

The Church of Christ at **SUNSHINE** *Bulletin*

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OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSIVE POSTURE?

I had one of those "aha" moments recently when looking at something about Peter's confession in a class.

After Peter confessed his faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of the "living" (not lifeless like the pagan gods) God, Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church. We understand the rock to be the confession of faith in Christ. The video caused me to consider something else. They were at Caesarea Philippi, a site of pagan worship, which was a huge rock that had been home to a pagan sanctuary. Jesus would destroy it and build on top of it.

I remembered reading an article about the difficulty in dating various strata in archaeological digs because when conquerors destroyed a city, they would often excavate to the bedrock before building their new buildings. Little evidence of the former occupation strata may have been left behind, leaving the impression that there was little or no occupation at all. Perhaps this is the imagery Jesus is using. Jesus would triumph and build his church on the bedrock.

The next phrase is even more instructive. "And the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." Hades is the underworld and represents death. I don't know why this never dawned on

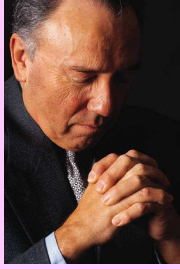
me, but the image Jesus gives here is that the church is on the offensive rather than the defensive. A besieged city would have its gates shut up tight with folks on the wall around the gate defending it. Jesus did not say "The gates of the church would prevail against Hades," but said "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." It is Hades, rather than the church, whose gates are shut up tight behind the walls and besieged. The church is not hunkered down in a bunker, but is out on the offensive.

It never dawned on me that Jesus is using military imagery here! It is not the only time military imagery is used for Christ and his people (Eph 4:8-10; 2 Cor 2:14; Rev 19:11-16). Jesus is the victor on the white horse! Jesus did not intend for his disciples to dig into a bunker and build a wall around ourselves and close the gate. He desires us to get out of the bunker and storm the gates of Hades with the Gospel. Jesus confronted the dark powers with the light of God, and he wants us to do the same.

We are Jesus' storm troopers on his rescue mission. Let us never forget that the battle happens every day. We need to remember that Jesus wants us to take an offensive posture in the battle.

John Telgren
Leavenworth Church of Christ
Leavenworth, KS

Prayer Requests



For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the innocent who are suffering in the midst of war.

For the lost in our families and community.

For the ban on partial birth abortion to stand as law.

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri

For Tim and Jennifer in the adoption process

Duane Skaggs (son of the late Gwen Skaggs) remains at home recuperating from a broken neck.

Kenny Hemphill (son of Jill Williams' friend) has had a recurrence of leukemia.

Jim Piccone (Lisa Hoskins' brother) had triple bypass surgery recently and is home recuperating.

Diane Piccone (Lisa Hoskins' mother) is having her third round of chemotherapy and the treatments are very hard on her. She fell and broke her wrist this week also. Prayers for her physical, emotional and spiritual strength.

Debbie Miller (Steve's sister in law in Cincinnati) will have surgery on Monday to repair a brain aneurysm.

Sam Miller asks us to continue in prayer for him in his flight training

PRAISE REPORT!!!

Matt Cram had surgery on Wednesday at Riverside. God was merciful to him in granting a short surgery (2 hours) and an outcome that was so much better than most of the alternatives being discussed by the doctors. The spot on his brain was a pocket of infection. It was drained and cultured and the source of the infection was eventually found in his heart. He came home on Saturday but must be on IV antibiotics for 12-16 weeks. Without the infection settling in his brain, there would have been no symptoms to indicate the problem in his heart. We give our praise and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father who is the giver and sustainer of all life!

Budget for 2007

There are copies of the budget for 2007 available on the table in the foyer for the congregation to review. Please pick up your copy today.

Spirit Club Reports Due

Today, please remember to turn in your report slips for November for Spirit Club. You can put your completed slips in the white box in the Children's Library or you can email your child's report to Steve (srmiller1522@yahoo.com). New photos can be arranged with Kristi Cordle or you can take your own and email it to the address given above. Everything needs to be submitted no later than Wednesday, December 6.

Kids Night

Next Sunday evening, December 10, we will be having another Kids Night. Remember, kids, brush up on your favorite memory verse. Prepare a song that you would like to sing for us. Review your books of the Bible. Bring your Bible. You'll need it. We will be learning a new song with the "signs" for the song. We might even sing "Three Wandering Jews." Wouldn't that be a hoot! Remember, 6:30 p.m. and bring your parents. Steve.

Joy of Giving Begins

Today and Wednesday, December 6, you have the opportunity to provide a basic Christmas for children in need in the Minford Schools. You can do this in one of two ways: You can either sign up for specific gifts and do your own shopping and wrapping OR you can make donations for specific gifts and the Joy of Giving volunteers will do the shopping and wrapping for you. Wrapped gifts are due back at the building no earlier than December 13 and no later than December 17. Gifts will be delivered the week of December 17. Details or questions, see Rhonda Berry

Class Changes Today

Classes during Bible school time will continue for everyone up through Grade 5. Everyone else is invited to the auditorium to hear our Kevin Jenkins' lesson.

Quarterly Deacon's Meeting Today

Today, December 3, at 5 p.m. All deacons are requested to be present.

Teen Devo

Katy Graff's house on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Junior Devo Hosts Needed

Please see the sheet on the bulletin board to sign up for hosting a Junior Devo. Many dates are open at this point.

What's New in the Library?

