

RECORDS YOU HELPED MAKE

Bible Class	44
Attendance AM	92
Attendance PM	41
Wednesday PM	61

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer for Health: Jace Vance; Reagan Blanks (flu); Michael Blanks, Jr.; C.D. Arnett; Ron Robbins; Chris Poole in PT for hip replacement; Ruby Cole; Jim Thomas; Otis & Glenna Adair; Clifford Holt; Richard & Florine Thomas; Patrick Cook (knee); Levi Cook; Victoria Dudley (sinus infection); Betty Blakely; Crew Stearms (Strep-throat);

Traveling: Mozilla Tate; Michael Blanks, Jr. (work); Richard Melson, Jr.; (work);

Prayers:

Repentance:

Baptism:

Sympathy:

Birthdays: November — 14 Ruby Cole; 16 Tally Poole; 26 Cadence Vance

Anniversaries: November — None

Ladies Reading Group: Nov. 17 @6:00 PM via Zoom Lesson 12

Potter Children's Home:

November 13	BRETHREN TO SERVE AM	BRETHREN TO SERVE PM
Opening Prayer	Lyle Cole	Lyle Cole
Song Leader	Michael Blanks, Jr.	Jerry Thomas
Lead Lord's Supper	Norris Cole	Norris Cole
Server 1	James Grigsby	Patrick Thomas
Server 2	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Scripture Reader	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Sermon	Richard Melson	Richard Melson
Prayer for Responses	Elders / Preacher	Elders / Preacher
Closing Prayer	Frank Brock	Frank Brock
Announcements	Alfred Willis, Jr.	Alfred Willis, Jr.
Greeter	Anthony Grigsby	Anthony Grigsby
Usher		
Usher		

A.S.A.P. = Always Say A Prayer

"Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17

TO OUR VISITORS

Our goal in the church of Christ is to be the New Testament church, which you can read about in the Bible. We invite you to observe our worship assemblies, the doctrine that is taught and the structure of the church organization. Make a close comparison with your "church" and the church of the Bible -- **The Church of Christ**. We also invite you to join us as we strive to be the church of the Bible and restore New Testament Christianity.

Needmore Road church of Christ
PO Box 13963
Dayton, Ohio 45414-9998

Place
Stamp
Here

Visit our website at <https://www.needmoreroadcoc.com>



THE EDIFIER

Volume 03

November 13, 2022

Issue 45

DON'T PREACH POLITICS!

Cody Westbrook

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Meeting Location:

2211 Needmore Rd
Dayton, OH 45414

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30
Worship 10:30 A.M.
5:00 P.M.

1st Sunday No 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study
7:00 P.M.

Shepherds

Richard D. Melson
Alfred Willis, Jr.

Preacher

Richard D. Melson
937-321-3973
dr.rdmelson@yahoo.com

Ministers

All Members

Supporting

- Christian Courier
- Southwest School of Bible Studies: Austin, TX
- Memphis School of Preaching
- Greater Midwest Lectureship
- Potter Children's Home
- Midwestern School of Preaching
- Central Carolina School of Preaching

"The Pulpit is no place for politics!" is a refrain we hear often, and it is true. The church of Christ is a soul saving institution and our purpose is to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Thus preachers are commanded to "Preach the Word!" (2 Tim. 4:1-2). Preaching is the act of heralding a message from the King. As such we are obligated to preach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), to point people to the cross (1 Cor. 1:23), and to speak God's words, not our own (1 Pet. 4:11). We have no business endorsing political candidates or news networks or giving our opinions on foreign or domestic policy from the pulpit.

It would seem that most church members generally recognize and agree with these principles, and if a gospel preacher violated them, he would be well deserving of a thorough rebuke. However, we must be careful not to tread too far. Our society has made everything political, but the reality is that while some issues are intrinsically political, not every issue is. Politicians speak at length on abortion, homosexuality, transgenderism, and socialism, but God does too. These issues are fundamentally moral issues that politicians have hijacked. Gospel preachers have an obligation to speak about these things, not because of what their preferred party platform says about them but because of what God says about them. I know of preachers who have preached about these issues in the past and been rebuked for "preaching politics." The truth is that someone listening, listened well, and knew that their preferred political party stood in contrast to God's will on the matter, and instead of allowing their own thinking to be challenged they chose to rebuke the preacher for being "political."

