



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, Morris Wright
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

Song Leader Lowell Smith
 Announcements Frank Norvell
 Prayer Frank Glover
 Sermon: Marc Curfman
 Lord's Table Don Salisbury
 Assist Harley Carrothers
 Bruce Curfman
 Ron Glover
 Closing Prayer: Rich Book
 Song Leader Evening: Ashton Hutchinson

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	26
Morn. Assembly	67	52
Sun Eve.	27	21
Wed. Study	17	22
Contribution	\$1405.00	\$899.00

The Violet Sky

Recently I have been spending a little time with T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land to be specific. After reading it several times, I have come to the conclusion that there is more to that poem than I will ever hope to understand. I am kind of like a gorilla with a scientific calculator; hours of distraction but not a lot of accomplishment. What did grab a hold of me was his allusion to the violet sky. In many ways, I see my life as having reached that violet horizon. Time has passed quickly and there is less to come than what has already been. Sitting at breakfast in my father's kitchen, I see a man well into the twilight hours. He has left his mark on so many things and people. Not a great man by world standards but a man of God. Not a perfect man but a man of faith. When he passes from this life, he will leave behind generations of influence. Some will remember him as a carpenter, mechanic, builder, or novel artist. I believe his greatest achievements were that of a husband, father, grandfather, and friend. His life was the life of a man given to God. His faith was not his alone but touched several generations, touched strangers and friends. His faith was his character. Because of his God, he was honest, hard working, generous, moral, civil, and humble. Money was a tool, not an idol. Hard times were just reality and no reason to complain. From top to bottom, from the beginning until this day, he believes and honors God.

Dad has Alzheimer disease. It is taking its toll. It is a disease that strikes various people in various ways. I thank God that he is still a pleasant person to be with. His humor is still with him. And though I don't know what he understands, he still will pray when I ask him to.

T.S. Eliot was not much of a man of faith. The Waste Land reveals that choice. For Eliot, life has its moments but then in the end, all is lost, all is gone. Our final moments in those violet skies remind us of the harsh reality of life. I don't think that is a message my father ever ascribed to, nor do I. Those violet skies are merely a final call to hope and eternity. For some of us who have trusted in God, it is a welcome mat written in the clouds. For those who have never turned to God, it is God's voice pleading for us to come home. Most of us live in the noon day sun, never expecting things to change. Unfortunately, these years of glory and strength for most are the real *Waste Land*, as reason, purpose and duty are words that scarcely enter our thoughts or conversations. But life is a gift. It is a gift that guides to glory if we will recognize this.

The Eliots, Niches, and Dawkins of this world have such a blight tomorrow. Although I trust in my God, their voices constantly try to sow doubt and despair. What if the God I serve is no god at all? I study, I debate, I do my research and all points to my God. All points to the Divine Creator who created us in His image. More than all of the arguments, claims, sermons and teachings, what captures me most is my father's simple faith. Well past the violet sky, he has walked in conviction and hope. His simple life speaks mightier than a hundred philosophers or a thousand scientists or the countless preachers and theologians. His character, his words and his actions reflect the voice of the Apostle Paul who said; ***"I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day."*** ^{2 Tim.} 1:12. The violet sky calls us to that day of glory.

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.

February Teachers

Pre- K thru 5th Karen Smith

Youth

Sunday Morning Adult classes:
Marc Curfman

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



February Teacher:
Sheila Gelter



Building & Communion
Month of February
Don Salisbury &
Coleman

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

Sermon notes: Life after James.

The New Testament speaks of several men named James. James The Lord's brother, James the less and James the most famous of the Apostles, one of the inner circle of three with Jesus.

James is also known as the older brother of John. James the Apostle received close attention from Jesus during Jesus' three year ministry. Witnessed the transfiguration and always close at Jesus' side. It seemed that James was marked for greatness. Yet, within just a few years of the church's beginning, James was executed by King Herod. ***"¹Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. ²And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword."*** Acts 12:1-2

The Great leader was no more. And for John, that big brother who always stood out was no longer a guide or support. John now had to decide how his life would be after the loss of James.

To read about John in his earliest days, John is not overly impressive. He is a simple fisherman working for his father, a young man, perhaps a teen. He is from a poor village not well respected by others. Yet at the end of John's life, he was known as the Great Apostle John, an elder, evangelist, the author of five of our New Testament books and often referred to as "The Apostle of Love."

John's life gives us much to consider for our own lives. Few of us see ourselves as great. Paul even tells us so much as he says; ***"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; ²⁷but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,"*** 1 Cor. 1:26.

Yet each of us need to live our faith, not in the shadow of some other great leader of faith but in faithfulness to our God. We depend not on following some man or woman but our Lord and our God. It is He who is able to make us stand firm. To say; "I can't" is actually to declare that God is not able. You and I were made for God's glory and not for the shadows.

February Birthdays

2/1 Taylor Hahn
2/3 Ron Smith
2/10 Howard Basham
2/19 Chris Hahn
2/19 Joyce Norvell
2/20 Frank Glover
2/24 Melodie Watkins
2/27 Kain Girshovich

February Anniversaries

2/1 Ray/Nancy Cassinelli
2/24 Les/LaShanda Smith

***Please sign up today to teach or clean the building for the 2016 Year.**

Prayers: Teachers to serve in the new year. Juanita Benton is having heart rhythm issues. Marc's Romania trip, he leaves on Friday 2/12/16.

Continue to remember: Joe Bauer, 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."