

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

9426 PGA Pkwy

Frisco TX 75035

(972)347-1919

rhcoc.org • rhilchurch@gmail.com

Worship Times:

- Bible Class — 9:00AM
- Sunday Worship — 10:00AM
- Sunday PM Worship — 6:00PM
- Wednesday Bible study — 7:00PM

Elders:

- Jim Boles
- Charles Haley
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

Interns:

- Kent Cates & Avery Nicks

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

WHAT IF GOD "COULDN'T BE BOTHERED" — WITH US?

What if God decided not to be bothered with you?

A lot of folks in this world, I am convinced, actually believe in God, are not angry at God, but just don't go to church, pray, or listen to what God says; because, to be frank, they can't be bothered with God or religion right now. They've got too many things to do, too many fun things to enjoy, too many sins they don't want to give up. Too many places to go, too many successes to accomplish, too many things to acquire, too many bucket list items to check off, too much money to make, too many family things to attend, too much leisure to catch up on, too much etc. to be bothered with God. *Sigh*

But here's a question that we should be asking: "What if God decided not to be bothered with us?" Some might cavalierly shrug their shoulders and ask, "So?"

So... the opportunities go poof. Our intelligence goes poof. The job goes poof. Health goes poof. And so very much more just goes poof. All the blessings we've received in this world and are available in the spiritual world are because God has more than bothered with us — He has clearly been keenly concerned and compassionate toward us on many levels. Indeed, after all of our physical blessings have been added up, He offers to redeem us at the cost above all costs put together, the life of Jesus God's Son on the cross. This is how generous our God is, and how much attention He has given us!

But one day, after this life is all over, if we haven't bothered to give Him thanks, worship, obedience, faith, etc., after all the blessings He's gone to the effort to give us; He will be bothered with us no more. Romans 2:4,5 warns us to be careful not to neglect the blessings of God, *"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."* The Hebrew writer uses a metaphor to say the same thing, *"For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned (Hebrews 6:7,8).*

Most of mankind has no idea how blessed we are — blessed because God has decided to be bothered by our needs. Mostly we lie to ourselves and claim credit for the innumerable good things, large and small, that God is really responsible for. I'm convinced that even the most religious among us are unaware of the breathtaking scope of God's amazing grace.

Let us be determined not to think lightly of God's blessings or drink of His kindnesses thoughtlessly. These blessings are bestowed as a continuing testimony of the goodness of the one true God and His desire to grant us even more blessings in the spiritual realm through His Son Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Let these blessings not become the mere wallpaper of our lives but a loud witness of the almighty God, who has bothered so greatly with us.

Park Linscomb

Family News

“For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” Ephesians 2:18,19

If you are visiting our congregation, welcome! Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection tray as it is passed. If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

N . E . W . S .

LEADERSHIP MEETING

- As we continue to look at anticipated expenses for 2025, including a substantial insurance cost, the weekly budget for 2025 may be \$4800.
- Park is restarting a video series on Facebook, “God’s Guidance for Life on Earth”. He hopes to publish the videos twice a week. Share it with FB friends!
- Burley has attempted an outreach to the Indian (Telegu) FB community in Frisco, but his attempts to post have been denied.
- Our first singing practice on the first Sunday of the month (5PM) had 12 and we learned and practiced “Only a Holy God”.
- It was reported that a swarm of bees has taken residence in our Bible class building and must be removed, preferably by a bee keeper. Research will be done.
- Burley will be returning to India on Jan. 8 for mission work and in the meantime will be joining a reorganized Indian mission team and raising money for this effort.
- It was mentioned that there may be many of the congregation who would like to help with the disaster that has occurred in N. Carolina and Florida due to hurricanes and that the church of Christ Disaster Relief is one that the leader-

ship of the congregation could recommend.

WELCOME Alec and Diana Esquivel have placed membership with the Rock Hill congregation

COATS FOR CHILDREN for the Rainbow Room at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Collin County. The drive will go thru mid-November. Members can bring new coats and put them in the black tote in the back of the auditorium. Here’s a link for more info: <https://www.cac-collincounty.org/waystogive/rainbow-room/>

WANT TO HELP with the recovery from the disasters in NC and FL? The church of Christ Disaster Relief is recommended by the RH leadership. Here is a link to making a contribution. <https://www.disasterrelief-effort.org/>

THE NEXT LADIES’ SEWING SESSION will be October 24 from 10:00 to 2:00. No sewing experience necessary; join in the good work!!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP the Pittsfield MA church? We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Ora Holt’s nephew was struck by a hit and run driver and died from his injuries. Please pray for the family
- Elizabeth Hopkins cousin, Tracy, is in ICU with diabetic ketoacidosis.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Zeke R. had a stroke.
- The Staffords — Cleves family as his dad is nearing the end, Mel’s family as her mother passed, their son struggling in his freshman year at college, the Pittsfield church.

