

The Voice

“A beacon of light and a harbor of hope”

The Bulletin of the Fifth and Greenwich Church of Christ

July 4, 2010/Vol.13No.26

Worship Schedule

Sunday

Bible Class 9:30 AM
AM Worship 10:15 AM
PM Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders

Jack Jones

968-4277

Anthony Sweeney

968-5692

Deacons

Chris Hare

Freddy Nelson

Kenneth Pirtle

Minister

Richard Kirkland

967-4627

968-1636

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Whine, Whine, Whine!

by Dalton Key

The Bible's best were treated unfairly.

Moses, the mighty leader of Israel, mocked and rejected by his own people, was once on the verge of being stoned by those he had been commanded to lead (Exo. 17:4).

Elijah the Tishbite, a faithful and courageous prophet of God, was nonetheless forced to flee for his life from the fury of Jezebel (1 Kings 19: 2-3).

The apostle Paul, a faithful preacher of the cross, endured a life fraught with persecution upon persecution. He described them thus: “In labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep...” (2 Cor. 11:23-25).

And wasn't Christ, the Prince of Peace, “despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows”? (Isa. 53:3). Didn't our Savior suffer, “the just for the unjust” (1 Pet. 3:18) for sins which he never committed?

If you feel that life is not fair; that those around you don't appreciate you, take advantage of you, or in some way are intent upon mistreating you, you are in good company.

The question is not whether you will face such adversities (remember Paul's promise in 2 Tim. 3:12: “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”), but rather this: what will you choose to do—or cease to do—in response to them? When the going gets tough will you complain and quit the good works of the kingdom? Or will you, in faith, forge forward?

You and I have been gloriously called by the gospel, not to whine, but to work, and continue working as Christians, as soldiers of the cross, living but to spend and be spent for the cause of Christ.

We are not our own (1 Cor. 6:19). As disciples of Christ, we are stewards, we are slaves. As such, we must, in spite of whatever life or the world hurls our way, be able finally to say as did Paul, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7).

Perhaps you can help me. I can't seem to find the beatitude which reads, “Blessed are the whiners...”

(Reprinted from the Cincinnati Ave. Church of Christ bulletin, Sperry, OK)

TO OUR GUESTS: We welcome you to our worship assembly! We are glad that you have come to be with us today. Our prayer for you is for God to be leading you in your life and in your search for a church home. We are continually praying for God to send more people to help us with His work. If you want to be a part of this loving Christian family, please fill out one of our visitor cards and place it in the collection plate when it is passed. One of our elders or the preacher will then soon contact you personally.

OUR SICK: Please continue to remember the following individuals in your daily prayers: Bill Abernathy, Bob Baker, Raymond Barton, Jack Brown, Doranda Finley (cancer), Lois Galloway, Sue Griffin, Tim Green, Lillian Hare, Lilden Hefley, Mike Hickman, Faye Jimason, Jessie Kirkland, Morgan Melton, Lou Mitchel (cancer), Bob Molden, Jr., Joyce Poynter, Jamie Rees, Reba Spradlin, Etoile Sweeney, Sandy Sweeney, Jerrie Sweeney, Emmett Wade, Dan Woods, Martha Yates.

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Derek Jones, Phillip Sweet, SPC Destry Benton Branch.

MILITARY ADDRESSES: Jones, Derek: Derek, Stefanie & Kylie Jones 614 Tappansee Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23451. **SPC Destry Benton Branch, C. Co., 2-8 Cav. Bn CAMP LIBERTY 1st** Calvary Division, APO AE09344.

