

Passion for God.....Compassion for People  
June 2, 2013

# Clay City Church of Christ

**Dates to Remember:**

**There will be a Men’s Business Meeting today** immediately following morning worship. All men are invited to attend and be a part of the decision making process of the congregation.

**Stanton Nursing Home Services** are the third Sunday afternoon, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The speaker for June will be Mack Rice. Please make plans to attend.

**Church Singing** takes place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm. This is an opportunity to praise God together in song. Please plan to attend and encourage others as well.

Our sermon airs each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. ....WSKV – 104.9 FM

**Please Lift Up In Prayer:**

Sharon & Donald Olinger, Anna Vires, Correne Hatton, Joe & Debbie Slone, Ellaray Campbell, and Glen Oliver. Those undergoing medical tests, those going through personal trials, unspoken requests, the elderly in the church, those who have lost loved ones, and those on the church prayer list.

.....*the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*  
James 5:16

Our men and women serving in Afghanistan and other war torn areas.  
*Greater love hath no man* ..... John 15:13

\* \* \* \* \*

The Church food pantry is in need of nonperishable food items. Please bring in donations as you are able.



**Pantry Item of the Week: Pasta/Sauce or Crackers**

P. O. Box 492  
5719 Main Street  
Clay City, Kentucky 40312  
606-663-0388  
<http://www.online-claycity.com>

**Elders:**

M. C. Rice ..... 606-663-5646  
[mackrice45@gmail.com](mailto:mackrice45@gmail.com)  
Daniel Newell..... 859-498-7941  
[danieldaisy@bellsouth.net](mailto:danieldaisy@bellsouth.net)

\* \* \* \* \*

**Worship Services:**

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening ..... 7:00 p.m.

Sunday A.M.: Where Are You When I Need You #2..... Mack Rice  
Sunday P.M.: Things That Displease God.....Daniel Newell



## Vacation Bible School

Come and join us for fun and learning at VBS

**Dates:** Monday evening, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and continues thru Friday evening, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Time:** 6:30pm ó 8:30pm each evening

## Privileged to Serve

Announcements and Sick..... Jody McCoy  
Songs of Worship ..... Charles Rice

### Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship ..... Kyle Lucas  
A.M. Closing Prayer ..... Brian Rogers  
P. M. Opening Prayer ..... Dan Newell Jr  
P.M. Closing Prayer ..... Shane Burgher

### June:

#### Communion:

Reading ..... Charles Rice  
Serving ..... Jody McCoy & Walter Rice  
Communion to the Sick ..... Daniel Newell & Dan Newell Jr  
Collection ..... Greg Brewer & Chris Chaney  
Prepare Communion ..... Charlene Brewer  
Van Driver ..... Shane Burgher  
Cleaning Outside ..... Greg Brewer & Rob Little

## Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow

Gregory Alan Tidwell, Editor Gospel Advocate

“He has made everything beautiful in its time,” Solomon reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3:11. “Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (ESV). Mankind longs for purpose and meaning. This longing provides a platform for effective outreach and gives instruction for building up the Lord’s church.

### *Seeing God in a Sense of Purpose*

Studying apologetics in college under Batsell Barrett Baxter and Harvey Floyd, I learned how to use mankind’s need for meaning as a tool for outreach.

The secular world is caught in a downward spiral. (Phil Sanders documented this well in *A Faith Built on Sand* and its companion volume, *Adrift*.) How does a nonbeliever find meaning and purpose? If there is no absolute standard, how can there be purpose and meaning in life?

All people sense there should be purpose and meaning to life. Nonbelievers, however, have not been successful in explaining why life is worth living. The results are predictable and sad. When knowledge of God is suppressed, humanity sinks deeper into misery (cf. Romans 1:21ff).

If random chance casts us up from nothing and if, when we die, we deteriorate into nothing, why should the parenthetical moment of our lives make any ultimate difference?

The well-known 19<sup>th</sup> century agnostic Robert Ingersoll, while delivering a eulogy at his brother’s funeral, said: “Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry.”

No one can avoid the big questions of life. Who are we? Why are we here? Where are we going? God indeed “has put eternity into man’s heart.” But without faith to make sense of this longing, unregenerate humanity is in free fall.

As our secular culture continues to drift away from the God who speaks in scripture, the Christian message of hope stands in sharp contrast against the despair of disbelief. In Christ, we have the answer to the question of life’s meaning.

### *Broken Cisterns*

Ours is a revealed religion. Left to ourselves we “cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.” We only know God’s truth because God has graciously chosen to tell us. Churches of Christ, freed from encumbrances of human tradition and denominational hierarchy, have enjoyed great freedom to embrace the truth of scripture.

Many, however, are not content to follow the Bible alone but are seduced by the trappings of denominational practices. This past spring I noticed an increasing number of congregations observing Ash Wednesday, Lent, Good Friday and Easter.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, “in Jeremiah 2:12-13, “for my people has committed two evils: They have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” God, in grace, provides the perfect way for us to follow Him. Going off in a different direction is arrogant and ungrateful.

In God’s written Word, which tells of God’s incarnate Word, we are assured life is worth living. We know the Savior was at the beginning, and He will return to bring this world to an end. This gospel of assurance is our message to a lost and desperate world, and it provides us with motivation for faithful service in the Lord’s work.