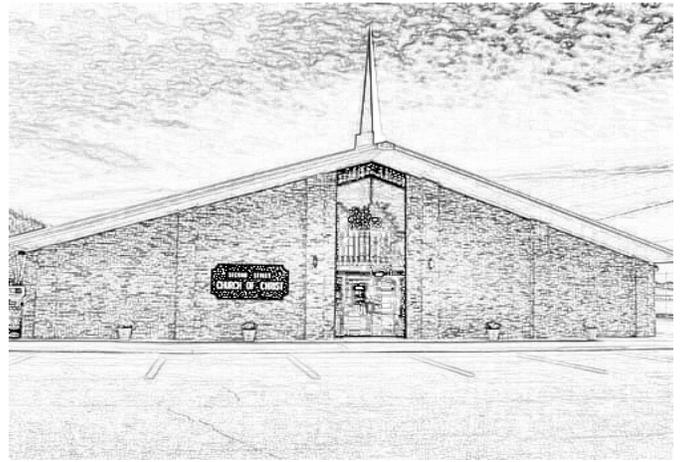


Second Street Church of Christ



October 2, 2016

The Need for Fellowship

MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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Office

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P.O. Box 126
Belmont, Ms. 38827

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

***Endeavoring to keep
the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:3***

“After we tore ourselves away from them, we put out to sea, and sailing a straight course, we came to Cos, on the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went aboard, and put out to sea. After we sighted Cyprus and left it behind on our port side, we sailed on to Syria and put in at Tyre, because the ship was to unload its cargo there. After we located the disciples, we stayed there seven days” (Acts 21:1-4 NET).

One thing that becomes very apparent as we read about Paul’s travels is that he desired to be with Christians. It wasn’t that Paul wasn’t with Christians all the time – he was travelling with a group of at least seven other Christians (see Acts 20:4 and the “we” statements in Acts 21, indicating that Luke was also with him).

But notice as they traveled that their next stopping place after leaving Ephesus was Tyre. What did Paul do? He spent time searching out and locating the Christians in that town. That they stayed for seven days tells us that they were able to be with the Christians there for their Sunday worship. G. Campbell Morgan made an apt comment about this:

“These travellers, reaching Tyre, sought out the disciples. Do Christian travellers today, calling at Tyre, seek out the disciples? Is it not too often the case that when travellers are far away from home they try and miss the disciples for that occasion, and see and meet everyone and everything else?” (G. Campbell Morgan. *The Acts of the Apostles*, 1924: 371).

How many Christians, when they are away from home, perhaps on vacation, also take a vacation from the Lord? Is it that difficult today to discover where the Christians are meeting? If Paul could do it without telephones and the internet, surely we can put out a little effort so that we can be with other Christians and worship God.

(Continued on page 2)

Announcements

Welcome Visitors!! You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

The sign-up sheet to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

Food Pantry item - can tuna/chicken and crackers.

Pinevale Food Drive spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, paper towels.

Light Up the Church Building

A little story that illustrates the problem of attendance goes like this:

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago, a nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to people in his town. At last he decided to build them a church building.

No one saw the complete plans for the building until it was finished. When the people gathered, they marveled at its beauty and completeness. Then someone asked, "But where are the lamps? How will it be lighted?"

The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls. Then he gave to each family a candle which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship

"Each time you are here the area where you are seated will be lighted," the nobleman said. "Each time you are not here, that

area will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God's house will be dark."

This is just a story but it has a stinging point. Those who seldom, if ever, attend worship or Bible study in the evening may be like those of whom it was said: "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up" (Matt. 4:16). That is, if they happened to see the church building in the evening from a distance.

Jesus also said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house" (Matt. 5:14-15). Attending all services of the church is letting your light shine -- after all you come to worship God and study His word -- then leave to serve.

Maybe it would be good to pray, "*For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness*" (Psa 18:28).

