

CHASE PARK MESSENGER

The Secret Of Living Is Bearing Fruit

Suppose you were offered a life that is guaranteed to give you a "joy" greater than any other, a "blessedness" that is happiness in its fullest measure, an "assurance" of entering the everlasting kingdom of our Lord, and a "peace" surpassing understanding. Would you be interested?

Of course, no man can offer such a life but Jesus can and does! He stated in John 10:10 "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." Jesus offers "abundant life" not only by His death on the cross, but also by His teachings recorded by His apostles. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11

Through His teachings we can learn the "Secrets Of The Abundant Life", many of which are found in John 15 where Jesus pictures Himself as the VINE and His disciples as the BRANCHES (John 15:1-5). As "branches" we are to bear "fruit". To appreciate how this is true, consider the different kinds of fruit we are to bear.

There is winning souls to Christ and helping them grow. Paul speaks of this kind of "fruit" in Romans 1:13. One of the characteristics of a branch bearing fruit is that it produces an identical product. Therefore, one way a disciple bears fruit is by producing disciples!

We are to share with those in need. Paul speaks of contributing to the poor as a "fruit" in Romans 15:25-28. In His own way, Jesus certainly did this as we see referenced in 2 Corinthians 8:9. So if the "Vine" did this, we should expect His "branches" to do the same (1 John 3:16-18).

We are to develop Christ-like characteristics. Notice that the "fruit" of the Spirit is the development of certain graces (Galatians 5:22-23). One who abounds in such qualities is growing in the "knowledge of Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:5-8). He is being "renewed according to the image of Him who created him." (Colossians 3:9-11)

We are to praise God and give thanks. The author of Hebrews describes such activities as a sort of "fruit" (Hebrews 13:15). The "Vine" was known for such behavior (Luke 10:21 and John 11:41). Should His "branches" do any less?

These are different kinds of "fruits" we can bear as "branches" of the "Vine." A life filled with Joy, Happiness, Assurance, and Peace surely is the "abundant life"! "The Secret Of Living Is Bearing Fruit", and this "abundant life" is available to those who will "bear fruit" as "branches" of the "True Vine" (Jesus Christ)!

Your Elders

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



Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

One of the most admirable qualities a person can possess is that of being a person of their word. In today's society, promises are made quickly and often broken.

It doesn't take long to see that "talk is cheap" in today's world. Turn on the television for no more than 5-10 minutes and it will be apparent how little words seem to mean in our culture. It seems those in power (whether political or otherwise) are often willing to say whatever it takes to advance their specific agenda.

If we are not careful we can buy into the position that as long as it benefits my interests, I am free to say whatever I want and not obligated to hold to follow through with what I said.

What type of people are we to be with our words? Does the Bible give any guidance on the importance of following through with what we say? Absolutely! As in all aspects of life, the Bible gives us a wonderful guide to the importance of being a people of our word!

Jesus, in the Sermon On The Mount, taught the multitude about the importance of being someone whose word means something. While he was teaching on the taking of oaths in Matthew 5:37, "*Jesus said "But let your 'yes' be yes and 'no,' 'no.' For whatever is more of these is from the evil one."* To put in a nutshell what Jesus was saying here is to say "Be someone whose word is

enough and means something."

The perceptions others have about us matters. It matters not because it affects our reputation alone, but it matters because we as individuals represent and make up the church! The lives we will lead will be a reflection of the church in the eyes of others. Since the lives we lead and the things we say matter, it is important that we are a people whose words mesh with our actions!

I write this article with the intention of it being an encouragement to you. An encouragement that your words matter. An encouragement to understand that since your words matter be careful to only say what you mean and follow through with what you say.

Outreach—*Pat Cowden*

This morning I want to share with you a process to consider for becoming more involved in local evangelism. The problem most people have is the initial contact involving getting the study. With the program we are putting in place, we remove that concern because we are not initially trying to get studies, we are building relationships based on our belief in God. Know this first, there is no gimmick or magic formula that makes this happen. It happens with faithful diligence to do the Lord's work and obeying His command to "let our light shine."

It is a rare occurrence when a complete stranger initiates a conversation about spiritual matters resulting in a concentrated Bible study. We should appreciate them when they happen, but we should not rely on them as an evangelistic plan.

