

# 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

### THE SMALLEST FIGHTING UNITS

At first glance, the title of this week's 'Spiritual Tidbits' may seem misleading or perhaps even inappropriate. But in the battle for our spiritual well-being, we are truly fighting in a battle that we could lose if not attended to most carefully. Satan has long been the adversary, and the most cunning adversary we could imagine. The Scripture reminds us that in the Christian walk, *"few there be that find it"*.

**Matthew 7:14.** It seems a shame that Jesus gives us this unfortunate bit of information, since heaven has been prepared as a most glorious reward. Why would we risk the loss of the promise because of indifference or spiritual neglect?

Much of our success in righteous living depends upon the support we receive from family and from our congregational friends. Running the numbers for 'time spent' in formal worship each week adds up to a minuscule 2% of wakened hours. In comparison, we spend 26% asleep, 30% at work, or a total of 58% each week allocated to these necessities. We have approximately 42% of the 168 hours per week that need to spread out with every other 'thing' upon which we place importance.

We each appreciate the wisdom of God and his time-proven methods for living. Countless examples are included in scripture wherein individuals (both male and female) exhibited extreme amounts of faith and practice. It is with purpose that the inspired writers included these examples for us to utilize as models of what our lives should be like. What God essentially has done, is deliver a model of righteousness for all generations, and let us know beyond any doubt that we will be judged by what we do with the information.

Christianity is to be rewarded in direct proportion to the efforts put forth. There are two (2) units that provide models for success: the family unit and the local congregation. The success of the Christian walk in the lives we lead is largely dependent upon how well we do in both units! The family unit is not what it used to be nor what God intended. The same could be said of the local congregations of the Lord's Church. A distinct point is made in reference to church Leadership in **1 Timothy 3:4**. We must first learn HOW to capture God's methods and practice for life's application. The reward is great!

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 .

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY** — This Wednesday Park will present part 2 of a series on Marriage and Family, Nov. 5, 12, and 19. *Invite a friend! Encourage others to come.*

**THIS SUNDAY** is our monthly leadership meeting at 4PM. If you are not an elder or deacons but have something to discuss, please pass it along to one of the leaders and we'll discuss it.

**THE LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be Dec. 2 and there is a sign up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Join us for a fun holiday gathering of the sisters of the congregation.

**LADIES' CLASS** is on Tuesday mornings at 10AM. Coffee, sweets, fellowship, and Bible study — what a winning combination. Join them!

**COAT DRIVE** — The coat drive ends on November 23rd. Bring

your coats and put in the tubs in the back of the foyer. If you need to bring them other than when we are meeting, you can leave them on the front porch and call Park to put them in the building.

**BIRTHDAY CAKE FELLOWSHIP** will be November 16 this month because of Thanksgiving and other events. Believe it or not, that's next Sunday!

**THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE** has gotten a fresh new look. Check it out and share with others

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Nancy J's brother in Arkansas
- Dianne's sister fell, hit her head and has a brain bleed.
- Linda Curry for her Afib
- Susie C. Please pray for a quick recovery from eye surgery.
- Esther Myrick, low blood count
- Reiven and Ora H — Pray for quick and complete recoveries
- Ken Conklin recovering for a heart oblation..
- The Staffords, our missionaries in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, granddaughter Peyton living with them.
- Mary H is recovering at home.

- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- Churches in New England
- Brethren in India
- Our leaders, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

### LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy with Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie
- Isela H's sister Griselda's illness
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Travis Y. feeding tube



## Marriage and Family Series

Successive Wednesdays  
November 5, 12, and 19

*Do something great for your family!!*

### READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Nov 9, John 17-18
- Nov 10, John 19-21
- Nov 11, Acts 1-3
- Nov 12, Acts 4-6
- Nov 13, Acts 7-8
- Nov 14, Acts 9-10
- Nov 15, Acts 11-13
- Nov 16, Acts 14-16

Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important. - C.S. Lewis

# A word of Encouragement

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*"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.*

## **IS IT IMPORTANT TO ACTUALLY BE IN THE ASSEMBLY?**

This is a question that wasn't asked in earlier times. It would have been considered a rhetorical question, because of course the answer would be yes. Before the days of radio, television, video streaming, and COVID, there was only one way to worship and hear God's word — you had to be in the assembly.

But since the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century we've learned how to "listen in" without actually being there. Radio broadcasts began to carry religious programming to which many tuned in; invalids were legitimately grateful but some others became perfectly satisfied with the convenience of "radio church". When television became popular in the 1950's some larger churches and popular televangelists could afford broadcasts and larger groups became satisfied with TV church. And then along came video streaming technology combined with the COVID pandemic, which kept almost everyone away from congregational assemblies, which made staying at home and "watching church" temporarily necessary and — because of the length of time we were in isolation — unfortunately "normal". Getting people back to church became a real concern for elderships and church leaders everywhere. And congregations still suffer from the habits of non-attendance developed and enabled from the pandemic fears of 2020-21.

But is it really important to actually be in the assembly of the church? Isn't it just as good to watch services over the internet at our convenience? What's really to be gained? What, if anything, was really lost in going "remote" when it came to worship?

Fair question; what was and continues to be lost from absenting ourselves from the assembly is 1) fellowship, 2) accountability, and 3) work of the Kingdom. Let me explain.

Fellowship was lost. To many of us Americans the loss of fellowship might seem fairly minor; we pride ourselves on being independent and self-sufficient. But this is a false and destructive pride. The truth of the matter is that God gave us the church's fellowship, because He knew that we really do need it; and such a loss is profoundly weakening to the faithfulness of the individual Christian. Humans are fundamentally social creatures; and the need for others is especially true in the effort to keep us on the "straight and narrow" — to keep us encouraged to 1) persevere and 2) do right (be

accountable). Thus, when we don't come to the assembly of the church, fellowship and its encouragement and accountability are lost.

And this fellowship which was lost has two important facets to it. The first facet is, when we choose to not come to the assembly, we personally (and in many cases, our families, too) miss out on the encouragement to persevere and be accountable, which we just described. But there's more. The second facet is, when we choose to stay home we actually create some discouragement to others. This is the angle that "home churchers" often don't consider, the discouragement of empty seats that should be filled — that is, absent folks, who won't be offering any encouragement. I often wish the expressions of discouragement of some members at such empty seats could be recorded and played for absentees — perhaps, if they knew, it would change their minds. This is, in fact, the reason why church leaders are especially concerned when people don't come; it's a double-whammy of discouragement.

But something else also "took a hit" as church absenteeism grew. Work of the Kingdom was lost. The mission of the church certainly includes the obvious, evangelism; but it also includes teaching, equipping, benevolence, worship, and whatever else glorifies God. And here's the thing, all these commissions take people, committed involvement, and resources. They don't do themselves. Oh sure, maybe the preacher or elders or deacons can be involved in more than one, but 1) even they can get burned out in time and 2) the more involved people, the greater the work that can be done. When you don't come to the assembly — where many of these good things take place — the work of the Kingdom is hampered, limited, and cut short from its potential.

So, is it important to actually come to church and be in the assembly? For those who really want to get to Heaven, those who care about their brothers and sisters in Christ, and those that want to see the work of the Kingdom thrive; I hope you've concluded that the answer is a solid yes. You personally need the spiritual encouragement that only the fellowship of the church can provide. The rest of the church needs the encouragement of your fellowship and presence. And the work of the Kingdom needs your hands.

*Park Linscomb*

