

# 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"*

## HOW MANY WAYS CAN WE DELIVER THE MESSAGE?

In order to make this really personal, each of us should consider this question, and measure our effectiveness to "spreading the Gospel". After all, in **Matthew 5:13-16** Jesus said, "Ye are the salt of the earth...and the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Obviously, the intent is that we exemplify fundamental Christian values that are consistent with what the word of God teaches. Each of us has the ability to teach by the examples we set in everyday life. First, however, we need to accept this responsibility and learn how we can best deliver the message.

In **Matthew 12:30**, Jesus makes a simple statement that should empower us to align our views; He said, "he who is not with me is against me; and he who gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." This actually means that if we are not representing spirituality, we are probably considered just another wayward soul who is not known for their faith in God. Certainly that the fundamental righteous values expressed in **Galatians 5:22-26** have not been a representation of the lives we lead.

One of the great lessons in all the New Testament is written in **1 Corinthians 1:18-29** which says in part: "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God...hath not God made foolish the wisdom of the world...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Standing at the pulpit is not the only way we preach the Gospel. The percentage of Men who Preach from the pulpit is small by comparison to those who live to please God. It is larger portion of men, women, boys and girls who have the ability to reach a much larger audience than those who has assembled to hear a popular Preacher.

It is imperative that we accept the responsibility of delivering the message of the Gospel, and "exercise (our ability) by reason of use" **Hebrews 5:14**. It will take some effort, but oh so important to the cause of Christ. Here is the challenge; there is no separate instruction book given to us that precedes the value of what God has provided. It begins in the heart of the individual with a commitment to serve the Lord.

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 .

**BURIED WITH CHRIST** — This past Sunday Peyton Stafford, grand-daughter of Cleve and Melinda Stafford was

baptized into Christ. We rejoiced with Heaven's angels; please be praying for this young lady's spiritual growth and strength.

**YOUTH EVENT — NOVEMBER 11** between 6PM and 8PM all our youth from grade school upward are invited to a hot dog roasting, s'more toasting, corn-hole boasting (contest) good time. Look for more details soon.

**LEADERSHIP MEETING** — Next Sunday afternoon at 4PM.

**SUNDAY EVENING SERMON**— While Park and Charles travel to Lubbock Sunday evening to interview some possible summer youth interns, Fernando will be preaching Sunday evening this week.

**FREIDA R.** is back from the hospital. Pray for her continued recovery.

**THE WHITE ROCK FUND** held their annual Reporting and Fundraising Day last weekend. There were

many great missionaries speaking and good news about the growth of the kingdom. Cleve Stafford is partially supported by the

WRF. If you're interested in helping the White Rock Fund and its work supporting missionaries in the northeast and abroad, there are giving envelopes in the foyer.

## THE WHITE ROCK FUND

### 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

- Alene Turner asks prayers for husband Lynn and daughter-in-law Roberta Turner. Lynn has cancer that occasionally keeps him from worship. Roberta is nearing the end of a long term illness and in hospice in Victoria TX.
- Our two new Christians, Cooper Roberts and Peyton Stafford.

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Diana 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, Lisa, in hospice care in Mississippi
- The Turner's daughter in hospice
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Isela Hughes' ...
  - sister Griselda Walters
  - friend Jeff, cancer
  - Sarai Lyons' friend Tiffany M.
  - Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our congregational leaders

### LONG TERM REQUESTS

- 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

- Nov 5, John 8-9
- Nov 6, John 10-11
- Nov 7, John 12-13
- Nov 8, John 14-16
- Nov 9, John 17-18
- Nov 10, John 19-21
- Nov 11, Acts 1-3
- Nov 12, Acts 4-6

*When a man knows he may breakfast on earth and take supper in heaven, temptations must lose much of their power—*

EDWARD PANOSIAN

# 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.

## LONELY?

**T**he Lord observed from the very beginning that it was not good for a man to be alone. He wasn't just picking on the guys, He meant all of us. People are social creatures. We need each other, whether we want to admit it or not. Even introverts want to talk with at least one or two people once in a while. Without relationships and social interactions we become lonely. And when we are isolated for extensive periods of time, it literally leads to mental psychosis.

Most of us have experienced the feeling of being lonely at one point in our life or another. Perhaps when we first went to college or the military or were on our own for the first time. Maybe it was just a long weekend with nothing to do and nobody to do it with. Perhaps an empty, quiet house after the death of a loved one. Fill in the blank with your own experiences. So, we all know how unpleasant the feeling is.

Loneliness can bring us down, can tempt us to complain, to grumble, and to sin. It can take away all our joy and exuberance. It can tempt us with "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em". It can "cancel" us, when we ought to be making the Gospel known. Clearly Elijah felt pretty lonely, when Jezebel threatened to kill him after the great victory over her pagan priests on Mt. Carmel, so he ran to Mr. Horeb and groaned that surely he was the only one left worshipping the one true God — we'll call it the Elijah syndrome.

What can we do? The world's is to party and engage in one-night-stands. They may be together, but they still can't shake the emptiness and loneliness. God, on the other hand, has provided us with several holy solutions.

**First, God will never abandoned us.** While the Lord remains invisible, it doesn't mean that He is not there, we are not alone. Jesus, knowing that His absence would be hard for His apostles to bear, told them (and us) that He would be sending the Holy Spirit as a Comforter in His physical absence. We receive the Spirit in baptism (Acts 2:38), and as a part of the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20 Jesus told the apostles (and us), "I am with you always, even to the end of the world." We can realize His presence through His communication to us, the Bible, and our communica-

tion to Him, prayer. Take advantage of this wonderful and unique relationship in times of loneliness.

**God has given us marriage.** This solution probably fits into the category of "preaching to the choir" for many of us, but I mention it, because our modern world has begun to reject the notion of both marriage and family. It costs money I could spend on myself and who needs the hassle of trying to adjust to everyone else's personality and quirks. But God Himself instituted the blessing of marriage in the Garden of Eden as the alternative of being alone, and it remains today as a remnant of that perfect world. Despite the challenges of marriage and family, it perfectly fills the social void called loneliness with hands to hold, arms to embrace, and hearts to unite.

**God has also given us the blessing of the church.** The Lord knew that living the Christian life would be challenging and sometimes isolating, so He gave us the church. Now, we live in a day in which the idea of church (like marriage) is often belittled and demeaned. Some will boast that they don't need the church to worship or remain a Christian, but God strongly disagrees (Heb. 10:24,25). The church is where we avoid suffering the Elijah syndrome. But even if you really are one of those who don't need the church (and by the way, I don't believe they really exist), the church (the people) need you. Here is where we fellowship, share, rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep, encourage each other, let iron sharpen iron, take care of each other, love each other, and worship together as God commands. Here is where we hold other hands, and unite with other hearts as the family of God..

**And the Lord has give us the additional blessing of hospitality** (Rom. 12:13 / Heb. 13:2). This may be hard for introverted folks, but if we are really feeling lonely, do yourself a favor and become an inviter and includer. The assembly of the church is great, and hospitality fills in the gaps between assemblies. Refuse to simply wait for others to include or invite you; be the first to suggest doing lunch, hosting a game night, or small group Bible study. Initiate fellowship with brothers and sisters and watch the loneliness melt away.

