

Passion for God.....Compassion for People
December 13, 2009

Dates to Remember:

Men's Business Meeting is today immediately following morning worship. Plan to attend and be a part of the decision making process of the congregation.

Stanton Nursing Home Services are the third Sunday of the month, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Please join us in making our congregation a light in the community.

Our Church Singing is this the second Wednesday night of each month. Singing night is an important part of our worship. Please plan to attend. Your presence encourages others.

Radio Our weekly sermons are taped for broadcast and can be heard each Sunday morning, beginning at 8:30. Please make an effort to listen to our lesson on the air. You may pick up a message you missed the first time around. **WSKV – 104.9 FM**

Please Lift Up In Prayer:

Paul Napier, Fred Teasley, Patricia Feters, Kay Stewart, Sharon Olinger; Pauline Powell, Joe and Debbie Slone, unspoken requests, the elderly in the church, all those on the church prayer list; Our men and women serving in Iraq and other war torn areas.

Greater love hath no man.....John 15:13

Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psalm 90:12



Clay City Church of Christ

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Ministers:

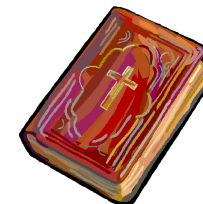
M. C. Rice 606-663-5646
mackrice@hotmail.com
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Worship Services:

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

Sunday A.M.: If You Have One More Day to Live M.C. Rice
Sunday P.M.: The Wisdom From Above Daniel Newell

We trust that God will be pleased with our worship and pray that attending today will strengthen each of you. We welcome our visitors and invite you to join us again at every service. We appreciate your presence today. May God's richest blessings be yours all week long.



Privileged to Serve

Announcements and Sick.....	Jody McCoy
Songs of Worship	Terry Abney
A.M. Prayer	Homer Rice
A.M. Prayer before Worship.....	Glen Hayes
A.M. Closing Prayer	Joe Slone
P. M. Opening Prayer	Terry Abney
P.M. Closing Prayer.....	Jody McCoy

December

Communion:

Reading	Homer Rice
Serving	Jody McCoy, Walter Rice
Collection	Willard Dunn, Shane Burgher
Prepare Communion	Sue, Amber & Amanda
Communion to Sick	Mac Rice, Willard Dunn
Van Driver 12/13/09	Donald Olinger
Van Driver 12/20/09	Duwain Watson

Our days are like identical suitcases – all the same size but some people can pack more into them than others.

Mary Smith went to church one Sunday morning and winced when she heard the song leader miss a note during the opening hymn. She was irritated by a teenager talking while everyone was supposed to be praying. She also couldn't help but notice that several flowers in the altar bouquets were crushed. She felt the usher was scrutinizing what every person was putting into the offering plate, which made her angry. And she counted at least five grammatical errors in the preacher's sermon. After the closing hymn, as she left the church through the side door, she thought, *What a careless group of people!*

Amy Jones went to church one Sunday morning and was thrilled by the singing of "Amazing Grace". Her heart was touched at hearing a teenager read scripture during class. She was encouraged to see the church taking up an offering to help the children in a children's home. The preacher's sermon answered a question that had bothered her for some time. And she felt radiant joy from the closing hymn, "Stand Up for Jesus". She left the church thinking. *What a wonderful place to worship God!*

Mary and Amy went to the same church on the same day.

This and That

The Christmas holiday is fast approaching and folks are busy shopping, buying, and wrapping. Nativity scenes are on lawns, plays are being staged by area churches, and special services are being planned. This brings up a question that needs to be answered. Though individuals and families may choose to observe the holiday, should the church participate in the hoopla surrounding Christmas? The simple answer, at least from this author, is no. Why not? Let me give a few reasons.

The New Testament does not recognize Christmas as a holy day that is to be observed by Christians. As a matter of fact, Christmas originated from a pagan holiday (sun worship) several centuries after the Church was established. Therefore it was unknown to the apostles and writers of the Bible.

Jesus commanded us to remember (and show) his death. This is to be done each first day of the week. We observe the communion of the body and blood of the Lamb of God. There is no event of greater importance to the plan of salvation.

We are not to "borrow" innovations from the denominational community. To the Corinthians Paul said, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.", 2 Corinthians 6:17.

We cannot and must not bind upon others something God has not commanded. By sponsoring and/or allowing Christmas to be observed by the Church, we use resources that are not designed or commanded for that purpose. This also forces everyone to participate whether they choose to or not. We must not offend God's children.

The personal observance of a holiday is left entirely to the individual. If you and your family decide to observe Christmas that is your choice. However, since God neither commanded, gave an example, nor inferred that the Church should do so, then we must not. The directions for the work and worship of the Church are given completely and entirely by the New Testament. Christmas observance is simply not there. Think about it.

Daniel

Newell



The best way to get the last word is to apologize.

If you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth....Go and humble yourself; press your plea with your neighbor.

Proverbs 6:2-3