

### Time To Fast

#### Elders

John Deffenbaugh  
Wayne Douthitt  
Glen Honeycutt  
Rick Hyder  
Bill Reiboldt

#### Deacons

Pete Babb  
Carl Cobb  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Tim Murray  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

#### Preacher

Danny Boggs

#### Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

#### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

#### Phone

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www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



Since September, the 7th-12th grade class has been studying discipleship from the Sermon on the Mount. Lately, we've studied Matthew 6:1-18. Jesus makes three assumptions of his listeners in this passage. First, he assumes that they are giving. He urges "When you give to the needy..." don't be like the hypocrites (Mt 6:1-4). In like manner he urges, "When you pray..." do so in secret (Mt 6:5-15). Finally, Jesus urges, "When you fast..." don't let others know you are fasting (Mt 6:16-18). He expects those who would be his disciples to fast, and he assumes that they do. Would he be correct to assume this of you?

Though Christ's audience in Matthew 6 was religious Jews under the old law, fasting (like giving and praying) is not exclusive to the abolished covenant. We see early Christians fasting throughout the book of Acts (see 9:9; 13:2; 14:23), so there undoubtedly is value in fasting to the modern Christian!

Having grown up in the church, I am very familiar with giving and praying. However, as with the 7th-12th graders on Sunday morning, fasting is a spiritual discipline that has eluded me. Has this practice become lost on us? (Perhaps you are a member of our congregation who does fast, but you do well to fast in secret as Jesus instructs.)

In Acts 14, Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in three congregations. Luke records in Acts 14:23, "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church,

with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed." When elders were appointed by Paul and Barnabas, both prayer and fasting were central to the process. Fasting strengthened their prayer.

Our congregation will appoint new elders within the next month. If you (like me) are a Christian to whom fasting is unfamiliar, this month presents a biblical opportunity to adopt the practice. Fasting is skipping at least one meal for a spiritual purpose, and it can be done to strengthen our prayers for guidance in appointing new elders.

Author Donald S. Whitney writes, "In real life, here's how [fasting with a spiritual purpose] works: As you are fasting and your head aches or your stomach growls and you think, I'm hungry! your next thought is likely to be something like, Oh, right – I'm hungry because I'm fasting today. Then your next thought should be, And I'm fasting for this purpose: \_\_\_\_\_."

Whether or not you choose to supplement your prayer with fasting this month, do be praying for the current and future leadership of our congregation. We have been blessed with an eldership whose wisdom has ensured both growth and sound doctrine. Let us seek God's guidance for continued strength in leadership.

*Caleb Boggs*

Whitney, Donald. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. Colorado Springs, NavPress, 1991.

*His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14*



Pam Babb, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Edwin & Vera Cornell, Erma Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Mary Deffenbaugh, Eli Dodson, Jaren Dodson, Joe Freund, Teresa Freund, Wilma Hill, Justin Houston, Nadine Keith, Leopoldo Lizardo, Cheryl Neilans, Dale Privett, John Privett, Bette Sinden, Susie Tomlin, Edith Toney, Ruth Ann Wilson.

Bette Sinden remains at Landmark Hospital in Joplin. Susie Tomlin is at the Medicalodge during her recovery.



every  
**ONE**  
counts!

**Every "One" Counts:** Remember when you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. Last week we helped a member who is having some financial struggles. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

**Devo and Donuts** will resume every Tuesday morning at 7:00 in the activities center on January 7.



Please stop by the welcome desk and sign the January birthday card for the child at Fair Haven.

This Thursday is the **Young adults'** Christmas party at Caleb and Bethany Boggs', 1211 Reid Rd. Please bring a dessert. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater for a chance to win a major award.

This Saturday evening is **ice skating** in Bentonville, AR for grades 7-12. The van will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00 p.m. Bring \$15.00 to \$20.00.



## This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M.: *Hopeful Hurt*

(1 Thess. 4:13-18, Danny Boggs)

P.M.: Caleb Boggs

Children in **Kindergarten through sixth grade** and their families will have a winter party in the activities center this Sunday after morning services. Please let Caleb know if you plan to attend and if you can bring a side or a dessert.

We are having a **Bible Bowl** over Luke 1-6 after services this Sunday night. Everyone is welcome to participate or stay and watch. If you would like a set of questions, see Coralee.

Looking for a way to be a servant? Help keep our activities center clean by **volunteering** to tidy up for two weeks. See Todd Murray if you can help.

We will deliver **meals-on-wheels** December 23 - January 3. This is a wonderful way to be a part of the community and share a smile and the spirit of God's love with those you serve. Due to the timing, this may also be an opportunity for you to make this a family activity. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board.



Be praying about those men in the congregation that you believe are qualified to be **elders**. You will be receiving a letter with a form that can be used to submit their names. We want to give some serious thought and prayer to this important activity.

Ladies, if you would like to be part of a **hostess group** and have not been assigned to a group, please contact Molly Cobb.

If you have not done so, please **pick up your copy** of Tim Alsup's *The Church of Christ: Pursuing God's Goals for His Church in a Divided Religious World*. Start preparing for our special effort January-March. Pray for and start inviting those who need to learn the value of the Lord's church and the truth about it. If you need additional books, see Coralee.

## Upcoming Hillcrest Youth Group events:

January 11- TSYS Ski Trip

January 17-19 - Challenge Youth Conference , Dallas

A big thanks to everyone who helped provide clothes, toys, books, and food for our Bright Futures Christmas family. Your generosity is amazing year after year! A special shout-out to the girls who wrapped the presents for us! We appreciate Brenda Kimbrough and all the work she did to make this possible.

## PRAYER LEADERS

### Sunday, December 22:

- AM Opening: Pat Andrews
- AM Closing: Jackson Collinsworth
- PM Opening: Charles Phillips
- PM Closing: Eli Giebler

### Wednesday, December 25:

- Opening: Elijah Boggs
- Closing: Mike Kidwell

RECORDS	12-15-19	12-16-18
Bible Study	142	150
AM Worship	173	186
PM Worship	108	121
Wednesday	142	120
Contribution	\$8,771.75	\$7,910.44
Budget	\$7,717.37	\$7,630.58