

life lines

Jefferson Avenue
Church of Christ



KIDS AVENUE

Class Promotion day is this Sunday, **July 29**. All kids will move to their next grade. Kindergarten and under will meet in the gym one last time. All upstairs classes (1st-6th) will proceed as usual. Between class and service, the kids will be recognized for reciting their Basic Bible Facts per grade with a special treat from Cream City.

Back-To-School Bash is Monday **July 30** from **1:00-3:00** (weather permitting) at the Gilbert Brothers' Farm on Brotherton Mtn. We will have a wet and wild good time with slip'n slides. Be sure to eat before you come and bring sun screen, towels, and chairs for adults. Chips, drinks, and popsicles will be provided.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE **Children's Wing Hallway**

One more week is needed to finalize the remodeling of the hallway. No classes will meet on July 29 in the children's wing hallway. All classes *should* resume on August 5, for the children's wing.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

Sunday Morning Worship
What is a Church of Christ?
Matthew 16.13-18

Sunday Evening Worship
Fifth Sunday Singing

PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY ▶

OUR ROOTS

Have you ever heard of James O'Kelly? How about Abner Jones or Elias Smith? If not, then you will be blessed in this introduction.

One of the earliest advocates of the return to New Testament Christianity was James O'Kelly of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1793 he withdrew from the Baltimore conference of his church and called upon others to join him in following the Bible. He influenced many people in Virginia and North Carolina. History records that 7,000 people followed his leadership toward a return to primitive New Testament Christianity.

In 1802 a similar movement among the Baptists in New England was led by Abner Jones and Elias Smith. They were concerned about "denominational names and creeds" and decided to wear only the name Christian, taking the Bible as their only guide.

In 1804, in the western frontier state of Kentucky, Barton Stone and several other Presbyterian preachers took similar action declaring that they would follow the Bible as the "only sure guide to heaven."

Thomas Campbell and his son, Alexander Campbell, took similar steps in 1809 in Virginia (now West Virginia). They contended that nothing should be bound upon Christians as a matter of doctrine which was not as old as the New Testament.

Although these four religious movements were completely independent in their beginnings, they eventually became one strong restoration movement because of their common purpose and plea. These men did not want to start a new church. They just wanted to return to the original plan for the church as written in the New Testament.

This is still our goal today. As Christians, we want to help people experience God's grace and become fully devoted followers of Christ. Knowing the stories of our past will give us strength and encouragement to reach out to those who are lost and tell them about our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

Buddy Johnson



Collins' Corner

MATTHEW 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Today, think back through this story of when Jesus called Matthew to follow him. Who are you, where are you, in this story?

Maybe you are Matthew, and you have been spending a lot of time seeking out answers to life's big questions (What's my purpose? What's my place?) and the answers you have found have left you feeling empty. Maybe the answers you are finding leave you feeling lonely or ashamed. My encouragement to you today — if you find yourself like Matthew — is to follow the one who can give you fulfilling answers to those questions, Jesus.

But maybe you're not Matthew at all. Maybe you find yourself like the Pharisees in this story. You feel religiously fine and really fine overall. You are comfortable in who you are and you are comfortable with you who are surrounding yourself with. The flip side is, maybe you realize that you've been picking and choosing exactly who and what types of people that you have chosen to display Jesus too. Maybe you realize that the way you've been treating others is pretty similar to how the world treats others — love your friends and ignore everyone else. Today, my encouragement to you is this — look to Jesus in how you deal with your relationships. Look to Jesus to see how love is lived out, practically, right here today.

I would guess it is the hope of all of us today to be Jesus in this story. To seek to live intentional lives that look for opportunities to serve others and change the hearts of others through intimate relationship. Can we look after and find those who might feel lonely and build up a relationship with them? Can we look after those who might have public sin or embarrassment and build up a relationship with them? If we do, I'd say we have a pretty good start to finding our identity in the person and work of Christ.

Matt



Earful from Evan

In John chapter 3 Jesus is imparting to Nichodemus that unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. In verse 13 it reads: *No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'* About 3 times in the book of John he uses words which translate as 'lifted up'. Each time it references the death of Jesus.

Let's talk imagery for a minute because the Bible is full of meaningful life changing images. In these verses Jesus foretells his death. He references Israel's experience in Numbers 21 where we can find them complaining to God about the route, Moses, and manna. In response to this God sends poisonous snakes throughout the camp of Israel inflicting painful death on those bitten. Israel finally comes to their senses and about begging Moses to intercede, God instructs Him to craft a bronze serpent and fashion it to a pole. All who looked upon the serpent would be saved. Jesus' body like the bronze serpent would be fashioned to a pole that would be dropped down into a whole as it is hoisted up for others to gaze upon.

