

Melbourne

Church of Christ

Where You Are Part of God's Family

August 28, 2011

God is Love

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:7-10 NRSV)

Does the gospel, the good news, seem too good to be true to you? When I have preached or taught what I consider a strong good-news message, I have had the response, "Well, you're just preaching a feel-good gospel," as if the gospel is supposed to make us feel bad or guilty. With the church culture I grew up in, I understand the need some feel to be made to feel bad or to be berated for their failures and sins. I am sad when I consider how we have dimmed or watered down the good news that Jesus revealed.

Before you read further here, read both of the texts above two times each. Listen carefully to the words and weigh carefully the meaning of the words. Write down any word or phrase that stands out to you. Pray through the two texts a third time, asking your Abba Father to open your heart and mind to the living truth he wants you to receive.

Today in my meditation I was struck by the phrase "tax collector." I believe the closest current day equivalent to a tax collector would be a drug dealer or a pimp. These individuals, like tax collectors, make their money by destroying the lives of others. They manipulate the lives of others for profit. They are the parasites of our communities. Imagine, now, that you are a drug dealer or a pimp and one day Jesus comes by your street and calls you to follow him. More than that, he goes over to your house and hangs out with your drug-dealing or pimp friends. What would the people that you go to church gatherings with think of Jesus? I expect you might hear some of the same responses that Jesus heard when he was visiting Matthew.

What is the good news if it is not a message of unconditional love? What is the good news if it is not a message to even the vilest among us? What is the good news if it is not a message of encouragement and hope? The good news is only good news because God is a God of love. He loves us in spite of our sins. And when we become his children, he loves us even when we sin or make a mistake. He never stops loving us.

—Steve Puckett



"No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly"
(Psalm 84:11, NRSV)

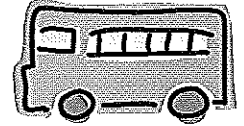
Welcome! Your presence enhances the joy of all who walk with the Lord.



Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)

- 8/30 Ladies Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. in the church office - all ladies welcome
8/31 Family Dinner, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Classes for children, and video series (week 4) in auditorium for adults, at 6:30 p.m.
9/2-4 Youth to SonQuest
9/4 Worship at Indian River, 2 p.m. - Paul Zima & Melbourne Family Singers
9/5 Labor Day - Church office closed
9/6 Ladies Bible Class/Lunch, 10:30 a.m. in the church office
9/6 Men's 1st Tuesday Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. in the church office
9/11 Worship at Consulate, 2 p.m. - Don Hall & Melbourne Family Singers
9/18 Blood Drive, 8:15 a.m.- 1 p.m. in our parking lot
9/25 All-church Fellowship, 5:30 p.m.
10/15 Ladies Day at Florida Ave. C of C



Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

Together We Grow (Small Care Groups)

Every day they continued to meet in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:47-48 (NIV)

Before I start sharing some thoughts, let me ask some quick spot-check questions. How close are you to your brothers and sisters in Christ? How close are you to the people attending your individual place of worship? Do you know each other? How deeply? Do you have each other over for meals? Do you get together often or is it just on Sundays and Wednesdays? These questions are a good starting place for what I am about to share.

I love when I read this verse and think about the very early Christians. They were a community, a fellowship and a family. They did things together, often. They were important to one another. They gave of what they had to each other. They gave their time to one another. They had one common purpose, to worship God in the name of Jesus, together. Their common bond brought them together daily in the temple courts and they shared meals in each others' homes. They shared the word of God together on a daily basis. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, this group of Christians, calling themselves, "The Way," grew spiritually, grew closer in their relationship and knowledge of God, and they also grew numerically as a family.

The joy, love, fellowship, and Good News brought new members into the fold. This was an attractive bunch. More and more came to Christ daily. Believing, confessing, repenting and being baptized were in abundance. The love and fellowship were obvious to all.

When I first came to the Church of Christ in Melbourne, I was directed to the Bible and Bible application to my living. I attended Wednesday and Sunday services. I was approached and asked to join a small group. This is a group that meets in

homes and studies God's Word together. Janie and I met in the home of Chuck and Diane Ortt. Pat Seamon was the group leader. My wife, Janie, and I were welcomed and treated like we had always been there. Not only did we grow in our relationship and knowledge of God through His word, we found family. The Ortt's, as well as all the group members, welcomed us to the family. We studied together, ate together, joked together, and shared our lives together.

