

October 2, 2016



HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

Highway 32 Church of Christ
1688 Tri-County Highway
P.O. Box 642
Williamsburg, OH, 45176
www.highway32coc.com

Elders
Lowell Smith
Frank Norvell
Minister
Marc Curfman
(513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Assembly 11:00AM
Sunday Evening Assembly 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements: Rich Book
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Ashton Hutchinson
Lord's Table: Frank Glover
Assist: Harley Carrothers
Alex Watkins
Caleb Watkins
Scripture Reading: Bruce Curfman
Sermon: Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer: Bob Parker
Song Leader Evening: Bruce Curfman

Attendance

| | Last Week | Week Before |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| Sun. Bible | 40 | 41 |
| Morn. Assembly | 74 | 75 |
| Sun Eve. | 27 | 29 |
| Wed. Study | 15 | 15 |
| Contribution | \$1339.00 | \$1697.00 |

Last one to Leave, Please Turn off the Lights

"I'm just too old to be involved in leadership. Let the younger men do it." "I'm nervous when I have to get in front of a large group." "I'm too busy with my college and after all, the older people don't respect me." "I have a job that is exhausting." "I barely have time to make services once a week, when would I find time to study and prepare lessons, let alone go around visiting members or whatever?"
I would lead but I'm not that good of a Christian example myself. I still smoke, my language isn't always what it should be and I don't think I'm the kind of person God would want up there." "I never went to one of those Bible colleges and I am really not that good with books and such." I tried to take charge one time but no one supported me. All people do is complain anyway."
"I would help but only if offered the right salary. After all, you don't muzzle the oxen that threshed the grain." Maybe when my children are older, maybe when I retire, maybe when I get that promotion." "I could help but this new job requires a lot of travel time...."

"And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:59-62)
"If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:26)

This note is for men. Men have been given the charge of leading in the church. Men are to be the elders, the deacons (yeah we can have deaconesses too). Men are to preach and teach. Men are to lead the flock as a shepherd leads his lambs. Men are to oversee the work. No woman should take offense at this. God has given ample task and responsibilities for our sisters in Christ. If a woman feels God is not using her up to her potential in his church, then talk to me. Talk to one of the ladies who have more works, deeds and ministries than the clock allows. But my issue is not with our sisters. The church always seems to have a Tabitha, a Priscilla, a Phoebe, Deborah, Miriam, Mary and Martha.... A church without strong male leadership and men who live the challenges of the church and ministry is a church dead even if they don't know it yet. Ancient Jerusalem fell to Babylon for so many reasons; Idolatry, immorality, lack of compassion... Spend some time in Jeremiah and Ezekiel to get the picture. But God's greatest judgment was this; ***"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one."*** (Ezek. 22:30)
In every church today, God seeks MEN who will build up the church and stand in the gap. The last one to leave, please turn off the lights. That is unless....

marc

Welcome to Highway 32 Church,

We are a group of Christians worshipping God according to the Teaching in the New Testament. May we all worship our loving Father today with sincere hearts, open and receptive to His Spirit and His love.

October Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd Jessica Mayes
4th- 6th Myrna Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Tom Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



October Teacher:
Sue Curfman



**Building & Communion
October
Steve & Donna Wright**

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson. Children ages 2 thru the 6th grade may attend.

***Teen Retreat at Fort Hill** - October 7-9 See Kacie Smith if you are interested in attending.

Sermon notes: The Heart of God

The Assyrian Empire was known for its extreme cruelty to its enemies and violent bloodshed. The prophet Jonah was sent to Nineveh to announce God's judgment of annihilation. Yet by great surprise, the city repented and in spite of the horrors of its past, God relented. Upset that the enemy of Israel would survive, the prophet complained that God was too compassionate and too loving.

There are many who see Jesus as forgiving and loving and God the Father as vindictive and judging, so they prefer Jesus of the New Testament, not realizing that they are one and the same. The heart of God has always been one of love and compassion. Forgiveness has been at the heart of God from the beginning. Yet God is also a just God, judging the hearts and actions of people throughout history. Remember that it was David of the Old Testament who wrote; "The Lord is my Shepherd..." Throughout the Psalms, the terms "lovingkindness" and "the love of God" are attributed to God the Father. Yet most people today see God in one of two extremes. Some see the God of wrath and judgment, while others see a God who is love and therefore would never condemn anyone. So many only speak of the unconditional love of God that welcomes any and all into his eternal abode.

As much as God loves, God will not betray what is right; ***"For the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD."*** Ps. 33:4-5.

God has a love for what is right and just. What God sees as "the good life" has nothing to do with wealth or comfort nor longevity. For our God, the good life is when He sees a man or woman who is just toward others and who does what is right for the weak and powerless. Pure religion is to help widows and orphans. That is God's definition of the Good Life. And it is God who in his wisdom tells us what is right and just and holy and good. That is why we obey His commands rather than He obey ours.

Judgment has always been God's call for us to turn and do what is good and live the lives of purpose that He prepared for us. Even in the midst of sufferings, God reaches out in never ending love (Lam. 3:21-24). God always calls us to choose life (Ezek. 18:31-32). It is we who choose the heart of God or choose death. As for God, he never, never abandons his own. He is a just, righteous God of love (Rom.8:37-39)

October Birthdays

10/1 Mary Parker
10/2 Bob Parker
10/5 Bristyn Simpson
10/8 Lynn Prickett
10/10 Carol Basham
10/18 Donna Beard

October Anniversaries

10/3 Elmer/Jean Wilkey
10/8 Jason/Leah Simpson
10/14 Chris/Stefanie Hahn

Prayers: Huey Jones is at home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Joyce Norvell fell and broke her foot in 4 places. Juanita Benton is home recovery from her nose surgery. Carol Basham will have her 2nd knee replacement surgery 10/30/16. Lowell's neighbor, Kris Robertson took his life Wednesday, a husband of 3 young children, remember his family. Wesley Baldwin, Judy Paul's brother in-law is having treatments for cancer.

Continue to remember: Mark Book, Joe Cassinelli, Mary Chapman, Megan Chapman, Mary Carrothers, Josh Cornett, Karen Creamer, Ray Curfman, Sara Davis, Maralah Morgan, Clayton Wagner, Laura Wilkey, Our church family.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."