

Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

We are dedicated to seeking the lost while edifying each other in order that we may all enter the eternal home promised for the faithful.

Volume 49, Number 50 - December 17, 2017



A YARDSTICK FOR GIVING

“How much should I give?” That’s an impossible question to answer since the New Testament refuses to name a minimum. Why not give us an amount? It is probably because God knew the people. People give to the ceiling, not off the floor. If God said to give 10%, that would cap many people’s giving at 10%. Seldom do people give more than the requirement. That’s why the New Testament doesn't provide an amount. The gift is only an indicator of the heart. A person will not give more than is in his heart. So, what is the yardstick for giving? The Bible throws a few “hard ones” at you about giving.

1. How much can I give cheerfully?
2. Does my gift reflect my sense of God’s blessing?
3. When I give, do I give out a sense of trust in God’s providence?
4. Do I believe it belongs to God or that I share what is mine?

All of these questions make us squirm because they open more than our checkbooks - they open our hearts. Until we expose our hearts, we cannot give acceptably. We would feel more comfortable with an amount, but God doesn't want us comfortable. God wants us growing. He wants us pushing past our comfort zones and into the realm of spiritual growth. Put the yard stick to your giving.

How do you measure up?

Elders:

Pat Barclay
 Jim Galloway
 Brian Haught
 Paul Inman
 Stan Inman
 John Life
 Ron Riddle
 Paul Saunders
 Dwain Shears
 Dearll Vincent

Deacons:

Kevin Cochran
 Marion Goldsmith
 Steve Gray
 Leonard Haid
 Doug Hershman
 Jon Hescht
 Bill Hoover
 Rob Hoover
 Kevin Inman
 Kyle Inman
 Scott Johnson
 Todd Kirk
 Keith Smith
 Jeff Taberner

Ministers:

Dana Slingluff
 304.483.3546

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**My goal is not to
 be better than
 anyone else, but
 to be better than
 I used to be.**



Van and Nancy Putnam are both experiencing health issues.

Keep them in your prayers and remember them with cards.

Address:

30 Central Avenue
 Elizabeth, WV 26143

Our church family in need of prayers.

Sharon Armstrong, Pat and Kim Barclay, Harvey and Mary Caplinger, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Sheila Deems, June Freels, Dustin Hughes, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Todd Kirk, Jo Langler, Bill Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Debby Nesselroad, Heather Osburn, Gene and Peggy Phillips, Betty Porter, Jane Pralley, Van and Nancy Putnam, Ray Sams, Bob Smith, Teresa Steed, Dorothy Weaver, Tammie Wilson

Prayers requested for family and friends

Patty Alton, Luann Ayers (Shelley Todd's cousin), Leo Blair (Robin Anthony's brother), Gert Barnes, Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Melissa Burgess (Friend of Robin Anthony), Elijah Clark, Casey Freeman (Friend of Brenda Dougherty), Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), Tony Haid (Len's son), Jean Huber (Clayton's mother), John Knotts (Billie Coe's co-worker), Barbara Richards (Jean Martin's sister), Ron Richards (Courtney Richards' father-in-law), Helen Ruble, Rick Travis (Jerry Todd's cousin), Angel White (Eloise Smith's niece), Wilma White (Kay Stanley's aunt), Donna Vincent (Dearll Vincent's sister-in-law), Merl White (Terry Hofmann's father), Susan Williams (Friend of Don and Brenda Dougherty), Linda Wires (Sister of Susan Haid and Richard Marshall)

Eli Clark

499 Montgomery Hill Road, Walker, WV 26180
 Please continue to keep Eli and family in your prayers.
 He would especially enjoy receiving holiday cards.



- ♥ Thank you for the birthday cards and well-wishes. With love,
Mary Daniel
- ♥ Thank You - one and all - for the thoughtful cards and visits and especially the prayers. I am truly blest to be a part of the Camden Avenue family. **Jane Pralley**
- ♥ To our church family: We want to thank each and every one of you for your kind words of sympathy, the lovely cards, but most of all your prayers in the death of Nan, Dave's daughter, Alan Eaton, Lois' son and our dear cousin Martha Metz. We lost three dear ones in a month. Words cannot express what you all mean to us. You are our family. Love in Christ, **Dave and Lois Nulter**
- ♥ Thank you for our birthday cards. **Don, Mary and Debby Nesselroad**

MEETINGS TODAY

Deacons will meet today at 4:00 with Men's meeting and Ladies' meeting at 5:00.

