



WATER MILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Weekly Newsletter

September 25, 2011

THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF A DIVIDED FAITH

We can get so used to how things *are* that we lose sight of how things *should be*. In the process we lose our sense of alarm over the harm done by *the difference* between these two conditions.

The negative practical impact of the denominational model in the world of Christendom is a case in point. Obviously, it is the way things are. Just as clearly, it is not the way things should be: Christ is not divided, and no one else was crucified for us, and we were not baptized into anyone else's name (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13). We may so easily become accustomed to the gap between these two realities that we get comfortable with it—even approve of it. The problem is that, aside from the fact that it is not what Scripture teaches, the practical harm done to the kingdom of God is very real.

One example is the hindrance to belief a divided faith is. Consider, for the sake of illustration, your impressions of Islam. What do you think when you hear of the varied views that put Sunni and Shia at odds? How do we expect the world to think of the denominations schisms within Christianity any differently? Our Lord saw the point more plainly than anybody. In that crucial hour of history he prayed, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, *that they may all be one*, just as you Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, *so that the world may believe that you have sent me*" (Jn. 17:20-21, italics mine).

A less obvious but similarly consequential impact of how things are is the skewed perspective we inevitably get. We soon begin to understand ourselves by where we stand in relation to the various denominational groups rather than in relationship to the Lord or the world. Then, in guarding ourselves against those views, we begin to appear irrelevant to the issues of life people have to deal with every day. We end up alarmed about things that matter to us and passive about things that are destroying the world.

Another part of the practical harm done by divided faith is that it leaves us with the inability to freely discuss great Bible doctrines without someone thinking we are attacking somebody or putting somebody down—and taking offense. The party spirit can become so strong that defensiveness prevents truth seeking and arrogance prevents non-manipulative truth telling. Humbling ourselves in submission to what God wants may not even be in the picture.

The effectiveness of the practical answers to the problem of a divided faith depend largely on our willingness to face up to the practical harm caused by such a condition.

—Bill McFarland

Order of Worship

Welcome

Bob Snider

Song Leader

Jon Ewing

#180

#943

#299

Opening Prayer

Dennis Smith

#810

The Lord's Supper

Jim Meinsen

#217

Contribution

Jim Meinsen

#405

Lesson

Bill McFarland

#495

Announcements

Bob Snider

#170

Closing Prayer

Jeff Treat

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt. 5:14)

Today's Messages:

AM: That We May Be Grounded in Love

PM: "Are some things the Bible says more important than others?"

Prayer List & Notes

Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children. Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

For The Record September 18

Bible Study:	276
Morning:	330
Evening:	190
Wednesday (9/21):	230
Contribution:	\$ 7,829



Elder of the Month
Bob Snider

- ☞ David Nimmo is recovering from surgery and Jarita is not doing well
- ☞ Wayne Snider and Chatty Timmons received good news from their tests
- ☞ Bill White and Melinda Barton are experiencing severe back pain
- ☞ Jim Low will have another stent put in on October 3
- ☞ Shanna Asher is dealing with severe pain in her neck, lower back and hands; Shawna Stockdale's procedure was painful but hopefully will be helpful in the near future
- ☞ Pat Woods is recovering from back surgery; cards can be sent to Pat Woods, c/o Ducat, 8788 Canary Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708;
- ☞ Lucille Ford is back in Springfield Rehab Facility on South Fort
- ☞ Continue to remember: Thelma Fain, Kay Adams, Arilla Buck, Shirley Bartlett, Paul & Mary Bratcher

Friends and Family:

- ◆ Tiffany Meeks' sister, Larrie White as she continues to struggle with her health problems;
- ◆ Norman & Lucile High's great grandson, Dylan
- ◆ Pat Milligan's brother, John Cummings, who has cancer
- ◆ Jessica Staples, 19 year-old young lady who has heart problems and now has a disease that has no cure at this time; her father Randy, is a former co-worker of Eddie Currier

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to friends and family of Judy Heavin who passed away suddenly last week. She was Jill Morrison's aunt, Verl Duncan's niece and a friend to many of our members.

We also extend our sympathy to Jerry Milligan's family in the loss of Jerry's brother, Riley Milligan, in Arkansas last week. He had been in a nursing home for several years.



