

# Church of Christ

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

July 29, 2018

## WHEN BAPTISM IS MEANINGLESS

It was Sunday afternoon. The phone rang. The voice on the line was that of a man who had been a member of this church in times past. He now lives in another city, but had returned to Little Rock for a visit.

“I want to talk to you about my baptism,” he said. (I assumed that through the years he had learned more about baptism and thus was beginning to question whether his knowledge had been sufficient at the time he was immersed into Christ). “I suppose you are questioning your baptism because you now know more about the subject than you did when you were baptized?”

“No. I’m questioning my repentance. For some time now, I have been making a study of the kingdom of God, and I see that repentance is always linked to entering the kingdom. I don’t think I ever repented. When I was baptized, I didn’t change my life. I kept on doing all of the things I had done before.”

I wonder how many people think that there is something magical in baptism. In truth, baptism—done by rote—is mean-

ingless. Repentance and baptism go together like love and marriage, or a horse and carriage. One without the other isn’t sufficient.

It is the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Peter is addressing those who have crucified the Lord and Christ. What will he tell them? In answer to their cry, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter says, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you ... ” (Acts 2:38). Repentance and baptism! They go together and must not be separated.

John the Baptist knew that mere washing without repentance would avail nothing. In fact, he even refused baptism to a group of religious leaders who requested it (a rather bold thing for any preacher to do). Instead of baptizing them, he said, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance... ” (Matthew 3:7, 8).

What is baptism but a mere washing away of the filth of the flesh unless it is accompanied by repentance? I will tell you. It is nothing.

John Gipson  
via Preacher Stuff, Harding University  
Bulletin Digest

## PRAY FOR...

Baker, Helen: Melinda's mother, health  
Ballard, Nicki: moving  
Bennett, Jim: health  
Boula, Pat: Chris C's friend-heart valve replacement  
Burna, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy's cousin, cancer  
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health  
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles  
Eagle, Joanne: Marlaina's mother-heart blockage  
Elders: Alfred and Doug  
Forette, Kevin: John's friend, cancer  
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer  
House Fire: Patty's neighbors, help needed  
Jackson, Jessah: Amber's friend's daughter, leukemia  
Kashorek, Lori: strength during chemo for cancer  
Lapier, Lisa: Patty's neighbor, lung cancer  
Laramy, Paul: Steven's brother, motorcycle accident  
Lebeau, Steve & Gail: John's friends, health struggles  
Lermineau, Sean: Carl and Cindy's relative, struggles  
LePage, Jim Sr. and Gail: Jim L's parents, health  
Loss: friends and families of David Duval  
Miller, Jody: struggles  
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Ukraine, Zambia  
Nelson, Barb: Alex & Nick's grandmother, cancer  
Page, Gary: Garth's friend, sick  
Recovery: Eddie Bickford & Jean Buskey  
Richardson, Elizabeth: Eddie's sister, health  
Rice, John: Jim's neighbor, cancer  
Snelson, Kelby: Nikki's niece, hip replacement  
Spencer Carrie: Alfred's niece, health  
Stapleton, Katelyn: job search  
Stowe, Kayonna: Nikki's niece's friend, cancer  
Taylor, Robert Jr.: Nikki's dad's preacher friend, dying  
Traveler: Cumps, Jim Bennett  
Warrick, Oaklyn: 1 year-old, heart surgeries  
West, Larry: Melenda's friend in CA, health...  
Whitfield, Freda: Mary Chambers' mother, health

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

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77 Cogan Avenue  
Plattsburgh, Ny 12901  
office: 518-563-2970  
[www.plattsburghchurch.com](http://www.plattsburghchurch.com)

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:  
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584  
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835  
c645-1509

available: by appointment

Schedule of Services  
Sunday  
Bible Class 10 A.M.  
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday

## 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 ...

Just one month to go on our budget, so we're pulling numbers together for 9/1. What projects or missions you'd like us to take on this coming year? On 8/11, we'll have a teachers' workshop (for all who work with youth) before our 8/26-29 Back-2-Bible School (B2BS) and fall classes.



## We've Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for: Adults: John's class--Search For Truth, lesson 11 Youth classes as well ... and don't forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

## Munchie Moments

**Fellowship Meal:** our next 4th Sunday meal will be 8/26 as part of B2BS.  
**Men's Prayer Breakfast:** our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 8/5 at 8 a.m.

