

Passion for God.....Compassion for People  
March 24, 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 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, ; 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: Pasta/Sauce**

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.: I Want To Spend Eternity in Heaven..... Mack Rice  
Sunday P.M.: Paul's Encouraging Words ..... Daniel Newell



**1 Peter 5:6-10 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, <sup>7</sup> casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. <sup>10</sup> But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

## Privileged to Serve

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

### Prayer:

A.M. Prayer before Worship ..... Alvin Goldey  
A.M. Closing Prayer ..... Greg Brewer  
P. M. Opening Prayer ..... Brian Rogers  
P.M. Closing Prayer ..... Walter Rice

### March:

#### Communion:

Reading ..... Jody McCoy  
Serving ..... Walter Rice & Charles Rice  
Communion to the Sick ..... Shane Burgher & Jody McCoy  
Collection ..... Rob Little & Shane Burgher  
Prepare Communion ..... Sue Rice  
Van Driver ..... Shane Burgher  
Cleaning Outside ..... Walter Rice & Jody McCoy

## Paul's Bundle of Sticks

In Acts 28, after Paul and his shipmates survived a shipwreck and landed on Malta, the stranded passengers found themselves cold and wet in a strange place. The natives, however, were friendly and built a fire for them all (Acts 28:2).

It is interesting that Paul "gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire" (3). This was when Paul was bitten by an apparently deadly viper. Somehow, in reading this part of Paul's journey to Rome, I overlooked a fundamental fact that helped make Paul great.

Paul did his part. When the others had built that fire, Paul was not content to let the others do it all. He did his share. Not only that, he did his share even at great personal cost. He did his share, though he might have rationalized that he had already done so much and been through so much. Paul noted their unusual kindness and was made to feel very welcome, and he showed his appreciation in a tangible way.

You may be a busy, active servant of God. You may have done much in the past for the cause of Christ. Yet think about how notable and inspiring it is to others, when you gather your own bundle of sticks to help the fire others have started. It may be noted and remembered long after you are gone. Neal Pollard

## Courage for Christ:

It was in 1929 when the opposition reached its peak. The church in Pleasant Valley, Arkansas, was growing in July when Joe Blue held that famous gospel meeting. They had no air conditioning so the windows were removed for circulation.

Some uncouth youths used that situation to aid them in pelting brother Blue with rotten eggs and green walnuts. To make matters worse, dynamite was placed under the Bible stand (pulpit) after services one night to try to blow up the building. It happened the devil's workmen were not skilled in using explosives. The cap was bad, as was the dynamite, so the fuse burned until the oxygen was gone and it burned itself out with only a hole being burned in the rostrum under the Bible stand. (From a letter telling of the history of the church in Pleasant Valley.)

Sound fictitious, maybe exaggerated? The pulpit stand in which the dynamite was placed is now standing in the fellowship hall of our church building (West Main Church of Christ). Turn it over and you will see the black burnt marks where the fuse burned until it snuffed itself out.

Why did someone want to kill brother Blue? Almost certainly it was because he was preaching the truth without backing down, and some people who believed things other than what the Bible teaches wanted it stopped. One great lesson I learned and remember when I see that pulpit stand is that it took courage and trust in God for the church to reach where it is today; yet looking around us now one could ask, Where did the courage go? Some preachers are not preaching the pure gospel of Christ, but are watering it down so people won't get mad. Some Christians are living with the attitude, Don't bother me and I won't bother you.

When I look back on the hardships the church had in the past and the growth attained, and compare it with the lack of persecution and hardships we have today and see our small growth (or none at all), I wonder if we have it too easy. In the New Testament, the early church was persecuted heavily but grew rapidly, in many cases because of the persecution (Acts 8:4) In our day of little or no persecution we have become lax, forgetting the hard times of those before us. I am sure many of the pioneer preachers and Christians dreamed of the day that they could preach and teach without worrying about being killed or harmed for what they believed.

Perhaps it might be well to suggest that if we don't develop courage and begin to teach people about Christ, God may help us by taking away our environment of ease and replacing it with hardships and persecutions! Let's take advantage of what we have by using it to the fullest. (Brian J. Galloway, Tupelo, MS.)