LADIES' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The Ladies' Holiday luncheon at the Parkersburg Country Club will be Tuesday, December 19. Lunch will be served at noon but feel free to arrive anytime after 11:15AM. We will meet in the room to the left after you enter the front door. There is a \$5 optional gift exchange. If you have any questions, please see Gala Miller.

FAMILY CRISIS CENTER ITEMS

Help is needed in assisting individuals/families at the Family Crisis Center during this holiday season. Small tote containers are available in the parking lot foyer with a slip of paper listing items they need. Please return items by December 20. For more information see Terry Hofmann or Amanda Cochran. Sheets with details are on the table with the totes.

SACK THE PULPIT

Items requested for the church pantry include: saltine crackers, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, pasta, pancake mix, pancake syrup, macaroni and cheese boxed cereals, canned potatoes, canned corn, canned meats, canned soups, canned fruit. Items may be left in the front of the auditorium.

NEW YEARS EVE GET-TOGETHER

Everyone is invited to a New Years Eve. get-together in the MP Room Sunday, December 31 after evening services. Bring board games and snack foods. We will be collecting money for pizza.

FIRST PRINCIPLES SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Mark Tonkery will be teaching a Sunday morning First Principles class beginning January 7 in Room 112. If you are interested in this class, please sign the sheet on the counter. We need to know if we have enough interest.

DANA'S I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY" DINNER

Dana and Cindy invite everyone to the "I Can't Believe It's Not A Holiday" dinner at Western Sizzlin' Monday, January 15 at 5:30PM. Sign-up sheet is on the counter for an attendance count.

HOLIDAY CARDS

Please check the boxes in the rear auditorium foyer for your holiday cards. Feel free to distribute to others.

AREA-WIDE SERVICE

The area-wide service will be Sunday, January 14 at 2:30PM at the Lubeck congregation.

**A special thank you to Laura Tonkery for the Ladies Holiday Exchange get-together!
We had a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship.**

Daily Reading - Bible classes

December 18 - Judges 16:1-17
December 19 - Judges 16:18-31
December 21 - Judges 13:1-14,24-25
December 22 - Judges 14:1-20
December 23 - Judges 15:1-20

**Dear Lord,
Help me
remember that nothing
is going to happen to me
today that You and I
can't handle together.
Amen**

Daily Bible Reading

December 17 - Revelation 6, Amos 1-5
December 18 - Revelation 7, Amos 6-9
December 19 - Revelation 8, Obadiah
December 20 - Revelation 9, Jonah 1-4
December 21 - Revelations 10-11, Micah 1-4
December 22 - Revelation 12, Micah 5-7
December 23 - Revelation 13, Nahum 1-3
December 24 - Revelation 14, Habakkuk 1-3



DANA'S DIRECTION

"If You Believe that Baptism is Not Necessary for Salvation Answer These Questions, Please."

"Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them." (Acts 2:41)

1. If baptism is not a condition of salvation, why did Peter mention baptism since he was answering the question of what to do to be saved? (Acts 2:37)
2. If salvation comes after baptism, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction and?
3. Is not repentance and baptism in this verse both for the same purpose?
4. If salvation comes before baptism, why does Peter say it is for the remission of sins?
5. If the phrase, "for the remission of sins" in Acts 2:38 means because of remission, would not the same phrase in Matthew 26:28 mean because of the remission of sins?
6. Did Jesus shed His blood because men were already saved?
7. If Christ did not shed His blood because men were already saved, would it not follow that men are not baptized because they are already saved? The phrase in Matthew 26:28 and Acts 2:38 are identical in both the Greek and English.
8. Would it not be a false doctrine to teach that Christ shed His blood because men were already saved?
9. Likewise, is it not a false doctrine to teach that men are baptized, because they are already saved?
10. If the people on Pentecost were saved before they were baptized, why were they not added to the church until they were baptized, since such as should be saved were added to the church? (Acts 2:47)
11. The word church means "the called out" and only those baptized were added to the church. If one is saved before he is baptized, would he be saved before he is called out of the world? Is salvation in the world or in Christ? (II Timothy 2:10)

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:15-16)

13. Does not the Bible say that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all? (Romans 1:16)
14. Does Jesus not say that the message of the gospel involves both believing and being baptized? Are faith and obedience (by being baptized) of equal importance in our salvation?

