



# Melbourne

Church of Christ

*Where You Are Part of God's Family*

**December 4, 2011**

### **A Dull Blade or a Sharp Sword**

*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)*

I stumbled across this prayer this week and believe it is an appropriate prayer to invite the power of the Word of God to move and be effective in your life. "Lord, I know that your Word has the power to defeat every adversary in my life. As I take it into my heart and get it deep into my soul, I know it will empower me to speak your Word with mighty strength and authority. Forgive me for the times I have just skimmed over your Word rather than planting it deep in my heart. I realize that the answers I seek are in your Word and that your Word, when spoken from my mouth, releases authority against the devices the devil tries to use against me. So today, Lord, I make the decision to plant your Word deep in my spirit and then I ask you to use your Spirit to release its power in my life. I pray this in Jesus' name."

I grew up on a farm and a sharp knife was an absolutely necessary tool with many uses. My dad taught me how to use a knife for everything from minor surgical procedures on animals to digging painful splinters out of my fingers. On a very regular basis, I watched him take a small can of machine oil and a whet rock (a small stone for sharpening a knife) and sharpen his knife. He explained to me that a dull knife could turn a simple procedure into a disaster. (And I learned one day just how sharp he kept his knife when I decided to test it by pushing my finger across the blade—bad idea!)

Imagine how sharp ancient swords were that were used for battle for defensive and offensive purposes. These swords could save a life or take a life depending on the skill of the person using the sword.

This understanding brings to life a bit the illustration that the Hebrew writer shares in Hebrews 4:12. As powerful and potentially deadly as a sword of battle is, the word of God is far more powerful. The word of God does not cut or invade the physical body, but the spirit or the heart of the one who reads and listens to it.

However, just as a soldier or a farmer might let his sword or knife become dull, it is possible for you to dull the word of God. How does this happen? At least two answers - your heart is hard toward what the word says and your mind is closed to its wisdom. Also, when you fail to read and meditate on the word, its power is lost to your life.

Take to heart the words of Jesus in John 12:47 and be a lover of the word and not a "duller" of the word. "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. <sup>48</sup> There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

—Steve Puckett



*As a shepherd leads his flock, the Lord has led us here.  
God has tender words for us. Welcome into his loving presence!*



### Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

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

- 12/4 Worship at Indian River, 2 p.m. with Melbourne Ensemble
- 12/4 All-church holiday potluck fellowship, 5:30 p.m.
- 12/6 Ladies Bible class/lunch out, 10:30 a.m. in the church office
- 12/6 Men's 1st Tues. prayer meeting, 7 p.m. in the church office
- 12/7 Dinner served 5:30-6:15 p.m.; classes (DVD for adults in auditorium) 6:30 p.m.
- 12/9 Young At Heart Christmas party, 6 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board
- 12/11 TORCH fundraiser breakfast extravaganza, 8:30 a.m.
- 12/11 Worship at Consulate, 2 p.m. with Melbourne Ensemble
- 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 today
- 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



## Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

### It's Like an Ice Cream-Eating Contest

*For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. Matthew 16:27*

Can you imagine Jesus is going to come with angels in our Father's glory to reward each of us for what we have done? It seems like a double reward. We have been saved by Jesus, and now he is going to reward us again for being obedient to his commands. It is almost like an ice cream-eating contest. I was thinking, *What if I were in an ice cream-eating contest?* What if it were sponsored by Ben and Jerry's or Häagen Dazs? The sponsor gives you gallons of ice cream to eat, your favorites. Whoever eats the most in a set amount of time wins a reward. You know what I am thinking? Isn't the ice cream reward enough? Well I haven't had this offer yet, but you can be sure my spoon is ready just in case.

Jesus is coming to reward those people who have followed God's commands and followed the amazing example of Jesus. We will be rewarded according to our service to man and God. God will carry my burdens if I bring them to him. I can bring everything to God, and he will lighten my load. God listens and answers all of my prayers. God tells us to serve others and make disciples. Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, help those in need, and many other acts of service. God tells us to be his hands, feet, mouth, and heart here on Earth. After all he has done for me, I am so grateful that this is what I want to do. This passage says he will reward us according to what we have done. Isn't that kind of like winning

an ice cream-eating contest?

Just in my own church, I know people that have been serving God and his people for decades, and they are looking at some pretty big rewards for their work. I couldn't list them all without forgetting someone important. Their hearts are bigger than Texas; they just keep doing, without looking for accolades, trophies, pats on the back, or any sort of reward. They serve because it needs to be done. They love God with all their hearts and souls. They love others more than they love themselves, and because God has laid this work on their hearts, they answer the call with joy and service in their hearts. They are not looking for a reward, but God is going to give them one. I watch them and do my best to do more, not for rewards, but because they make it look like an ice cream-eating contest. So grab your spoon and dig in. The fields are plenty, and the ice cream is flowing. Oh yeah, there are rewards at the end, and they are from God. I can't imagine how much better it can get. It just seems like serving my loving father after all he has done for me would be reward enough.