God is dealing with a nation of people, now and then, who continually look down instead of looking up. They look down at their feet as they trudge along. They look down at the manna they are sick off eating, they look down as the snakes come through the camp biting them. So God makes them come and look up. Look up at the perfect, purposeful and pure gift He the giver of all good things has given them.

And it is repulsive and it is ugly because it's what has led to their death. Yet they were called upon to look at it for healing. His crucifixion is no different. It was a revolting death. The Romans had constructed the crucifixion to be a humiliating and horrific spectacle; and yet we are called to look at the broken and bleeding body of Jesus for the cleansing of our sins. So we can be healed. Jesus takes on the hideousness of sin that destroys us and becomes a repulsive sight for our salvation. Satan can still be seen as the serpent. Biting at the heels of man. Hopping the poison of sin will lead to our death before we come to our senses. Before we bring ourselves before our Savior and look up to Him for healing. Jesus takes on that hideous sin on the cross and offers salvation on all who look for it through Him. So let's reflect on the greatest gift God has given us. What have you done with this gift?

Evan

News & Announcements

Remember in Daily Prayer!

Walter Drake has been admitted to Cookeville Regional and is in ICU.

Sandy Eaves will have knee replacement surgery on July 31 at Centennial Hospital.

Gaylon Presley remains in CRMC room #639 with breathing problems.

Tana Taylor, daughter of **Corinne Johnson**, has been diagnosed with invasive, grade 2 breast cancer. She will be having surgery on July 26 at CRMC. Prayers greatly appreciated.

Penny Pennington remains at Centennial Hospital in Nashville; room #3337. Penny called Tuesday and said the doctor told her she was still critical, but did show improvement. She asks for continued prayer.

John Brown remains at Williamson Medical Center, in CCU room #643. Please keep John and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

Mike Lewis is at home now recovering. Prayers greatly appreciated.

Leigh Ann Holloway Allison, sister of **Chris Holloway**, had open heart surgery. After healing from heart surgery, she is expected to have a kidney transplant.

Those who are dealing with cancer: Linda Alcorn, Kenneth Allen, Herman Bean, Dean Boles, Kaye Bowman, Barbara Brown, Rene' Canfield, Helen Carr, Walter Fitzpatrick, Jan Immel, Rhett Massey, Paula Palk, Jan Shepherd, Marty Smith, Lester Sparks and Tana Taylor

Our Shut-Ins

Remember Our Shut-ins:

Bethesda: Jan Shuster, Cornelia Steakley & Lyda Taylor

Heritage Pointe: Peggy Cooper

NHC: Rubye Anderson, Evelyn Solt

Signature Health-Algood: Matilda Craighead

At Home: Hugh Adams, Herman Bean, Sue Clack, Margaret Cunningham, Mary Dyer, Wilma Judd, Peggy Mackie, Ralph Medley, Pat McCanless, Robert & Jean Reeves, Claudine Smith, Ed & Rosella Smith, Frances Smith, Marty Smith, Jimmy Stafford and Jordan Terry

NHC Worship Service: Jefferson Avenue will conduct the worship services at **NHC Sunday, July 29 at 2:00pm.** **The 30s & 40s Class** is scheduled to assist.

Thank You!

Joe Carter: I am back home and in a normal routine. The time between my diagnoses and surgery in June was bearable due to the cards, prayers and moral support I received. I thank those who came on the 28th of June and sat with Nick. I know my recovery was better by staying with Frances and Gaylon. I really appreciate all the food, cards, visits that I received. That along with prayers, I am sure of what led to a quick recovery.

Gaylon and Frances say thank you to everyone for being so kind and considerate. They appreciate everyone and everything.

The Amazing Ladies will be meeting for a patio lunch at Crowdaddy's Restaurant on Broad Street, on Tuesday, August 14. Due to parking, we will take the bus and it will drop us right at the entrance. The bus will leave at 11:00am. Please sign up on the YAH Board by Sunday morning, August 12. We are hoping for a sunny, fun filled fellowship day! (we will eat inside if rain)



Mother's Day Out Open House

Thursday, August 2

Accepting application

MDO is open Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 2:30. Registration forms are available in the church office. For more information, call Director **Laura Fox** at 260-7861.



Wedding Invitation: Our Jefferson Avenue Family is invited to the marriage ceremony of **Sarah Viar and Jonathan Terry** on August 11 at 2:00pm, here at Jefferson Avenue, with reception to follow. They are registered at Amazon, Borden's, Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, Walmart and Williams Sonoma.

Viar/Terry

HOUSEPARENT'S NEEDED at Happy Haven Children's Home. Seeking applicants for houseparent's to work in our ministry of caring for girls in our residential homes. The wife would be salaried as house mother. The husband can be employed locally. Contact: Houston Bynum, administrator Happy Haven Children's Home at 931-526-2052. See website for applications: www.happyhaven.org (click on media & then click forms).