I imagine in these times, busy schedules, etc... we only have time to meet one time a week for small group but it is an experience you don't want to miss. Today Janie and I attend a group at Calvin and Bonita Potts' home and we found the same study, warmth and love we found with the Ortt's. This is true Christian fellowship and commitment to one another. We have also met at the Curington's home for small group, where love and study also abound.

If you are not in a small group, please don't miss this meaningful opportunity. If you would like to join a group, there is a list of names and phone numbers for small group leaders on the back of the bulletin. You can also call the church office and speak with me. If you would like to open your home with Christian hospitality to a group, please also let me know. If you would like to lead a group, please call. Jesus told us to love God; he also told us to love one another. If you are a long-time Christian or short-tem believer, this is for you. Remember: *Together We Grow.*

God Bless
Ken Jones
THS<><

Counseling is available, free of charge, for any of our members, your families, and any referrals you may want to make.

Call Ken Jones to schedule an appointment - church office, 723.8233 or cell, 501.2014.

Family News and Notes



Shepherd's Corner

Three Ingredients of a Happy Life

(Romans 12:12: "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer")

Rejoicing in hope: (1) **Rejoicing.** Consider the various misconceptions concerning joy (a matter of personal temperament, circumstances, etc.). Consider I Thes. 5:16, Phil. 4:4. True joy is possible despite our circumstances in life. Consider James 1:2, I Peter 1:6. (2) **Hope** – joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation. Without hope, there can be no joy. (Ecc. 9:4). Preoccupation with the things of this life can rob us of our hope (I Cor. 15:19).

Patient in tribulation: (1) **Patient** – from "abide" and "under." To abide under (the pressure of) misfortunes and trials, to hold fast to one's faith; not just refraining from doing bad, but continuing to do good. (2) **Tribulation** – could be trials suffered for the cause of Christ (Acts 5:41) or those that are common to all men (financial, sickness, death, etc.) Our hope serves as our anchor in times of tribulation (Heb. 6:19). Hope allowed the pilgrims to risk their lives at sea, the American explorers to travel across our country in adverse circumstances, and those in the early church to endure their afflictions. Our hope ought to allow us to endure afflictions. Consider I Peter 1:3-6.

Continuing instant in prayer: (1) **Continuing Instant** – ASV – steadfastly. Jesus spoke a parable unto them, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint (Luke 18:1). We are to pray "without ceasing" (I Thes. 5:17). (2) **Prayer** – Prayer is able to eliminate worry (Phil. 4:6-7). Prayer reminds us of the reason for our hope: a Christian is in the family of God, has others to help bear his burdens, has his sins forgiven, has the promise of a home in heaven (have you "called home" lately?).

...Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer....

Don Hall

Children's Ministry Announcements

8/28 Sun. AM - Nursery is provided during adult worship for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Preschool Children's Worship is available for preschool children age 3-5. Elementary children (K-5th grade) will worship with their families in the auditorium today (4th Sunday) Our virtue this month is Grace.
* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

8/31 Wed. PM - Family-Friendly Meal 5:30 - 6:15 PM; Classes at 6:30 PM All children go to the Children's Worship Room during class time (nursery is provided). Our theme is Jesus of Nazareth.

8/21/2011

CW Contribution \$252.00

(All CW contributions go to Called & Compelled Honduras Missions)

Attendance:

Sunday School (Cradle roll-5th grade)	40
Preschool Children's Worship	12
Elementary Children's Worship	29
Nursery	6

Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Aug. 28, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Ray Green/Penny Sweredoski/Laurel Carothers

Nursery: Pam Mason/Sophye Wimpee

Sept. 4, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Mary Tomlinson/Rita Hewett/Alex Heuser

Nursery: Vivian Lara/Wanda Curington



Food Pantry Report

This past week, 136 visitors (385 in families) were served with food through our food pantry!

Donations of non-perishable items (*there is always a special need for cereal!*) or money to purchase them are always welcome and appreciated! Thank you to Bob Eckelberry, Lorraine Prieto, Stephen Fennell and our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way! Back-up help is frequently needed -- if you would like to serve our community through the pantry, contact one of the folks above.

