

The Voice

"A beacon of light and a harbor of hope"

The Bulletin of the Fifth and Greenwich Church of Christ

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO *THE LITTLE RED HEN*?

Richard Kirkland

Do you remember the story of *The Little Red Hen*? The story was made popular in the 1940's and extolled the virtue of a strong work ethic. In the story, the little red hen finds a grain of wheat and asks "Who will help me...?" But all of her barnyard friends give the answer, "Not I!" So the little red hen goes through all of the steps; planting, harvesting, threshing, milling and baking the bread, all alone. Finally, when she is ready to eat the bread, she asks her barnyard friends again, "Who will help me eat the bread?" And each one replies, "I will!" But rather than share her bread with those who were unwilling to help her with any of the stages of preparation she replies, "I will eat it myself!"

This story was designed to teach a very important moral lesson: "Those who do not contribute their part to the work should not benefit from the labor of others!"

Does this idea resonate with you? Well, it does with people who believe the Bible. God has always condemned laziness and praised the working person. In the Garden of Eden, Adam was expected "to cultivate it and keep it" (Gen. 3:15). After their transgression Adam was told, "Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you will eat of it all the days of your life...By the sweat of your face you will eat bread" (3:17-19).

In the proverbs of Solomon, the obvious folly of laziness is described: "I passed by the field of the sluggard and by the vineyard of the man lacking sense, and behold, it was completely overgrown with thistles; its surface was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. When I saw, I reflected upon it; I looked, and received instruction. 'A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,' then your poverty will come as a robber and your want like an armed man" (Proverbs 24:30-34).

In the New Testament, we have these wonderful admonitions: "He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, that that he will have something to share with one who has need" (Eph. 4:28) and "For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread" (1 Thess. 3:10-12).

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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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, Gladys Bennett, Bill Benton, Jack Brown, Lois Galloway, Sue Griffin, Tim Green, Jerrie Hare, Lillian Hare, Leon Harris, Lilden Hefley, Mike Hickman, Jack Jones (having back problems), Faye Jimason, Lou Mitchel (cancer), Bob Molden, Jr., Joyce Poynter, Jamie Rees, Reba Spradlin, Etoile Sweeney, Lucy Sweeney, Sandy 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 Tappanee 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 2—Vernon Howard, June 9—Jack Jones, June 16—Donnie Miller, June 23—Ben Hare, June 30—Matt Sweeney

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way is presented on channel 4 at 7:30A.M. each Sunday morning. Presentations for the months of June and July: June 27th—What God Wants For You
Tune in on Sunday!

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.

<p><i>Southern Christian Home</i> Don't Forget to Bring your Food Items for this week: Velveeta Cheese Pork & Beans Ketchup Now is time to restock!</p>	<p><i>Record for May 30 , 2010</i> Bible Study.....56 Worship.....74 Evening.....44 Wed. night.....39 Offering.....\$2,294.01 Budget.....\$1,389.00</p>
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MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST: Our next prayer breakfast will be at 8:00 a.m. on June 26. Last month was especially good and we can expect the same thing this time around. This has been a really opportunity for strengthening and encouraging one another. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

Let us humbly pray: Help me to walk so close to Thee that those who know me best can see I live as godly as I pray, and Christ is real from day to day. ~Ryberg

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning June 13

Announcements
Jack Jones

Song Leader
Matt Sweeney

Opening Prayer
Freddie Green

Communion
Jim Harrelson
Lloyd Atkinson
Bob Molden
Adam Sweeney

Sermon:
Anthony Sweeney

Closing Prayer
Vernon Howard

Sunday Evening June 6

Announcements
Jack Jones

Song Leader
Ben Hare

Opening Prayer
Jerry Yates

Sermon:
Freddie Nelson

Closing Prayer
Jerry Porter

(Continued from the front page)

It is God's family. Also, "In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit." (Ephesians 2:21-22)

What do you think of when you picture a temple? Is it some huge ornate building in which the voices heard are muted? Do you imagine scenes painted on the walls that show Jesus on the cross or being raised from the dead? The temple is God's sanctuary. It is his dwelling place. Understanding that, it is clear why the church is called the temple of God. It isn't about our buildings or how they are decorated. It's about God living in us. Through the Holy Spirit God lives in the church and works to pull the disciples closer to God and to one another. Notice it says, "In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple." The unity of the body makes it a fit dwelling place for God.

This means that to claim to be God's church while allowing prejudice to keep us away from different people because of their racial, social, educational or political background is to fool ourselves. The church is a place for pulling people together not a place for our exclusive crowd. It is not a country club with a spiritual bent. The very thought of being a place where God lives should be life changing for us. To see this dwelling of God as the church building where we meet is to miss the point completely. It is the people who are the church. God lives in us personally and as a body of people.

SCHEDULES

Sunday Bible Class:

Auditorium

The Book of Proverbs

Anthony Sweeney, teacher.

Adult Group Class

The Book of Revelation

Jack Jones, teacher

Sunday Singing Practice:

Each Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Auditorium

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Book of James

Richard Kirkland, teacher

Wednesday

College & Teen Study:

Led by Matt Sweeney

Church of Christ
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