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48)

16. Do the words of Jesus, that will judge us, include His command to be baptized?
17. If we love Jesus, will we keep His commandments? (John 14:15)
18. Will those who claim to love Jesus be saved, if they do not do the will of our Father who is in heaven? (Matthew 7:21)

“Who will be saved?”

Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23



“Not _____ who says to Me, ‘ _____, _____ ’ will enter the kingdom of _____, but he who does the _____ of My _____ in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord,’ have we not _____ in Your name, cast out _____ in Your name, and done many _____ in Your name? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never _____ you; _____ from Me, you who practice _____.’”
(Matthew 7:21-23)

Most people believe they will _____ to _____.

“ _____ in the gate, and _____ is the way that leads to _____, and there are _____ who go in by it. Because _____ is the gate and _____ is the way that leads to _____, and there are _____ who find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

The kingdom of _____ and the kingdom of _____ are the same.

The _____ is God’s kingdom on _____.

“All _____ has been given to Me in heaven and on _____.” (Matthew 28:18)

“He put all things under His _____, and gave _____ to be head over all things to the _____.” (Ephesians 1:22)

The eternal _____ of God’s kingdom is _____.

“And He will _____ with them, and they shall be His _____. God Himself will be _____ them and be their _____, and God will wipe away every _____ from their eyes.” (Revelation 21:3-4)

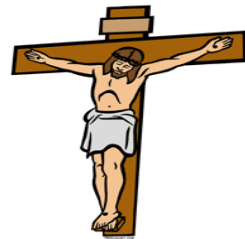
Not everyone who _____ Jesus will be _____. “Not everyone who says ‘ _____, _____ ’ shall enter the _____ of _____.”
(Matthew 7:21) “You see then that a man is justified by _____, and not by _____ only.” (James 2:24)

Not everyone who does good _____ will be saved. No one is _____ of salvation. There are many good, even _____ people – who are lost. Many believe that salvation is by _____. “ _____ was a devout man and one who _____ God with all his _____, who gave alms _____ to all the people and _____ to God always.” (Acts 10:2) “Send to Joppa for Peter who will tell you what you _____ do.” (Acts 10:5-6)

Those who offer God what He has not _____ will not be saved. “In _____ they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the _____ of men.” (Matthew 15:9)

Who will be saved? Those who are _____. “He who does the _____ of My Father in _____.” (Matthew 7:21) “If you love Me, keep My _____.” (John 14:15) “Though He was a Son, yet He learned _____ by the things which He suffered. . . He became the _____ of eternal salvation to all who _____ Him.”
(Hebrews 5:8-9)

Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery



Searching for the Savior

Recently I took my daughters to a movie, this is often a rare event for our family because of the cost and the lack of family oriented movies to watch. But on this occasion as we made our way to our seats and began watching the movie previews. I observed that many of the films were looking for a cure for some disease, a hero to defeat an oppressing enemy, or a people longing to have freedom. Most of the solutions were physical and many times resulted in great violence. I could not help but think how many of the films that were being previewed had a common storyline; people were searching for a hero, looking to be rescued, they were looking for a “savior.”

As I have pondered the plots of these movies I could not help but think how this search for a hero; a “savior,” has been the longing of most humans for ages. For example, the Jews in the first century were searching for someone to overthrow the Romans and bring back the greatness of the Jewish kingdom under David and Solomon. When many of the Jews saw Jesus, they thought this is what He came to do. The Apostle John records one such event in John 6:15, where it reads, “Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.”

Jesus showed very quickly in this event that He was not the type of king they were wanting. Jesus later tells Pilate in John 18:36, “...My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”

Jesus was not what the Jews expected, but He was exactly what they needed.

