

## Are You Inspired?

When we think of being inspired, at least in a religious sense, most of us first think of the inspiration of the Scriptures—how God, through His Spirit, inspired the writing of the Bible by endowing the writers with a miraculous measure of knowledge and understanding, and then guiding them to put the Word of God into print. Certainly we understand that that type of inspiration was unique and specific in its scope and purpose. Men are no longer “inspired” as the Biblical writers were. God has “once for all” delivered His will to us through those inspired writers of old (Jude 3). But there is another sense in which the idea of inspiration is often used. We use it in many different aspects of life as we talk about being “inspired.” Seeing images and hearing stories of loss and devastation at the hands of some natural disaster might “inspire” us to help in some way. Hearing a touching story about someone overcoming great obstacles in life might “inspire” us to make positive changes and strive for lofty goals in our own lives. Having some good deed performed toward us might “inspire” us to do some act of kindness toward someone else. In this sense, “inspiration” simply means to be influenced, motivated, or moved to act in a certain way. It typically involves an emotional response to something that we have seen, heard, or experienced. Inspiration is a good thing. We often need the extra motivation in order to do the things that make the changes that are needed. But the question is: how do we become inspired? Consider these suggestions:

**Desire Inspiration.** Don't be content with who or where you are spiritually. Desire to grow, be strengthened, and built up in your spiritual life.

**Make an effort toward inspiration.** Put yourself in situations in which inspiration is possible. Surround yourself with strong Christian influences, be present and active in worship, Bible studies, and activities of the church. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn, grow, and be encouraged.

**Seek God's help in being inspired.** Prayer and Bible study are invaluable tools in being motivated and inspired toward better living. Ask for God's help, listen to His counsel in the written Word. Allow Him to strengthen you and inspire you.

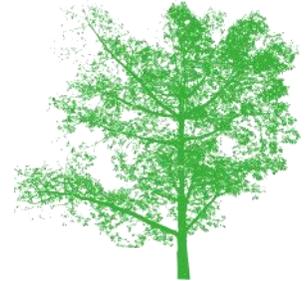
I hope that you want to be inspired to live closer to God and in greater service to Christ. May God bless each of us as we strive to serve Him better.

*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*

The theme for today's area-wide youth devotional is "God is Love." The idea of love in today's society is often times much different from the examples of love we find in the pages of Scripture.

Humans often feel love toward someone based on what that person has done, or can do for them. It is a natural response to feel affection toward someone who has helped you out in one way or another.

When we think about the often used human definition of love and compare it to the fact that God is love, we can see quite a contrast. If God loved us solely on the basis of what we can do for Him, what would His love for us look like? After all, what do we have to offer God on our own power?

One of the many amazing things about the nature of God is the very fact that God is love. That being said,

God loves though we have very little to offer Him in return. God loved us even before we knew Him and had the opportunity to have love for Him. Consider the words of 1 John 4:19, "*We love Him because He first loved us.*"

If you have ever been on the receiving end of empty words, you know all too well the pain that can cause. The beautiful thing about God is His words are never empty, He always backs them up. God did not just tell us that He loves us, He backed it up. Before any of us were born, before the foundation of the very world in which we live, God had a plan to show us of His love. That plan was His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that we would sin against Him and would need a Savior. Before you or I were ever created God desired a

relationship with us and for us to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

So consider this, before you were created, God wanted a relationship with you but He knew in order to do that, you would need a Savior. See, God knew you were going to sin, and He cannot have anything to do with sin, it has to be cleansed.

Where does this leave us? The human race was going to have a sin problem that they could not fix on their own. God loved them and wanted a relationship with them though they essentially had nothing to offer Him, enter Jesus, His precious Son to be the sacrifice for our sins.

So what is love? Love is displayed in wanting what is best for others above what our own desires might be. Love is perfected in Christ Jesus and His sacrifice.

