

# CHASE PARK MESSENGER

## What Is An Ebenezer?

Have you ever asked yourself this question? If you are like me, the first thing (and maybe the only thing) that comes to mind when you hear the word “Ebenezer” is the grumpy, money-loving character, Ebenezer Scrooge, from Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol.” So, it seems very strange to many that, in the hymn, “O Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” we find these words in verse 2:

*Here I raise my Ebenezer: Hither by Thy help I’ve come;*

While the language of this entire song, written in 1758, is somewhat antiquated, the concept of “raising my Ebenezer” is one that is completely foreign to many. So, what is an Ebenezer, and why would I want to raise it?

The term “Ebenezer” comes from a Biblical text found in 1 Samuel. In chapter 4, the Israelites are encamped in a place called Ebenezer, preparing to go into battle against the Philistines. After being defeated by the Philistines, they call for the ark of God to be brought in among them so that they might be victorious. It is brought from Shiloh to Ebenezer, accompanied by Hophni and Phinehas, the two wicked sons of Eli. In the subsequent battle, the Israelites are slaughtered, Hophni and Phinehas are killed, and the ark of God is taken by the Philistines.

In chapters 5-7 of 1 Samuel, we find that God causes plagues to come upon the Philistines because they have taken the ark of God and, after seven months, they return the ark to the Israelites. Samuel, the prophet of God and judge of Israel, tells the people of Israel to repent and turn from the foreign gods that they have accepted so that God might forgive them and be with them once again. In response, the Israelites gather together at Mizpah for a period of prayer and fasting in repentance of their sins. When the Philistines hear of the Israelites being gathered in Mizpah, they plan another attack, but Samuel petitions God for deliverance and the Israelites, with God’s help, turn back the attack of the Philistines and overcome them. To commemorate that victory, Samuel sets up a stone as a monument, calling its name “Ebenezer” and saying, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” The word Ebenezer literally means, “stone of help” and was a reminder to the Israelites of God’s mercy and forgiveness, as well as His help in giving them victory.

As we sing the words, “Here I raise my Ebenezer,” we are following after the example of Samuel in acknowledging God’s mercy, forgiveness, grace, and help and recognizing that it is only by His grace that we have come to where we are. So, the next time we sing that song, sing those words joyfully, with understanding and thanksgiving!

*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

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[cpcofc.org](http://cpcofc.org)

### 2018 THEME:

## I AM THE CHURCH



## Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

Our bodies are amazing creations by God. There are so many attributes of our bodies which clearly show a designer. Things like the complexity of the human eye all the way to our DNA.

One of the things I want us to consider that is part of our make up is the fight or flight instinct we have. *Fight or flight* is an instinct that kicks in when we are faced with a perilous situation. It is in these situations that we make the decision to fight against whatever the danger is or run from it. Once the instinct kicks, when the dangerous situation is faced, a decision is made.

Thinking about this idea of *fight or flight* caused me to think about the perilous spiritual situations we sometimes find ourselves in. It caused me to wonder if God wants

us to *fight or flight* when we are faced with the different trials and temptations. The answer is yes! God gives us instructions on both *fight AND flight* when it comes to spiritual temptation. Consider what James writes in James 4:7 “*Submit yourselves, therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*” There are times in our lives when we will literally have to *fight* against the wiles of Satan. Make no mistake about it, it will be a fight and eternity hangs in the balance! Fight with everything you have, fight by submitting yourself to God. Christians, when Satan comes, be prepared to fight, and remember, you are not fighting alone, God is on your side and so is your Christian family!

What about *flight*? Is it ever

appropriate to flee instead of fight against the wiles of Satan? Yes! Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:13, “*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*” God provides us a way of escape from temptation which means we can *flee* from them!

Christians, fight temptations when they come! Christians run far away from temptation when they come. Let each of us strive to be the type of people that we ought to be when Satan’s snares come our way!

## Outreach News—*Pat Cowden*

Wasn’t it wonderful to see our young people recognized for their efforts in Lads to Leaders last Sunday evening? I did not get a count, but there were probably close to 200 people who stayed after services Sunday evening to honor these kids, their parents, and the adults who assisted them. A big thank you also goes to Stephen and Jared for their direction in the Lads program.

This was a fitting end to the day considering Rusty’s fine lesson about “The Folly of Supposing.” There truly is an urgent need for adults to involve themselves in the lives of the young people of Chase Park; I appreciate Rusty having the wisdom and courage to challenge all of us to get involved.

