

January 15, 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: Rich Book
Song Leader: Tom Mayes
Prayer: Bruce Curfman
Lord's Table: Les Smith
Assist: Larry Paul
 Steve Wright
 Tom Wright
Sermon: Lowell Smith
Closing Prayer: Harley Carrothers
PM Song Leader: Alex Watkins

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	38	35
Morn. Assembly	62	64
Sun Eve.	25	25
Wed. Study	15	**
Contribution	\$1274.00	\$1574.00

Is Anyone Listening?

Bonhoeffer once wrote; *"The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them."*

In a world that seems to have so many voices, I am afraid we have too few ears. Everyone wants to post, tweet, text and announce to the world their judgments and their opinions. We rant, protest, preach and take up positions on any and all situations or issues. It seems that far too many want the first and last word. I would like to say that it isn't so in the church but... well in some churches it might even be worse. After all, we have God's truth. We are heralds of the gospel. It is our duty to teach, to correct and at times rebuke (2 Tim. 3:16). While it is true that God's word at times does all of the above, the unfortunate truth is that often we are all too eager to do so. As a preacher and teacher, one must be especially aware of the dangers of having answers without having first heard the questions.

The Apostle Paul is an amazing example of how to listen. It wasn't how he was raised. In fact, it took a blinding light and a voice from heaven before he learned to listen. But as an evangelist, teacher and spiritual guide, Paul's writings are filled with evidence of his ability to listen, to understand and to care.

To understand one's audience, be it a thousand or one individual, you must listen. So to the Jewish audience Paul quotes Old Testament Scripture to reach their hearts. To the Athenians Paul quoted one of their own poets.

Each letter Paul wrote is a response to questions, concerns and an attempt to help churches work through the situations they encountered. And when writing to Timothy, Titus and Philemon, you can tell he fully understood their hearts and minds before he instructed. Such will never happen if at first we are not listening.

James wrote; ***"everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger."***

James 1:19. As the saying goes; God gave us two ears and one mouth so that we could listen twice as much as we speak. Of course, what James is really saying there is that other people matter more than I. Until we believe that, we just won't have much of an effect on anyone.

"Do not be argumentative" (Titus 2:9). It is what Paul told believers who were slaves. Yet it fits for all of us. It is never our goal to win an argument. It is our goal to win the soul. Literal doors are often closed in the faces of God's people as we share the path of hope. Yet we should never be the ones who slam doors on others. Words without first listening can do that.

Maybe we need to remember that our God, the author of truth and wisdom, the source of knowledge and understanding is also the God who listens to us. He hears our prayers, our cries and He knows our every need. If the God of the universe asks us to pray and to speak to Him, then who are we to do any less for one another. No, I'm not saying people should pray to you but we must not only listen but we must encourage others to share their hearts and lives with us, listening and doing our best to understand. Then perhaps a word might be well guided.

"Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." Col. 4:6 To respond is to first listen. To listen is to first care.

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

January

Les/Lashanda 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:

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 recovery from open heart surgery. Karen Smith's treatment for her breast cancer. Juanita is still recovering from her jaw surgery. Marc's time in Romania.

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."