



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

December 31, 2013

Today's Choice Will Last Forever

Mike King



We are all familiar with Joshua's declaration, "*Choose you this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*" (Josh. 24:14-15). Joshua was a decisive man who made decisions with proper discernment.

It was Elijah that charged Ahab and "*his father's house*" as being a "*troubler of Israel*" because of forsaking the commandments of the Lord and following Baal instead (1 Kgs. 18:16-20). In a meeting on Mt. Carmel, there were four hundred prophets of Asherah (a Canaanite goddess) and "*all the children of Israel*" (v. 19). When gathered, Elijah asked them "*How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him*" (v. 21). The refusal to make a decision is a decision and has just as dastard consequences as making a wrong decision!

The Bible gives us God's disposition on trying to be satisfied with "middle ground" to avoid being decisive and committing to following through on our conclusion (Rev. 3:15-17). God responds to luke-warmness as repulsive! Some insightful individual has observed that "Living a half faithful life is equivalent to leaping a gorge in two leaps."

Making the decision to serve God involves becoming a bondservant/slave (Titus 1:1). Our Lord set the standard for us by coming to "*do the will of Him who sent [Him], and to finish His work*" (Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38). Upon becoming a Christian, we were "*crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me*" (Gal. 2:20). It has been observed that there is a cross and a throne in every life. The throne is what I want to do, but the cross is doing His will. Much must be given up to become a Christian, especially SELF!

An expression is often quoted that was made by *Hal Sutton* at the TPC tour stop on May 6, 2000 at Ponte Vedra. He was on the 18th hole, making his second shot to beat *Tiger Woods*. As the ball left his club he said, "Be the right club today!" His ball landed within eight feet of the flag. His response was a resounding "Yes!" to receive a double-thumbs up from *Tiger*. His club decision that day won the tournament to impact his life and golf history forever.

There is no comparison to the outcome of his decision that day to our decision to commit to Christ today. His victory will remain in history books for a few years; ours will be recited from God's eternal record in judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

THOSE TO SERVE THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2014

Announcements: Harold Russell
Sound Room: Paul Ormon
Usher: Justin Dewberry

Lead Singing: Sun. A.M.: Greg Harrison
Sun. P.M.: Dalton Beard
Wed.: Ray Kennedy

Sunday Prayers:

Jan. 5:
A.M. Richard Jennings
Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Randy Wall
Mark Jennings

Jan. 12:
A.M. Troy Robertson
Anderson Parks
P.M. Burrell Walton
Gary Turner

Jan. 19:
A.M. Lonnie Weaver
Terry Young
P.M. Bill Botts
David Clayton

Jan. 26:
A.M. Phil Young
Richard Adams
P.M. Thomas Wall
Dillon Clayton

Lord's Supper:

North Head: Brad Pounders
North Helper I: Bobby Marques
North Helper II: Tyler Weaver

South Head: Jason Jennings
South Helper I: Matt Jennings
South Helper II: Hunter Jennings

Scripture Reading:

Jan. 5 — Joshua George
Jan. 12 — Steve Todd
Jan. 19 — Ruston Adams
Jan. 26 — Greg Clayton

Wednesday Prayers:

Jan. 1 — Greg Harrison; Perry Jones
Jan. 8 — Ray Kennedy; Alvin Parks
Jan. 15 — Terry Stubblefield; Roger Clayton
Jan. 22 — Phillip Young; Andy Clemmer
Jan. 29 — Olen Clark; Bill Lyon

Greeters:

Jan. 5 — Steve & Lana Todd
Jan. 12 — Richard & Kathy Jennings
Jan. 19 — Greg & Kim Clayton
Jan. 26 — Brad & April Pounders

Usher & Lock:

Jan. 5 — Randy Wall
Jan. 12 — Lonnie Weaver
Jan. 19 — Greg Clayton
Jan. 26 — Roger Clayton

Host Youth Devo: Greg & Kim Clayton

Prepare Communion: Bailey Adams, Madison Griggs & Olivia Pounders

A VIEW FROM THE BACK

Last Sunday I had the privilege of serving as an usher. As you know the ushers sit in the back to serve the Lord's Supper, to get an attendance count, and help people find a seat as they come in. Well, I usually sit on the second row and don't always get a view of what goes on during worship, but last Sunday I did. Here are some of the things I saw:

- *Bibles – Many of the people had come to worship with their Bibles. They are eager to study and to learn more about God's will for their lives.
- *Young families – We are blessed with couples who have young children who are pre-school and elementary age. It is encouraging to see them in worship, even though they sometimes do not get to listen or participate like they wish. You are still teaching your children valuable lessons. Keep bringing those babies!
- *Teenagers – There are some young people in this congregation who are leaders and positive examples to others at school, work, etc. Other teenagers are coming to worship because of your influence.
- *Singing – To listen to the singing of this congregation makes you understand better why the Lord desires singing without any instrumental accompaniment.
- *Older people – I saw many people here who have been Christians for 30, 40 and 50 or more years. Couples who have been married for more than 50 and 60 years. People who, in spite of pain and sickness, filled their pew nonetheless.
- *Four generations – There was at least two different families representing four generations. That's Bible. We are to teach our children who teach their children who teach their children and so on. What a blessing it must be for a Great Grandparent to sit in worship and look around and see the seed bearing fruit in their family.
- *Friendships – People from different walks of life being united and drawn closer together because of their faith in Christ. Everybody needs someone they can depend on for support and encouragement and everybody needs to be a support and encouragement for someone else.
- What do you see when you look at the church here. If you see negative things then maybe you should sit in the back!

