

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

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Worship Times:

- Bible Class — 9:00AM
- Sunday Worship — 10:00AM
- Sunday PM Worship — 6:00PM
- Wednesday Bible study — 7:00PM

Elders:

- Jim Boles
- Charles Haley
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

SPIRITUAL TIDBITS A GREAT NATION

The measure of time as we know it has little value to our Heavenly Father (*1 day is as a thousand years* **2 Peter 3:8**).

The Plan that God had originated at the Fall of Man in Genesis 3 would be completed upon a timetable that only He would know. Nothing would be left out until all was fulfilled. Remember the message to Jacob in **Genesis 28:15** *"I will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again unto this land (Canaan); for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of."* (the unkept portion of the Promise made earlier to both Abraham and Isaac)

The path would lead the children of Israel back to Canaan, but by way of Egypt beginning about 1876 BC. Although Jacob had 12 sons, each becoming the 'head' of their respective Tribes, not all would have significant roles in God's Plan. Joseph was the 11th son that the older brothers despised and sold into slavery to the Ishmaelites (descendants of Ishmael, son of Abram and Hagar). Joseph would later explain to his brothers in **Genesis 45:4-18**, that it was always God's plan to bring Joseph to Egypt in order to prepare the way for the tremendous blessings promised to all 12 Tribes in **Genesis 12 & 13** of great status, wealth and number as 'the chosen people of God'.

Please note the message given by God to Jacob in **Genesis 28:12-15** (Jacob's Ladder). Although the original Promise was made to Abram, this is a clarification to Jacob elaborating more specific information regarding God's intent. To fully understand how this would happen, look back to **Genesis 15:13-14**, God said to Abram, *"thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them...and also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge...and afterward, shall they come out with great substance."*

God made clear to Jacob, that the Promise made first to Abram would be fulfilled in Jacob's generation as they were preparing to join Joseph in Egypt; **Genesis 46:3-4**, *"I am God, the God of thy father: fear not to go down into Egypt: for I will there make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will surely bring thee up again..."*

Doug Jones

Family News

"For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:18,19

If you are visiting our congregation, **welcome!** Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection tray as it is passed. If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

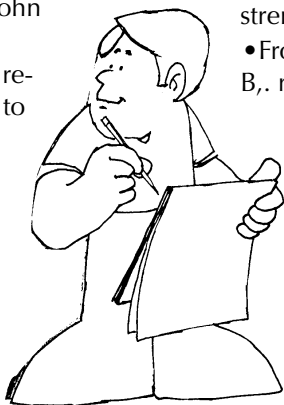
N . E . W . S .

THIS SUNDAY EVENING is Birthday Cake Fellowship. We'll meet after evening worship for fellowship to celebrate all the birthdays in May. If your birthday falls in May (and there are quite a few of you), be sure to come and enjoy the food, fun, and fellowship.

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHURCH IN PITTSFIELD — they've sent us a newsletter; we've printed it and put it in the back near the bulletins. Check it out.

NOTES FROM THE LEADERSHIP MEETING

- Our balance is showing improvement due largely to having no second mortgage. But the money saved will probably be used up for the coming insurance bill.
- Baptistry railings — Park volunteered to do this week. John offered to help.
- Communion — We will return to the way we used to do communion pre-COVID — passing around trays with the bread in it, and passing round trays with the cup separately; but communion kits will still be available for those who continue to have



hygiene concerns. It will start June 1st.

- Park offered to do a marriage seminar sometime in the fall. The meeting will consider this.
- Park also suggested that we replace our fluorescent light fixtures with LEDs to save money.

The Pittsfield MA church — Those who wish to provide the Pittsfield MA church money for their benevolence fund monthly can see Trudy R. to contribute.

ADDRESS UPDATES?? — Please check our online address book and see if your information is correct. If not, please let Nancy Jones know.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Ora H. reentered the hospital because of a bleeding incision, but is able to come home Friday

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Esther Myrick asks for prayers from us, a very low blood count, especially her white count. Pray that the Lord will heal her.
- Ken Conklin is now home, but will still need prayers as he gains strength through PT and OT.
- Reiven H — Pray for a quick and complete recovery.
- Suzanne asks for strength for her mother Bonnie. She wants so badly to be able to attend services but does not have the physical strength to do so.
- From Juliana: Pray for Becky B., recovering from tongue cancer surgery.
- Our missionary in Pittsfield MA, the Staffords, now has their granddaughter, Peyton living with. Please pray for them in this transition.
- Please pray for Eloise's recovery for a broken

bone from a fall.

