

# HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER

**Highway 32 Church of Christ**  
 1688 Tri-County Highway  
 P.O. Box 642  
 Williamsburg, OH, 45176  
[www.highway32coc.com](http://www.highway32coc.com)

## A Dead Man's Barn

It was a hot afternoon at work. I had about 10 minutes to wait for the others to show up at the job site. I found an abandoned and broken down barn to escape the heat for the moment. Inside were various items stored for a future use that never came to pass. Now everything was engulfed with dust and weeds. It was obvious that the man who built this barn had passed from this life years ago. Plans, ideas, and preparations died with that man. Now nothing of any value remained other than a dilapidated and precarious shelter from the hot sun. We live for such a short time. It was Jacob who said; ***"The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life."*** Gen. 47:9. Even at one hundred and thirty, Jacob seemed to be longing for something more than what this life had to offer. Solomon observed; ***"He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart,"*** Ecc. 3:11. But even eternity in and of itself has no deep value.

Jesus once told a story about a wealthy land owner whose prosperity was so vast that he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones only to hear the voice of God in the night declare; ***"You fool! This very night your soul is required of you."*** Luke 12:20. Too often we read this as a condemnation of wealth. In truth, it is a description of the wasted lives almost all people live, even those who claim to be people of faith.

The failure described by Jesus is not merely a failure to understand wealth but more pointedly, a failure to find wealth in God. Churches seem to be filled with people seeking success and purpose in their careers, their families and their relationships. Too many want what the world has to offer and God is nothing more than a granter of wishes. The true value of any accomplishment in this life must start and end with God. Perhaps the greatest description of victory and success are found in the unknown life of Enoch. ***"Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him."*** Gen. 5:24.

It was true wealth that Adam and Eve lost as they left the Garden. For before their disobedience, they walked with God. That is the Bible's description of fulfillment and perfection. Our goal, our hope is fellowship with our Creator and our God. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 describes that goal; ***"the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."*** Did you catch that last part? ***"...and so we shall always be with the Lord."***

So be honest. What are you building with your life? Will it last beyond the grave? Barns, careers, even families are of this world. Life with God is not promised for one day. Life with God starts now and carries on forever. Perhaps that dead man's barn was not so bad after all, that is as long as he knew that the true treasure is to walk with God.

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	Ron Smith
Song Leader	Lowell Smith
Prayer	Tom Mayes
Lord's Table Assist	Frank Glover Caleb Watkins Alex Watkins Bruce Curfman

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Bob Parker

Song Leader Evening: Ron Smith

### Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	54	30
Morn. Assembly	65	53
Sun Eve.	23	30
Wed. Study	15	15
Contribution	\$1292.00	\$1535.00

## **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.

### **June Teachers**

Pre- K thru 5<sup>th</sup> Sue Curfman

Youth: Tom Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Lowell Smith

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



**June Teacher:**  
Karen Smith



**Building & Communion**  
**Month of June**  
Tom/Jessica Mayes

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

***BIBLE DAY CAMP WORKDAY - Next Saturday 9:00am we could use your help for our upcoming work day.***

### **Sermon notes: Prayer**

The amount of information on prayer is so vast, it could never be covered in a few short lessons. From Genesis to Revelation, prayer plays a central part of our walk with God. We are told to pray without ceasing (1 Thes. 5:17), To present our request to God (Phil. 4:6-7) and to trust that our prayers will be answered (James 4:2)

Prayer is more than talking to God. Prayer demands that God also speaks to us. The primary way God has always spoken to his people is through his word, the Bible. Far too many people fail to understand God and the relationship with God because the word is not a constant part of their lives. How can we hope to present our request to God when we don't even understand who God is?

I have been asked, why we don't pray the Lord's prayer at church. In truth we should and hopefully we are constantly praying the Lord's prayer both here as we gather and in the quiet of our own personal prayers.

When praying "The Lord's Prayer" (Matt. 6:9-13) we must first understand that this is no incantation or mindless invocation. Jesus wants us to know and understand God through this lesson on prayer. The Lord's prayer sets the stage for what should direct all of our prayers to God, regardless of the situation.

***Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be your name.*** Prayer starts with reverence and understanding who our God is and how we approach his throne. (Heb. 4:16) He is Lord and Master of the universe and to be treated as holy (Lev. 10:3).

***"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*** Such a prayer shows a complete surrender to God, regardless.

***"Give us this day our daily bread"*** We worry only about one day at a time and place our trust in God.

***"And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."*** The core of our prayer is not to change God but to change me. Be delivered from evil is a desire for righteous living.

So much more needs said about prayer but prayer first starts with my submission to God's will. The true power of prayer is when I submit to my God.

### **June Anniversaries**

6/21 Cotton/Marian Blakley

6/22 Joe/Sandra Sena

6/24 Carl/Donna Beard

6/25 Lowell/Karen Smith

- Jeremy Schunk was Baptized Wednesday Night. We are rejoicing with him on that decision.

**Prayers:** Les Smith's dear friend, Jim Baker was accidentally killed during a conceal/carry class. Joe Bradshaw collapsed due to a reaction from his eye drops that caused his blood pressure to lower. Joe/Edna's daughter Joanne had a double mastectomy this passed Thursday. Dusty Curfman will be going to China in August on a mission trip. Mary Carrothers was not able to have her surgery due to low oxygen level.

**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."*