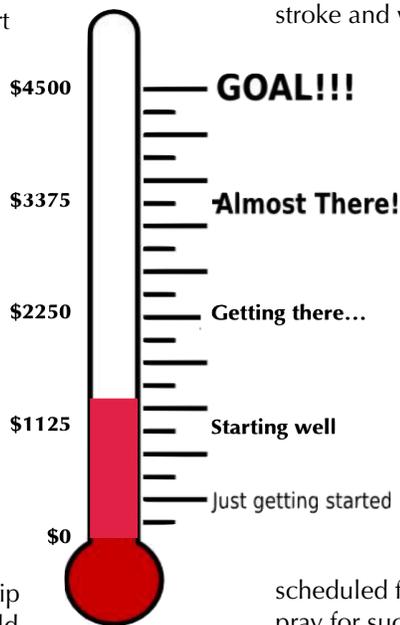
*"For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God."* Ephesians 2:18,19

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 .

**A NEW CAMP DEER RUN CAMPERSHIP FUND.** Camp is a great experience for our young people, and the elders want to support every young person who wants to go. So, our congregation's elders, deacons, and preacher decided that we would inform all our young people (and families) that we will provide camper fees for this summer for those who'd like to go, 2 weeks costs \$895. To underwrite that we'll be inviting the congregation to contribute to a campership fund. If the fund would be short of the goal of \$4500, then we subsidize the remainder with congregational funds. If you'd like to contribute to this fund by check, you give it to Charles, but you can also give online in the same way you might give to support the church's general fund. A thermometer chart in the auditorium will help you track our progress.

**AREA WIDE OFFERINGS** Area wide worship, March 3, 5:30PM, at the Greenville Ave church of Christ.



**AN EVANGELISM CLASS** — Our next class will be at the Ruebushes home at 7PM on March 21. Join us!

**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...

- Doug Jones' niece had a stroke Wednesday caused by a blood clot. Things have improved since then, but the family still asks for our prayers to the Lord for her.
- Bonnie Davidson has had a minor stroke and was in the hospital for a few days last week. The doctors do not think she will have any long lasting effects from the stroke. Nevertheless, please pray for Suzanne and Alice as they take care of their mother and for Bonnie to improve.
- Joan Votaw is having bad back pain. She is scheduled for surgery next week; pray for successful.

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Lynn Turner recovering from a broken leg, now in PT. Lynn also has cancer
- Burley Stinnett Jr. — various health issues
- Rachel W's friend, Madeline, with Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Whitney Perez, cancer chemo
- Bev W., recovery, knee surgery.
- Zeke R. — PTSD, depression, and VA issues. Also, Zeke's sister-in-law Carmen R., eye sight

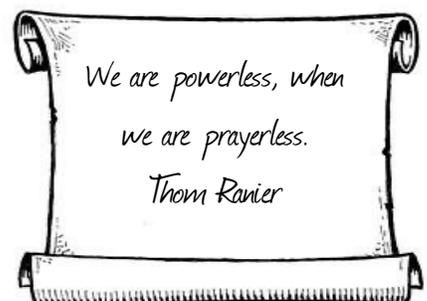
- Dianna C. for cancer treatment
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. recovering
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our elders, deacons, preacher, teachers, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregational

### LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Isela Hughes' sister Griselda's illness & friend Jeff with cancer (very ill)
- 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

- Mar 3, Deut 14-17
- Mar 4, Deut 18-20
- Mar 5, Deut 21-23
- Mar 6, Deut 24-26
- Mar 7, Deut 27-28
- Mar 8, Deut 29-31
- Mar 9, Deut 32-34
- Mar 10, Josh 1-4



# 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.

## BE STRONG, COURAGEOUS, AND IN CONSULTATION WITH GOD

Joshua's story as he is about to enter into Canaan with Israel is an instructive one. He was facing a truly daunting and challenging task — taking on all those many strongly fortified Canaanite cities, taking on the giants that were in the land, and taking on kings that had trained armies and advanced weaponry (in comparison to Israel's military). Consequently, after Moses' death on Mt. Nebo, the Bible tells of the Lord coming to Joshua, probably wondering how they were going to attempt to conquer without Moses. He had no doubt God would be with Israel, but still, only a fool would not feel a little anxious.

Knowing Joshua's human worries, the Lord comes to him (see Joshua 1:1-9) to tell him three times to "be strong and courageous". And here are some encouragements for us, too, because we too face daunting challenges in the world around us.

There are two parts to this encouragement. The first part is to be strong. He wasn't talking about taking more time to go to the gym and get "pumped up". He was urging Joshua regarding his strength of will, to have a bold commitment to the task set before him. I'm reminded of Psalm 37:5, "**Commit** your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He will do it." In our fears and faithlessness we often become hesitant, timid, and offer half-measures. The Lord wanted to urge Joshua to fully, strongly commit, and the same would go for us, too. Whether it is fully committing to live the Christian life in the midst of a secular world or fully using the opportunities to share the Gospel, or being generous with our time, skills, or other resources we need to be strong and bold too, not timid or hesitant. If the Lord has commanded it, He will be behind it, and there's no reason to hold back.

The other part of the encouragement was to be courageous. Joshua's future was going to take courage: defeating trained armies, taking the walled cities, taking the cities of the giants, and following God's strategies (which were always just a bit odd from a human point of view). And a faithful Christian walk will take courage, too. Doing what is right, when others are doing you wrong; service to those who may be persecuting you; asking someone to study the Bible with you; teaching a children's Bible class; confronting a sin; or any variety of stepping out in faith. When God is with us, we can afford to be courageous, doing what we should in spite of any fear we may feel.

But there is another dimension to the encouragement given to Joshua; he was to be strong and courageous being "careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you" (1:7). And Joshua seemed to have done that regularly — with one exception. In Joshua 9:14ff the Gibeonites (a local Canaanite city, one which should have been destroyed, because it was in Canaan) posed as ambassadors from a far away place to seek peace with Israel in an attempt to save themselves from certain death and destruction. When they came and told their "story" Joshua believed them and acted boldly and courageously making a covenant of peace with them. He did not seek the counsel of God. The lesson for us is that the boldness and courage that we show in our lives needs to be in harmony with God's will. Being simply bold and courageous isn't enough to please God; especially if we're being bold and courageous to merely accomplish our own agenda.

I've always liked this little declaration entitled "Fellowship of the Unashamed" (author unknown to me), quoted here in part, because it captures this idea of bold and courageous living for the Lord...

*I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed. My presence makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals...*

*I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, or let up...until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.*

*I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go 'til He comes, give 'til I drop, preach 'til all know, and work 'til He stops me. When He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me — my banner will be clear!*

Let us be bold and courageous in our lives for the Lord, letting our banner and commitment be clear to all the world!

Park Linscomb

