

# 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 50, Number 27 - July 8, 2018



## My Part

God didn't put me on this earth to have an easy time.

He put me here to fight a fight, to hold a battle line.

He put me here to help the weak and myself grow strong.

He put me here to lend a hand and help the world along.

He put me here to say a word of encouragement and cheer;

He put me here to sing a song for someone else to hear.

He didn't put me here to whine, stick out my lips and pout.

He put me here to do his work and Satan's evil rout.

He didn't put me here to seek rewards and starry crowns.

He put me here to do my part and see that love abounds.

So I'll just seek to do my part as I travel through these lands,  
and I will strive to do His will and leave all in His hands.

Selected

**Elders:**

Pat Barclay  
Jim Galloway  
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

**Minister:**

Mark Tonkery  
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I may not be perfect but Jesus thinks I'm to die for.



Dear Lord, I need You everyday. Every moment.  
Every second that I breathe. I need You.  
I am not strong enough on my own. Amen

**Our church family in need of prayers.**

Russ Alton, Sharon Armstrong, Colleen Ash, Pat Barclay, Harvey Caplinger Sr, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Bob Eddy, Gary Farris, Jim Henry, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Todd Kirk, Bill Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Debby Nesselroad, Jane Pralley, Van Putnam, Ray Sams, Cotton Sayre, Bob Smith, Tammie Wilson

**Prayers requested for family and friends**

Patty Alton, Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Eli Clark, Casey Freeman (Don and Brenda Dougherty's friend), Paula Garner (Julie Moser's mother), Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), Tony Haid, Jean Huber (Clayton's mother), Judy Hughes (Melva Farris' sister), Judy Ramsey (Rick Stanley's sister), Ron Richards (Courtney Richards' father-in-law), Ronnie Smith (Keith Smith's brother), Penny Spaur (Cotton and Patty Sayre's daughter), Randy Ware (Jenny's husband), Angel White (Eloise Smith's niece)



We extend our sympathy to Jerry Todd and family in the passing of his uncle, Greg Barnum. He passed away Tuesday. A memorial service was held yesterday in Marietta.



- ♥ Harvey Caplinger thanks everyone for the birthday cards and the cards, prayers, visits, and all acts of kindness while he was hospitalized.
- ♥ A special thank you to my Secret Sister. I appreciate your kindness. You are truly a blessing! **Kimberlee**
- ♥ Thank you all for the beautiful cards and flowers and all the Happy Birthday wishes. I really appreciate them. In Christian Love, **Lenore Vaught**



Mark 16:15

### MEETINGS NEXT SUNDAY

Elders, Deacons, Preacher meeting next Sunday at 4:00. Deacons are asked to have a brief report of your work areas. Men's meeting and Ladies' meeting at 5:00.

### TRAVELING YOUTH GROUP

The traveling youth group will be conducting our evening service July 29.

### OVU TEACHERS, ELDERS, AND DEACONS WORKSHOP

9AM-2:30PM at Ohio Valley University. Speakers include: Dr. Michael Moss on Eldership, Dr. Aubrey Johnson on the Deaconate and Lisa Johnson on Teaching. Lunch will be provided. Flyers with details are on the foyer bulletin boards.

### BLOOD DRIVE

Our Blood Drive will be Monday, August 13 in the MP Room. There will be a sign-up sheet.

### POTTER CHILDREN'S HOME COIN BANKS "Silver For Children"

Potter Children's banks are available in the foyers. A representative will be here to collect them this fall. Each family is encouraged to fill a bank over the next few months.

### CONGRATULATIONS BRE AND SAMI TONKERY!

Bre Tonkery placed second in the OVCYC Bible Bowl, Senior week. Sami Tonkery was awarded Girl Camper of the Week and was in the semi-finals in the OVCYC Bible Bowl, Intermediate week. We are proud of these fine young Christian ladies.

### BIBLE CLASS PERFECT ATTENDANCE

4-5 year olds Wednesday evening class: Tempe Inman and Teagan Hescht  
3rd-5th grade Wednesday evening class: Alexa Inman, Sophia Moser  
Congratulations to these sweet girls!

### Daily Bible Reading

July 8 - Acts 10:1-23, 2 Ch 35-36  
July 9 - Acts 10:24-48, Ezra 1-3  
July 10 - Acts 11, Ezra 4-6  
July 11 - Acts 12, Ezra 7-8  
July 12 - Acts 13:1-31, Ezra 9-10  
July 13 - Acts 13:32-52, Nehemiah 1-3  
July 14 - Acts 14, Nehemiah 4-5  
July 15 - Acts 15:1-21, Nehemiah 6-7



### SUMMER SERIES



Our Summer Series will continue this Wednesday evening at 7:00.