It is easy sometimes to read familiar texts and skip over very pertinent

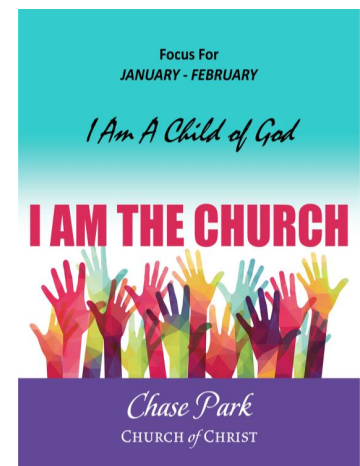
details. Often times when I read or teach about the early church and am referencing Acts 2:47, I skip to the end and talk about the people who were being saved and added to the church by the Lord. There is nothing wrong with this, but, we can easily overlook pertinent details if we do this regularly. The first part of the verse describing the activities and character of the early saints says this, "...praising God and having favor with all the people."

Early Christians were together daily, eating meals together, praising God and having/developing favor with the people they came into contact with (vss. 46, 47). Does this sound like 21st Century Christianity to you? This is why we need to spend more, not less, time with each other. This is also why we need to make a practice of shining our lights (praising God) when with others. And additionally, this is the reason that we need to be in our community developing favorable

relationships.

This is as close to a magic formula as we will ever find for local evangelism. Couple those activities with prayer, preparation, persistence, patience, and proclamation of God's word and God will be pleased and give increase as He sees fit.

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



News Of Interest

Sick

HealthSouth Rehab

Jerry Smelser. No Visitors.

Home: **Mark Henry, Bert Edwards, Ginny Pryor, Billye Phillips**

Baptism

We rejoice with **Betty Cotton** and Jimmy Strong in her decision to become a New Testament Christian. She recently moved from Dallas, TX. Make her feel welcome!

Directory Deletion

Please delete **Elaine Gotvald** from your directory. She has placed membership at Lincoln because it is closer to home. She has been attending on Sunday afternoon and Wednesday evening for over a year. She loves the people at Chase Park and will miss being here. She was here often during the week helping with weekly chores. We will miss her.

Pantry Item

Chef Boyardee Pastas (Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meat balls)

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Family Care Meeting

Teams **D** and **I** meet today. **D Leaders: Brown, Sims; I Leaders: J. Adams, Peacock**

Teams **E** and **J** meet Sunday, Feb. 4. **E Leaders: Corder, Maples, Williams; J Leader: Cothren**

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Wesley McDonald**

Song Leader: **Joel Heady**

Hospital Visitation

Team #4 (**McCall**). Please pick up your assignments following p.m. service.

Children's Ministry Devo

Tonight after p.m. services.

Balance Class

Tues., Jan. 30, Thurs., Feb. 1, 1:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, January 31. Will go out to eat.

Retreats

Men's Retreat—February 2, 3

Ladies' Retreat—February 9, 10

Both at Camp Ney-A-Ti.

Sign-up by January 31 at Hospitality Desk.

Worship Participants

SUNDAY AM February 4, 2018	
READING	Dylan Suddarth
F PRAYER.....	Steve Watson
LS PRAYER.....	Clay Blankenship
C PRAYER.....	Fred Wells

SUNDAY PM February 4, 2018	
READING	Anderson Todd
F PRAYER.....	Ellie Brake
C PRAYER.....	Tony Atchley

Thank You

Dear Chase Park family,
 “We would like to thank you for the care, concern, prayers, and the many cards we received with the passing of Ken’s mom. We cannot express in words what it means to us to be part of this loving congregation. Ken’s dad would also like to express his appreciation for the cards and prayers on his behalf. Continue to keep him in your prayers.”

Ken and Angie McGee
Wayne McGee

TEACHING ROCKET

Workshop for Teachers and Students of God's Word

Sunday, February 11th

- Session 1: The Goals of an Education Program**
- Session 2: Preparing and Delivering A Lesson**
- Session 3: Keys To Better Bible Study**
- Session 4: Classroom Dynamics**
- Session 5: The Teacher's Spiritual Life**

Presenter:

Michael Whitworth
Author, Teacher, Publisher
Owner of Start 2 Finish Books




*Session 1 will take place during a combined adult Bible class.
 All other sessions will be held throughout the afternoon.
 A light lunch and refreshments will be provided.*

Focus For
JANUARY - FEBRUARY

I Am A Child of God

I AM THE CHURCH



Chase Park
 CHURCH of CHRIST

Statistics

Sunday, January 21, 2018

AM Worship	378
Month Average	349
Bible Class	307
PM Worship	247
Wed., Jan 24 Bible Classes	227
Regency Ret. Worship	30
Offering	\$17,038.56
Budget	\$18,000
Average '18	\$17,557
Under Budget for year	-\$1,328
Building Fund	\$60.00

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

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