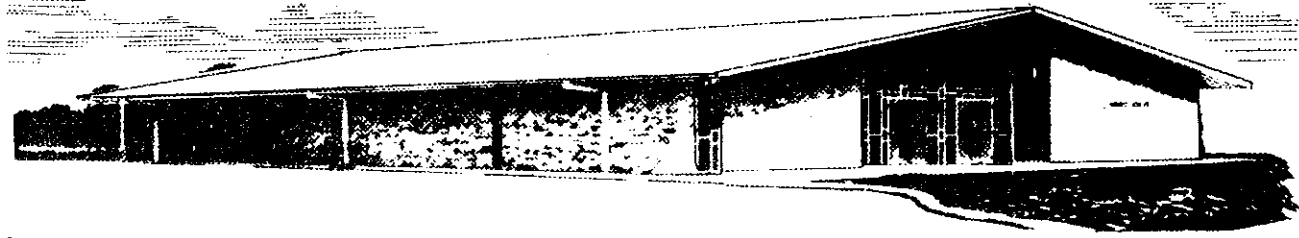


HAPPENINGS in God's Family



Vol. 9

January 23, 1983

No. 3



MOMENTS WITH MARVIN

Worship! Webster says the word means "honor or reverence as a divine being, or to regard with great, even extravagant respect, honor, or devotion." This is one reason we assemble together each week, and we should never forget it. I have two areas in mind that need improvement: (1) Our attitude and actions during our classes, and (2) Our attitude and actions during our singing, communion, and preaching. We need to realize the **purpose** for which we assemble, and act accordingly. Teachers, you are responsible for making sure that the class is used for **Bible Study**. I promise to be more diligent not to ignore acts that should not be occurring in the auditorium. This simply means that I will feel free to ask you by name to cease that which should not be happening during our services.

We hope to have a good crowd this Lord's Day; resolve to be present.

NEW ADULT STUDY TO BEGIN

You need to come prepared to enter into a new study in the auditorium class this Sunday morning. **Weaver Mills** will be the teacher, and you will be studying from the books of **Ephesians** and **Colossians**. Be sure and bring your Bibles to class. It will also be helpful if you will read the book of **Ephesians** before this Sunday.

NEW THURSDAY NIGHT STUDY

This study will be a little longer and more in-depth than our other classes. It will be conducted each Thursday evening from 7:00 - 9:30 at the Weir's residence. Be sure and bring your Bible; it will be used during this study.

You need to eat before coming as people will not be bringing nor will we be serving food. Your children are certainly welcome to come and play, but we will insist on keeping it quiet in the study area.

HOSPITAL UPDATE

LaNell Sweeden is in room 557 of St. Michael Hospital. As of Thursday noon she will be in isolation (no visitors) for 72 hours.

OUR FAITH IN ACTION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 1983

Bible Study	147
Morning Worship	184
Evening Worship	125
Contribution	\$ 1202.54
Contribution to Date	\$ 3840.53
Budget to Date	\$ 4077.00

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1983

Bible Classes	85
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THOSE TO SERVE JANUARY 23, 1983

A.M. PRAYERS:	P.M. PRAYERS:
Tom Hutcheson	Herman Lynch
W. Robertson	Wilford Trickler

SCRIPTURE READING: John Inman
(Mk. 8:34-38)

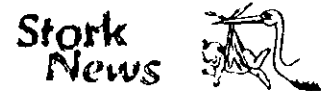
BIBLE HOUR: Steve Higginbotham

NURSERY: Jean Raney
Lisa Murray

NOTE: If you are unable to serve on this date, please call Jerry Yates at 628-2441.

OUR VISITORS

Jim & Hazel Goodwill of Victorville, California; **Tresa Holder** of Clarksville and **Sherry, Kerry, Mary, & Stephen Johnson** of Bagwell were guests of Keith and Tammy Crockett.



Congratulations to Raymond & Judy McClung at the birth of a son, William Austin. He was born Tuesday, Jan. 18 and weighed 6 lbs. 11 ozs. **Blanche McClung** is the proud grandmother.

Elders:
Weaver P. Mills, Jr. 629-2980
Wyndell Robertson 628-2244
Ernest Shelton, Jr. 628-2201

Minister:
Marvin L. Weir 628-3295

Office:
Suzette Tyndell, Secretary
610 McCoy Blvd.
Phone: 214-628-2891

Deacons:
Ben Doolley
DeWayne Hardage
Russell Tyndell
John Inman
Elliott Raney

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday:
Bible Classes . . . 9:30 A.M.
A.M. Worship 10:25 A.M.
P.M. Worship 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:
Ladies Bible
Class 10:00 A.M.
Bible Classes . . . 7:30 P.M.

WHERE YOU ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME

Church of Christ at New Boston
610 McCoy Blvd. :- Hwy. 8 North
New Boston, Texas 75570

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MARVIN L. WEIR, Editor

We Have Deacons: Now What?