Speaker: Dana Slingluff

Topic: God's Providential Care

**Please join us and invite others!**



# Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

## GOD'S OLYMPICS

Allen Webster

The Olympic Games date back to Olympia, Greece, in 776 B.C. Although there was a break between the ancient and modern eras, they have generally been held once every four years for the past millennium and a half. They originally consisted of wrestling, boxing, leaping, running, and throwing the quoit (discus).

When Rome conquered Greece in the 100s B.C., they retained these competitions. Faithful Jews opposed the Olympics because many events were played in the nude as a form of pagan worship, and some prizes had images on them (cf. Exodus 20:4). Nonetheless, the games were very popular and the Romans built large arenas to hold thousands of spectators. It is interesting to think that the Olympics were going on during the days of Christ.

The Christian life is sometimes compared to athletic events. Paul saw it as a “good fight” (1 Timothy 6:12). Hebrews refers to it as a race: “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1; cf. Galatians 2:2; Philippians 2:16). It could be called a “relay race,” for we must strive together (Philippians 1:27; literally, “athlete together”). It is also compared to a wrestling match (Ephesians 6:12), for we are in a deadly struggle with Satan.

**God's athlete must train rigorously.** Every Olympic competitor was required to train stringently under demanding teachers and diet restrictions for ten months. As each festival started, he had to prove to judges that he had fulfilled his training and was not a thief, slave, or morally corrupt.

Interestingly, travelling from Athens to Corinth, Paul would have passed the stadium of the biennial Isthmian Games. A year later (spring of A.D. 51), the games were to be held. Therefore, Paul probably observed athletes going through their practices. Since the Corinthians naturally had the games on their minds, Paul used them to illustrate a Christian's self-discipline. He wrote, Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (1 Corinthians 9:24-27); cf. Luke 9:23; Matthew 16:24; Romans 6:12-16).

Paul told Timothy. Exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

Physical training is beneficial, but spiritual training has longer lasting and more important effects.

**God's athlete must give it all he has.** Paul said, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth into those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

The images here is that of a runner giving one last great effort to break the tape as he crosses the finish line. For Grecian runners, the “mark” was a goalpost at the end of the racecourse.

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A good runner never looked back to see the distance he had covered or the competitors he had passed, but fully concentrated on that mark. Paul did not see himself as having arrived. Instead, he strained with all his being to reach the goal of heaven.

**God's athlete must play by the rules.** Athletes are always looking for an edge. The battle rages now over the use of muscle builders in Major League Baseball. Some athletes in all sports have crossed the line with steroid use; they returned the medals or were banned from the sport they loved. God expects Christians to "play by the rules."

Paul wrote, "If a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully" (2 Timothy 2:5; cf. 1 Samuel 13:12). We should abstain from anything contrary to God's will (1 John 3:4). Sometimes cheaters get away with breaking the rules in sports, but the omniscient God never misses a violation. Play fair!

**God's athlete must avoid distractions.** Runners must tune out the crowds when they step up to the starting line. Basketball players who cannot block out the noise will miss free throws. Many gymnasts have allowed a camera flash or fan's yell to distract them at a crucial point, only to lose their balance and lose the competition.

Christians, too, have to avoid letting someone turn them from pursuit of the crown. Paul warned the Galatians, "Ye did run well' who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7). The word *hinder* was an Olympic expression that meant "coming across the course while a person is running in it, in such a manner as to jostle, and throw him out of the way."

Don't let anyone - or anything knock you off course. The stakes are too high, Jesus asked, For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26).

**God's athlete will eventually triumph.** The Christian Race is the only one where everybody who finishes wins! Paul's long-standing dream was to stand on that victory stand before the Captain of his team (cf. Hebrews 2:10). He admitted:

I am now ready...I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing (2 Timothy 4:6-8; cf. Acts 20:24).

The imagery is obviously athletic. The word for *course* (dromos) refers to a one-lap race around a track about 600 yards long, about a third longer than our 440-yard tracks.

The Greek athletes gave up everything to gain an Olympic crown, which was made literally of leaves - pine, olive, parsley, apple, laurel, celery, and/or ivy. A wreath was placed over the victorious athlete's neck.

The Christian's crown is far greater, for it will never wilt (1 Corinthians 9:25; 1 Peter 5:4). Besides receiving a crown, a victor in the Olympic Games was lauded by triumphal processions, odes sung to his glory, and a statue placed near an adjacent temple. Christians won't have to settle for such small rewards; we will have the applause of heaven: "Then shall every man have praise of God" (1 Corinthians 4:5).

Can you image God cheering you on as you cross the finish line into heaven?



# SERMON NOTES

**A.M. Sermon:** Run the Christian Race with Excellence!  
**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

The Christian race is run with excellence.

