



**Melbourne**  
Church of Christ  
*Where You Are Part of God's Family*  
**December 18, 2011**

**Prayerfully Reading the Word for Conviction**

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

For, "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever."

That word is the good news that was announced to you. (1 Peter 1:22-25)

"The word of the Lord" is a recurring refrain throughout the Bible. Often Scripture speaks of the word of the Lord coming to someone. I am encouraged when I read about the word of the Lord coming to those in Scripture. But today I am most concerned with the word of the Lord coming to you and me.

My experience, for so many years, was to read Scripture by analysis. That is, when I read the word it was to find facts, seek verses to prove my beliefs, or prepare sermons. With that kind of limited approach, the word of the Lord did not often come to me. By that I mean I understood the facts, the language, and even the meaning, but I did not receive conviction. In Scripture, when the word of the Lord comes to someone or is spoken to someone, conviction almost always follows. So, to be clear, it's possible to understand the facts and the meaning of the word of the Lord, but never receive the conviction of the word of the Lord.

Just because I don't receive conviction from the word, does not mean that the word lacks power. Lack of conviction from the word means I have the age-old problem of deafness and blindness. Jesus explained the problem clearly in Matthew 13 when describing why some people fail to be convicted by the word and receive life change. "For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear."

When you receive the word of the Lord with conviction, your life is blessed and changed. When you receive the word of the Lord with a calloused heart, closed ears, and closed eyes, you miss the peaceful blessing of Jesus in your life.

My word of encouragement to you is that you prayerfully read the word for conviction. Many of you will start Bible reading plans at the first of the year. In 2012, begin your Bible reading with a simple prayer like this: "Abba Father, as I open your word today, open my heart so that I might receive your word with conviction. By your Holy Spirit, reveal to me your will for my life. Through Jesus who heals and blesses me through the word of the Lord."

—Steve Puckett



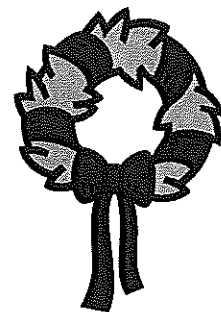
*"Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass,  
which the Lord has made known to us" (Luke 2:15, NKJV).*

*O come, let us adore him — Christ the Lord!*



**Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events**  
(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)

12/18    Worship at Life Care of Melbourne, 2 p.m., with Melbourne Ensemble  
12/25    Christmas praise service, 10 a.m. - no Bible classes  
12/25    No Service at Life Care of Melbourne on 12/25  
12/25    No Sun. night service at the church building on 12/25  
12/26-30    Happy Holidays! Church office will be closed this week, and will reopen on Jan. 2  
12/27    Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27  
12/28    No Wed. night service on 12/28  
1/1        Services as normal on 1/1, including Sun. evening service at 6 p.m.  
1/15      Blood Drive in our parking lot, 8:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
1/28      Ladies Day 2012 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sebring Parkway C of C "How Shall I Be Remembered"



**Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society**

Jesus Who?



"You are not one of his disciples, are you?" the girl at the door asked Peter. He replied, "I am not."

John 18:17

As Simon Peter stood warming himself, he was asked, "You are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it, saying, "I am not."

John 18:25

One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Again, Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

John 18:26-27

Peter witnessed Jesus heal people, bring people back to life, turn morsels into meals for thousands, pull nets full of fish in, calm a storm, walk on water, and perform all sorts of miracles. Peter knew Jesus was the Son of God. When Jesus was arrested, Peter went into battle mode; he cut off the ear of one of the soldiers. Jesus put the ear back and told Peter to put away his sword. He told Peter this was what his Father sent him for. Poor Peter, he had a rough night. He had even been scolded by Jesus once or twice at dinner. Jesus even said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan," because Peter was seeing things only from a human point of view and not God's.

When Jesus was taken into the temple for his burial interrogation, Peter was right outside. Peter had been told by Jesus, at dinner, that he would deny him three times. Peter was probably quite confused by Jesus' statement. But there he was in the temple court. When asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples, he said, "Jesus who?" That's not quite what he said. What he said was, "No." He said it three times. All eyes were on him. Peter probably thought the people would just snatch him up, too. Then the rooster crowed, just as Jesus told him it would after his third denial of knowing Jesus.

I am not Peter's defense attorney, but what I see is a friend filled with fear, not only losing a dear friend, but afraid for his own life. Again, Peter had acted human, not viewing the situation as God did, Peter was human. He still did not have a full comprehension of who Jesus really is; he knew the words but not the whole truth, not what was still to occur. Jesus looked into Peter's eyes, and Peter broke down and wept deeply. Peter knew what he had done.

Later Peter was reconciled by Jesus. Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him. Three times Peter said "Yes." Three times Peter was given a new mission to care for Jesus' people. You and I have also been reconciled to God, or Father, through the awesome sacrifice that Jesus made for us. Jesus gave us the great commission: see Matthew 28:16-20. Not only did he forgive Peter and us, but he also said, "Okay, move on. Go to work. You get it, now make more disciples." (paraphrase)

Today, I want to shout from the rooftops, "Yes, I am a disciple of Jesus, Jesus is my Savior. I believe. I know. I have faith. Can you hear me? I am a disciple of Jesus!" I don't know what I would have done in the time of Jesus' arrest. I wasn't there, but Peter was. Peter was also a disciple of Jesus, who, like me, had a period of doubt and fear. God restores us from doubt and fear to assurance in him. Go to him in study, prayer, and meditation. You will see. He will let you know who he really is.

