

January 1, 2017



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: Frank Norvell

Song Leader: Lowell Smith

Prayer: Jeremy Schunk

Lord's Table: Frank Glover
Assist: Caleb Watkins
Alex Watkins
Les Smith

Sermon: Marc Curfman

Closing Prayer: Bob Parker

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	48	39
Morn. Assembly	73	75
Sun Eve.	**	19
Wed. Study	13	18
Contribution	\$1205.00	\$1528.00

"God's crooked yet straight path."

German theologian, Gottfried Arnold once wrote about "God's crooked yet straight path." It is something every dedicated servant of God has experienced sooner or later. And if we faithfully follow the leading of God, then it is a reality that comes into your life quite often. As the prophet said; ***"The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."*** Prov. 16:9.

Moses' first attempt to help his people was a disaster. Years later, God confronted Moses from a burning bush and changed his course. Men and women like David, Daniel, Esther and others never saw their futures the way God guided. In Acts 16, Paul has his own plans for sharing the Gospel but is turned back by God repeatedly until one night he has a vision of a man from Macedonia calling him. Later, Paul would find his preaching most effective not in the streets of Philippi but in the city jail. It was always Paul's intent to take the Gospel in the grand city of Rome. Little did he realize that he would do so in chains.

If your faith is about serving God, doing his bidding and sharing his message, then perhaps you have made plans, drawn up guidelines, set target dates and specific locations. But then in spite of your greatest desires and hard work, the door seems closed. All you hoped for now seems a hopeless dream. But success or failure with God has never been measured in our choices, our wants and our desires. Success or failure with God is nothing more than faithful dedication, zealous efforts and never ending desire to serve our God in whatever manner He might choose.

It is not wrong to plan or dream. Faithful service has nothing to do with wandering aimlessly. So work, study, pray, plan and seek to provide ministry for our God. But also be ready to hear God's voice as he calls you to your own "Macedonia." I doubt it will come by way of a dream or vision but more than likely in an opportunity or challenge laid at your feet. Do not be so busy with your own plans that you fail to see God's plans for you. And don't be surprised if God's plans force you to take an odd detour or even in the opposite path. After all, on the Jericho Road, I am sure the Samaritan started out his day with other plans. God laid a greater need at his feet as he cared for a man beaten and bruised. In John 4, all Jesus wanted was a cup of water. The day ended in a village as he shared the Good News with all of its inhabitants. In Matthew 9, that lady who touched the hem of Jesus' garment was unplanned for and even seemed to surprise Jesus.

What you and I must not do when our own plans fail is to quit or give up. And never let our own will get in the way of God's plans for us. It just might be that God has greater plans in store for us. It may be that God prefers to see us looking out for the so-called little things in life that few have time for. No ministry is so great that God cannot handle it. But neither is any ministry so small that we should choose to ignore it.

In the end, I would like someone to say about me what Peter said about Jesus; ***"He went about doing good... for God was with Him."*** Acts 10:38. God sometimes provides the crooked path but be sure that God's crooked path will lead us straight to his will if we will but follow, obey and seek to serve.

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.

January Teachers

Pre-K thru 3rd

4th- 6th Kacie Smith

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Tom Mayes

Wed. Eve. Don Salisbury



January Teacher:
Sue Curfman



Building & Communion
December
Lowell/Karen/Kacie
Smith

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

Ladies Class/Breakfast - Mark your calendars for Saturday January 28th for 9:30am.

Please turn your sign-up sheets to serve to Lowell today.

Sermon notes: Phil. 3:1-14. But Rejoice

"Do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." Neh. 8:10.

We are so often creatures of our environment. Our tears or our joy, our strength or weakness are often tied directly to where we live, how we were raised, family, health, wealth... Faith is a call to go beyond all of this and look to God, look to His purpose for our lives and look to the gift of eternity that is not tied to what is seen but unseen.

Repeatedly, Scripture calls us to trust God. The difficulties and sufferings here are to be seen as trials of faith and a path to greater faith (James 1:2-6)

The church of Philippi is reacting to outside pressures. Jews attacking their faith are causing many to question the blessings of the Gospel. So Paul begins with a call to rejoice; ***"...rejoice in the Lord... it is a safeguard for you."*** (3:1)

Throughout the centuries and cultures and places, the problems change but the solution is the same. We take no strength or weakness in the world but in knowing Christ Jesus. (3:7-8)

That which others lean upon or trust in is counted as refuse in Paul's mind. Gaining the walk with Jesus is all that matters. Whether our worries involve people, monies, security, health or any other earthly thing, what matters in the end is our eternal hope and understanding the meaning of walking with the Savior.

Strength comes from right knowledge: ***"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection... in order to attain the resurrection from the dead."*** (3:10-11).

It is a lesson that began with the call to rejoice. Paul ends this lesson with a call for tenacity that will carry us to the end.

"...but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (3:12-14)

Life as a Christian is not resolved in a minute or a day. We are here for eternity. With joy from God and the determination of faith, we are growing daily in the grace of God.

"that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:6)

January Birthdays

1/4 Les Smith
1/8 Sue Curfman
1/21 Tom Mayes
1/22 Juanita Benton
1/26 Makayla Paul
1/28 Jenni Book

January Anniversaries

1/02 Tom/Jessica Mayes

Prayers: Our upcoming year and how we can serve our Lord. Megan Chapman is still receiving chemotherapy. Rick Newsome is in Intensive Care at Bethesda North recovery from open heart surgery.

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."