~ Tim Woodard



PRAYER LIST

Grace Lyon is in room 298 of the Tupelo Hospital . She had her heart shocked back into rhythm on Monday, and may be released today.

Tony Cross is in room 228 of the local hospital after fracturing his pelvic bone in a fall. He is in a lot of pain and also has the beginning of pneumonia. He does not need visitors at this time.

Catelyn Smithey had tubes put in her ears this past week.

Norman Brown, a relative of the *Marques'* is in serious condition and not expected to live much longer.

Thomas Barkley, uncle of *Greg Clayton* is in serious condition after falling and receiving head injuries.

Continual Prayer list:

Gordon Gentry, Rivers Robertson, Mike Reed, Hudson Grisham, Pat Reed, Nancy Petrowski, Denise Littlejohn, Justin Forsyth, Donna Haynes, Steve Stokes, Martha Collins, Polly Sago, Kelly Fryar, Ruth Brown, Jack Dunlap, Prebble Foster, Terry Young

Shut-Ins:

Jean Drummond, Billy Joe Garner, Tauso Branch, Teresa Clark

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Mattie Golden, Laura Mae Harris, Louise Holcomb, Maxine Carlisle, Jennie Frohn

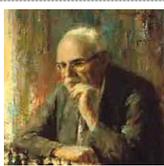
Military List:

David & Barry Wilhite, Tiffany Erwin, Aaron Raines, Raegan Cole, Derek Bradley, Jesse Stroud & Christopher Phagan



Wise Thoughts

Hasty decisions often bring lifelong regrets.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



January 04. Pat Kennedy
January 05 Linda Ashmore
January 06. Yolanda Stubblefield
January 11. Alvin Parks

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January 11. Greg & Kim Clayton



IN TOUCH DIRECTORY 2014

It is time to update our church directory. A copy of the 2014 directory will be placed by the bulletin board. Please make any corrections needed to your address or phone numbers. Also, check to see if all birthdays in your family are correct. If you would like please add your email address. Thanks for your co-operation.

YOU CAN HELP

There are many opportunities that we all can take part in 2014. There are lists on the bulletin board for those who would be willing to prepare the Lord's Supper, host Youth Devotionals, prepare for our fellowship meals, be a door greeter, and carry *Pat Reed* to and from her dialysis treatments. If you would be interested in writing cards to the sick and shut in or help fold the bulletins on Tuesday mornings please let the office know. Please take time and consider ways that you can help make this congregation stronger!

YOUTH NEWS

- Plans are made for the 7th grade youth, or anyone who would like, to go Ice Skating in Tupelo, Sat. Jan. 4th. They will leave the building at 12:00pm. The cost will be \$8 to skate. They will go to the Tupelo Mall after skating.
- The next Area Wide Youth Meeting will be held January 12th, at Hwy 15 Pontotoc Church of Christ.
- The next Senior Bible Bowl will be held here at New Albany on January 19th.
- The next Junior Bible Bowl will be held January 25th, at the East Main Church of Christ.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
Morning Worship.....10:30
Evening Worship.....6:00
Wednesday Bible Study....7:00

MINISTER

Mike King..... 507-0625
Home 534-6872
Office..... 534-4649

ELDERS

Richard Jennings534-6671
Troy Robertson534-3491

DEACONS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
Roger Clayton..... 538-8195
Brad Pounders.....316-7931
Harold Russell 507-1180
Randy Wall 316-9255
Lonnie Weaver..... 801-8448

TO SERVE

Scripture.....Josh George
A.M. Prayer....Richard Jennings
Closing Prayer....Ronnie Griggs
P.M. Prayer.....Randy Wall
Closing.....Mark Jennings
Wed.1/1.....Greg Harrison
Wed.1/1.....Perry Jones
Usher & Lock.....Randy Wall
Greeter.....S & L Todd

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....108
Sunday A.M.....143
Sunday P.M.....93
Wednesday.....NA
Contribution.....\$4,580.03
Budget.....\$3,817.55



PANTRY ITEM
Canned meat, dried beans

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A Month Of Sundays

Many times we make a decision that we are going to do a better job in a specific area of our spiritual life only to either not get started or quit before it becomes a habit. Why not try the thirty day test or a Month of Sundays? Help not only make yourself better, but this congregation a better place to worship.

Try these things for the next month:

1. Attend every Bible class and worship service.
2. Be on time
3. Improve your attitude.
4. Have a part in saving those who are lost.
5. Encourage and restore the spiritually weak and fallen.
6. Visit the sick and shut-in.
7. Associate with fellow Christians
8. Be hospitable to our visitors at our services.
9. Encourage our young parents.
10. Seek to improve our worship services.
11. Study God's Word.
12. Spend time every day in prayer.
13. Do something nice for someone without expecting anything in return.
14. Say something positive to a fellow Christian who is struggling.
15. Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do if confronted with this situation?"

If you were to do these things as you have/make the opportunity, you will be amazed at the change that will take place in your life. Are you willing to make changes in your life for better? Then try the "Month of Sundays Test"!!!
~ copied