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

### Honesty

A young woman was soaking in the sun's rays on a Florida beach when a little boy in his swimming trunks, carrying a towel, came up to her and asked her, "Do you believe in God?" She was surprised by the question but replied, "Why, yes, I do." Then he asked her, "Do you go to church every Sunday?" Again, her answer was "Yes!" Then he asked, "Do you read your Bible and pray every day?" Again she said "Yes!" But now her curiosity was very much aroused. At last the boy sighed and said with obvious relief, "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

### Relative Honesty

A school teacher was trying to impress her students with the importance of honesty. She asked her class, "Suppose you found a briefcase with a half Million dollars in it. What would you do?" Johnny raised his hand and immediately replied, "If it belonged to a poor family, I'd return it."

Honesty is still the best policy, but nowadays there are less policyholders than there used to be.

*Tom Fennell*

### Ladies Ornament Exchange

Sunday, December 18, 2011  
1:30 p.m.

At the home of Bonnie Seaman  
206 Brightwater Drive  
Palm Bay, FL 32909

Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange  
and RSVP to Bonnie at 321-768-9724

## Children's Ministry Announcements

12/18 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 Sun.)  
\* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

12/21 Wednesday, 6:30 PM - (Pizza served from 5:30-6:15 p.m.) All children age 3 yrs.-5th grade go to the CW room. Our theme this month is Jesus of Nazareth.

12/25 Christmas Praise Service 10:00 AM  
No Bible Classes. Everyone will meet in Auditorium. Nursery will available. No Preschool or Elementary Children's Worship.

12/11/2011

CW Contribution \$38  
(All CW contributions go to Called & Compelled Honduras Missions)

### Attendance:

Sunday School (Cradle roll-5th grade)	38
Preschool Children's Worship	10
Elementary Children's Worship (4th Sun.)	27
Nursery	9

### Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Dec. 18, 2011

**Pre-Sch. Worship:** Pam Mason/Katie Stapor/Callie Heuser

**Nursery:** Sophye Wimpee/Cheri Tate

Dec. 25, 2011

**Pre-Sch. Worship:** Mary Tomlinson/Keirsten Hoffman/Laurel

**Nursery:** Angie Brown

### Food Pantry

**Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27**



*This past week, 118 visitors (368 total in families) were provided with food through our food pantry!*

With the holiday season approaching, extra donations of non-perishable items, *especially CANNED MEATS or VEGETABLES, are needed at this time. Money donations are also welcome and appreciated.* (there is a basket and a collection box near the pillar on south side of foyer for your donations) Thank you to our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way!

*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

Order of Worship  
 December 18, 2011

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)  
 2nd Sun. TORCH Fundraiser Pancake

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Class 10:30 a.m. in the church office; lunch out on 1st Tues.  
 Men's Prayer Meeting (1st Tues.) 7 p.m. in the church office

Wednesday

Pizza 5:30 p.m.; classes 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 12/11/11

Attendance

6th Grade-Adult Bible Classes: 124  
 Children's Bible Classes: 38  
**Total Bible Classes: 162**  
 Auditorium Worship  
 Children's Worship/Nursery: 46  
**Total Worship Count:**

Budget Items

Weekly Budget 7/1/11-6/30/12 \$ 9,784  
 Contribution to Budget: \$ 9,827  
 Contribution to Special Items: \$ 861  
 YTD Over/Short: (\$12,080)

Song Leader

Tyrone Carter

*We Shall Assemble*

718

Welcome & Announcements

Pat Seamon

**Song Medley:**

*Overhead Sides*

*O Come Let Us Adore Him*

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

Shepherd's Prayer

Don Hall

*Before The Throne Of God Above*

*Overhead Slides*

Lord's Supper / Offering

Jack Hayhurst

*Can You Count The Stars*

992

*The Love Of God*

122

Scripture Reading *Matthew 6:25-34*

Larry Frazier

Living Without Worry Sickness

Steve Puckett

*Bring Christ Your Broken Life*

911

Closing Prayer

Jessie Hewett

*I'm Gonna View That Holy City*

970

Worship Coordinators

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

Servers: Alex Heuser (RS)  
 (Dec.) Manny Thomas (RM)  
 Chip Carothers (C)  
 Eulice Curington (LM)  
 Alex Zima (LS)

Ushers: Dale Knowles (RS)  
 (Dec.) Jorge Lara (RM)  
 Cletis Diehl (C)  
 Ken Jones (LM)  
 Glen Wirsch (LS)

Shepherd's Prayer (Dec.): Don Hall

Serving Next Sunday, Dec. 25

Song Leader: Josh McGough  
 Announcements: Pat Seamon  
 Presiding: Don Hall  
 Reading: Dave Stover  
 Message: Calvin Potts  
 Closing Prayer: David Bradley  
 A/V Tech: Ray Green

+ No service at Life Care of Melbourne today