I. Excellence takes \_\_\_\_\_.

1. 1 Tim. 4:8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ezra 7:10 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Daniel 6:10 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Acts 17:11 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 2 Tim. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

II. Excellence is paying attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Christianity. 1 Cor. 9:24

1. 1 Cor. 9:24 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2 Cor. 8:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ecc. 9:10 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Col. 3:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

III. Excellence takes \_\_\_\_\_ diligence.

1. Phil. 3:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2 Tim. 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Heb. 12:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
4. James 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 1 Cor. 9:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

How excellent are you running the Christian race?

**P.M. Sermon:** Honorable and Undefined  
**Scripture Reading:** Hebrews 13:4

Thank you to everyone who had helped with and came to Vacation Bible School. Our attendance was 133 Monday, 146 Tuesday and 152 Wednesday. Thank you especially to the teachers, Kyle for leading singing, those who brought cookies, and those who helped behind the scenes. Keep up the great work and thank you for your time and dedication.  
May God Bless you! Mark T.





## We Are Accountable

The story is told about a man who had his wife take over the wheel of their camper while he went to the back to take a nap. He awoke to see his wife getting something out of the refrigerator while the camper was still moving. “Who’s driving?!” he exclaimed. “No worries, I put it on automatic pilot,” she answered just as they crashed.

What is worse is when we put our lives in cruise control and step away from the driver’s seat. We are each accountable for every action and word. We cannot blame others or circumstances for our choices. At judgment, there will be no excuses to hide behind.

What quality will your life show when tested by fire?

*“But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work”*

1 Corinthians

Bulletin Digest

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## Minute of Meditation by Mark T. Tonkery

Heard on 910 AM WLTP

Years ago a little girl was taking her first train ride with her mother. She couldn’t understand why the trainman was going through the car lighting the lanterns. She said, “Mother, it is the middle of the day and the sun is shining, why is he turning on those lights?”

The mother smiled and said, “Wait a bit and you’ll see what the lights are for.” In a moment or two the train plunged into a long, dark tunnel, and then the little girl saw the wisdom of the lamp lighting process.



Dear Friends, the Bible contains thousands of verses that seem very ordinary and unnecessary. We often can’t see why God has gone to all the trouble of lighting those lamps of truth, but someday we will go through the tunnel of bereavement, temptation, or suffering and then we will value the verses that appear commonplace today.

No wonder Psalms 119:105 reminds, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

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, July 15

ELDER IN CHARGE - Dearll Vincent

DEACON IN CHARGE - Scott Johnson

## SONG LEADERS

AM - Jon Hescht

PM - Scott Smith

## PRAYER

9:30 AM - Jim Galloway

Close - Patrick Rine

6:00 PM - Gary Herridge

Close - Don Gaston

## SCRIPTURE

AM - Jimmy Galloway

PM - Donovan Walton

## COMMUNION

AM - Paul Saunders

PM - Chris Mullins

John Hall

PA SYSTEM - Clayton Huber

## DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Herb Wright

2 - Dwain Shears

3 - Joyce Wright

## PM

1. Margaret Dawkins & Mary Daniel

2. Bill Pralley & Bill Mills

\* Doors 3 and 4 - Unattended \*

5. Paul & Nancy Inman

6. Mike & Teresa Wade



## BEFORE I CRITICIZE. . . .

Before I engage in the arrogant practice of fault-finding, I must do the following:

- Pause and be sure my heart is right. Do I really want to help or hinder? Which will I be doing? (Matthew 7:1,2)
- Examine my own life to see that everything is in order. Would I be honest in condemning another while I need correction? (Matthew 7:3-5)
- Try to put myself in his place. How would I be doing if I were bearing his load? (Romans 15:1-2)
- Remember God's mercy toward me! How often have I asked for the mercy of God? Should I extend it to him? (Matthew 18:21-35)
- Consider the benevolence of others. My brethren have often borne with me in failure. Can I not now bear with him? (Galatians 6:1)
- Remember how I was hurt when last criticized? How can I delight in inflicting that pain on another. (Matthew 5:44-48)
- Pray for my brother and myself. I need to pray for him that he might overcome, and for myself that I might be forgiven for even considering sinning against him. (Acts 8:22)

If I will do these things, I will not only help another to be saved, I will avert the destruction of my own soul!

Larry Fluitt

## Facts and Figures

June 24, 2018

AM Service.....261

Bible Study.....171

PM Service.....198

Wednesday.....152

Contribution .....\$10,022.00

## MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Baptisms.....0

Restored or Requested

Prayers.....2

Placed Membership.....2

## Services Times

### Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study...15 min. after worship

PM Worship.....6:00

### Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00PM

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.

## UPCOMING TOPIC

July 22 - A SERVANT

## Friday Night Sing



Transportation will leave Friday at 5:30 for the sing at the Spencer congregation.

Everyone invited!