Our role as preachers is to proclaim the will of God. We must not leave the impression of promoting candidates, parties, or their agendas. In truth, our preaching should encourage people not to think in terms of politics but in terms of the Gospel (cf. 1 Tim. 2:1-2). A Christian's concern should be "what does God say about this issue" and "how can I use my influence for the good of the gospel on this matter" (cf. Phil. 1:27). We must not preach politics, but we must also remember that just because a politician declares a moral issue to be political, does not make it so. 📖

Now that the 2022 mid-term elections are over (almost), those whose political party lost will sulk and cry foul, etc. But the Christian's behavior should not be so, since we know who really rules in the kingdoms of men (Dan. 4:25; Psa. 22:28). The Christian must continue to serve the Lord no matter who is in earthly power (e.g., local, state or national); we pray for all rulers (1 Tim. 2:2), not just our "favorite". How better the Christian life would be if it were not a red, blue or green one. Oh, but it already is that way. Remember we are not to be conformed to this world but transformed (Rom. 12:1-2). May we always strive to please God and not man. (RDM)

Words of Wisdom For Youth ... 1 Timothy 4:12

A Matter of Perspective



To make a large object appear smaller just look at it through the wrong end of a pair of binoculars!

This is a good illustration of how Christians should deal with our problems. Denying that there is a problem doesn't help. Christians have difficulties just like everyone else. But resources avail - faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - that helps us deal with problems constructively.

Want to know the secret? The Christian views trauma, trials and troubles in the light of God's infinite grace and power. These problems are not internalized as a "my" problem, but "our" problem. With Christ living in me (Gal. 2:20), help and an endless inventory of assistance emerges. A life that is managed by using the resources of the Lord makes a powerful and pleasant difference. These spiritual blessings are part of the birthright of every Christian (Eph. 1:3; 2 Pet. 3:1).

Let's face it, we all at times, need a checkup from the neck up, (2 Cor. 13:5). Losing self and becoming more like the Savior presses our obstacles into opportunities and our trials into triumphs! It's a clear matter of spiritual perspective. We simply love abiding in the True Vine, John 15:4-5. Try it and see.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind." (Phil. 3:7-16)

- Glenn Hitchcock

She quit her weekend job



The following is a true story. The names were changed to protect the innocent. There was a young lady in the church who was working two jobs—one during the week and the other on the weekend. The weekend job continually scheduled her to work the entire day on Sunday, and she could not attend worship. So, in order to be able to get to worship on Sunday, she quit her weekend job, figuring that she would be able to find something else that would work around her first-day-of-the-week priority as a Christian.

Ok, so no names were mentioned (or changed) in this true story, but the message is resonating. I am thankful for young Christians who continue to show us "older" Christians what is truly important. There were some in Ephesus who "practiced magic" and learned that such was not in line with their Christian faith. Instead of seeking a way to justify it (or even selling their books for profit), they "burned" what was keeping them from being right with God (Acts 19:18-20). May God help us to learn from this young Christian lady who essentially burned her job for God.

David Sproule
Thought for the Day



The Ugly Christmas Sweater Brunch

December 24th at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall
Wear your best and ugliest Christmas sweater to see who will win.

Melson's Musings ...



What a Great Gospel Meeting

What a wonderful week with Hiram Kemp! Did not our hearts burn as he preached the word of God to us? Thanks to every member of the congregation who passed out flyers, sent a text invitation, made a phone call, brought someone and most importantly came yourself nightly to the meeting. But now that the meeting is over what will I do to maintain the proper focus in a world of distractions? As Hiram stated on Wednesday evening "distractions are not new". Our brethren from the first century faced distractions and those ever since and until the Lord returns will continue to do so. But God does provide the means to overcome these distractions.

