

The Visitor

The Church of Christ

VOLUME XXXVIII

March 9, 2008

NUMBER 09

HOW IS THE CHURCH REALLY DOING?

Last month Dr. Flavil Yeakley addressed the Christian Higher Education Foundation, affiliated with the churches of Christ, on the campus of Freed-Hardeman University. During his presentation, he shared the following statistics regarding the condition of the churches of Christ.

- ◇ Churches of Christ constitute the 12th largest religious group in America.
- ◇ Churches of Christ are the 6th fastest growing church in America
- ◇ Churches of Christ rank 4th in the nation in total number of congregations.
- ◇ Churches of Christ rank 5th in the nation in number of counties in which there is a congregation.
- ◇ Churches of Christ rank 1st in the nation in distribution of congregations.
- ◇ Churches of Christ rank 1st in the nation in weekly attendance among its membership.

While there is room for improvement, these figures show that there are some very positive things going on in our brotherhood, especially when you consider that there are literally hundreds of religious groups in our nation. We need to focus more on good new like this.

I keep this list on my desk and when I become discouraged that maybe the church is not doing anything, I can look at this and realize there are a lot of good things going on in the church and we just need to work harder for the MASTER and realize he will do His part and leave that to HIM.

Leon

Please worship with us at the following times:

SUNDAY

Bible Class 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

TUESDAY (September-May)

Bible Class 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class 7:00 PM

(all are code 205)

EVANGELISTS: Cell Home

Ronnie Hayes 566-2171 648-4034
Minister
Ashley Kizer 706-3651 798-7167
Associate Minister

SECRETARIES: Home

Janice Key 674-1619
Tracie Sanford 648-1690
Christy Knight 648-9758
Office 674-5659
Fax 674-5678
Line Up Line 674-4530
E-Mail: acofc@bellsouth.net
Website: www.acoc.org

ELDERS: Cell Home

Cecil Gilbert 516-4181 648-5471
Don Griffin 529-5546 674-1312
Leon Jackson 602-3465 674-7817
Eulan McCaleb 915-8673 798-1727
Paul McCaleb 915-8356 791-1757
Tommy Reid 798-2567
Ray Skelton 905-8483 674-5332
Butch Wallace 602-7156 744-8930
Gary Weaver 542-5617 674-9213

DEACONS:

Bob Battles 674-0011
Ray Bearden 491-5245
Roland Crawford 648-8301
Barry Hyche 647-3629
Lewis Mobley 798-0694
Nick Rouse 648-0629
Jimmy Rivers 491-0605
Shane Sanford 648-4022
Shawn Sanford 648-1690
Tim Shadix 647-1690

OUR RECORD

ATTENDANCE: March 2, 2008
BIBLE CLASS: 189
WORSHIP AM: 219
WORSHIP PM: 167
CONTRIBUTION: \$9,349.81

Count Contribution for March

Nick Rouse, Bob Battles, Ray Bearden

Adamsville Church of Christ
4207 Veterans Memorial Dr.
Adamsville, AL 35005
Return Service Requested



He is Passionate about....

Want to start an uproar? "Alabama Football is best!" I can already hear the Auburn fans, chiming in, "No, Auburn's #1!" To say people are PASSIONATE about their football is an understatement. To be "passionate" is defined by Webster's Dictionary as one "capable of, affected by, or expressing intense feeling" (838). All joking aside, we, as humans are passionate about numerous things. Unfortunately, religion typically isn't one of those subjects. Christ said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). When we worship God in spirit we are worshipping Him with the correct attitude of heart, soul, strength, and mind (cf. Luke 10:27). Guy N. Woods in his commentary on John states that to worship God in spirit is to worship God "rationally and sincerely" (83). We must have passion if we are going to be pleasing to God. No half-hearted service will do. "Why?" you ask. Let's take a look...

No one will ever worship or serve God without their heart!

Passion is a matter of the HEART. No one will ever worship or serve God without their heart! Solomon wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Solomon also penned, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee" (Proverbs 23:7). Every thing we do, good or bad, begins in the heart. Many people sitting in the pews on Sunday are just going through the motions, gaining nothing from nor giving nothing to worship. Jesus described this type of person when he said, "...Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7,8). Where will my heart be, the next time I worship God?

Passion shows what our true HUNGER really is. Christ taught, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Hunger has to do with our desire. Mouth watering, taste bud tingling and smells heavenly usually means "I Have To Have Some"! How many times have you and I felt that desire for hearing God's Word or singing praise unto Him? When we come together to worship God and our true desire is to be somewhere else, something is wrong! Yes, people are hungry for a lot of things (cf. 1 John 2:15) and it is sad when we cannot develop the same type of desire for God. I just love David's statement, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalms 122:1).