## Resisting Homogenization—*Nathan Adams*

You have probably noticed the word "homogenized" on the milk container that you buy at the grocery stores. Some may remember learning about homogenization in school. It is the process of mixing milk until it has a uniform consistency. Instead of the cream separated on the top, it is fully blended together.

It is important for Christians to realize that "homogenization" is exactly what the world and the devil wants to happen to Christianity. They want us to be blended with the world to the point that there is no longer any difference between the two. However, God wants us to resist becoming like the world around us. This does not mean that we are to leave the world. Jesus made it clear in John 17 that Christians must be in the world, yet separated (not blended) from the ways of the world.

The first six chapters of Daniel provide six narratives. Half of those narratives demonstrate the need for the people of God to resist being like the world. In chapter one Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refuse to conform to Babylonian foods that God's people were forbidden to eat. Chapter three shows that Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refused to bow with all the other people before the great image. Finally in chapter six, Daniel refused to obey the world's law so that He might be obedient to God's law. In all of these instances, death was the consequence for not being "homogenized" with the world. Yet, God delivered these faithful men from that fate.

Our world calls and even demands that we conform to its ways, just as it did in Daniel's day. The world wants us to dress in ways that it deems normal, instead of in ways that proclaim Godliness (1 Timothy 2:10). The world wants us to participate in worldly activities that promote lust and immorality rather than activities that are righteous and bring honor to God through our participation (Colossians 3:17). The world wants our language to be ugly and destructive in contrast to God's desire for us to be loving heralds of the good news of Christ and selfless in our speaking those things that encourage others (Ephesians 4:15). The world wants us to accept everything as right while ignoring that Jesus is the only "right" way to salvation and eternal life with the Father (John 14:6). The only "right" is the righteousness of God found only in His commands (Psalm 119:172), everything else is false.

God left us "in" the world for a singular purpose. That we might be a counter culture to the world that was as obvious as a city on a hill that cannot be hid (Matthew 5:14-16). We provide a clear, obvious, and better way to live that all the world has the opportunity to "come and see." That better way to live is in Christ Jesus. When the world sees that we are not like them they will ask "Why?" and we will tell them about Jesus Christ. We must remember that if we are no different than the world (homogenized), we have absolutely nothing of value to offer them.

## *News Of Interest*

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### Sick

#### Regency Rehab

**Jim Dalton**

#### Big Spring Manor

**Juanez Tanner**

#### Vanderbilt Hospital (Nashville, TN)

**Don Cox**

**Home:** Jerry Kilpatrick, Dwight Steele, Judy Deck, Freida Sadler, Leo Johnson, and Robert Nance.

### Balance Class

Tues., Feb 14; Thur., Feb. 16; 1:30 p.m.

### Church Offices Closed

Monday, February 20, for President's Day.

**Pantry Item:** Saltine Crackers

### Membership

Welcome the Harmon family to our Chase Park family! **Todd, Kristi, and Clara Beth** are placing membership with us. Clara Beth, is in the 8th grade at Buckhorn Middle School and **Lillian** is in the 3rd grade at Mt. Carmel Elementary. Todd is the District Manager for H&R Block and also coaches football and baseball at Buckhorn High School. Kristi is a first grade teacher at Mt. Carmel Elementary. They previously worshipped with the Meridianville congregation. Be sure and meet the Harmons.

## *Today and Upcoming at Chase Park*

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### Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Curtis Hill**

Song leader: **Jerry Johnston**

### Hospital Visitation

Team #2 (**Emerson**), please pick up your assignments following evening worship.

### Little Lights Valentine Party

Tomorrow, 1:00—5:00 p.m., Fellowship hall/dining room.

### Super Seniors

Wednesday, February 15. No lunch.

### Regency Retirement Village Singing

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 p.m.

### Financial Peace Class

Class begins Monday, February 27, 6:00 p.m., small auditorium. Nursery provided if necessary.

## *Thank You*

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“Thank you for the beautiful plant. Thank you too for all the cards and prayers. We miss all of you and hope to be back in church soon.”

