

# CHASE PARK MESSENGER

## *Burn the Ships*

You have probably heard the story of Hernán Cortés, the Spanish conquistador who, in 1519, came to the new world with 600 men and, upon coming ashore, promptly gave the order to burn the ships. He was sending a very clear message to his men: there is no turning back. He had come to the new world for the purpose of conquest and would settle for nothing less. Two years later, Cortés succeeded in his conquest of the Aztec empire.

Burn the ships. It seems like somewhat of a radical idea, but metaphorically speaking, it is exactly what Jesus calls us to do. Consider His words:

*“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Matthew 16:24-25)*

*“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)*

*“So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” (Luke 14:33)*

You see, we have been discussing commitment on Sunday mornings, and one of the defining characteristics of true commitment is that it is complete and unwavering. There is no such thing as partial commitment. If there had been any hesitation or lack of commitment in the hearts of Cortés’ men, it was removed with the burning of the ships. There was literally nowhere for them to go but forward. When we make the decision to walk away from the world in favor of a relationship with Christ, we are expected to burn the ship—to do away with any exit strategies, escape plans, or thoughts of backsliding. The door to that life of sin and separation from God is closed, never to be opened again. There is no going back. If we are to be successful, in our spiritual quest, we cannot maintain our association with our sinful past while striving for salvation through Christ. The two are simply not compatible and cannot co-exist.

So, have you burned the ship? Have you truly walked away from the world, never to return? Are you fully committed to Christ? I hope so. May God help us all to have the courage, strength and faith to burn the ships.

*Rusty*

## **Welcome, Guests**

We are honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Our time of worship together on the Lord’s Day is one of the highlights of each week and we are thrilled to be able to share this special time with you.

As we worship, our desire is to do so according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to God. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guests. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please feel free to ask. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.



### Ministers

Rusty Hills ..... Pulpit  
Pat Cowden ..... Evangelism

### Elders

Curtis Hill            Dennis Lawson  
Sam Kachelman        Greg Parker  
Barry Todd

### Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza .... Chalco, Mexico  
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico  
Slava Savkovsky .....Ukraine  
Barton Kizer.....North Carolina  
Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

Visit us on the web at:  
[cpcofc.org](http://cpcofc.org)



# YOUTH NEWS

<b>Children’s Ministry (Little Lights-6th Grade)</b>	<b>Youth Group (7th-12th Grade)</b>	<b>Lads to Leaders</b>
<b>Feb. 16</b> <b>CM Devo</b> <i>After p.m. services</i>	Every Monday @ 7:00 am <b>M4</b>	<b>Feb. 23 L2L Written Bible Bowl Test</b>
<b>Feb. 19</b> <b>Vittles w/Friends</b> <i>3:00—6:00 p.m.</i>	Every Wednesday <b>Hang Time</b>	<i>3:30 p.m., 5th-6th Grade room</i>
<b>Bible Bowl</b>	<b>Feb. 19</b> <b>Vittles w/Friends</b> <i>3:00—6:00 p.m.</i>	<b>Apr 10-12</b> <b>2020 Convention</b> <i>@ Opryland Hotel</i>
<i>(See Michelle Clements or Mindy Sims for details or information.)</i>	<b>Feb. 23</b> <b>Youth Devo</b> <i>After p.m. services</i>	
	<b>Feb. 28-Mar. 1</b> <b>CYC!</b>	

*Stay tuned for more details on these events or see Cody Gothart, Joel Heady, Wes McDonald, or Stephen Trammell for more information.*

## Outreach—Pat Cowden

The last week and a half has been the busiest week of Bible studies I have ever had in the United States. (Can you see me smiling?!) I have had 10 studies in 12 days. Most of these studies are at the beginning stages and I covet your prayers on behalf of those who are considering the things we have covered. I pray, as Paul did, for open doors (2 Corinthians 2:12) and hearts (Acts 16:14), and that the gospel has free course (2 Thessalonians 3:1). In addition to these studies, I know that there are other studies going on as well. We truly are in an exciting time to be a member of Chase Park. We have a lot of visitors, some of whom are not already Christians and some of them have shown interest in knowing more. Please help us to make them feel at home.

As we consider what our role is in the local outreach efforts in our community, remember that God loves a “cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). The fact of the matter is that reaching out requires giving of our time and effort. Sometimes it requires giving up our “comfort” in getting out of our normal “zone”. All of these can cause a person to hesitate or be less than cheerful, if they are looked at in the wrong way. What I encourage people to think about as they consider reaching out to others (Matthew 5:16) is this: “If I reach out to this person, will it increase or decrease their probability of going to heaven?” The answer to that is that it will increase the probability.