Bulletin Fodder

(Continued from page 1)

As we continue to read about Paul's journey to Jerusalem, we discover that this was, indeed, his regular practice. They traveled from Tyre to Ptolemais and what did they do? "And when we had greeted the brothers, we stayed with them for one day. On the next day we left and came to Caesarea and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the seven, and stayed with him...After these days we got ready and started up to Jerusalem. Some of the disciples from Caesarea came along with us too, and brought us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple from the earliest times, with whom we were to stay" ([Acts 21:7-16](#)).

Why did Paul, even when he was just passing through, seek out Christians in that town? I believe he understood the need for fellowship, both encouraging the Christians in that town and also receiving encouragement. Paul realized the need for Christians to encourage and help each other.

"There is the very wonderful fact that wherever Paul went he found a little Christian community waiting to welcome him. If that was true in Paul's time it is still truer today. One of the great privileges of belonging to the Church is the fact that no matter where a man goes, to the very ends of the earth he will find in every place a community of like-minded people into which he may enter. The man who is within the family of the Church is better equipped with friends than any other man in all the world" (William Barclay. *The Acts of the Apostles*, 1955: 168).

How very true! Let's learn to treasure times we can spend with other Christians.

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH GROWTH

Examining what is necessary for the church to grow

3 Areas of church growth...

- ◆ *Spiritual growth*
- ◆ *Numerical growth*
- ◆ *Functional growth*

4 Things Required for Church Growth

Faith

- ◆ WITHOUT FAITH, ALL OF OUR EFFORTS WILL BE WORTHLESS. (MATTHEW 17:19-20)
- ◆ GOD IS THE ONE WHO GIVES THE INCREASE. (1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9)
- ◆ IF THE CHURCH IS GOING TO GROW, THE MEMBERS MUST HAVE THE FAITH TO CONTINUE TO MOVE FORWARD, ACKNOWLEDGING THE POWER OF GOD TO DELIVER.

Prayer

- ◆ HOW OFTEN DO WE PRAY FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR CONGREGATION?
- ◆ THIS WAS A PART OF PAUL'S DAILY PRAYERS. (ROMANS 1:9; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:4; PHILIPPIANS 1:3-4; COLOSSIANS 1:3; 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2)
- ◆ ARE WE PRAYING FOR THE MEMBERS TO GROW, THE WAYWARD TO RETURN, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH?

Work

- ◆ AS WITH ALL THINGS, THE AMOUNT OF EFFECT IS DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE LEVEL OF CAUSE INSERTED.
- ◆ OUR FAITH WILL BE SHOWN BY OUR WORKS. (JAMES 2:14-26)
- ◆ THE WORKS THAT LEAD TO GROWTH ARE MANY AND VARIED.
- ◆ THE CONGREGATION WILL NOT GROW BY ITSELF. IT REQUIRES PURPOSEFUL WORK.

It requires everyone

- ◆ FEW WORKERS = LITTLE HARVEST.
- ◆ THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO DO BECAUSE WE ARE ALL A PART OF THE SAME MACHINE. (EPHESIANS 4:16; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:14-27)
- ◆ WHEN A PART OF THE BODY IS NOT WORKING, IT CAUSES UNDUE STRAIN ON THE REST OF THE BODY.

Are we doing what is necessary for this congregation to grow?

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study **9:00am**
Worship **10:00am**
Evening **5:00pm**

Wednesday

Bible Study **7:00pm**

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalms 133:1

The process for becoming a Christian
is the same as it was over 2000 years
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17

Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6

Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3

Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10

Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38

Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10

None of these alone will make you a
Christian. These commands are from
God and must be obeyed from the
heart to become a Christian.

Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Ellie Sander
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Jeanie Ivy	Larry Sartain
Dorsa Sparks	Jennifer Steger
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Allison Heitzman
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Janice Moody	Flora Wanner



October Birthdays

Aly Williams 10/3

Debra Brewer 10/9

Barry Wren 10/10

Joey Moore 10/15

Jerry Dees 10/17

Braxton Cleveland 10/24

Jeffrey Higginbottom 10/28

Glenda Williams 10/28

Daniel Cozort 10/29

September Anniversaries

Corey & Ashley 10/6

Mallory & Brad 10/21

Steve & Michelle 10/25

Sympathy