LARRY FLUITT

A close friend and long time deacon in the church once shocked me with this statement: "The office of deacon is the most useless office in the church." That was over fifteen years ago but I have not forgotten it. I argued the point with him at the time, knowing what the scriptures teach regarding this vital ministry. Now, years later, I must concede he had a point, not because the New Testament has changed its doctrine, but because we in the body of Christ have too often departed from the scriptural pattern for the church and have given deacons little responsibility. God hasn't changed His mind; we have just ignored His arrangement.

The Lord placed deacons in the church along with elders, evangelists and other laborers (Eph. 4:11-12; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-13). These men were chosen originally because of needs to be met. We sometimes seem to choose them as a matter of custom to be upheld as though there is some kind of ratio to be maintained--so many elders and deacons for so many members. When the Lord instructed the early church to choose deacons He intended them to be "ministers". Those whom we select today often become little more than "office holders".

Deacons are, by the very definition of the term, servants. They are not "junior elders" or an "advisory board" to the elders. Their role is not to rule but to serve. The work of the deacon is a work unto itself, a separate responsibility, requiring clearly defined qualifications (1 Tim. 3:8-13). They may be younger men, lacking the seasoning required of the spiritual shepherds of God's flock, if they are godly, dedicated men. Deacons can take a tremendous load off the shoulders of elders by tending to matters that do not fall directly under the jurisdiction of elders. Acts 6 seems to provide an excellent example of this.

The things stated to this point have not been written in order to be critical or injurious. They do, I believe, point out some abuses of which we in the church have sometimes been guilty. They have been written in the hope that they will enable us to see the importance of truly following God's pattern and utilizing the unique talents of faithful brethren in those areas where they can most benefit the church.

May I make the following suggestions regarding deacons in the church. 1) **CHOOSE THEM!** By all means select scripturally qualified men to serve in the congregation as the Lord directed. Each congregation will have its own particular areas of need; every congregation has numerous needs. Carefully study the divinely-given qualifications and follow them scrupulously. Choose men who have the mind of a servant, who truly want to work for the Lord! However clean a man's life may be, he will not be worth much to the church as a deacon if he does not want to use his talents to the glory of God! 2) **USE THEM!** Having selected godly men, put them to work! Give them something meaningful to do! Don't make the mistake of choosing them and then forgetting them, thus leaving them to grow disillusioned and wonder for what purpose they were chosen! Deacons ought to see many things they can do to serve the church but elders ought not to be neglectful in pinpointing specific areas of need. One further note: Don't be afraid to give deacons the authority or power sufficient to carry out the assigned task. They shouldn't have to run to the elders for permission to spend every dollar or make every decision that has to be made. Deacons are mature, sound, spiritual men who merit our trust and admiration. Paul wrote, "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 3:13).



News & Notes



OUR SICK

The following people have been ill at home, or else are recovering from an illness: **Julie Griffin; George Hillis; James Martin** isn't feeling well; **Oda Mae Orrison** is still recovering from recent surgery at her sister's home in Garland; **Elliott Raney's** sister-in-law (David's wife) is critically ill and our prayers have been requested; **Lacy Terrell**.

Please remember these and any others you might be aware of having special needs in your prayers.

CARE GROUPS TO MEET

CARE Group 3, Group Leader Ernest Shelton, Jr., will meet in the home of **Steve & Linda McIntosh** on Saturday, January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

CARE Group 4, Group Leader Weaver Mills, will meet in the home of **Weaver & Frances Mills** on Sat., Jan. 22 at 7:00 p.m.

CARE Group 1, Group Leader Bobby Higginbotham, will meet in the home of **Bobby & Juanita Higginbotham** on Sat., Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

An updated church directory will be available for our members this Sunday morning. Please take only one copy per family so that each family may have one.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS

We appreciate the fine response from families who are willing to open their homes for the young people. Only five months remain available, so you might like to sign the list on the bulletin board soon if you desire to host one of these gatherings.

All young people (grades 7-college) are reminded of the first fellowship scheduled for **Sunday, January 23** following evening services in the home of **Russell & Suzette Tyndell**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 30 -- Congregation to Submit Names for Consideration as Deacons.

February 6 -- Area-Wide 1st Sunday Singing H-E-R-E! Elders Meeting.

February 7 -- Boles Home grocery truck to run. Items needed are chili, trash bags, toothpaste, and toilet tissue.

February 12 -- Valentine Banquet for grades 7-college in the home of **Steve & Linda McIntosh** from 7:00-10:00 p.m.

February 13 -- Elders/Deacons Meeting; Nursing Home Devo.

March 27-30 -- Our Gospel Meeting with **Dub McClish**.



A.M. "The Shame of Sham"
(Mk. 8:34-38)

P.M. "Searching for a Vital Religion"
(Rom. 2:18)

"Come . . . let us reason together."
Isa. 1:18