

Five Years and Counting...

On March 25, 2012, we began our journey together here at Chase Park. What a wonderful five years it has been! On that first Sunday of my work here, I spoke about “New Beginnings” and wrote the following in the Messenger: *“Over the coming years, we will worship together, study together, work together, and experience life together. We will share joys and sorrows, successes and failures, and through it all, we will encourage and support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.”* How true those words have proven to be and, as I reflect on the people and events that have come and gone over the course of these last five years, I am filled with a wide array of emotions. I am filled with joy and gladness as I think about all of the children that have been born, the families that have joined us, and the souls that have been rescued through baptism or restoration. I am also overwhelmed with sorrow as I remember the many precious friends and family members that we have lost and who have left such deep voids in our lives and family, while, at the same time, I rejoice for their victory through Christ. But most of all, I am thankful. I am thankful for the many blessings of God that have come with knowing and working alongside you all. I am thankful for the wonderful opportunities that God has afforded us to serve and glorify Him in this community. I am thankful for the many friendships that we have been blessed to build and enjoy. In short, I am thankful for YOU! Here is another quote from that March 25, 2012 Messenger article: *“I still have much to learn about the church and work here but this I know: you are a congregation of hard-working Christians who are serious about your faith and about your work for the Lord. You are sincere, genuine, enthusiastic and committed. You love the Lord and you love each other, and there is no greater formula for success.”* Over the last five years, you have certainly proved that description to be true, but what I have also learned over that time is what great encouragers you are! I am so thankful for the constant support and encouragement that you offer to me and my family in making us feel so loved and appreciated. It means more to us than you will ever know and we thank God for you each and every day.

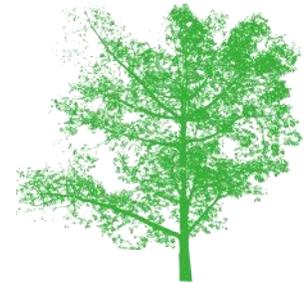
While this five-year mark may be a milestone of sorts for us, I hope that it is far from being the end of our journey together. If it is God’s will, I will be writing another article five years from now entitled, “Ten Years and Counting...” There is still much work to do and much good to be accomplished and, with God’s help, we will continue to grow and serve together for many years to come. May God bless us as we strive to glorify Him!

Rusty

To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

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



Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit
Nathan Adams..... Outreach
John Denney Education
Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

Elders

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

Missionaries

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

Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

Some of our Lord's most beautiful and challenging teachings are found in the Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5, 6, and 7.

Jesus starts this sermon with a section of Scripture known as the Beatitudes. In the Beatitudes, Jesus lays out conditions for entrance into the kingdom. In addition, Jesus lays out the qualities that a person should possess in order to be truly happy in the kingdom. The term "blessed" in this section is defined in the original language as "happy, blessed, fortunate, or well-off." This happiness is more than the superficial type of happiness of the world, it is a spiritual quality of inner joy that the world cannot take away.

The eight Beatitudes that Jesus discusses in this sermon must be looked at as a single unit, each one building upon the next.

The first Beatitude found in

Matthew 5:3 states, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of God.*" The word poor Jesus used in this teaching refers to abject poverty. It speaks of someone who is completely destitute and on the brink of starvation.

In order for us to be happy in the spiritual sense we must understand that complete reliance on Jesus Christ is a necessity. It is that type of attitude and lifestyle that the citizens of the kingdom are to possess. If one is to gain entrance into the kingdom of God, they must be willing to completely rely on Jesus for their spiritual well-being. Humility is a necessity for being poor in spirit. There is no room for self-centered pride or arrogance if one desires to be poor in spirit.

Next, Jesus says, "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*" This is an often quoted

verse at funerals or other sad occasions and understandably so. There is great comfort to be found in being a child of God in difficult times.

In this teaching, Jesus is talking about those who mourn over sin. As Christians, we ought to be a people who mourn over what the sins we commit do to our relationship with the Father. When we realize our sins separate us from God, that should stir up in us a feeling of mourning. It is in that mourning of sin we can find comfort because if we mourn about our sins we will be more likely to do something about them, to repent. Once we repent of those things, there is comfort in knowing that God offers us beautiful forgiveness. What riches are found in the Beatitudes section of the Sermon on the Mount. We will explore more in the next article!

Deep Faith In A Shallow World—*Nathan Adams*

Many people come to Christ during or as a result of a crisis in their lives. During such times, desperation sometimes opens their minds and hearts to things they may not have considered before. Throughout the Bible we see God allowing people to enter into crisis situations in order to open their hearts to Him. In Daniel 2 (Read), we see how to have deep faith when a shallow world calls for help.

