VOLUME XXXVIII

THE REMINDER

BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 11 FEBRUARY 2018

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Elders, deacons, and preachers meeting is today at 1:30!
- **Deb Haley** continues to recover from her surgery last week. She's in pain from the surgery, but the surgery itself was successful in bringing relief to her pain. Thank God and pray!
- Keep thinking about and praying for **Bob and Erma Stark** as **Bob** continues to recover from his heart transplant!
- New Members! We've announced these, but have not yet printed their information in the bulletin. If you haven't yet, meet our newcomers and welcome them!
 - Heather Donovan: 1805 Banks St., Houston, TX 77098
 - H.E. and Mona Jenkins: 8700 Main St., Houston, TX 77025
- Remember our expectant mothers: Josie Haley, Bethany Moon and (former member) Lauren Underwood, who has had some complications in her pregnancy and is due any day now.
- Don't forget those rebuilding and recovering from Harvey: Banks, Benthalls, Haleys, Starks, Stechs, and Washington.
- Keep praying for those with on-going health concerns: Pat Butler, Laura Claburn, Jan and Richard Cooper, Mike Flinn, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Johnny Martinez, Anna Miekle, Bob Stark, and Curby Stech.
- Sermon Title: Humility

SCHEDULE

Sunday: 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Bible Study Wednesday: 7:30 PM Bible Study

SERVICE

Welcome - D. Broadwell Song Leader - R. McDonald Opening Prayer - M. Krueger Communion Talk - D. Haley Lesson - S. Garrett Announcements - B. Haley Closing Prayer - D. Bean

BIBLE CLASSES

Isaiah (Auditorium) • Daniel Broadwell 1&2 Peter/Jude (Back)

- Mark Mann
- Harrison Banks
 Classes for children

WHO ARE WE?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament

ELDERS

Brian Haley Mark Mann Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton David Haley Mitchell Howell Dan Kimbrough Jesse Knapp John Moon Alex Morolez Gregory Williams

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell Steve Garrett

CONTACT US

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DIRECTORY UPDATES

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BELLAIRE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 11 FEBRUARY 2018

Working to Rule by: Sewell Hall

The term *Work to Rule* is familiar to most people living in England. It means to work according to predefined minimum requirements for a given job. Thus, the worker will work no weekends, no overtime, and no relief. He will make no effort to make up the time following a breakdown or delay. He may refuse to use equipment provided to increase efficiency. Realizing the paralyzing effect of such minimum effort, labor leaders use such action as an alternative to a strike.

Working to Rule is common in the church. Many establish what appears to them to be a reasonable set of minimum requirements for staying out of hell and then live accordingly. Usually it involves attending Sunday for "breaking of bread" (unless on holidays), giving a certain percentage of their income, perhaps "saying a little prayer" before retiring, and avoiding the grosser forms of immorality. They do not advertise or attend gospel meetings. They seldom attend Bible classes or Sunday evening services. "These are not required," they explain. If all the members of a given congregation were *Work to Rule* people the church would be no more effective than an industry [characterized] by such action.

The Lord has never stated any minimum requirements. He speaks only in terms of total commitment, of seeking first the kingdom, of giving our bodies a living sacrifice.

The church in Ephesus, once a very zealous church fired by love for God, left their first love and settled down to Work to Rule. They maintained a minimum program of work and remained sound in teaching. But the Lord said, "*Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the first works, or else I come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.*" (*Revelation 2:5*)

We wonder how many churches may have had their candlesticks removed, and how many Christians have had their names blotted out of the book of life, not because they were on strike, but because they were working to some rule of their own devising.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58)