- Mary Hall is recovering at home.
- Emma’s grandmother, Karla R, dementia and cancer.
- “Max Bledsoe, Charles’ brother-in-law, had a tumor removed from his brain on Friday. The diagnosis is pending the biopsy results.
- Elizabeth’s brother-in-law recovering from a car accident, and her step-brother with multiple health problems
- Esther Myrick’s health.
- Bonnie Davidson recovering from a minor stroke.
- Lynn Turner: cancer
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our elders, deacons, preacher, teachers, interns, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Isela Hughes’ sister Griselda’s illness & friend Jeff
- Bonnie B.
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia’s nurse friend, Michaela
- Rosa’s friend Isabella, heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Oct 20, Luke 14-16
- Oct 21, Luke 1
- Oct 22, Luke 2-3
- Oct 23, Luke 4-5
- Oct 24, Luke 6-7
- Oct 25, Luke 8-9
- Oct 26, Luke 10-11
- Oct 27, Luke 12-13

A word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

WHY DOESN'T THE CHURCH OF CHRIST HAVE SAINTS?

A great many of the religious groups in the world of Christendom have saints and indeed, several translations of the Bible attribute their gospels and authors to Saint So-and-So. So, what are saints about and why don't we recognize saints among the churches of Christ?

First of all, we do have saints. "What?!" you might exclaim. The word saint(s) is actually found 61 times in the New Testament, and what it refers to each time is either a person who has been baptized (and therefore saved) or to an angel.

The religious world around us, however, uses the term in a very specific way that the Bible doesn't. A "saint" in the religious world is someone who could be perhaps otherwise labeled a super-Christian. The steps to sainthood actually include...

- Wait at least 5 years, although this waiting period can be waived by the Pope.
- Live a life of Christian service, at which point the individual is given the title of "servant of God".
- Show proof of "heroic virtue", at which point the individual is given the title of "venerable".
- Have verified miracles attributed to you, at which point the individual is given the title of "blessed".
- Canonization, to get to this stage a second verified miracle must be found, and an official mass (worship service), overseen by the Pope, declares the individual a "saint".

But why have a special class of Christians called "saints". Such "saints" are (according to denominational theology) mediators to God and are assumed to have the ability to grant requests made in prayers. Perhaps think of them as good friends of Jesus or of the Father, who can ask for special favors. In fact, saints are often thought to have special interest in or have charge of special areas — for example, St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, engineers, migrants, Nigeria, and protection from snakes. St. Anthony is the patron saint of lost things. If you want anything special regarding these areas of life, you would pray to the appropriate "saint". The reason that Mary is considered an especially high saint is

that, being the mother Jesus, she would have special access to and influence with the Lord.

It is for this reason that some have speculated that although the idea "saints" may have arisen originally as respect for martyrs, it became a substitute system for the pagan gods that Christianity replaced and forbade worship of. The various gods and goddesses of the pagan world were likewise over specific interests (e.g., Mars, Rome's god of war; Venus, Rome's goddess of love; and Pluto, Rome's god of the dead).

But such "sainthood" is simply not biblical. No saint needs to wait 5 years; you become a saint, when your sins are washed away at baptism (Acts 22:16). Sainthood isn't based on the ability to do a miracle; while many saints of the first century did have miraculous gifts, not every Christian did, yet they were still saints (1 Corinthians 1:2 and 14:16, 23). The appointment of becoming a saint will never be in the hands of any man (Pope or not); it is God alone, through the blood of Christ, who can give us this title (Romans 1:7). And there is really only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

On the other hand, **everyone** who has become a Christian according to the New Testament pattern is saved and considered by God to be a saint, holy to God (1 Corinthians 1:2). **Every Christian** is to live a life of service to the Lord (Ephesians 4:12), just as the Lord Himself served us all. **Every Christian** should be living a virtuous life in keeping with God's own holy nature despite the trials and temptations that come his or her way (Ephesians 5:3). And **every saint** in the biblical sense actually does need to be interceding for others to God in prayer (Ephesians 6:18), just as Paul did, just as first century Christians did for each other, just as Jesus Himself prayed for His apostles and all who would believe in Him through their word.

So, the churches of Christ do have saints, just not in the worldly sense. Every Christian is a saint in God's view. The real question is, are we acting like it?

(saint) Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER

20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00AM Bible classes ■ 10:00AM Worship ■ 6:00PM Worship 	21 <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid #ccc; display: inline-block;">Chris and Juliana S ❤️</div>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00AM Ladies' Bible class 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00PM Wed. Bible class 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00AM Ladies' sewing project 	25 <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 2px; border: 1px solid #ccc; display: inline-block;">Virginia Sue C. ❤️</div>
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SERVICE IN WORSHIP

October 20AM.....PM

AnnouncementsJohn S
 SongleadingDoug J.....Scott W
 Opening PrayerChris SBurley S
 CommunionDoug J.....Scott W
 Servers: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
 Closing PrayerScott WCharles H
 A/V ControlCharles H.....Hunter M
 GreeterBurley S

Wed PM, October 23

SongsJim B
 A/V.....John S

October 27AM.....PM

AnnouncementsJohn S
 SongleadingScott WDoug J
 Opening PrayerDavid JTom R
 Communion??Charles H
 Servers: 1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____ 4) _____
 Closing PrayerJim BRalph L
 A/V ControlCharles H.....Hunter M
 GreeterJim B

Wed PM, October 30

SongsReiven H
 A/V.....John S



Sermon Notes...