Every Man's Battle: Winning the War on Sexual Purity One Victory at a Time by *Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker*.

Recovering from Losses in Life, [Updated] by *H. Norman Wright*. Whether you have gone through great tragedy or are just trying to deal with the small sorrows of life, this book can help you resist the pull toward despair and keep you on the road to joy.

Faith Training: Raising Kids Who Love the Lord by *Joe White*. Raising godly children is a difficult responsibility and White offers you time-tested ways to discipline your sons and daughters. Based on the model presented in Paul's letters to Timothy, he gives practical advice on how to "train up a child in the way he should go."

Women's Connection for December

Don't forget, ladies, the Women's Connection for December starts at Elbrooke Pavilion on Thursday, December 14 at 7 p.m., singing Christmas carols for the residents there. Refreshments will be served at the building following our caroling at the Pavilion. See Stephanie Copas for details.

COMING EVENTS

Dec. 3 - Special speaker: Kevin Jenkins

Dec. 3 - Deacon's Meeting, 5 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Elbrooke services, 2 p.m.

Dec. 10 - Kid's Night, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14 - Women's Connection caroling at Elbrooke, 7 p.m.

Dec. 17 - Joy of Giving Deadline

Dec. 19 - Christmas Program Rehearsal, 7 p.m.

Dec. 21 - Christmas Program Performance, 7 p.m.

Bible Study Curriculum

Sunday

12/3 John 5:1-47

12/10 Mark 2:23-3:12

12/17 Mark 3:13-17

12/24 Matthew 5

12/31 Matthew 6

Wednesday

12/6 1 Kings 5-6

12/13 1 Kings 7

12/20 1 Kings 8

12/27 1 Kings 9-10

Welcome Kevin and Donna

It is our honor and pleasure to have with us today, Kevin and Donna Jenkins (and maybe some other members of their family, too). Kevin will be speaking for us today three times: during class time in the auditorium, at the A.M. assembly and at the P.M. assembly. Kevin and Donna have a long association with Sunshine that goes back to his time at Sunset School of Preaching when Sunshine provided some of the support he needed to complete the program. Kevin and Donna now live in the Louisville, KY area and visit with family and friends in this area on a regular basis. Welcome to the Jenkins family today.

Elbrooke Dates Coming Up

Sunday, December 10, at 2 p.m. and Thursday, December 14 at 7 p.m. We are responsible to lead the worship service on Sunday and to provide some kind of Bible study or spiritual activity on Thursday evening. For Thursday evening, we are inviting all of our members to show up at 7 p.m. and help us sing carols for the residents there. If you can help out next Sunday with the worship service, please find the sign up sheet on the bulletin board and sign up for the job you will do. If you are going to show up for the caroling, please add your name to the list on the bulletin board.

Schedule of Worship Services

Regular Meeting Times

<u>Sunday Morning</u>	<u>December 3</u>	<u>December 10</u>
Bible Class Text	John 5:1-47	Mark 2:23-3:12
Welcome & Prayer	Wayne Gamp	Tom Kelley
Song Director	Shaun McCray	Scott Gamp
Scripture Reading	Alan Graff	Travis Scott
Prayer	John Berry	Aaron McCray
Lord's Supper –Bread	Terry Sullivan	Mike Gamp
Wine	Dewey Cordle	Gary Glispie
Server 1	Chuck Allison	Ed McLaughlin
Server 2	Bud Coriell	Jack Jennings
Server 3	Josh Coriell	Matthew Hoskins
Server 4	Ryan Coriell	Lane Raiser
Server 5	Michael Dixon	Mark Risner
Server 6	Bill Gammon	Dale Kuhn
Message	Kevin Jenkins	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	Mark Gamp	Eric McLaughlin
<u>Sunday Evening</u>		
Song Leader	Shawn Gragg	Rich Book
Opening Prayer	Jason Coriell	Terry Sullivan
Lord's Supper	Greg Coriell	Jacob Miller
Closing Prayer	Zach Coriell	Zack Sims
<u>Wednesday Evening</u>	<u>December 6</u>	<u>December 13</u>
Song Director	Gabe Coriell	Caleb Miller
Prayer	Ira Coriell	Aaron Kallner
Bible Class Text	1 Kings 5-6	1 Kings 7

Sunday
 Bible Study - 9:45 am
 Worship - 10:30 am
 Evening Worship - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
 Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

This bulletin is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover.

Deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. Friday. News items may be called to Al Graff or Steve Miller or e-mailed to:

tech1@algraff.com

or

srmiller1522@yahoo.com

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.sunshine-church.org

and
sunshine-church.blogspot.com

Men, if you are unable to serve as scheduled, please make arrangements for a substitute. Thank you.



Ten words that begin with the letters "RO" are described at the right along with a Bible verse that uses the word. Answers to the puzzle are below.

ROCKS, ROOMS, ROMAN, ROBES, ROAST, ROOTS, ROUSE, ROUGH, ROYAL, ROPES

1. Large stones. (Jeremiah 4:29)
2. Parts of a house. (Matthew 23:6)
3. Man of a certain nationality. (Acts 22:29)
4. Garments. (Luke 20:46)
5. A way to cook meat. (1 Samuel 2:15)
6. Parts of a tree. (Mark 11:20)
7. To waken. (Genesis 49:9)
8. The opposite of smooth. (Isaiah 40:4)
9. Kingly. (Esther 5:1)
10. Large twisted cords. (Acts 27:32)