Saturday, I will be in Aberdeen, Mississippi along with three other preachers teaching on the theme "The Church of Culture or the Church of Christ?". We must decide to whom do we belong, the Lord or the world? Almost every Christian would say "I belong to the Lord".

A TUNE UP SPECIAL

1. ADJUST YOUR LIGHTS and let them shine so that others may see. Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:12-16.
2. SET YOUR BRAKES on your tongue, which is a slippery place. James 1:26; Ephesians 4:32.
3. SET YOUR TIMING so as to be present at all worship periods when everything is supposed to start. Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:25.
4. TUNE-UP YOUR HEART to have the peace that passes all understanding. Philippians 4:4-9; 1 Peter 1:2.
5. ALIGN YOUR FEET in the direction of the straight and narrow way. Matthew 7:13,14.
6. TUNE YOUR MIND so you can control your thoughts and think on good things. Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 4:23.
7. ANTI-FREEZE YOUR HEART so it will warm up to the call of the poor and needy and every call of service. Hebrews 3:7,8; Galatians 6:10; James 1:27.
8. A QUICK START depends on a good SPARK and the right kind of fuel. Ephesians 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:15. (from Warner Robins, GA bulletin)

SHEPHERDS CORNER

- ☞ **Potter Children's Home Christmas Gift Shop.** The purpose of the Christmas Gift Shop is for the children to have the opportunity to shop and wrap gifts for their families, teachers, and other special people in their lives. "We strive to teach the children that Christmas is not about what Santa is going to bring them, but to learn to think of others and learn to give". The Christmas gift shop items are will be picked on Saturday December 3 by brother Henbest of Potter.
- ☞ Those members who desire to give on the Lord's Day via Text-to-give, the process is now available. Please see Patrick Thomas for information to set this up.
- ☞ **Song Practice:** On the last Wednesday of the month there will be congregational song practice at 7:00 PM. Thank you to our song leaders.
- ☞ Remember to pray for our children in K-12 grades.
- ☞ Due to inventory shortages and supply chain issues the work on the on the exterior doors is delayed. The exterior doors will be getting repaired and hardware updated. There will a handicap button added to door #2 (inside and out).
- ☞ The stall doors in the men's restroom will be repaired.
- ☞ **COVID-19** remains a serious issue, therefore we encourage everyone to continue to practice **good hygiene**. *Do not let your guard down.* Wash your hands regularly. If you need to wear a mask, wear a mask. If you are sick, stay home. Should you become infected with COVID-19, especially if you were in the assembly, please let us know.

Listen every Sunday morning to the weekly radio program: **Landmarks for Living**. It broadcasts on **98.7 FM**, or at **www.soulofdayton.com** each Sunday morning at 8:00—8:30 AM. Plan to listen in, if possible.

NEWS AND NOTES

- Visit these online resources: www.wvbs.org ; www.apologeticspress.org ; www.searchtv.org; <http://gbntv.org/>; <http://kibbystreetcoc.org/index.php/let> (Let The Bible Speak); <https://fun1071.fm>; soulofdayton.com (8:00 AM)
- View: In Search of the Lord's Way— Dish- Sunday 7:00 am Channel 239; DirecTV Channel 307; GBN 7 PM
- Check out Tullstar Archives at <http://media.Tullstar.org> for lessons from faithful brethren.

GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN'S SALVATION

"Sirs, What must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30

- ◆ The Gospel Must Be Heard — John 6:44-45; Romans 10:17; John 8:32
- ◆ The Gospel Must Be Believed—John 8:24; Mark 16:16
- ◆ Sins Must Be Repented of — Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38
- ◆ Christ Must Be Confessed—Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37
- ◆ There Must Be Baptism (Immersion) for Remission (forgiveness) of Sins—Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
- ◆ Christian Growth and Faithfulness—1 Peter 2:2; Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 3:18