- Mary H is recovering at home.
- Ralph L. suffering from double vision.
- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy with Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie H.
- Jim B.'s daughter-in-law is terminal.
- Emma's grandmother, Karla R, dementia and cancer.
- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- Sue C: digestive problems
- Churches in New England
- Brethren in India
- Our leaders, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Isela H's sister Griselda's illness
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Rosa's friend Isabella, heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- ☐ May 25, 2 Chron 29-30
- ☐ May 26, 2 Chron 31-33
- ☐ May 27, 2 Chron 34-35
- ☐ May 28, Ezra 1-2
- ☐ May 29, Ezra 3-5
- ☐ May 30, Ezra 6-8
- ☐ May 31, Ezra 9-10
- ☐ Jun 1, Neh 1-3

Do not let your happiness depend on something you may lose. — C.S. Lewis

A word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

WHERE DID THE POPE COME FROM?

Just recently the Catholic Church appointed a new Pope, Leo XIV. There has been a great deal of coverage about it in the news and a lot of pomp and ceremony surrounding his appointment. Included in the news coverage there has been the repeated statement that the new Pope is the new successor to the apostle Peter, "the first Pope". But is this statement, and many of the others about apostolic succession, really historically accurate or are we hearing the cumulative sum of traditions, rationalizations, and dogma? What does history and the Scripture say?

The primary scripture the Catholic Church gives for justifying a Pope is Matthew 16:18-19. This passage in many translations reads similar to this: "18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (ESV). On first blush it would seem that Peter is apparently being identified as the rock upon which the church would be built and that he is being given authority to bind and loose whatever he deems appropriate. But these arguments, upon closer examination, prove false.

First, in v. 18 Jesus is calling Peter *petros*, the Greek for a smallish stone that you can throw, but the rock upon which the church will be built is *petras*, which is the Greek word for ledge rock, something large enough to build a house on (see Matt. 7:24,25). The *petras* upon which the church was built was not Peter (*petros*), but the confession of faith in Jesus as the Son of God. The keys to the kingdom that Peter was given refers not to supreme earthly authority, but rather to his honor to open the door to the kingdom by preaching the very first Gospel sermon, to which 3000 souls responded in baptism (Acts 2).

Secondly, when many translations read "whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"; it should really read: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth **shall have been bound** (*future perfect passive*) in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth **shall have been loosed** (*future perfect passive*) in heaven" (NASB95). This deficient translation that many Bible carry gives Peter the

authority to make rules, and asserts that God would simply approve; but the more accurate translation says that it is the Lord who will first approve and then the Peter would (and the other apostles — see Matthew 18:18) then teach it.

In fact, it would appear that rather than Peter being the leader of the early church, James, the brother of Jesus, also known as James the Just, exercised greater influence in the early church than Peter (note: Acts 12:17 / Acts 15:13 / Acts 21:18).

Moreover, there is no biblical precedent for human leadership above the local eldership (a plurality of elders) apart from the apostles. The apostles, however, were only a temporary gift to the church, since a requirement for being an apostle was to be an eye witness of His resurrection. Obviously, everyone who saw the resurrected Christ has died, consequently, the apostolic office and its universal authority in the church has ceased to be. Since the time when the last apostle died (approximately AD 100, the only true universal authority over the Lord's churches (congregations) is the Bible, God's own inspired word.

The first century church's congregations were universally overseen by a plurality of local elders, whose job was to shepherd the flock of God. In time, however, things evolved; one elder often became more vocal and influential than the rest. That elder sometimes became known as the bishop and occasionally these bishops in a region would convene to talk about regional problems among the churches. In time, one of these bishops also became more influential (cardinals) and would also convene to discuss mutual problems and doctrinal questions. And so a hierarchy in leadership evolved, but it remained pretty much at the "cardinal level" for centuries, as different cardinals attempted to establish themselves as universal leaders of the church. Finally in AD 607 Emperor Phocas declared Boniface III the "bishop of Rome", and that "the See of Blessed Peter the Apostle [AKA Rome] should be the head of all the Churches" — the first official Pope.

The Bible gives no authority to a Pope. Jesus declared, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority** has been given to Me **in heaven and on earth"** (Matt. 28:18).

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN MAY

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Nancy R. 9:00AM Bible classes 10:00AM Worship 6:00PM Worship 7:00PM Birthday Cake Sunday	Chris A. Juliana S.		7:00PM Wed. Bible class			David J. Fernando Z.

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of May 25.....AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsCharles H.....Charles H
 Song LeadingScott WDoug JJim B
 Opening PrayerChris S.....Jim B
 CommunionBurley S.....Reiven H
 Closing Prayer.....Doug J.....Ralph K
 A/V Control.....Hunter M.....John SCharles H
 Greeter.....John S

Week of May 25.....AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsJim BJim B
 Song LeadingDoug J.....Scott WReiven H
 Opening PrayerTom RJohn S
 CommunionCharles H.....Burley S
 Closing Prayer.....Scott WCharles H
 A/V Control.....John SHunter M.....Charles H
 Greeter.....Burley S



Sermon Notes...
