

Passion for God.....Compassion for People
December 16, 2012

Clay City Church of Christ

Dates to Remember:

Men's Business Meetings are the first Sunday of each 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. Please make plans to attend.

Church Singings are the second Wednesday of each month. 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, 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: Soups

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Ministers:

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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.: Virtue M. C. Rice
Sunday P.M.: What Do I Do Now?.....Daniel Newell



2 Peter 1:5-10 ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

Privileged to Serve

Announcements and Sick..... Jody McCoy
Songs of WorshipCharles Rice

Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship Alvin Goldey
A.M. Closing Prayer Joe Slone
P. M. Opening Prayer Jody McCoy.
P.M. Closing Prayer Rob Little

December:

Communion:

Reading Shane Burgher
Serving Dan Newell & Walter Rice
Communion to the Sick..... Daniel Newell & Dan Newell Jr.
Collection..... Jody McCoy & Charles Rice
Prepare Communion..... Betty Jo Oliver
Van Driver Shane Burgher
Cleaning Outside Greg Brewer & Walter Rice

Choosing a Path

Working with the Boy Scouts, I often am involved in hiking through unfamiliar territory. Coming to a fork in the trail, the path we choose can make a huge difference in the outcome of our hike. In our lives we see points of departure . decisions that, once taken, make a tremendous difference in the subsequent course of events. What is true of individuals is also true of churches. Critical points of departure make all the difference.

Which way is right?

A liberal spirit washed over American culture in the late 1800s, and American religion drank deeply from this current. This trend influenced every major Protestant denomination. The Social Gospel redirected religion towards the demands of the community and away from the salvation of souls from an eternal hell.

The majority of American churches embraced the spirit of the age and none more enthusiastically than the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Because the academic community disparaged the truth of Scripture, the Disciples abandoned confidence in the text. Because the broader community demanded socially relevant worship, the Disciples obliged and introduced various innovations. The Disciples of Christ became the essential community church . trendy, sharp, and in step with the world around them.

The churches of Christ, however, chose the road less traveled. Although the world around us called for innovation, the churches of Christ held to restoration. Although the world around us sought a religion that was therapeutic, the churches of Christ offered a religion

of repentance. Although the world around us sought to reduce the Bible to comply with current academic theories, the churches of Christ rejected any claim to truth that did not comply with the text of scripture.

For the better part of the 20th century, the churches of Christ stayed on this road with fidelity, and God blessed us in His path. Then, beginning about 1980, things began to change.

We've Been Here Before

During the past two decades, an increasing number of Christian colleges, congregations and church leaders left the old path to go down the well-traveled road the Disciples of Christ denomination embraced years ago.

The progressive movement has pursued an unrelenting agenda of accommodation with the world. Making community relevance their standard, they compromised their allegiance to the authority of Scripture in every way imaginable.

Increasingly, the progressives among churches of Christ have sought unity with other religions. Most prominent have been their overtures to Independent Christian Churches, the Disciples of Christ, and community churches. This desire for unity with the Christian Churches should not surprise us. The progressive movement among churches of Christ denies the authority of Scripture to regulate what happens in worship. Why shouldn't they want the company of those who chose this well-traveled road decades before?

The consequences of apostasy, however, are severe. Although the progressives often pursue their agenda under the guise of growing the church, the numbers contradict their claim. We can never gain strength through dilution.

Although some individual congregations have swollen through the shell game of membership transfers, the progressives among churches of Christ are not reaching the lost with the gospel plan of salvation. They have failed, in large part, because they no longer believe in the biblical way of salvation. Believing any and all religious people are right with God, progressives are sliding into the stupor of Universalism. What is the point of evangelism if you don't believe anyone is lost?

There are, however, Christians who have chosen a different path. Believing salvation is only in Jesus Christ, these Christians seek the way of salvation as God has revealed it in Scripture. This exclusive path is not popular with the world, but it is the only way to eternal life. As Jesus said, %Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few+(Matthew 7:13-14 ESV). The road we choose will make all the difference.

By Gregory Alan Tidwell, Editor

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