

Passion for God.....Compassion for People  
April 21, 2013

# Clay City Church of Christ

### Dates to Remember:

**Men's Business Meeting** is the first Sunday of the month, 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 **TODAY**, the third Sunday of the month, beginning at 2:30 p.m. The speaker for April will be Dan Newell Jr. 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, 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*

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The Church food pantry is in need of nonperishable food items. Please bring in donations as you are able. This is a ministry we can all participate in. No one should go hungry.



**Pantry Item of the Week: Canned Meat**

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

### Ministers:

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)

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### 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 Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Sunday A.M.: With Fear and Trembling ..... Mack Rice  
Sunday P.M.: When We Hurt ..... Daniel Newell



**Romans 8:35-39** <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Privileged to Serve

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

### Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship..... Dan Newell Jr.  
A.M. Closing Prayer..... Brian Rogers  
P. M. Opening Prayer ..... Jody McCoy  
P.M. Closing Prayer.....Walter Rice

### April:

#### Communion:

Reading..... Shane Burgher  
Serving..... Kyle Lucas & Brian Rogers  
Communion to the Sick..... Daniel Newell & Dan Newell Jr  
Collection.....Jody McCoy & Greg Brewer  
Prepare Communion..... Waveline Teasley  
Van Driver ..... Shane Burgher  
Cleaning Outside ..... Shane Burgher & Chris Chaney

### Casual Seekers at the Narrow Gate (by: Cecil May Jr.)

We are often told we should shift our attention from the epistles to the Gospels and, thus, give more attention to Jesus and His words. One interesting effect that comes from paying greater attention to Jesus in the Gospels is a greater emphasis on the necessity of obedience to Him and His Word and on wholehearted commitment from those who would be in His kingdom.

Jesus often called people to discipleship or was asked what one must do to be His disciple. He never told anyone "there is nothing you can do" or "just invite me into your heart" or "say the sinner's prayer." Jesus' call was always for action, for immediate and continued obedience, for total consecration. Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24 ESV).

### Seek With Diligence

On one occasion Jesus was asked, "Lord will those who are saved be few?" He responded: "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able" (Luke 13:23-24). In this response, Jesus contrasted "strive," a word that also means "labor fervently" or "agonize," with "seek" or "desire."

"Seek" is not always an inadequate word in such contexts. In some sayings, to seek Jesus or salvation is called for. Even then, however, the context or modifier may suggest more than casually looking around. "Seek first" (Matthew 6:33). "Seek diligently" (Luke 15:8). The contrast of "strive" with "seek" in Luke 13 suggests casual seeking will not do. It takes earnest labor to enter.

One does not find himself on the road to heaven by accident. The translation of Isaiah 35:8-9 that best fits the context says: "And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; if they are fools, they shall not wander in it. No lion shall be there nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there" (ESV with footnote). The wandering fool, like the unclean and the devouring lion, will not be on that holy highway. Those who walk the Way of Holiness are on that road knowingly and deliberately.

The gate to the road that leads to life is narrow (Matthew 7:13-14). We must squeeze through with effort and on purpose. Those blessed to enter the kingdom are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (5:6). One who does not love Jesus more than father, mother, children or even his own life cannot be His disciple (Luke 14:26).

The epistles likewise emphasize the importance of diligently seeking. God's word is to be craved as a newborn baby thirsts for its mother's milk (1 Peter 2:2). Those who love the truth and earnestly seek it will be aided by God's providence to find it. However, God sends strong delusions to those who do not love the truth but seek their pleasure in evil (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). God helps us find what we diligently seek.

### Seek With Your Whole Heart

King Asa and the people of Judah "entered into a covenant to seek the Lord....with all their heart and with all their soul" (2 Chronicles 15:12). And they sought Him with their whole heart, and He was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around (v.15).

So it is today; rest in Him will be found by those who seek him with their whole heart. Casual seekers, those with only half a heart for the Lord, are left at the gate.