

Church of Christ

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

September 2, 2018

BRAVO FOR THE BOUNDARIES

In case you haven't noticed, we live in a no-holds-barred, do-your-own-thing world. We have been force-fed on the thought that we exist to experience pleasure, that the pursuit of happiness and personal fulfillment should not be restrained. Especially by Bible-thumping religious folk who want to control and oppress the world by calling people sinful every time they try to have fun.

But I keep asking myself: If life in the unrestrained pleasure-lane is all it's cracked up to be, why aren't we happier? How distorted is it that we call binge-drinking pleasure and sex on demand fulfilling? What are we saying about ourselves when life as we want it to be is so empty that we have to escape reality by drugging ourselves? Peter Kreeft was on to something when he observed, "If we were not so bored and empty, we would not have to stimulate ourselves with increasing dosages of sex and violence—or just constant busyness. Here we are in the most fantastic fun and games factory ever invented—modern technological society—and we are bored, like a spoiled rich kid in a mansion surrounded by a thousand expensive toys."

Could it be that we've missed something?

The psalmist wrote, "[Happy] is the man who . . . delight[s] in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which

yields its fruit in season, and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers" (Psalm 1:1-3 NIV).

As strange as it may sound, true happiness is not rooted in life beyond the boundaries but rather in the sweet confines of God's wisdom. Contrary to popular opinion, God's ways are anything but oppressive edicts to make sure that we never enjoy life. The reality is that His laws are the key to deep and authentic happiness. Life is far more enjoyable when we don't lie to each other; when we don't sleep with each other's spouses; when we don't steal; when we don't covet; when life is not always about us but about the needs and interests of others; when we give; and when we forgive!

We should have had a clue about this from the beginning. Satan used the notion that God was oppressive in his very first assault on our ancient ancestors, Adam and Eve. Though they were enjoying life at its best with God in Eden, Satan offered them a better plan—the good life on their own terms! They bought the lie, and he slithered away leaving them alone in their shame and regret.

Sign me up for the slow learner club!

Because God loves us and wants us to live a life that is blessed, He told us how we could get there. Bravo for His boundaries!

PRAY FOR...

Baker, Helen: Melinda's mother, health
Bennett, Jim: health
Boula, Pat: Chris C's friend-heart valve replacement
Burra, Jennifer: Carl & Cindy's cousin, cancer
Cech, Matthew and Terry: health
Collins, Mary: Patty's friend, struggles
Darling, Wendy: health struggles
Dashnaw, Justin: rehab following surgery
Elders, Alfred and Doug
Garrow, Donald: health
Gundrum, Eloise: one year-old, cancer
Hemingway, David: struggles
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: Family & Friends of Jack Stone
Miller, Jody: struggles
Missions: Brazil, Croatia, Malawi, 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
Sinclair, Sharon: treatments for cancer
Stapleton, Katelyn: struggles and moving
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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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 ...

With our growth and increasing needs, we had a challenge keeping up with the changing budget this past year. But, your generosity made it easy as we averaged \$663.99/week. So, we are increasing our weekly budget starting today by \$50 or to the very attainable \$625/week. We’ll present the new budget at the next Family Meeting. Thank you for your continued support and input on projects for the coming year.



We’ve Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: John’s class--study of the Gospel of John
Youth classes as well ... and don’t forget to meet at Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

That’s Random!

- thank you to all who helped make Back-2-Bible School a success this past week
- info for the Camp Hunt Ladies’/Men’s Retreats & Albany Youth Rally are up front
- If you’d like to volunteer for Oasis this fall, let Doug or Mary Cl know
- we need workers for several outside projects this fall before colder weather comes
- we need help with making windows for our classroom doors for our insurance
- after service, we’ll remove the chairs and clean the auditorium carpet tomorrow

Doug’s Devotional

“The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’” Luke 17:5.