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

### Good Advice

There is a great line in one of Charles Schultz' Peanuts cartoons. It is raining "cats and dogs" outside the window when Lucy asks the most profound question of the day. "Boy, look at it rain. What if it floods the whole world?" Fully up to the occasion as usual, Linus, the resident theologian, answers that a worldwide flood is impossible since Genesis 9 promises that God will never again flood the earth. Obviously relieved, Lucy sighs, "You've taken a great load off my mind...." Linus' final summation: "Sound theology has a way of doing that!"

Amen, Linus!

### Some Real Church Bulletin Bloopers

- + The fasting and prayer conference includes meals.
- + The sermon this morning: "Jesus walks on water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- + Low self-esteem support group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.
- + Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

### Gossip Confusion

The things that go in one ear and out the other don't hurt as much as the things that go in one ear, get all mixed up, and then slip out the mouth.

*Tom Fennell*

### Ladies Ornament Exchange

*Sunday, December 18, 2011*

*1:30 p.m.*

*At the home of Bonnie Seamon*

*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

12/4 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 go directly to children's worship after Bible classes. Our virtue this month is Generosity.

\* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

12/7 Wednesday, 6:30 PM - (Dinner 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.

11/27/2011

CW Contribution \$0  
(All CW contributions go to Called + Compelled Honduras Missions)

Attendance:

Sunday School (Cradle roll-5th grade)	36
Preschool Children's Worship	10
Elementary Children's Worship (4th Sun.)	In auditorium
Nursery	8

### Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

Dec. 4, 2011

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

Nursery: Wanda Curington/Pam Mason

Dec. 11, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Bonita Potts/Juliette Adams/Callie Heuser

Nursery: Stacy Green/Melissa Webber

## Food Pantry



*Food Pantry will be closed on 12/27*

*This past week, 95 visitors (316 total in families) were provided with food through our food pantry!*

Your donations of non-perishable items -- pasta, canned meats, vegetables, cereals, juice, etc. -- are always appreciated! Money donations are also welcome and appreciated. (there is a basket for food donations, and a money collection box near the pillar on south side of foyer) 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

**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 Breakfast 12/11 8:30 a.m.

**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**

Dinner 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 11/27/11**

**Attendance**

6th Grade-Adult Bible Classes:	na
Children's Bible Classes:	36
<b>Total Bible Classes:</b>	
Auditorium Worship	242
Children's Worship/Nursery:	18
(4th Sun.-no elem. cw)	
<b>Total Worship Count:</b>	<b>260</b>

**Budget Items**

Weekly Budget 7/1/11-6/30/12	\$ 9,784
Contribution to Budget:	\$ 6,826
Contribution to Special Items:	\$ 927
YTD Over/Short:	(\$13,898)

**Worship Service  
 December 4, 2011**

Worship Song Leader	Josh McGough
<i>How Great Is Our God</i>	<i>Overhead Slides</i>
Announcements	Calvin Potts
<i>Shout to the North</i>	<i>Overhead Slides</i>
<i>Light the Fire</i>	<i>Slides</i>
Shepherd's Prayer	Don Hall
<i>Lamb of God</i>	176
Lord's Supper	Rob Ellison
Offering	Rob Ellison
<i>More Precious than Silver</i>	273
<i>Lord, Reign in Me</i>	<i>Overhead Slides</i>
Reading <i>Hebrews 4:12</i>	Tom Barker
Sermon "Dull Blade or Sharp Sword"	Steve Puckett
<i>Turn My Heart</i>	803
Closing Prayer	Calvin Potts
<i>Shine, Jesus, Shine</i>	290

- + A/V Tech: Christa Pierce
- + Service at Life Care of Melbourne, 2 p.m.: David Bradley
- + Service at Indian River, 2 p.m.: Melbourne Ensemble

**Worship Coordinators**

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diehl

**Servers:** Alex Heuser (RS)  
 (Dec.) \_\_\_\_\_ (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. 11**

Song Leader: Walter Pierce  
 Announcements: Pat Seamon  
 Presiding: Walter Pierce  
 Reading: Ron Whelpley  
 Message: Steve Puckett  
 Closing Prayer: Jessie Hewett  
 A/V Tech: Rich Mason

- + Service at Life Care of Melb., 2 p.m.: Donny Canup
- + Service at Consulate, 2 p.m.: Melbourne Ensemble