

Serving This Week:

Sunday Morning

Announcements: Howell Todd
Song Leader: Kyle Richardson
Opening Prayer: Ken Grandstaff
Lord's Supper
Presiding: Kyle Richardson
Serving: Eric Horne
Ken Grandstaff
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Dan Smith

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Preaching: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer: Kyle Richardson
Devotional: Howell Todd
Closing Prayer: Brian Horner

Serving Next Sunday:

Lord's Supper: Brian Horner
Preaching: Brian Horner
Opening Prayer: Dan Smith
Closing Prayer: Ken Grandstaff

To all our visitors - Welcome!
We hope you will come back
and worship with us soon!

TEAM MEETINGS

Correspondence - Sunday evenings
after worship see Kyle Richardson.

Visitation/Bible Study - For
assignments see Brian Horner.

Member Care - Regarding Member
needs contact Kyle Richardson.

Flower Request - Please call Lynda
Ann Sparkman: 444.0938(h) 587.8187(c)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel Meeting:

Thanks so much for all your
efforts! Continue to pray for
those who expressed interest in
studying God's Word!

***"Blessed be the name of the
LORD from this time forth
and forevermore! From the
rising of the sun to its
setting, the name of the
LORD is to be praised!"***

Psalm 113:2-3

God's Plan of Salvation

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe in Jesus
(John 8:24)

Repent of your sins
(Luke 13:3)

Confess faith in Christ
(Rom 10:10)

Be Baptized for forgiveness of sins
(Acts 2:38)

Live **Faithfully**
(1 Cor. 15:58)

Bethel church of Christ

2427 Sparta Pike, Lebanon TN 37090

<http://www.bethelcoc.net>

September 23, 2012

Sunday Bible Study: 10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 AM

Sunday Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wed Bible Study: 7 PM

Are You Provoking Anyone?

Some provoking is good, some is not. Fathers are not to provoke their children to anger (**Eph. 6:4**). but Christians are to *"consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works"* (**Heb 10:24**). Instead of "provoke," the New American Standard uses the term "stimulate." The English Standard Version says to "stir up." We get the idea. This kind of provoking, stimulating, and stirring up is good.

Stir people up to love. God is love. Show people God's love and they will be stimulated. They will be enriched and motivated. They, too, will be inclined to share their love with others. Stimulate people with your love. *"Let brotherly love continue"* (**Heb. 13:1**).

Stir people up to good works. Christians were *"created in Christ Jesus for good works"* (**Eph. 2:10**). Your example of good works inspires other to engage in the same. God works are contagious. They bless. But how do we stir up people to love and good works? Three ways:

By our presence in the assembly. *"Not neglecting to meet together"* (**Heb 10:25**). Our regular worship attendance is a good work. God has called us together on the first day of every week *"to break bread"* (**Acts 20:7**). Our presence means much to god. Your very presence in the assembly charges the souls of others. Your presence is powerful.

By our participation in worship. We *"meet together"* (**Heb. 10:25**) to worship, not just to meet together. Seeing someone sitting like a lump on a log in worship is not very stimulating. It does little to stir the spirits of fellow saints. But to hear a child of God enthusiastically sing praises to their Maker, brethren communing together in the Lord's Supper as one body, observing the hunger of brethren for God's nourishing Word, engaging in the joint fellowship of giving, and collectively calling out to our Creator through prayer is invigorating. Love grows to another level each Lord's Day. Participation is precious. It stirs! It edifies! It builds up!

By our personal encouragement of others. In the assembly there is a

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mutual "encouraging one another" that should occur (**Heb. 10:25**). Don't ever underestimate that handshake or hug. Don't minimize the "Good to see you" greeting. Don't discount the inquiry, "How are things going?" Your smile can soothe a troubled soul. Your genuine interest can make a huge difference. But your personal encouragement is possible only if you are present. You can't personally encourage if you practice "the habit of some" and "neglect" the assembly.

Are you provoking anyone?

James Cudd, Hinton, TX

Faith Builders

Not long ago I was asked, "How do you build your faith?" I think the queries was really asking, "How do I learn to have more faith in my God?" Let's take a close look at God's word and see if we can figure this one out together. Get out your Bible.

We know that "faith come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (**Rom 10:17**). In **John 8:31-32**, Jesus said, "If you continue in My word, then you are My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Consider Paul's words in **Romans 12:2**: "...and don't' be conformed to this world, but you be transformed by the renewing of your mind." It looks to me like any person who wants to build his/her faith is going to have to work at it. It's not wise to read an instruction manual on how to operate a milking machine if you're wanting to learn to fly an airplane AND it's ridiculous to assume that you can turn a wordly, humanistic teaching to learn how to run your life. Only in God's Word do we see how He wants His children to live, love and walk on this earth!

The Bible works! But you have to read it, study it, ingest it, make it a part of you. That's what it means to "renew your mind" (**Rom 12:2**).

Something else to consider. After you've learned it and internalized it. God expects you to display your knowledge with action! "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (**James 1:23**). "Therefore to him that knows to do good, and does it not, to him it is sin!" (**James 4:17**).

So if you want to be Christ-like, you must become a humble servant (read **Phil 2:5-9**).

Mike Suiter, Tipton OK

Thoughts in Springtime

I think God kissed the violets
that bloom beneath my sill;
He kissed the primmest hyacinth,
the goldest daffodil.

He kissed the waxen crocus
and in each petal fold;
He left such springtime freshness
as never can be told.

Just yesterday their heads drooped
from too much April rain;
today they stretch up proudly,
trying to reach the pane.

I kneel to hold them in my arms,
touching them tenderly;
my face pressed gently in their midst,
they pass His kiss to me.

*Madalyn Maloney
Whites Creek, TN*

"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ."

Philemon 1:4-6

Remember in Prayer

Shut Ins:

Vallie Andrews
Fannie Bell Warren
Janelle Arrington

Others:

Hollis Cluck
Vickie Wade - cancer
Muril Todd
Karen Hudson - cancer
Christy Garrett
The Bryan Family
Annie and JW Smith
Margie Taylor
Priscilla and Patrick Graves
Jessica Richardson
Dan Smith
Diane Grandstaff and family
William Wells - *inoperable condition*
Joe Allen
Linda Kay Edwards - *surgery recovery*
Dylan Speck - *kidney problems*
Haily Speck - *melanoma*
Edna Forbes
Janice Garrett
Carol Goins - *Mary L.'s sister*
Lila Kirk

Please call to inform us of News items or Prayer Requests: Kyle Richardson (495-7106) Dorothy Jean Smith (444-5437)

Daily Bible Reading

Day	Scripture
Sunday (<i>Epistles</i>)	Philemon
Monday (<i>The Law</i>)	Numbers 21-24
Tuesday (<i>History</i>)	2 Chronicles 1-5
Wednesday (<i>Psalms</i>)	Psalms 111-113
Thursday (<i>Poetry</i>)	Proverbs 25
Friday (<i>Prophecy</i>)	Amos 5-9
Saturday (<i>Gospels</i>)	John 19-21

September Birthdays:

18 - Sophia Hudson