How difficult it is to live as a Christian in today’s world! The culture and the things that are seen loom so large and seem to be what is real. Yet, we are told that “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” No wonder, then, when Jesus was outlining how His followers needed to navigate this world, the cry of the apostles was “increase our faith!” That same cry is ours. Temptations are sure to come, Jesus said, but shouldn’t come through us. We must always forgive a brother who repents—even if he sins against us seven times in a day! As great as we might obey, we are only doing our duty. We must be ever mindful of what God has done for us and thank Him. Just like Noah and Lot lived during their trying days, we must walk by faith as well. Take care not to be like Lot’s wife who was on her way to salvation and looked back. God doesn’t placate with reassuring words that it will all be okay. Rather, Jesus lays out the difficulty of the narrow path’s treacherous terrain. Instead of seeking imaginary rest and ease, we must prepare for the daily spiritual battle that is real. How’s your faith?

Ladies’ Day Reminder

I want to remind the ladies about writing a a short introduction of yourself for the ladies in the Butere, Kenya congregation. See Mary if you want some guidance in what to write and also see her to help with the lunch for next week. Please bring your bio next week so we can get them in the mail..

Munchie Moments

Fellowship Meal: our next 4th Sunday meal will be 9/16 for fellowship with the Roger and Mitzi.
Men’s Prayer Breakfast: our next 1st Sunday MPB is on 10/7 at 8 a.m.

Wash & Wear

- the cleaning 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).

Sundae Toppings

Today: 8 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast
9/9, 12:30 p.m. Ladies’ Time
9/16, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal
9/23, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
9/30, 5th Sunday



Mission Moment

- Please pray for all our mission works.
- Roger & Mitzi Chambers will present their Malawi trip on 9/16
- Please pray for Mary’s readers in Varadzin, Croatia to have open hearts

2018 Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 246-Ezekiel 48; Da. 1-3
Day 247-Daniel 4-7
Day 248-Daniel 8-11
Day 249-Da. 12; Hosea 1-3
Day 250-Hosea 4-7

What major things do you learn from these prophets?



Mark Your Calendar

9/3, Labor Day Carpet Cleaning!
9/13-15, Camp Hunt Ladies’ Retreat
9/16, Roger Chambers reports on Malawi
9/19, Garth and Lilly’s birthdays
9/20-22, Camp Hunt Men’s Retreat
9/21-10/17, Mary Cl in Varadzin, Croatia
9/25, Oasis begins each Tues. & Thurs.
9/28-30, Albany Youth Rally
10/14, 3 p.m. Fall Sing in Burlington; 5 p.m. meal

Today:9/2

Announcements: John
Opening Prayer: Alfred
Song Leader: Tyler
#3, “Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah
#800, What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
#664, “Take My Life, and Let It Be”
Talk/bread prayer: Howard
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Carl
Pass/collection prayer: Steven
#448, “The Greatest Command”
Scripture Reading: Chris - Luke 17:1-5
Lesson: Doug “Increase Our Faith!”
#452, “Standing on the Promises”
Closing Song: Jim L
#469, “Faith Is the Victory”
Closing Prayer: Jim B
Subs: GH, DK, EB

Next Sunday 9/9

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Chris
Song Leader: John
Talk/bread prayer: Garth
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Alfred
Pass/collection prayer: Jim L
Scripture Reading: Jim B - Luke 18:6-8
Lesson: Doug “Will He Find Faith on the Earth?”
Closing Song: Tyler
Closing Prayer: Howard

Week of August 26

Bible Class	25
Morning Worship	31
Wed. Bible Class	16
Contribution	\$661.09
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$575.00

July→August Averages; 1 Year Ago
Sun. Bible Class Ave. 22→22; 23
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 34→34; 34
Wed. Bible Class Ave. 11→11; 16
Weekly Contribution Ave.\$697.50→\$633.89;\$622.58
Yearly Contribution Ave. (52 weeks) \$663.99