

The Reminder

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, TX



SUNDAY
AUGUST 17, 2014

BELLAIRE
church of Christ
8001 South Rice Ave
P.O. Box 1029
Bellaire, Texas 77402
www.bellairechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study
5:00 PM Worship

WEDNESDAY:
7:30 PM Study and
Devotional

UPCOMING MEETING:

Ralph Walker
October 23-26

“Hearts In Tune”

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ” (Philippians 1:9-10).

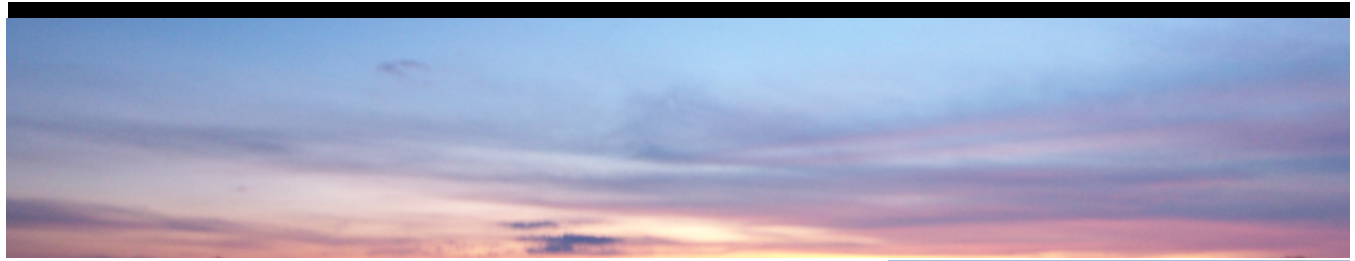
OUR GOAL IS TO ALLOW GOD’S DESIRES TO BECOME OUR OWN. We want to “approve the things that are excellent,” allowing God’s truth to fill our minds, yielding our will to His purposes, and rejoicing in the sheer goodness of all things that are good. There is within each of us, perhaps buried under layers of lesser concerns, a longing for hearts that are in tune with God’s heart, hearts that want nothing but what He wants. Coming to have such a heart (and helping others to do so) is what spiritual growth is about. This is why we study and meditate upon God.

It is impossible to grow in likeness to God’s character without learning to love Him, and it is impossible to love God without learning to love what He loves. Thus one of the wisest things we can do is to make a commitment to love only the things that are highest and best, as judged by God’s criteria. Frances de Sales wrote, “Love is the strongest passion of the soul. We become like what we love. Guard against loving wrongly.”

Thomas a Kempis put it in the form of a prayer: “O Lord, let me know what is worth knowing, love what is worth loving, praise what pleases you, honor what is worthy in your sight, and avoid all that is evil.” In our present state of mind, putting ourselves in God’s hands is not always easy. It’s a test not only of our trust but also of our courage. Our desires are so often going in the opposite direction, to let God define what is desirable can seem almost insane. From our vantage point in the here and now, the life of radical faith may seem to involve more sacrifice than serenity. But in the end, the hearts that will have found peace will be those that have come to rest in the purposes of God. On this side of the Cross, there can surely be no doubt as to the benevolence of those purposes. Whatever He desires, it is our privilege to desire the very same things, just because He desires them.

“Lord Jesus, help me to want what is most pleasant to you. You know what is best for me. Give what you will, when the right time comes, and in the quantity you prefer. Do with me as you please. Put me where you will. I am in your hands. I am your servant. I am ready to do whatever you command. You are the true peace of my heart and the perfect rest of my soul” (Catherine Parr).

Gary Henry - WordPoints.com



Morning Lesson

"New Hearts"
Steve Garrett

Evening Lesson

"Lord, Increase Our Faith"
Jack Smith

News and Notes:

Please keep the following members in mind who have difficulty being with us due to prolonged illness: **Dee Boyd, Doris Norman, Billie Glitch, and Don Hurd.**

There are several new additions to our sick list. Shirley Mauer was in the hospital locally for several days. She was undergoing some tests and had some complications. Muffy's uncle will be coming to Houston this week for treatment at MD Anderson. Continue to pray for Jan as she awaits test results from her recent surgery.

School/college is about to begin. Several of our young folks are leaving, or have already left for college. Hopefully several from other places will be returning to Houston to further their education. It's an exciting time. Hope all have safe journeys.

Tonight is the youth devotion at the Smith's house.

Erin Clanton and Shelt'n Betts were married last Saturday (Aug. 9). Congratulations to them, and much happiness.

Whispering Hope

Isn't it amazing how songs can take us back to places in time? The way that memories will attach themselves to Hymns over the years. "Whispering Hope." "Jesus Loves Me." "God's Family." "I Need Thee Every Hour." "No Tears in Heaven." "I'll Fly Away."

What do you think of when you hear those titles? Each of these songs triggers a memory. There was a man named Kenny in Hamilton, Alabama who used to sing "Whispering Hope" every time that he got the chance to lead singing at church services. Kenny's wife contracted a disease that attacked her brain. Tragically, she went from having a big, outgoing, witty personality to having the mind of a five year old. But Kenny stayed faithful to the Lord...and to his wife. Even through the toughest of times, he helped her get ready and brought her to worship every week. To me, it seemed that Kenny was holding out on hope for a miracle, on hope that her condition would improve, and on hope that God would see them through. Her name was Hope. Every time I sing that song I think about a man who longed for the hope (Hope) that waits in heaven. We can't help but think about those types of things, those kinds of memories when we sing. In fact, I think God did that on purpose. As I write, the words of [Philippians 4:8](#) ring in my ears. "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. We strive towards the hope that so many before us have striven for: heaven.

Philip Jenkins - edited

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - M. Pharris
Hymn Director - L. Williams
Scripture Reader - J. Carithers
Opening Prayer - M. Miles
Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - S. Garrett
Opening Prayer - J. Carithers
Closing Prayer - M. Pharris

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

BIBLE CLASSES

Psalms - Room 107-109
James & Hebrews - Room 102
Bible Geography - Room 204
Graded classes for children