This week, I was in the home of someone I had never met before. I mentioned that I was a minister and I happened to be wearing my Chase Park church of Christ shirt. The person asked me some questions and it turned out we both have known Bro. Willie Franklin for many years. It would not surprise me if this family visited our services soon. Letting our faith be known can be done in a variety of ways. In this case, it was my shirt and mentioning I was a minister.

Remember, I love you and want to go to heaven with you.

Pat



**Think Souls First**

## News Of Interest

**Pantry Item:** Canned vegetables

**Sick**

**Huntsville Hospital**

Gary Webster, No visitors.

George Coffell, brother-in-law of Randy Jenkins

Frances Counselman (C), No visitors

**Home:** Glenda Hall (E ), Tiny Corder (G)-No visitors, Donell Parker (I), Bob and Carol Layne (J)

**Sympathy**

We express sympathy to the family of **Ross and Paula Anderson** in the death of their 8 year old granddaughter, Ellie Pruitt. She was the great granddaughter of **Bill and Jean McBride** (former members).



## Challenge Youth Conference

Pigeon Forge, TN

February 28—March 1, 2020

## Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

**Family Care Groups Meeting**

Groups **I** and **J** will meet today for potluck lunch.

Groups **B**, **C**, and **E** will meet on **Saturday, February 22, 9:00 a.m.**, at Golden Corral.

**Regency Retirement Service**

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **John Denney**

Song Leader: **Michael Sims**

**Hospital Visitation**

Team **#3 (Suddarth)**, please pick up your assignments following evening worship.

**Balance Class**

Tuesday, Thursday, February 18, 20, 1:30 p.m.

**Super Seniors**

Wednesday, February 19, potluck meal.

**Regency Retirement Village Singing**

Thursday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.

**OHM Meeting**

Saturday, February 22, 5:00 p.m. at the home of **Andy and Debbie Phillips**. Members age 40-49.

**Men's Diggin' Deep Monthly Bible Study**

\***Tuesday, February 25\***, 7:00 p.m., West Huntsville.

## Worship Participants



SUNDAY AM February 23, 2020	
READING .....	Seth Davis
F PRAYER.....	Russ Davis
LS PRAYER.....	Ben Boggess
C PRAYER.....	Gary Holzheimer

SUNDAY PM February 23, 2020	
READING .....	Brannon Emperley
F PRAYER.....	John Denney
C PRAYER.....	Wayne Pinchon

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 -Sherry Christian  | 22-Jim Putnam         |
| 2 -Mike Crawford     | 23-Marilyn Holzheimer |
| Aimee Trammell-Hurt  | 25-Bert Edwards       |
| Elbert Peters        | Rick Davidson         |
| 3 -Mary Jo Franklin  | Idova Lewis           |
| 4 -Fred King         | 26-Max Horst          |
| Shirley Jackson      | Doris Campbell        |
| 7 -Gail Jackson      | Angel Fulks           |
| 8 -Brian Peacock     | 27-Mark Rowe          |
| 11-Barbara Riddick   | Dennis Blythe         |
| 14-John Fults        | 28-Justin Gransky     |
| 15-Ashlynn Chrisco   | Maria Cowden          |
| 16-Sharita Whitehead | 29-Megan Rosenblum    |
| 21-Barbara Newton    | 30-Jennifer Crowden   |
| Tom Hogan            |                       |
| Barry Maples         |                       |

# 2020 VISION



*Chase Park*  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Statistics

Sunday, February 9, 2020

AM Worship .....	351
Month Average .....	361
Bible Class .....	249
PM Worship .....	235
Wed., Feb. 12 Bible Classes.....	195
Regency Ret. Worship .....	42
Offering.....	\$17,038.26
Budget.....	\$19,500
Average '20 .....	\$20,356
Over Budget for year .....	+\$5,135
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

## Services

*Sunday*

Worship..... 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Class ..... 10:15 a.m. || Worship..... | 5:00 p.m. |

*Wednesday*

Super Seniors ..... 10:00 a.m. || Bible Class ..... | 6:30 p.m. |

### Web Site Home Bible Studies

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

**(Lesson 1 Link)**

**The Bible—God's Holy Word**

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