Today, as indicated by the film industry, people are searching for a hero, a “savior,” yet as in times past, people search in all the wrong directions. People are looking for someone to take away their oppression, pain, suffering, or the other ills that plague them. People are looking for a savior they want and not necessarily what they need.

The reality is there will be no “superhero” to rescue us from worldly oppressions. But what we do have is the Savior we need.

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life” (Rom. 5:6-10).

Have you made Jesus the Savior of your life? “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name” (Act 22:16). Think about it! By Mark T. Tonkery

Mark will be preaching tonight at the Sunrise church of Christ while Elvis G. recuperates from heart surgery. Please keep Elvis in your prayers.

Youth Events

January 5 - 7

Kingdom Forward Student Conference
(Hosted by: Belle and Alum Creek Churches of Christ, WV)
at the Charleston Civic Center
For middle school through college ages

* Sign- up today. *

See Mark Tonkery for more information.

December 30

Youth Day at North End congregation
(More details will be provided.)

December 31

Sunrise congregation will host the traveling youth group
and a New Years Eve. get-together

LADS TO LEADERS/LEADERETTES

There will be a

Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes
meeting January 7th after PM services
in Room 109.

This is for everyone that is involved with
Lads to Leaders (participants, adults,
and coordinators).

We will go over the details for the
upcoming pre-convention events.

If you are planning on going
to convention this year and I have not
spoken to you, please see me as soon
as you can.

Todd Kirk

**Please remember our shut-ins this week in a special way.
They appreciate cards and prayers.**

Minute of Meditation by Mark Tonkery Heard on 910 AM WLTP

Every state in the U.S.A. has a state flower and a state tree as their state symbol. Some states also have a state fish, a state stone, a state song, and even a state insect. West Virginia is no different; it's state insect is the honeybee, state flower is the rhododendron, and the state tree is the sugar maple among other state symbols.

Symbols are powerful reminders of those things that represent us, tell us little about who we are and what we belong to.

Christianity has only one symbol. The cross. Yet it is even more than a symbol. It is a way of life. To be a follower of Christ means a lifestyle of sacrifice, and surrender.

Jesus teaches in Mt. 16:24, "...if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

If one is to follow Christ they must first count the cost. It is more than a symbol.

I am Mark T. Tonkery with a minute of meditation from the Camden Avenue church of Christ where you are always welcome.



Opportunities To Serve

Sunday, December 24

ELDER IN CHARGE - Paul Saunders

DEACON IN CHARGE - Len Haid

SONG LEADERS

AM - Clayton Huber

PM - Dana Slingluff

PRAYER

9:30 AM - Scott Johnson

Close - Bill Camp

6:00 PM - Chris Tallman

Close - Steve Gray

SCRIPTURE

AM - Bob Armstrong

PM - Jim Merrill

COMMUNION

AM - Rick Stanley

PM - Dearll Vincent

Kevin Inman

PA SYSTEM - Jim Galloway

DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Paul Saunders

2 - Cotton Sayre

3 - Patty Sayre

1. Bre Tonkery & Sami Tonkery
2. Donovan Walton & Dana Sponseller
3. Connie Hickman & Jenny Ware
4. Jim & Sallie Hinzman
5. Bill & Rosemary Merrill
6. Kevin & Amanda Cochran



Happy 65th Wedding Anniversary
to Ray and Bonnie Sams
December 20!



*Love is patient. Love is kind.
It always protects, always trusts.
always hopes, always perseveres.
Love never fails.*

1 Corinthians 13:4, 7-8

Watch

"IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY"

each Sunday morning at 7:30 on WTAP, Dish Channel 239, Sunday
7:00AM, DIRECT TV Channel 307 Sunday 7:00AM, Local cable
Channel 4 Sunday 6:30AM, GBN Sunday 7:00PM, Monday 2:00PM,
Thursday 5:00PM.

December 24

WHY WAS JESUS BORN?

Facts and Figures

December 10, 2017

AM Service.....251

Bible Study.....211

PM Service.....183

Wednesday.....183

Contribution\$8781.00

MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

Baptisms.....1

Restored or Requested

Prayers.....3

Placed Membership.....2

Services Times

Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study.....11:00

PM Worship.....6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study....11:00AM & 7:00PM