

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

March 5, 2017

A WAY OUT

It's confession time.

The mere sight of a squad car—particularly when my speed is a little beyond the posted limit—kicks off a flurry of excuses in my mind. My speedometer must be a little off . . . I had no idea how fast I was going . . . I didn't know what the speed limit was . . . I'm on my way to church . . . The prevailing thought behind all of that is: I wonder what I can do or say to get out of a ticket?

When I think about it, I'm actually shocked by how quickly rationalizations and excuses come to my mind when I have sinned. At first blush it seems better to cover up my guilt than to be honest about my true condition. Tell me I'm not alone!

As you probably know, Psalm 51 is written after David experiences a gut-wrenching reality check. A series of choices had taken this king further and further from the path of righteousness until he found himself tangled up in a disastrous web of excuses and cover-ups. It takes a committed prophet, Nathan, speaking truthfully on behalf of the Lord, to draw King David back to reality and expose the ugly details of his sin.

In this psalm, David comes clean! And as he prays, he reminds us that God is not only a compassionate and merciful God, but He is also a God who demands that we be truthful with ourselves about our sin. Not bits of truth coated with rationalizations and excuses. Not half-hearted assertions about our sinful choices ending with "but it's not really my fault." When we have sinned, God demands heart-level, flat-out open honesty about our sin and our responsibility for what we have done. It is then

that He is ready to pour out the abundant grace of His forgiving mercy.

There is no deceit worse than self-deceit. Making ourselves feel better about our sinful condition by covering it up with lame excuses is like taking a cadaver to the ball in a tux. You may look good for awhile, but before long you'll have trouble living with what you really are like under all the excuses. More seriously, failing to come clean about our sin short-circuits the process of experiencing God's cleansing and restorative work in our lives. Why are we hiding? God stands ready to cleanse and forgive! Being honest about our true condition drives our hearts to the cleansing work of the cross.

And, as David points out, instead of living in the smog of self-deceit, being honest with ourselves opens our hearts to embrace God's wisdom. Facing up to our sin always makes us know that we are not nearly as smart as we thought. After all, if we were all that smart we wouldn't have taken the nosedive in the first place. Admitting our true condition drives us to embrace our need for God's wisdom to guide us on our journey!

So whether it means surprising a police officer with a statement like, "You're right, I was speeding and am sorry for disobeying the law," or saying to a family member or friend, "I was totally wrong! Will you forgive me?" let's be done with our excuses. And, more importantly, let's come clean before God! Each step that we take in acknowledging the truth of our sin is one step closer to the joy of His cleansing grace and the brilliance of His divine wisdom.

~Joe Stowell
Strength for the Journey

PRAY FOR...

HEALTH: Dortha Bailey; Andrew Barcomb; Kevin Beery; Gloria Breyette; Andrea Briscoe; Matthew Cech; Harrison Chambers; Jon Ciampa; Bonnie Davis; Norean Durocher; Pauline Fountain; Jacob Dixon; Missy Hagan; Richard Hoff; Michele Kempe; Jennifer LaValley; Steve Lebeau; James LePage, Sr.; Gail LePage; Pamela Louis; Nancy Lucia; Michael McCauslin; Conner Millar; Eliza Moore; Clara Nelson; Amy Porter; Phyllis Reiblein; Elizabeth Richardson; Marialice Schroeder; Calvin Sears; Carrie Spencer; Jack Stone; Jared White; Freda Whitfield; Luke Whiteford;

CANCER: Wendy Daley; Elizabeth Dapo; Ken Dubuque Jr.; Jeff Eagle; Mary Ebinger; Kevin For-ette; Kelly Guynup; Jackie Harvey; Alice Henderson; Lori Kashorek; Penny Kilpatrick; Tom LaSalle; Amber Miller; Olivia Orndorff; Kay Rooke; Alison Russell; Jane Sayah; Carol Snider; Sheila Starke; Chris Underwood; Rick Well

UPCOMING SURGERY:
Susan Cave; Colleen Gerber; Jody Miller

RECOVERY: Tara Hogan; Leo Myers; Gerald Sayah
ELDERS: Doug & Alfred

MISSIONS: Brazil & Malawi

STRUGGLES: Diane Barcomb; Scott Barcomb; Johnny Kowolski; Sean Lemineau; Bob Miller; Tyler Moore; Maria Pelkey; St. Pierres

Our nation

"Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins."

Church of Christ
77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, Ny 12901
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shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509
available: Sun. & Tues. 12-3 p.m. or by appt.

Schedule of Services

Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.



Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God's Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

We've got a new sound system permanently in place today and carpet planned to go into the auditorium the week of 3/20. Final decisions about carpet and chairs need to be made today, so plans can move forward, including plans for the removal and distributing of the pews can happen. We should be in good shape for a Winter mini-VBS on 3/29 and our Spring Sing on 4/23.



Mission Moment

-The full \$900 budgeted for the Malawi mission has been sent to Roger Chambers as he is flying there in early April to help with that work.

-Rachel has raised \$1300 of \$3000 for a mission trip to Ghana this summer with other OVU students, where she will help build a church building, work with an orphanage, and support teachers there. If you'd like to help, talk to Doug.

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our 4th Sunday meal is on 3/26. Please bring a dish to pass and invite a friend.

Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m.: our 1st Sunday meal is at 8 a.m. on 4/2. The menu is not yet determined.

We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: "God's Eternal Purpose & Plan"
Youth classes as well

... and don't forget our Wednesday Common Time at 6:30 p.m.

Doug's Devotional

"Then Jacob made a vow, saying, 'If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the Lord will be my God'"

Genesis 28:20-21.

After Jacob had deceived his twin out of his birthright and blessing, Esau exclaims, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob," which means deceiver. Fleeing from Esau, young Jacob sets up the above condition to God: "If God will ... then the Lord will be my God." But who is Jacob that he can speak to God in this way? Then again, who are we to demand that God prove Himself to us before we follow Him wholeheartedly? I picture a scene with the little chickenhawk threatening Foghorn Leghorn. In Romans 8, God says, "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" God has nothing to prove to us; He's already done it. It is up to us to recognize it. Jacob eventually did. Returning with wives, kids, possessions, and animals, he returns to Bethel a mature man of God and is renamed 'Israel' or 'he struggles with God.'

M.A.G.I. Box Time! (Making a Godly Impact)

If you would like to sign up to fix a box for a child in Zambia, please let Mary know this morning the gender and age of the child you would like. She has the list of articles especially for Zambia and a list of things we already have left over from last year.



Sundae Toppings

Today, 3/5, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
3/12, 12:30 p.m. Ladies' Time
3/19, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
3/26, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Key Word Search

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11 a.m. 7 p.m.

In Search of the Lord's Ways: "What Happened to Sin?"



Key to the Kingdom: "Questions"

Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 64-Judges 15-19
Day 65-Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-3
Day 66-Ruth 4; 1 Samuel 1-4
Day 67-1 Samuel 5-9
Day 68-1 Samuel 10-14

Are you staying caught up?



Mark Your Calendar



3/10-11, Church Growth Conference in Manchester, CT
3/13, Donna's birthday in Christ ('11)
3/24, Mary Chambers' birthday
3/26, Donna's birthday
3/27, Shirley's birthday
3/28, Bekah's birthday
3/29, Miller anniversary ('08);
5:30-7:30 p.m., Winter mini-VBS
3/30, Nick's birthday; Eddie's birthday in Christ ('08)
4/4, Rachel's birthday
4/5, Timothy's birthday
4/7, John's birthday in Christ ('13)
4/23, Spring Sing here!
4/28-30, Wetzel Road Youth Rally

Cleaning Corner

The March sheet is now on the refrigerator. Your taking a turn during this time is appreciated and needed. Thanks.

Men Who Serve Today: 2/26

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Alfred
Song Leader: Garth
#826 "Father, We Thanks Thee"
#797 "Lord, We Come Before Thee Now"
#571 "Something Beautiful"
Talk/bread prayer: Jim B
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: John
Pass/collection prayer: Steven
#794 "Unto Thee, O Lord"
Scripture Reading: Howard - Genesis 28:20-22
Lesson: Doug "If ... Then"
#943 "Do You Know My Jesus"
Closing Song: Jim L
#4 "To God Be the Glory"
Closing Prayer: Eddie

Next Sunday: 3/5

Announcements: Alfred
Opening Prayer: Tyler
Song Leader: Eddie
Talk/bread prayer: Jody
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Jim B
Pass/collection prayer: Carl
Scripture Reading: Steven - Philippians 3:12-16
Lesson: Doug "What We Have Already Attained"
Closing Song: Garth
Closing Prayer: Howard

Week of February 26

Bible Class	25
Morning Worship	34
Wed. Bible Class	14
Contribution	\$443.75
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$550.00

January → February Averages; 1 Year Ago

Sun. Bible Class Ave.	18 → 20; 12
Sun. AM Worship Ave.	32 → 31; 23
Wed. Bible Class Ave.	13 → 12; 11
Weekly Contribution Ave.	\$566.89; → \$588.53; \$509.50
Yearly Contribution Ave.	(26 weeks) \$654.61