Passion reveals our HEAVENLY stare. Passion has to do with our ability to stay committed. No one wants a fan that jumps from team to team. Our passion will help us keep our eyes on the goal. We don't need any more like Peter who took their eyes off the goal and began to sink (cf. Matthew 14:30). We need more in the Church like Abraham who "...looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10). We need more like Paul who wouldn't allow anything to hinder his commitment. Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). May we never lose sight of what is truly important.

Ronnie

Sick

Dovie Stubblefield is back at Princeton in MICU.

Robert Freano (Linda Blackwell's dad) will be having tests in a hospital in Montgomery this week.

Ricky Harris (Todd Long's uncle) is in 4136 at Princeton.

Thelma Hudson (Ron Hudson's mother) is at Carraway in room 412.

Neomia Joyce Johnston (Ronnie Hayes' Aunt) is in 6128 at Princeton.

Jimmy Mullenix (Virginia's son) is in Princeton and has been moved to 4135.

Rudolph Pierce is at Princeton in room 698.

Adam Smith (21 year old Bagley firefighter) is at University in TBICU.

Please make plans to come to **Praise in the Blackwell Park** on Thursday, March 6th at 7:00 PM. We will be serving hamburgers and hotdogs. You will really be blessed by reaching out to our community and fellowship one with another.

Mark Your Calendar

Prayer List

2008
Mar. 14 -- Progressive All nighter

Mar. 16 -- Area Wide Youth Devo @ Springville

Mar. 21-23 --- Lads/Leaders meet in Nashville

Apr. 5 - Prom Alternative

Apr. 16-17 -- Pied Pipers from Freed-Hardeman U.

Apr. 25-26 -- Renew @ ICYC

May 15 - Senior Banquet

Summer 2008 -- Wednesday night Summer Series

Theme: *The Home*

June 1 --- Homecoming

June 1-4 --- Gospel Meeting, Speaker: **John Daniel**

June 12-14 - Mission Trip to Grimsley, TN

June 22-25 --- Vacation Bible School

July 18-19 --- Youth Rally

July 31-Aug 2 -- Trip to Creation Museum

Oct. 12-15 --- Gospel Meeting, Speaker: **Larry Acuff**

Oct. 18 --- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill

Nov. 20 --- Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec. 31 --- New Year's Eve Singing

2009

February 15-17 -- Singing School, Director: **Burt Jones**

Please Continue to Pray For..

*David Burford, Jean Cicero,
Sara Morgan, Janice Parsons*

Pray For Our Troops

Ron Hudson, Stentsen Ellenburg, Tyler Burger,
Mark Davis & Brad Timmons

Remember Our Shut In

Gertrude Blackwell- room 118 - Self Nursing Home, 131room 321-Gardendale Nursing Home, 420 Dean Drive Gardendale, AL 35071. **Ruby Glidewell** 120 Windsor Circle N., Graysville, AL 35073. **Iva Dean Goolsby** @Ridgewood Health Care Center 210 Oakhill Rd., Jasper, AL 35504. **Vurvel Jones** c/o Camilla Newbill @ 1622 Stone Hedge Dr. W. Mobile, AL 36695. **Earl Martin**-Laurelton Nursing & Rehab, 850 NW 9th St. Alabaster, AL 35007. **Ruth Parsons**-5300 Hazelwood Rd., Adamsville, AL 35005. **Annette Roddy**-1035 Cherry Ave. Adamsville, AL 35005. **Ginger Shadix**- room 213 - Gardendale Nursing Home, 420 Dean Dr. Gardendale, AL 35071. **Bernice Snow** - Adams House 5017 King Dr., Adamsville, AL 35005

Franklin Camp Scholarship Fund

In Memory of

Gwen Johnson & Freddie Kizer

by

Glenn Terry

In Memory of

Jewel Martin

by

Guy & Ann Noe

Visitation Teams

Visitation Team #2 will meet Sunday after our AM service. Team #3 will meet on March 16th. We will not have a team meeting on the 23rd due to Lads to Leaders. Team #4 will meet on the 30th. Visitors will be invited to join us for a great meal. A copy of the worksheet will also be available on the table in the foyer on Sunday nights. This is a list of absentees, birthdays, and anniversaries and those that need encouragement. Please continue to pick one up and use for this good work.