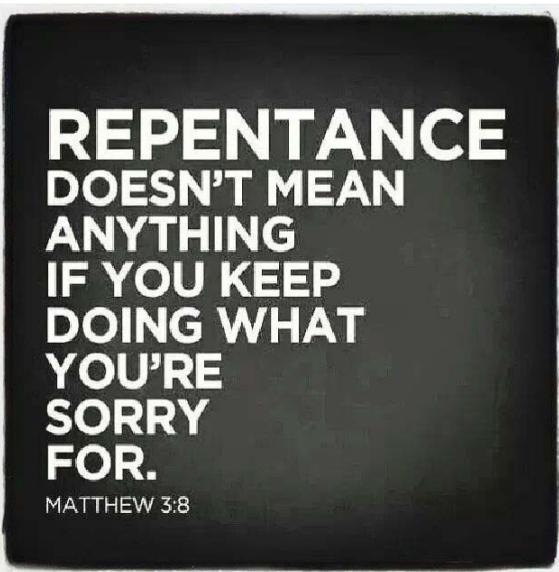
## Budget & B2BS Prep

Doug will be out of town for the 8/19 Family Meeting, so on Wednesday, 8/22, he'll present the budget to start 9/1, leaving time for everyone to set up for Back-2-Bible School to begin that Sunday afternoon

## Doug's Devotional

*"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" Luke 15:10.*

When Jesus was in the flesh, He didn't hang out with the Barabbases of the world, but He did with the tax collectors and "sinners," as the Pharisees and teachers of the law were quick to point out. The difference? They were "gathering around to hear him." They were repentant sinners, whose pasts God was able to forgive but man was holding against them. That's the power of repentance, a subject that is often underappreciated in conversion. In the mechanics of the gospel: hear, believe, repent, confess 'Jesus as Lord,' and baptism, repentance is often a hurried are-you-sorry-for-any-sins-you-may-have-done? step that misses a true u-turn of the heart, mind, and attitude. Jesus tells three parables about repentance in this chapter: the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son. In all three, the desperateness of the one representing God to have the lost thing be found is there, but it is only in the last one that we see what is required on our part for true repentance. Have you spent enough time with the pigs with your belly growling to come to your senses?



## Sundae Toppings

**Today:** 5th Sunday  
8/5, 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
8/12, 12:30 p.m. NO Ladies' Time  
8/19, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting  
8/26, 3:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal



## The Oasis Project

... is done for the summer! If you'd like to volunteer for next fall, let Doug or Mary Cl know.

## Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Roger & Mitzi are back from Malawi with lots to share.

## 2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 211-Jeremiah 5-8  
Day 212-Jeremiah 9-12  
Day 213-Jeremiah 13-16  
Day 214-Jeremiah 17-20  
Day 215-Jeremiah 21-24

*What major things do you learn from these prophets?*



## Mark Your Calendar

7/30, Hogan anniversary ('16)  
7/31, Marlaina's birthday  
8/?, Alfred's birthday in Christ ('69)  
8/9, Gracelyn's birthday  
8/11, Teaching Workshop  
8/18, Jody's birthday  
8/24, Stone anniversary ('84)  
8/26-29, Back-2-Bible School  
9/1, Fall Quarter: new budget/NYS officers  
9/3, Labor Day Carpet Cleaning!

## Today: 7/29

Announcements: Doug  
Opening Prayer: Steven  
Song Leader: John  
#3, "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah"  
#975, "Get Right, Church"  
#1033, "Can He Still Feel the Nails?"  
Talk/bread prayer: Jim L  
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Howard  
Pass/collection prayer: Alfred  
#924, "Just As I Am"  
Scripture Reading: Carl - Luke 15:8-10  
Lesson: Doug "Over One Sinner who Repents"  
#936, "Lord, I'm Coming Home"  
Closing Song: Tyler  
#869, "We're Marching to Zion"  
Closing Prayer: Jim B  
Subs: GH, CC

## Next Sunday: 8/5

Announcements: Carl  
Opening Prayer: Jim B  
Song Leader: Chris  
Talk/bread prayer: Steven  
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Jim L  
Pass/collection prayer: Tyler  
Scripture Reading: Alfred - Luke 16:27-31  
Lesson: Doug "Even if Someone Rises from the Dead"  
Closing Song: John  
Closing Prayer: Howard

## Wash & Wear

- the cleaning and mowing sign-up for this season is on the fridge. Taking a turn is appreciated & needed.
- the church's blue polo shirts in a variety of sizes are \$15 each (to cover cost only).

## Week of July 22

Bible Class	25
Morning Worship	34
Wed. Bible Class	12
Contribution	\$597.70
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00