

March 20, 2016



HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

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

Making New Memories

It seems that the older you get, the more stories you have to tell about past experiences, adventures and events. My great uncle Matt was a man full of such stories. Once, after telling one of his stories, he said; "I've told that one so many times, I'm beginning to believe it myself!"

The past has so much to say about who we are. It is a history with both the bad and the good, regrets and inspiration, weaknesses and strength. The hope is that we can learn from the past in order to have a stronger future. God's people are a people with a past. We need to remember those ancient stories as a part of building our faith. The problem is far too many have lives with a rich past but very little in the present. Our weekly gatherings are times to remember and reflect but also time to challenge and go forth. If we are merely people with an ancient story, then we are not a people who have much to offer people today who this very minute struggle with the difficulties of life.

The book of Hebrews is a book that calls us to look to the past but live in the present. The word "today" is mentioned eight times in the letter. The writer recalls the history of God with His people but at the same time demands that God's people write their own stories of faith and faithfulness to God. Hebrews is thirteen chapters of encouragement, telling the reader to never give up, never quit and above all else, never live in the past. In the final chapter, the author concludes by saying; ***"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will,"*** Heb. 13:20-21. What that verse tells us (what the book as a whole tells us) is that God has acted powerfully in the past. Especially in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Now it is time for you and me to act powerfully in the present. We seek to be equipped by God with everything that is good so that we may do his will. To live only for the memories is to fail to follow God today. What you did in the past may make for a great story over a cup of coffee but God needs, God demands people who daily live out that faith. It is that same challenge the Apostle Peter calls us to when he said; ***"Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."*** 1 Peter 1:13. Ours is a faith that is active and involved in the lives of people now, today.

We are those to go, who serve, who bless and who live the great stories of faith now and today and tomorrow. It is time that you and I begin to make new memories. May the life you live today be inspiration for other people's tomorrows but may we always remember that love, hope and faith are not mere memories but life lived this very day.

marc

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

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

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	28	38
Morn. Assembly	52	57
Sun Eve.	30	33
Wed. Study	17	16
Contribution	\$1357.00	\$1031.00

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.

March Teachers

Pre- K thru 5th Karen Smith

Youth

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



March Teacher:
Kacie Smith



Building & Communion
Month of March
Sheila & Morgan
Gelter

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

Congratulations to Alex Watkins on his decision to be baptized last Sunday.

Sermon Notes: - Marks of a successful church Colossians 2 The struggle of faith

We live in a world that expects everything to come easily. It is a world of instant success, instant gratification and instant rewards. After all, it is in the constitution ; *"unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* But reality of life reveals that this is a myth. Still, we seem convinced that life should be easy.

Such a view has also entered the religious realm. Instant salvation, no cost, no commitment seems to be the popular path. It takes various forms from the idea of belief without change to the idea of rituals that will save a part from any change of the heart.

Paul reminds the Colossians that faith is often a struggle. ***"For I want you to know what great a struggle I have on your behalf..."*** 2:1.

To walk in Christ incorporates all that we are, think and do. (2:2-5) We are knitted together in love, seeking true knowledge and living in a faith that is seen in good discipline and stability in Christ.

Repeatedly in this chapter, Paul tells us not to be duped. Lies are found on every corner from the religious to the worldly. Sometimes the arguments seem persuasive, especially if we allow our egos to become entwined.

"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world," 2:8

In a world that has so many options of religion, we must commit to Christ, his word and nothing else.

We are those who were buried in baptism and raised with Him through faith (2:20.)

Faith is not a path of convenience. Faith is a path that honors God regardless.

March Birthdays

3/1 Larry Paul
3/2 Joe Sena
3/3 Judy Paul
3/18 Mae Kirschner
3/21 Clayton Smith
3/29 Graci Book

Anniversaries

3/1 Ernie & Janice Fowler

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

Prayers: Juanita Benton is having heart rhythm issues. Carol Basham is home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Yvonne Glover's niece, Kylie West has been diagnosed with bone cancer, she is 10 years old. Nancy Salisbury's niece, Cindy Johnson is undergoing an experimental surgery for Parkinson. Elmer Wilkey's brother had a stint put in and is doing better. Carol Basham wants to thank everyone for the lovely cards and flowers. Jenni Book was in ER over the weekend with bronchitis.

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."