Jason & I just want to thank all of the Bible class teachers & LTC helpers for all that they do. We had a proud parent moment down home this last weekend. Anna & Josh had gone to Bible class, and when they came up for services, Josh was beaming. He said they had played Bible baseball and that he had answered a lot of the questions and was the only one able to answer the questions from Revelations (thank you Thurkills & LTC). Then just before the sermon, Halbert mentioned that the teacher from Anna's class had talked to him before service and told him about her class. She told the kids that she would like them to work on learning the books of the New Testament... but one of the visitors, Anna, already knew them and said them. They thought that was wonderful. So, thank you all for all of the time and effort you put in! It really is sinking in. Jason & Lora Luna
Thank you for all the prayers, calls, cards and other acts of kindness and concern during my recent illness. I really appreciate your care and concern for me. Eula Compton

In connection with the Teachers' Appreciation Dinner, we need **new twin FLAT white sheets, 200 count** so the ladies can make napkins and chair covers. They can be purchased for \$5 at Walmart (the Walmart at Glenstone & Kearney will have a large supply after October 9).

Birthdays

- 1 Tommy Grabber
- Megan Glenn
- 2 Jen Wheeler
- 3 Collin Breckner
- 4 Emma Winters
- 5 Fred Lorenz
- James Craig
- 6 Charles Crum
- 7 Stacey McCurry
- JJ Blevins
- Kensi Tillman

Congratulations!

October Anniversaries

- 5 Luis/Carol Tovar 20 yrs.
- 17 John/Megan Hollingsworth 2 yrs.
- 18 Adam/Sarah Griffin 3 yrs.
- 22 Ron/Marsha Bower 49 yrs.
- 23 Dale/Phyllis Gregory 50 yrs.
- 25 Jon/Coyeatte Ewing 25 yrs.
- 26 Brent/Shanna Asher 5 yrs.

Shut-ins:

Kay Adams
Joy/Alice Allen
Shirley Bartlett
Doris Iorg
Fern Davis
Thelma Fain
Irene Johnson
Carol Law
John Luallin
Carol Mahon
Wilma Melton
Annie Overstreet
Wilma Spoor
Doris Thomason
Judy Todd



Please let Matt Keener know **TODAY** if you are interested in Financial Peace University or if you need more information about the class.

Kyle Butt of Apologetics Press will be debating Blair Scott from the American Atheist organization on **September 29th** on the campus of the University of North Alabama. We will attempt a live streaming of the debate at the building starting at 7:00 p.m. and would love for as many as possible to join us for this exciting event!

News & Activities

- Thrift Haven is in need of **plastic grocery bags**. Please give them to Brian York or leave in the office.
- We will draw names for the **Secret Sister** program TODAY after AM services in Room 130.
- All who can are asked to participate in the singing/devotional at **James River Nursing Home** Saturday at 2 p.m.
- **Golden Agers** will meet next Sunday at 4 p.m. This is a very important meeting so we can make final plans for the Jamboree.
- **Quilters** meet on October 4 at 10 a.m.
- **Ladies Bible Class** will meet on Oct. 13 at 10:30. Watch for more info about the Mexican Fiesta Meal.
- The next **DOOR KNOCKING** will be October 15. Be at the building at 9:30. This is the day before our gospel meeting begins.



We are in urgent need of the following items for the Food Pantry.

Boxed & Canned Meals

Jelly	Peanut Butter
Cereal	Canned Fruit
Tuna	Jello/Pudding
Canned Vegies	Mac & Cheese

Place items in the cans just inside the fellowship room. Thank you for your continued support.

Ladies Fall Retreat
November 11 & 12
at the Keeter Center.
Sign-up sheets are on the Information Desk and will be available through **Wednesday night. Payment is due by Wednesday night.** You can make your checks out to the church and give to Emily or Stacy. If you have any questions on how much you owe (especially if your room isn't at full occupancy yet), see Emily or Stacy.



Golden Age Jamboree is just two weeks away on **October 8 beginning at 9:45 at Fair Haven.** Be sure to sign up on the sheets on the Information Desk if you plan to attend and let us know what you would like to bring.

There will be a short meeting of all young ladies helping with the Teachers' Appreciation Banquet **immediately after service this morning in Room 126.**

Our Gospel Meeting October 16-19
"The Unity Worthy of Our Calling" taken from Eph. 4:1-6
Sunday, Oct. 16, 9:00 – "There Is One Body"
10:00 – "And One Spirit"
5:00 – "The One Hope that Belongs to Your Call"
Monday, Oct. 17, 7:00 – "One Lord"
Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7:00 – "One Faith"
Wed., Oct. 19, 7:00 – "One Baptism"
Sunday, Oct. 23, 10:00 – "One God and Father of All"
Let's all try to arrange our schedules so we can be present for this important series of lessons planned by our Elders.

