

The Reminder

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



SUNDAY
JANUARY 25, 2015

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 Bible Study

“A Lofty Example Set by a Hospital Chair”

I decided I would become a minister 10 years ago. I remember making that decision with certain images in my head of what it meant to be a minister. I confess that at 17 years old my vocational vision was closer to a rock star speaker in a suit and tie than a humble servant of Christ (Silly, I know, but “17 years old” justifies my thought process). A decade has come and gone and with it my naïve images of what it means to work as a minister. My rock star, be-all visions were replaced by my new image for ministry: a hospital chair.

Like a hospital chair, I want to be near the sick, angry, shocked, and hurting. I want to be near those going through health crises, and be a resource for the family members near them as well. I want to serve all kinds of people in their time of need – people who are rich, poor, young, old, Black, White, Hispanic, workaholic, retired, or addicted. I want to be near those just being born into the world, those just leaving it, those being diagnosed, those fighting to live, those not fighting to live, those enduring struggles surrounded by

flowers, cards and family, and those quietly enduring alone in dim, empty rooms.

Like a hospital chair, I want to be in places where life and death constantly remind me of the God who gave life and the Christ who conquered death. I want to be sat upon and wept upon by the weary. I want to be carved into by angry teenagers who put on headphones and turn it loud because they can't hear God. I want to be kicked across the room by frustrated parents who just received bad news. I want to bear their suffering with them in silence. I want to quietly sit with the mother holding her newborn child in her arms while she thanks God for a safe delivery. I want to be present with the mother mourning over her stillborn child while she questions what's fair and good in life.

Like a hospital chair, I want my edges to be worn from being useful and used. I want to be a faithful fixture where God needs me most – to have an open schedule instead of a closed agenda – to have no better place to be than where I have been set. I want to be a minister for God's glory, not my own. I want to be a hospital chair.

- John Michael Kennedy



“Shepherds”

Morning Lesson

“Standing in the Gap”
Steve Garrett

Evening Lesson

“God's Displeasure With Israel”
Jack Smith

News and Notes:

Continue praying for those of our number who have on-going health issues. Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn and Don Hurd.

We have several on our long term "serious" list. Mike sends the list out on Mondays. If you need a copy, please ask and I'll print one for you.

Other than those, Bethany mentioned that her mom was to have surgery soon. Talk to her for details. We've had several out with "minor" ailments. Flu, congestion, allergies. While these don't usually present serious problems, they are troublesome to us.

This morning, adult Bible classes will assemble in the auditorium for our annual congregational meeting. Budget considerations and plans for the year. We've scheduled it this way to provide greater opportunity for the largest number to attend.

Several gospel meetings and singings are listed on the bulletin board. Check it for details.

1 Thess. 5:12-13 "But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work."

The phrase "labor over," could include apostles, preachers and many spiritual teachers. However, adding the expression "and have charge over you in the Lord," narrows this list down to the overseers or elders within a congregation. Paul identifies three things that they were doing and ought to be doing today: diligently laboring among you; having charge over you; giving you instruction. The work is like parenting. It's showing. It's teaching. It's explaining. It's motivating. It's warning. It's helping.

The church is called a flock, a bunch of sheep. Sheep don't run fast. They don't have any attack mechanism, and you'll never see a "Beware of sheep" sign in a farmer's pen. They need help. They get lost easily. They get frightened easily. Sheep need shepherds. The role of the shepherd is to protect the sheep. There are so many wonderful "shepherd-sheep" illustrations in our Bibles. Jesus is the "good shepherd." "The Lord is my shepherd..." In Luke 15, the shepherd left 99 sheep to go look for the one lost sheep. A parable about salvation.

So the role of shepherds today is vital to the health and wellbeing of a congregation. Shepherds pick classes, schedules, guest speakers all with the flock in mind. There is a sense of direction, assurance and confidence when godly shepherds are around.

Have you prayed for the leaders? Esteem them, Love them. Honor them. Appreciate them. This is the proper response to godly leaders.

Jump Starts Daily (edited)

ASSIGNMENTS

MORNING SERVICE

Announcements - J. Smith
Hymn Director - L. Williams
Scripture Reader - Reader
Luke 9:21-22
Opening Prayer - J. Knapp
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

EVENING SERVICE

Hymn Director - G. Williams
Opening Prayer - S. Camp
Closing Prayer - J. Smith

EVANGELIST

Jack Smith
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Mark Mann
Matt Miles
Mike Pharris
Jack Smith

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

BIBLE CLASSES

- Acts
- Holy Spirit
- Exodus and Deuteronomy
- Graded Classes for Children