*Betty Meadows  
Lisa Smith*

## *Deacon Nominees*

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The Elders submitted the following nominee names to serve as a deacon: **Joel Heady, Mac Landman, Mark Rowe, and Mark Stiegler**. If you have any reasons/comments why any of these men should not serve as a deacon, please submit those reasons/comments, in writing, to the Elders by Sunday, February 19.

### Additional Assignments

**Randal Jennings**—WE Care Program

**Ray Brown**—Chase Park Website

**Hollis Todd**—New Member Care

# Chase Park Homebound



Jennie Belles—May 12  
611 Naugher Rd. 35811  
256-852-9247

Sarah Black—Oct 5  
Room 507  
Whitesburg Gardens  
105 Teakwood Dr. 35801

Edith Buchanan—Dec 6  
Room 226  
Millennium Rehab  
5275 Millennium Drive 35806

Rudye Cabe—Nov 20  
Room 120A  
Regency Healthcare & Rehab  
2061 Poole Dr. 35810

Jim Dalton—Apr 7  
3521 Rosedale Dr. 35810  
Cell: 256-759-6048

Mary Darnell—Nov 20  
Room 310  
Regency Healthcare & Rehab  
2061 Poole Dr. 35810

Waldean Dugan—June 23  
Room 403  
Regency Retirement Village  
2004 Max Luther Dr. 35810  
256-417-8516

Elizabeth Green—June 30  
Room 236  
Regency Retirement Village  
2004 Max Luther Dr. 35810  
256-859-7698

Connie Hendrixson—Dec 9  
Room 314  
Regency Healthcare & Rehab  
2061 Poole Dr. 35810

Jean Hindman—June 4  
292 River Cove Rd. 35811  
256-852-8325  
Cell: 256-658-3190

Wanell Krufft—Sep 17  
12113 Greenleaf Dr., S.E. 35803  
256-213-9655

Jean McBride—June 14  
Room 203  
519 Perkins Rd.  
Palmetto, GA 30268  
770-463-3855

Betty Meadows—July 3  
202 Arrowfeather Dr.  
Meridianville, AL 35759  
256-852-8836  
Cell: 256-631-7826

Ophelia Nance—Oct 25  
Room 106  
Clare Bridge of Hampton Cove  
6379 Hwy. 431 S.  
Hampton Cove, AL 35763

Flavil Nichols—Feb 2  
Room 316  
Regency Retirement Village  
2004 Max Luther Dr. 35810

Ruth Ray—Feb 19  
207 Sawmill Rd. 35811  
256-852-2812

Margaret Reeves—June 7  
Room 307  
Regency Retirement Village  
2004 Max Luther Dr. 35810  
256-859-7651

Lena Rosenblum—July 24  
109 Brookslanding Dr. 35811  
Cell: 256-468-5523

Lisa Smith—Nov 18  
202 Arrowfeather Dr.  
Meridianville, AL 35759  
256-701-5455

Cloyed Steelman—Jul 10  
June Steelman—Aug 22  
1911 Melbourne Ave. 35801  
256-536-2789

Gladys Tipton—July 21  
603 Wall Rd. 35811  
256-859-4069

Gary Webster—June 30  
101 Highmeadow Cr.  
Meridianville, AL 35759  
256-828-5806  
Cell: 256-503-0195

**NOTE: If corrections/changes need to be made to this list, please notify Tiny and Hollye.**

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## Statistics

**Sunday, February 5, 2017**

AM Worship .....	379
Month Average .....	379
Bible Class .....	347
PM Worship .....	234
Wed., Feb 5 Bible Classes.....	258
Regency Ret. Worship .... NC	
Offering.....	\$18,495.42
Budget.....	\$18,000
Average '17 .....	\$17,576
Under Budget for year.....	-\$2,542
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$0</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**

**<http://bible.us/e/Hdj>  
(Lesson 1 Link)  
The Bible—God's Holy Word**