Lord permitting, we are going to be having an outreach effort coming up next Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. This session of Saturday for the Savior will involve meeting at the building at 10:00 a.m. to get assignments and going out to welcome and invite people who have recently moved to the area. These folks will have already received the initiate New Mover invite and a personal card from me welcoming them to the community, at least one of the families will have already been contacted face to face.

We also have the April meeting of Monday Night for the Master coming up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. I urge as many as possible to be involved with this program of service and outreach. We will have several projects to work on as well as reaching out to the community and our members through cards and visits.

Evangelism spotlight:

When was the last time you had someone in your home for a social visit who was not a relative or a member of the church?

Evangelistic challenge for the week:

- Call or send a card/email to someone you know who has fallen away from the Lord and the church and let them know you are thinking about them.

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



Think Souls First

## News Of Interest

**Sick**

**Home:** Edna Sanders, Janet Lawson, Doris Campbell, Kaye Albright.

**Balance Class**

Tues., Apr. 17; Thurs., Apr 19; 1:30 p.m.

**Ladies Night Out**

Monday, April 30, 6:00 p.m., at home of Judy Deck. Please bring \$5.00 for supper. Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk.

**Ministry Expo**

Sunday, May 6.

**Area-Wide Singing at Chase Park**

Friday, May 11, 7—9:00 p.m.

**Pantry Item:** Canned green English peas.

**Special Contribution**

**Sunday, May 6**

**Goal \$25,000**

**For our Mortgage Reduction Plan  
There will be two contributions**



## Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

**Family Care Meeting**

E and F meet today for potluck lunch. **E Leaders:** Corder, Maples, Williams; **F Leaders:** Gransky, Heady, McCreless, Olbricht. **G and H** meet Sunday, April 22. **G Leaders:** Zlatovich, Emerson, Walker; **H Leaders:** Jennings, Lambrecht, McCall.

**Regency Retirement Service**

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Barry Todd**

Song Leader: **Ray Brown**

**Super Seniors**

Wednesday, April 18. No lunch

**Regency Retirement Village Singing**

Thursday, April 19, 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday For The Savior**

Saturday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.—12 noon.

**Children’s Ministry Devotional**

Sunday, April 22, after p.m. service.

**Monday Night For The Master**

Monday, April 23, 6:30—8:00 p.m., room 102.

**Mother/Son Potluck Picnic**

Saturday, May 5, Madison County Lake, 10:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet at Hospitality Desk.

## Worship Participants

| SUNDAY AM APRIL 22, 2018 |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| READING .....            | Payton Corder |
| F PRAYER.....            | Eric Corder   |
| LS PRAYER.....           | Ray Brown     |
| C PRAYER.....            | Jared Brumlow |

| SUNDAY PM APRIL 22, 2018 |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| READING .....            | Brandon Karraker |
| F PRAYER.....            | Mike Crawford    |
| C PRAYER.....            | Andrew Corder    |

## Thank You

“Dear friends at Chase Park,  
We would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, and calls following Jerry’s surgery and continuing recovery. We would appreciate your continued prayers for us. In Christian love,”

*Jerry and Mildred Smelser*

Focus For  
MARCH - APRIL

*I Am A Servant of Christ*

**I AM THE CHURCH**



*Chase Park*  
CHURCH of CHRIST



## Friends Day Is Coming Up!

We will have our first Friends Day of the year in just two weeks, on April 29th. Be inviting your friends to join us for a great day of worship and fellowship.

### Friends Day Schedule

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| AM Worship    | 9:00  |
| Bible Study   | 10:15 |
| Potluck Lunch | 11:15 |
| PM Singing    | 12:30 |

## Statistics

### Sunday, April 8, 2018

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| AM Worship .....                  | 347         |
| Month Average .....               | 370         |
| Bible Class .....                 | 278         |
| PM Worship .....                  | 232         |
| Wed., Apr. 11, Bible Classes .... | 242         |
| Regency Ret. Worship .....        | 33          |
| Offering.....                     | \$18,150.21 |
| Budget.....                       | \$18,000    |
| Average '18 .....                 | \$18,495    |
| Over Budget for year .....        | +\$6,924    |
| <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

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

### **(Lesson 1 Link)**

**The Bible—God's Holy Word**

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