

CHASE PARK MESSENGER

“The Proof Is In the Pudding”

Have you ever heard or made this statement? If so, do you know where it comes from or what it means? The original form of the saying, “The proof of the pudding is in the tasting” is thought to date back to the 14th century. To understand the meaning of it, you might need to know that the word “proof” at that time would have referred to the testing of something. Therefore the meaning of the saying, both then and now, is that, in order to know the true nature or quality of something, you cannot just take a casual look at it. You must see it in action. By the way, “pudding,” in its historical context, does not refer to a creamy, tasty dessert dish but rather a type of sausage made up of an assortment of minced meats, along with other ingredients and seasonings, stuffed into a casing of sheep or pig intestine. This savory concoction could be, and often was, toxic if not prepared properly, which adds an important layer of understanding to the saying, “the proof of the pudding is in the tasting.”

May I draw a spiritual parallel to this interesting, if unimportant anecdote? Consider these words of Jesus: *“For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil”* (Luke 6:43-45). Do you see the connection? Jesus is teaching us that the true test of a person’s faithfulness is not what they claim to be or say, but rather, the fruit that their life bears. To put it in terms of the saying, “The proof of a righteous life is in the living.” It can be very easy for us to pretend to be spiritually-minded and God-fearing. We can even convince ourselves that we are living faithful lives, but what does our fruit say? Are we producing the fruits of the Spirit that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:22-23? Do our words, actions, and attitudes reflect the fact that we have been transformed and are truly living for Christ? May we be committed to lives that constantly bear fruit to the glory of God.

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
Andrew Lamica Youth

Elders

John Denney Dennis Lawson
Curtis Hill Greg Parker
Sam Kachelman Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico
Slava Savkovsky Ukraine
Barton Kizer Peru
Isai Cuamba Ensenada, Mexico
Dewayne Tapscott Southwest

Visit us on the web at:
cpcofc.org

2018 THEME:

I AM THE CHURCH



Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

Nobody would likely enjoy having the reputation of one who is a liar. Being someone who is known as untruthful is not something any of us would aspire to. Our reputation is important to us. After all, if we were to earn the reputation of a liar, who would ever listen to anything we had to say?

I feel confident that you do your very best to be truthful in all situations. If you cannot say that about your life, I want to encourage you to change.

Did you know the Bible says those who claim to be followers of Jesus but live as they please are liars? *“If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth” (1 John 1:6).*

There is more to this Christianity

thing than just showing up at a particular place for worship three times a week. Christianity is not a series of activities, instead it is an all encompassing lifelong lifestyle.

I don't want you to misunderstand what John, through inspiration, is teaching. This is not about sinless perfection. Sinless perfection, while the goal, is unattainable. In fact, if we read a little further down in this letter, John reminds us that we have all sinned *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:8-9)*

The Christian life is one which acknowledges our need for forgiveness while continually

striving to be like the One who left a perfect example for us to follow! Christians, while it would be heart-breaking to attain the reputation of a liar among those we come in contact with on a daily basis, how much more if we had that reputation before God?

May each of us strive every day to live the Christian life to the best of our ability. We ought to reject everything that comes from the darkness (Satan).

Let us not fall into the trap that Satan would have us to in which we believe we can live as the world does and claim to be followers of Christ! Christians are called to be different, after all, the church (ekklesia) is the called out! We have been called out of the world and into His marvelous light!

Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

What a wonderful week we had last week! Rusty's sermons were fantastic: “What Are You Doing Here? and “Directional Christianity”. We had several guests in services and for Bible classes. We have several families considering placing membership, several more folks who are visiting, some we are having studies with, and others who are close to accepting an offer to study from God's word with us. It is truly an exciting time to be a Christian in Huntsville, Alabama, and specifically at Chase Park.

We will, Lord willing, be having our first meeting today with our New Converts from 2017 and 2018. If there is one thing that I am passionate about in addition to personal evangelism, it is making sure that our “babes in Christ” are nourished and encouraged. If you will, take the opportunity to drop a note of encouragement to them. It is just as important to keep the “saved” “saved” as it is to bring them to Christ in the first place, you can play a major role in helping that happen.

Another opportunity for reaching out will be coming up next Saturday the 24th. We are starting a new outreach to folks who have moved into the area each month. They will be receiving a postcard in the mail welcoming them to our area sometime around the 15th of each month. After those mailings are sent out, we are supposed to get a list of our new neighbors, whom we are to “love as ourselves” (Matthew 22:39). We will then be attempting to follow up with a visit to these folks on the 24th. If you are interested in participating in that outreach (door knocking), please contact me privately via my email (patcowden@cpofc.org) or by speaking to me personally before then.

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



Think Souls First

News Of Interest

Sick

Regency Healthcare & Rehab
Mark Henry

Home: Jerry Smelser (NO VISITORS),
Martha Norris

Balance Class

Tues., Mar 20; Thurs., Mar 22; 1:30 p.m.

Children’s Ministry Devotional

Sunday, March 25, after p.m. service. Dining Room and Fellowship Hall.

Memberships

Christine Lones is placing membership with us. She comes to us from the Winchester Road East Church of Christ.

Chuck Boyett also recently worshipped at Winchester Road East Church of Christ.

Be sure to meet Chuck and Christine and welcome them to Chase Park.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Meeting

G and **J** meet today for potluck lunch. Visitors are invited. **G Leaders:** Zlatovich, M. Emerson, Walker; **J Leader:** Cothren.

E and **H** meet Sunday, March 25. **E Leaders:** E. Corder, B. Maples, Williams; **H Leaders:** Jennings, Lambrecht, McCall.

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30
 Speaker: **Curtis Hill**
 Song Leader: **Rick Rosenblum**

Hospital Visitation

Team #3 (**Suddarth**), please pick up your assignments after p.m. service.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, March 21. No lunch.

Elders, Deacons, Minister, Ministry Leaders

Meeting, Thursday, March 22, 6:30 p.m., room 102. This will be a one hour meeting to discuss the upcoming Ministry Expo scheduled for May 6.

Monday Night For The Master

Monday, March 26, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

Pantry Item

Canned lima beans.

Worship Participants

SUNDAY AM MARCH 25, 2018	
READING	Justin Gransky
F PRAYER.....	Jon Rosenblum
LS PRAYER.....	Keith Griffin
C PRAYER.....	Derek Horst

SUNDAY PM MARCH 25, 2018
YOUTH CONDUCT SERVICE (LTL)

New Converts Meeting

New Converts
Question-and-Answer Meeting
Today, 4:00 p.m.
Small Auditorium

Conducted by
Rusty, Pat, and Andrew

If you were baptized in 2017
or 2018, please try to attend.

Focus For
MARCH - APRIL

I Am A Servant of Christ

I AM THE CHURCH



Chase Park
CHURCH of CHRIST



**Lads to Leaders
Leaderettes
National Convention**

March 30 - April 1, 2018

Next Sunday night, we will have the opportunity to support and encourage our Lads to Leaders participants as they make their final preparations for Convention. Our young men will lead the P.M. worship, followed by other activities. Be here to encourage them and wish them well!

MESSSENGER is published weekly by the Chase Park Church of Christ, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811; (256) 852-3801. Send address changes to Messenger, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811

Statistics

Sunday, March 11, 2018

AM Worship	324
Month Average	362
Bible Class	302
PM Worship	221
Wed., Mar. 14 Bible Classes	271
Regency Ret. Worship	38
Offering	\$16,461.97
Budget	\$18,000
Average '18	\$18,601
Over Budget for year	+\$6,013
Building Fund	\$125.00

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