

The Power of Prayer

By Michael Jackson

It was a scary time in the early history of the church. Peter and John stood before the Sanhedrin because they were **“teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”** (Acts 4:2) The council placed Peter and John in the center of the court and asked, **“By what power, or in what name, have you done this?”** (4:3) The event they were inquiring about was the miraculous healing of the lame beggar who had been begging by the Beautiful Gate of the Temple in Jerusalem for his entire adult life.

Peter’s response in the midst of those 71 judges who sat on the Sanhedrin was bold and direct. **“Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead- by this name this man stands here before you in good health.”** (4:10) The Council was confounded. They couldn’t punish Peter and John harshly, because all the people were aware of the miracle that they had just performed by healing the lame beggar (4:16). The best the Council could do was to make threats and command Peter and John to stop speaking about Jesus.

What is telling, I think, about Peter and John is what happens after they are threatened. The Sanhedrin was the most powerful council in all of Israel, and they would later stone Stephen immediately when they didn’t like what he had to say (Acts 7:57). What were Peter and John to do?

They prayed (4:24). They immediately gathered with their fellow Christians and lifted up their troubles to God. They asked for God to be with them. They asked God to take note of the threats that were being spoken against them. They asked God to make sure that Jesus would still be proclaimed and glorified in the midst of their trials and tribulations.

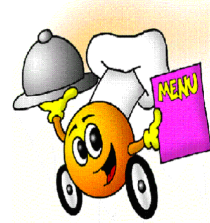
“And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.” (4:31)

God heard their prayers. May we endeavor to make it our policy to get on our knees in response to our troubles because God will hear us, too.

Winter Youth Series

Tonight @ 6PM

Tuscumbia Church of Christ



Meals on Wheels

February 20-24

See Donna Kimbrough if you can help.



Facebook Invite

We invite everyone to “like” our page, “Highland Park Church of Christ” on Facebook. We will be posting upcoming events and daily scripture readings to help us all read through the Bible in a year!! Invite all your friends to like us too!!



Bible Bowl News

Bible bowl test will be given TODAY at 3:00. For more information see Bobby Hooper Jr.

Wallet Found

There was an Elvis wallet found this past week. Let the office know if this is yours.



New Baby

Congratulations to Matthew & Anna Beth Rose on the arrival of their new baby girl, Evangeline Leora Rose “Evie”. She weighed 8 lbs 1oz and was 21 inches long. Proud grandparents are Tony & Janet Kirk and proud Great Grandmother is Mary Von Kirk.



Elders

Tim Fulmer
Glen Grubbs (256)810-0877
Russell Smelser

Ministers

Mike Brooks
Ben Hayes
Michael Jackson

Secretaries

Rhonda Cole
Heather Morgan

Contact:

Office: 256-381-8311
Fax: 256-381-8362

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SERVICE SCHEDULE:

SUNDAY:

9:00am Bible Class
10:00am Worship
4:30pm Prayer Session
5:00pm Worship

WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm Bible Class
Wed—Mike Moore

The Record You Help Make

Bible Class	188
AM Worship	309
PM Worship	169
Contribution.....	\$9,029
Child Care.....	\$82

The Highlighter

Vol. 71 No. 60

February 19, 2012

Together

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!”

- Psalm 133:1-3

If you go west and visit the city of San Antonio you will notice a small cluster of buildings that do not seem to belong in the landscape of modern skyscrapers and office complexes. Those buildings have remained, not because of their modern usefulness, but because of what they mean. Those buildings that we know as the Alamo were a place where people from all across the United States, and even countries abroad, stood together against a much stronger and heavier armed opponent. Although most of them died on that small piece of ground, they will forever be remembered for the stance they took together. And it was the cry that followed, “Remember the Alamo,” that united those from around the country to rise up and fight.

Similar to those who fought at the Alamo, Jesus started a spiritual revolution with a few handpicked men from very diverse backgrounds. Many were fishermen. One was a tax-collector and another a zealot (who, by the way, hated tax collectors). If you go beyond the initial twelve apostles you see the spectrum grow even wider. As the early church began there were slaves (Colossians 3:22), masters of slaves (Colossians 4:1), rich (1 Timothy 6:17), poor (James 2:1-7), those of Jewish decent and those who were Gentiles (Galatians 3:28). Yet, the church grew. Why? They were together in mind and action. As a unified group they continued to grow as the “Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

They were unified because they had a purpose. They had a purpose because the Lord had given them one: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19, 20). Unity, as the writer of Psalm 133 states poetically, is a beautiful thing. It is as holy, precious and beautiful as the ceremonial pouring of oil over the head of the high priest was to the people of that day. It is as spectacular as the dew coming down from the majestic mountains that surround Jerusalem.

The purpose that we have is no different. We can become unified in reaching those around us who need to know about the Lord. God’s desire is for us to look beyond our own selfishness and reach out to the lost. When our focus is outward it is hard to get distracted by our differences of opinion. Let’s focus on the lost of our community. You can remember the Alamo if you want but I prefer that we remember the cross of Christ and together fight for and share the freedom it offers.

Ben

Visit our website at www.highlandparkchurchofchrist.org



Pat & Heather Quinn Heather and Pat are doing well. **Sue Martin** (Dot Crowden's sister) will go back to Vanderbilt Feb 21 for another 3 day series of treatments. **Jean Jackson** will be going to Birmingham March 14 for a second opinion on her back. **Keith Jones** (Heather Morgan's dad) had surgery on his foot in Huntsville Friday. **Carolyn Thrasher** is home recovering. **Ben South** will go back to Birmingham February 23 for a MRI. **Geneva Risner** is home recovering from a stroke. **Ginger Grissom** (sister in law of Jean Jackson & June Thompson) is in JW Somner till Feb 20 recovering from a broken hip. **Shirley, & Braxton Wagnon** (Friends of Thomas & Barbara Pennington) they are from Sheffield & Birmingham and are seriously ill. **Sonny Watkins** is home with the shingles. **David Blazer** is now home and not doing well. **Christy Kimbrell** had gall bladder surgery Friday.