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKERS FOR THE MONTH: June 30—Matt Sweeney, July 7th—Adam Sweeney, July 14th—Freddy Nelson, July 21st—Chris Hare, July 28th—Jerry Yates, Aug. 4th—Vernon Howard, Aug. 11th—Jack Jones, Aug. 18th—Jim Harrelson, Aug. 25th—Nick Nelson, Sept. 1st—Donnie Miller, Sept. 8th—Ben Hare, Sept. 15th—Matt Sweeney, Sept. 22nd—Adam Sweeney

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way is presented on Sundays on channel 4 at 7:30A.M. Tune in this week! Presentations for the months of June and July:

July 4th—God Bless America

July 11th—Search Me, O God

July 18th—Authentic Christianity

July 25th—You Can Be Sure

Becoming a Christian:

We believe that we are saved by the grace of God which is accessed by our obedient faith to Him. Obedience includes making public confession of our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, repenting of our sins, and receiving baptism by immersion for the remission of sins in the name of Jesus. Through this response we are forgiven of our past sins, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and enjoy the promise of eternal life. We welcome at any time a request for baptism.

Becoming a member at Fifth and Greenwich:

All believers who have received baptism by immersion for the remission of sins are welcome to place their membership with us. Doing so places you under the care of our elders and commits you to active participation in the work of this congregation.

Responding:

If you have any need – baptism, repentance, confession, the desire to place membership, or desire the prayers of the church – you are invited to come to the front of the auditorium during the singing of the song after the sermon. The preacher will help you communicate your need to the church.

Record June 27, 2010

Bible Study.....	53
Worship.....	74
Evening.....	40
Wed. night.....	34
Offering.....	\$1,732.07
Budget.....	\$1,389.00

Southern Christian Home

Don't Forget to Bring your Food Items for this week:

Toilet Tissue

Bathroom cleaners

Mustard

Now is time to restock!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning

July 4

Announcements

Freddie Nelson

Song Leader

Donnie Miller

Opening Prayer

Freddie Green

Communion

Bob Bell

Bill Benton

James Taylor

Ben Hare

Sermon:

Anthony Sweeney

Closing Prayer

Kevin Guinn

Sunday Evening

July 4

Announcements

Freddie Nelson

Song Leader

Ben Hare

Opening Prayer

Jerry Porter

Sermon:

Anthony Sweeney

Closing Prayer

Bob Molden

FROM THE DESK OF BROTHER RICHARD:

A great big “Thank you” goes to **Jim and Mary Harrelson** for the great work they have done on our picture directory. On Sunday we will have a “proof copy” in the foyer for you to look at and, please, make any changes or corrections right on your picture page. The completed directories will then soon be ready to be published and put out for everyone. This has been a very great task and we do appreciate so much all that has been.

Some of you have asked about our schedule for the summer. I have a **Summer Campaign** scheduled for Jacksonville, AR on July 14-18. Our **Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for July 26-30. I am scheduled to be **out of town on Sunday**, July 4th. So, July will be a very busy time but after that our schedule should not be so stressful! I covet your prayers for all we do.

Plans are well underway for our **Vacation Bible School**. Materials are starting to come in, teachers are getting ready and invitations are being sent out. Our theme this year is **“Rise & Shine for Jesus”**. The dates and times will be **July 26-30 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** each morning. We will have classes for children from **age 2 through the 6th grade**. We hope to have a really good session this year and invite you and your children to be with us.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Sunday, July 4, 2010, is the 234th birthday of the United States of America. The United States has historically been a nation built upon Christian ideals. Our founding fathers often quoted from the Christian Scriptures to defend and support the laws and actions of its citizens. But times have changed. We often hear today that the United States is entering a post-Christian era. And everything we see and hear tends toward that conclusion. Maybe we should reconsider our direction and return to our roots quickly lest we should no longer be able to sing or pray, “God bless America.”

Wise King Solomon wrote, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is disgrace to any people” (Prov. 13:34). Maybe today would be a good time for us to confess our failures, our sins, and return to God who has so abundantly blessed us. God has promised, “[If] My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14).

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers; it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her fertile fields and her boundless forests; it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her rich mines and her vast world commerce; it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her free public schools and her institutions of learning; it was not there. I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her matchless Constitution and her democratic congress; it was not there."

"Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great." (Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th century French statesman and author).