In Daniel 2 Nebuchadnezzar is "troubled" (i.e. terrified) by a dream. He demands that his wise men tell him the dream and its meaning. They respond that his request can only be accomplished by the gods. He orders all the wise men to be killed. The text clearly shows us that both the king and the wise men are in crisis. Consider three realities for us to know when those in the world call for help.

1) Realize that unbelievers will come to us in time of crisis. The saying, "If you build it they will come," is truly applicable to the Christian life. An authentic and consistent Christian life will draw

people in crisis toward the faith and assurance demonstrated daily. Such a Christian is useful to God and His purpose to help those in crisis find hope and salvation in Him. Sometimes we think that during our crisis times, we can let our guard down and be grumpy with others or despair like those with no hope. That is the last thing we should do as Christians. This is when our faith can shine bright to the world. The way a Christian deals with adversity must be radically different from the world's response. Such difference is going to draw attention to the Christian and lead those in the world to seek their help when they themselves are in crisis.

2) We should take the initiative with "discretion and discernment" (v. 14). When the soldiers came for Daniel he respectfully asked for time to give an answer to the king concerning the dream. When the unbeliever in crisis comes to you, do not send him to your preacher. He was not impressed with your preacher—he

was impressed with you and your faith. Take the initiative to help by listening and trying to find helpful answers. Do not preach a sermon—they want help, not a sermon. You can help them by sharing Christian principles with them.

3) Solicit support from other believers and God. Notice, that after Daniel received time to find the answer, he went to his three friends and prayed to God. We may know a Christian who has suffered the same crisis as the unbeliever, we should ask them what would be the best ways to help. We need to pray that God help the one in need and us as we help them. God has brought us to this moment with this person, it is only right that we pray for His help.

Everybody has something that doesn't work in their life someplace, regardless of how together they seem. This fact guarantees that the world will call for help—may we be ready to answer.

News Of Interest

Sick

Home:

Joe Parker, Glenn Carmack

Sympathy

To **Bennie Jacks** in the death of her nephew, Scott Kelley.

Balance Class Tues

Tues., Mar. 21; Thur., Mar 23; 1:30 p.m.

Pantry Item

Rice

Potluck Lunch

Friends Day Sunday
April 2



Announcement from the Elders

The Elders would like to put two additional names before you for consideration as deacons to serve this congregation. We would like to ask you to prayerfully consider **Keith Griffin** and **Steve Watson** to serve as deacons. Steve will lead the Education Department and Keith will lead the security work. If you know of any scriptural reason that would prevent either of these men from serving, please put this in writing, sign it and give it to one of the elders by Saturday, March 25, 2017.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Hollis Todd**

Song Leader: **Ray Brown**

Hospital Visitation

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

Financial Peace Class

Tomorrow, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, March 22, 10:00 a.m. No lunch.

Children’s Ministry Devotional

Sunday p.m., March 26, after evening worship, fellowship hall, dining room.

Thank You

“Dear Church family,
Your every act of kindness has been a source of strength and a blessing to Leo and to me during his illness. The calls, cards, treats, meals, and prayers have lifted us up. Leo’s recovery has been aided by his desire to be with you in worship services. Thank you for your care. Love,”

Leo and Dorothy Johnson

April 2017 Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Wayne Pinchon | 19 | Lela Boggess |
| 5 | John Adams | 20 | Don Champion |
| | Ally Edwards | 23 | Janie Putnam |
| 6 | Dot Kelley | | Lucas Emerson |
| | Becky McBride | | Janet Clayborn |
| 7 | Jim Dalton | 24 | Hunter Chrisco |
| | Missy Miller | | Todd Harmon |
| 8 | Barry Todd | 26 | Aleta Davidson |
| 11 | Robert Nance | | Betty Jo Harris |
| 12 | Ann Fults | | Clay Blankenship |
| | Leigh Gates | 27 | Kaylee Weeks |
| 13 | Hunter Davidson | 29 | Fred Wells |
| | Jimmy Strong | | Morgan Mentz |
| 15 | David Brothers | | Leon Clayborn |
| 16 | Cody Gothart | 30 | Joel Heady |
| 17 | Paul King | | |
| | Dick Smith | | |



FRIENDS

Day

Sunday, April 2nd

Invite Someone!

Chase Park
CHURCH of CHRIST

Statistics

Sunday, March 12, 2017

AM Worship	329
Month Average	357
Bible Class	280
PM Worship	247
Wed., Mar. 15 Bible Classes	222
Regency Ret. Worship	39
Offering	\$15,563.13
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$17,905
Under Budget for year	-\$1,043
Building Fund	\$0

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

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