

Passion for God.....Compassion for People  
January 27, 2013

# Clay City Church of Christ

## Dates to Remember:

**Men's Business Meeting** is 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 the third Sunday of the month, beginning at 2:30 p.m. 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; 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.: Shepherds of the Flock: Their Selection and Appointment..... Mack Rice  
Sunday P.M.: The Work of Elders and our Responsibility Toward Them.....Daniel Newell



**John 14:1-6 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup>"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.<sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And where I go you know, and the way you know." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

## Privileged to Serve

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

### Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship ..... Brian Rogers  
A.M. Closing Prayer ..... Joe Slone  
P. M. Opening Prayer .....Terry Abney  
P.M. Closing Prayer ..... Joseph Newell

## January:

### Communion:

Reading .....Kyle Lucas  
Serving ..... Brian Rice & Shane Burgher  
Communion to the Sick..... Daniel Newell & Dan Newell Jr.  
Collection.....Pearl Brewer & Rob Little  
Prepare Communion..... Charlene Brewer  
Van Driver ..... Shane Burgher  
Cleaning Outside ..... Pearl Brewer & Charles Rice

## All Out for Youth

I believe, as former Gospel Advocate editor Ira North often insisted, the Lord's church should go all out for our young people. Yet how can we evaluate our effectiveness in developing youth into the spiritual men and women they ought to be?

The Lord's church pours an ever-increasing amount of its resources into programming for youth. We wonder, however, if our approach to these efforts is sound. How can we know whether the resources devoted toward youth work are an investment or a waste or even a detriment to the Lord's work?

Sometimes we mistake effort for achievement and substitute arbitrary activity for spiritual growth. Doing more for young people is not good if we are not doing the right things.

## God's Pattern vs. Current Culture

The Lord's church has always had a special emphasis on the training of youth, and there have always been men serving as evangelists by teaching the gospel to young people. I believe it is scriptural both to do youth ministry and to have youth ministers.

As Walter Scott was preaching in Ohio in the early 1800s, he would begin his evangelism of a community by teaching young people the five points of the way of salvation. Arriving in a new town, he would find youth at play and teach them a "five-finger exercise," counting off "hear, believe, repent, confess, and be baptized" in order. Reaching the youth, Walter Scott knew he could reach their families.

Modern youth ministry, however, is very different from Walter Scott's teaching the way of salvation.

The rise of a "youth culture" has become a defining theme in society and in the church. We have given in to an adolescent selfishness. This selfish outlook, in turn, has produced a secular materialism and a culture of despair. We see the devastating effects of selfishness in every area of church life.

In the middle of the last century, denominational groups began providing entertainment under the guise of youth ministry as a response to the baby-boom generation and its defining selfish characteristics.

The way our congregations minister to youths, sadly, is often a pastel copy of the denominational approach. This model holds true even for congregations that do not have a youth minister. Churches of Christ, despite their emphasis on biblical authority, also quickly and uncritically embraced an entertainment approach and grafted it into the New Testament pattern. An honest assessment uncovers pervasive problems in youth ministry, arising from an institutionalized immaturity.

Contrasting the biblical mandate for spiritual maturity with the distorted selfishness of contemporary culture helps us return to a biblical approach of a framework benchmarking our service to youth from God's perspective.

## Developing Youth Into the Church

How then do we foster appropriate youth development in the church given the enormity and importance of the task and the doctrinal and practical shortcomings of the denominational approach? The Lord's church should set a priority in maturing its young people. We need an approach to youth development that keeps the objective of Colossians 1:28: "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (ESV).

Avoiding the pitfalls of selfishness, we should define our youth program not only with input from young people and their parents but also with input from the whole congregation, from brotherhood sources, and ultimately from the Word of God.

Batsell Barrett Baxter titled his classic work on the church *Family of God*, emphasizing the mutual affinity that should exist among Christians. Understanding the church as family provides the basis for integrating youth into the congregation. And ultimately, Scripture must provide the final authority in assessing the way we minister to youth.

Once we define our youth program, we can begin setting appropriate objectives, planning the details of the program, and continually assessing and improving our efforts.

The pattern of New Testament Christianity should be reflected throughout the specific elements of our work with young people of developing their faith through formal instruction reinforced with service and social opportunities. Ultimately, the youth of our congregations should attain an ever-increasing level of accountability before God as they mature into lives of service in His kingdom.

*Gregory Alan Tidwell, Editor, Gospel Advocate*  
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