Baby Shower



Ashley Logan Kennamore
 Sunday, March 4, 1:30-3:00
 She is registered at Target, Walmart, and The Baby's Room...IT'S A GIRL!
 (Logan Caroline)

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Foy Wagnon. His funeral was Friday.

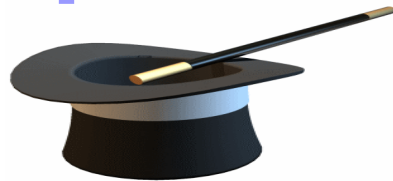
Thank you Card

Thank you for prayers, visits, cards, and phone calls during my illness. I am improving everyday.
 In Christian Love,
 Carolyn Thrasher

Guest Speaker

Steven Guy will be here on Sunday morning, March 4th. Spread the word to friends, family, and former members.

Adoptacadabra



In Memory of Sam Mann

A magical event to benefit AGAPE of North Alabama

Featuring: **Brian Staron, Comedy Magician**

Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 PM

Tickets- \$10 (3 and under free)

Location: Cross Point Church of Christ

www.adoptacadabra.org

See Cayron Mann for tickets!

***If you want tickets today, please see Anna Phillips.

Elders & Deacons Meeting TODAY @ 3:00PM

Gospel Meeting

Oakland Church of Christ
 March 4-7
 Speaker: Keith Parker
 See flyer for more info



Memorial Donations

A donation to the building fund has been made by Rhonda Cole in loving memory of Mike Farris.

A donation to the building fund has been made by Ella & LaJuan Laxson in memory of Steve Thompson, Mike Farris, and Bob Green.

A donation to the building fund was also made by Pete & Ashley Waldrep in memory of Leland Vess.

THOSE TO SERVE

10:00 AM WORSHIP
 Read Scripture.....Hollis Clark
 Opening Prayer.....Wayne Chastain
 Closing Prayer.....Vernon Malone

5:00 PM SERVICE
 Read Scripture.....Adam McCollum
 Opening Prayer.....Tyrus Mansell
 Closing Prayer.....Bobby Price

Building Lockup.....Russell Smelser
 Greeters.....Terry & Susan Williams

February Contact Elder Russell Smelser



Prayer Lists:

Austin & Betty Davenport,
 Mabeth Jones, Pauline Jackson, Harvey Hasha, Rayburn Moore (Melinda Logan's brother-in-law),
 Vic & Margaret Addington,
 Lois Black, Guy Jeffreys, Reagan McBride, Jimmy Hanback, Albert Sharp. Kim Hallmark, Christine Kirchner, Edmund Cagle, Jewell Morrison (Diane's mother), Paul Barcomb, Christine Davis, Hailey Walton, Cody Wallace, Shirley & Braxton Wagnon, Angela Kimbrell Yuille

Please remember our cancer patients:

Robin McCollum, Brenda Pettus, Peggy McCollum (Robin McCollum's sister-in-law), Norma Hallmark, Shelia Renfro, Vicki Henson, Kenneth Harrison (Dot Crowden's brother), David Blazer, Ann Hargett, Betty Barnes, Dot Willis, Danny Edmonds, Garey Austin, Betty Williamson

Widows & Singles

Will meet at Rick's following tonight's service



Pantry item Canned Fruit

Update on Mike's Trip in Nepal

Mike has called and is doing well in Nepal. They are conducting gospel meetings in three places during this time. Four have been baptized this past week and one other is expected soon. He sends his love and greetings.—Brenda Brooks

Personal Correspondence

By Mike Brooks

"The word of the Lord that came to Hosea the son of Beeri" ([Hosea 1:1](#), NKJV).

"Please write me. I need your encouragement and your teaching. I want your instructions and advice on how to preach the Gospel and do the work of an evangelist. Don't forget -- write me" (various indigenous evangelists and Christians over the past 20 plus years).

Most of us enjoy checking our mail, whether it is on the net or in the box. There is something about a personal letter that warms us. Yes, we may complain about the junk mail, or spam, and we may be too busy to read all that we feel we need to, but I don't know anyone who does not open and read his or her first class letters as soon as the opportunity is provided.

How often have we thought, "I wish we were still in the days of direct divine revelation and that God would speak to me like he did the apostles and the prophets of old?"

What a special blessing it must have been to hear the actual voice of the Creator speaking a special message to his people for one to deliver on his behalf. Hosea, Joel, Micah, and other Old Testament prophets received those "words of the Lord." They certainly were greatly privileged to be so used in his service.

But is it true that we don't have personal messages from God today? No, I am not suggesting that miraculous direct revelation has continued. God spoke during the Biblical period; his complete and final revelation has been given. We do not hear the Spirit today ([Galatians 1:6-10](#)).

But we still have the words of God which were revealed through his Spirit ([1 Corinthians 2:6-13](#)). These words are contained in the Bible, the holy inspired Scriptures ([2 Timothy 3:15-17](#)).

And these words were spoken to and for each one of us. *"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope"* ([Romans 15:4](#)).

The Bible is God's personal correspondence to every human!

That generations of people before us have read, known and loved these words in no way makes them less personal to us. God has spoken, but he did not speak just generally, or only to others. He has spoken to you and to me, individually and personally. And we are individually and personally accountable for those words, to read them, believe them and obey them. Open the envelope. Read your mail.

"The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?" ([Amos 3:8](#))