AREAWIDE YOUTH NIGHT AT WATERMILL has been moved to Sunday night, October 9, only two weeks away. Again this year we ask for your assistance in providing bottled water and canned soda.

Bill has just started two new Bible classes: "**Philippians: The Mind of Christ**" on Sunday mornings in Room 126 and "**Hebrews: The Word of Exhortation**" in the Auditorium Class on Wednesday nights. Join us for these great studies!



GOD'S RECIPE FOR A STRONG CONGREGATION

By Dennis R. Smith

Being in one accord - desiring a genuine togetherness - the strongest of dedication - unquestionable faithfulness - the deepest level of love combined with hard work and the Spirit of Christ will always make for a strong congregation. If you think this is just what one man may think, I challenge you to look for these same qualities which are to be found in the New Testament church. For example: One thing which made for a successful Pentecost was the fact that the Apostles were all "in one accord" (Acts 2:1). Another thing, even before they assembled for the feast of Pentecost and in keeping with the command of Jesus to "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24: 49), is they were all with the spirit of togetherness (Acts 1:4-6) waiting for this power. The dedication of these men and others converted by them can be seen by the fact that they "went everywhere preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Faithfulness was the one requirement for all preachers and teachers in the early church as can be seen in 1st Cor. 4:2. Who could read the last verse of 1st Cor. 13 and deny that the quality and quantity of love was one of the leading ingredients in this recipe for strength? Now we have the hard work and the Spirit of Christ to finalize this recipe: Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me" (John 9:4) and Paul wrote, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). **What a combination!**

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study9:00 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship...5:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Bible Class....7:00 PM

WORKS WE SUPPORT

CHINESE AGAPE Foundation

Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern Mariana Islands

Voice of Truth International

Charles Renfro, Latin American Missions

World Christian Broadcasting

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief

Lincoln Church of Christ

Fair Haven Children's Home

"In Search Of
 The Lord's Way"
 7:00 A.M. Sundays
 KOLR TV 10

"Know Your Bible"
 10:30 A.M. Sundays
 Springfield 33
 KSPR-TV



3020 North Barnes Avenue
 Springfield, MO 65803

Phone: 417-866-0915

Fax: 417-831-0312

E-mail: (office) info@watermillchurchofchrist.org

B. McFarland: b.mcfarland@mchsi.com

Website: www.watermillchurchofchrist.org

Office Hours:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday

Service Rosters

THIS MORNING

AM Nursery: Linda Currier/Leona Snider
Greeters: Barton Family
Van Driver: James Simons/732-5641
KYB Phone: Norma Lorenz/E. Tieszen
Serve John Stayton/Jeff Treat
Communion: Jeremy Thurlkill/Aaron Tovar
 Jerry Stockdale/Ron Stokes
 Dustin Stokes/Mike Thurlkill
 Tyler Thornton/Daniel Tovar

THIS EVENING

Song Leader: Jeremy Thurlkill
Opening Prayer: Aaron Tovar
Lesson: Bill McFarland
Closing Prayer: Daniel Tovar
Communion: B. Asher/T. Morrison
Nursery: Glenda Thurlkill

NEXT WEEK, October 2

	MORNING	EVENING
Song Leader:	Jon Ewing	Tom Easterly
Opening Prayer:	Scott Barton	Tom Davis
Communion:	Travis Morrison	John/Michael Penner
Closing Prayer:	Adam Barton	Verl Duncan
AM Nursery:	Donna Jordan/Michelle Hulett	
PM Nursery:	Lisa Stayton/Emily Simons	
Greeters:	Randy & Orvella Blackburn	
Van Driver:	Russell Lilly/839-4048	

MONTH OF OCTOBER

Ushers: Tim Bowling/
 Matt Kelley
AV Room: Jeremy Thurlkill/
 Ron Stokes
Secure Building: Paul Lines/
 Tim Buckner

Wednesday, September 28

Devotional: Adam Barton
Song Leader: K. Buckner/B. Ewing
Opening Prayer: Daniel Wilson
Closing Prayer: Brian York
Van Driver: Tim Stockstill