

News & Notes

Sunday, January 7, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Alton Lee Alberson; Tommy Alberson; Jerry Bennett; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Lanell Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Linda Hopkins; Carolyn Jordan; Francis Joyner; Dot Ketchum; John and Deliah Mann; Diane Mize; Ruby Tapp; Wayne Tapp; Calvin Ursery;

Sympathy is extended to the Stacks family, the Shaw family, and the Peeler family.

Pantry item for the month of January is liquid laundry detergent.

There are several **thank-you letters** posted on the bulletin board. Please be sure and look at them.

There are **daily Bible reading schedules** in the foyer. Please pick one up and read the Bible through in 2007.

Patrick Simpson and Donna Knight are in Orlando participating in a fund raiser for muscular dystrophy.

Sermon In Preview: Spreading the Good News:

AM: Why Spread the Good News?

PM: Our Year in Preview

For the Record (December 31, 2006):

Attendance: 74 Contribution: \$1207.00 Budget: \$1352.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Carrol Street

spreading the Good News Ashland Announcer

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS..." (MATTHEW 28:19)

Ashland Church of Christ 2007

Spreading the Good News — Matthew 28:18-20

Jeremy Northrop

How quickly time flies! Some say the older you get, the more you will agree that time goes by fast. It certainly does seem like just yesterday we were kicking off 2006 and our theme of pressing toward the upward call of God. It was indeed a good year and no doubt beneficial to all that participated. However, it is also true that 2006 has come to an end and 2007 is now upon us. With the new year comes a new theme. This year, the theme is simply spreading the good news taken from Matthew 28:18-20. This text is commonly called the great commission given by Jesus Christ to His followers. It says,

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen.

Of course, our theme is specifically taken from verse nineteen. The elders and I have put some effort into planning this year and again, as is our custom, each first Sunday of the month will be dedicated to this topic.

Today, we will kick off this new theme with some lessons which will be introductory in nature. The class this morning will be designed to discuss God's plan to build up the church and how it can be accomplished. There will be some very practical ideas for each individual to be able to be a part of building up the church. Then, a theme can be a great organizational tool for lessons within a local work such as Ashland, however many times, things are put in place and people do not know why those things are being done. Our sermon this morning will be a lesson on purpose. Why spread the good news and why put this theme in place? This and other questions will be discussed in our sermon this morning. Tonight, we will discuss the details of our plan to spread the good news in 2007. Of course, our spreading of the good news is not limited to 2007 but rather 2007 will be a revival of sorts to stir our desire to work in the church of our Lord. While that is what will happen today in a nutshell, we want to take a moment in this first bulletin of 2007 to show briefly the plans for the year.

With the exception of January and December (January will be for introductory lessons and December will be for lessons of conclusion), 2007 will be divided into two parts. The first half (February through June) are labeled as *preparing for evangelism*. In these months, we will discuss things like **evidences** for the existence of God and the validity of the Bible, religious **authority**, our own personal **salvation**, our level of **commitment**, and the **purpose** of the church. Many times Christians do not feel they are adequately prepared to evangelize and sadly sometimes this is genuinely the case. Therefore, before we convince the world of their need to change, we are going to make sure that we ourselves are changed and in a good relationship with God. We must make sure we are saved before we try to save the world else the will see through our hypocrisy.

Then, in July our attention will turn to *practicing evangelism*. We will be discussing our personal **knowledge** of

the word, where we can find the **courage** to evangelize, the **audience** we need to be evangelizing, the **work** we need to do, and the **habit** that should be forming in our lives. Many Christians do not see the need to evangelize and do not know how to do it. Thus, the second part of the year will be dedicated to such matters.

As usual, we will have our annual events this year. The last Sunday in April (the 22nd) will be our annual homecoming. On June 3-6, we will have our annual Vacation Bible School. Then, in July, our teenagers will be going to the Horizons summer camp and we will have our annual gospel meeting July 15-19. This year, we will kick off the second phase of our theme with this gospel meeting. And then, October 14-17 will be our third annual joint-gospel meeting with the South Ashland congregation. All of these events are designed to increase our knowledge of God and His word as well as to encourage us to remain on the narrow way God would have us to be.

Also, in conjunction with this theme, our website has received a face-lift (as has the bulletin). If you have internet access, please visit our website (www.ashlandcoc.org). There have also been three new features added: first, there is a devotional feature. This will be updated weekly. These audio/video files are three to five minutes long and will be done by preachers in the area. Next, a sermon archive has been added and many of the sermons preached here will be posted online in an audio format. Finally, an online Bible course has been added. It is simply a Bible correspondence course which can be done online. Share these features and our website with your friends and family and be a part of spreading the good news.

It is shaping up to look like it will be a good year for us. We have a biblical theme, a group of people who are willing to put forth the effort, some great plans in place, and leaders who will not allow us to stray. Let us all pray the Lord will send forth a harvest worthy of our efforts.