The Melbourne Church of Christ Food Pantry is open to the community on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is a non-discriminatory facility of The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Melbourne Church of Christ
810 Hollywood Blvd.
West Melbourne, FL 32904
(321) 723-8233
www.melbournechurchofchrist.org
office@melbournechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes All Ages 9:30 a.m.
 AM Worship 10:30 a.m.
 PM Worship 6:00 p.m.
 ** (Alternative Care Group meetings various times (see list below or contact Ken Jones)
 4th Sun. fellowships will resume in Sept.
 2nd Sun. TORCH fundraiser pancake breakfasts will resume in Oct.

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Class Tues. 10:30 a.m.
 Men's Prayer Meeting 1st Tues. 7 p.m.

Wednesday
 (During Aug.)

Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Classes for all ages 6:30 p.m.

**** Care Groups:**

Don Nickens (795-4223); Calvin Potts (725-4679); Gary Canup (952-0558); Bob Eckelberry (984-3927); Walter Pierce (327-3684); Steve Puckett (432-9932);

Serving as Elders:

Gary Canup, Tom Fennell, Don Hall, Mike Lovelace, Don Nickens, Calvin Potts, and Pat Seamon

Serving On Staff:

Tom Fennell, Pastoral Care
 Linda Hounschell, Financial Secretary
 Ken Jones, Involve. Min./Counseling
 Debby Nickens, Children's Minister
 Walter Pierce, Youth Minister
 Steve Puckett, Senior Minister
 Cheri Tate, Secretary

Family Record 8/21/11

Attendance

6th Grade-Adult Bible Classes: 120
 Children's Bible Classes: 40
Total Bible Classes: 160
 Auditorium Worship 231
 Children's Worship/Nursery: 47
Total Worship Count: 278

Budget Items

Weekly Budget 7/1/11-6/30/12 \$ 9,784
 Contribution to Budget: \$11,274
 Contribution to Special Items: \$342.62
 YTD Over/Short: (\$1,921)

August 28 Praise Service

Praise our Trustworthy, Generous, and Loving Abba Father!

Worship Leaders	Tyrone Carter/Josh McGough/Walter Pierce
<i>We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise</i>	54
<i>Praise the Lord</i>	74
Luke 15:11-32	Pat Seamon
"Praise Our Abba Father" Introduction	Steve Puckett
Prayer	Al Womack
<i>The Love of God</i>	122
Psalm 145:1-21	Jesse Parks
<i>I Keep Falling in Love with Him</i>	148
Ephesians 2:4-9	Jeff Crowe
Prayer (Ephesians 3:16-21)	Glen Wirsch
<i>Praise Him! Praise Him!</i>	300
Lord's Supper Prayer	David Carpenter
Offering Prayer	David Carpenter
<i>Come, Let us All Unite to Sing</i>	121
1 John 4:7-12	Julio Roman
"Praise Our Abba Father"	Steve Puckett
<i>Greatest Commands</i>	448
Announcements/Closing Prayer	Pat Seamon

+ A/V Tech: Lindsey Tate

+ Service at Life Care of Melbourne, 9:30 a.m.: Calvin Potts

Worship Coordinators

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

Servers: Jesse Parks (RS)
 (Aug.) Austin Diehl (RM)
 Carl Higginbotham (C)
 Doug Hoffman (LM)
 Ian Hames (LS)

Ushers: Jonathon Finlayson (RS)
 (Aug.) Robby Grassman (RM)
 Bob Eckelberry (C)
 John Hames (LM)
 Norris Bottomlee (LS)

Shepherd's Prayer (Aug.): Mike Lovelace

Serving Next Sunday, Sept. 4

Song Leader: Tyrone Carter
 Announcements: Pat Seamon
 Shepherd's Prayer: Calvin Potts
 Presiding: Pat Seamon
 Reading: Benjamin Heuser
 Message: Steve Puckett
 Closing Prayer: Rob Ellison

A/V Tech: Christa Pierce

+ Service at Life Care of Melb., 9:30 a.m.: David Bradley

+ Service at Indian River, 2 p.m.: Paul Zima and Melbourne Family Singers