

# Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

*We are dedicated to seeking the lost while edifying each other in order that we may all enter the eternal home promised for the faithful.*

Volume 49, Number 47 - November 26, 2017



## Be Sincere...and Kind

In ancient Rome, sculpting was a popular profession. The market was flooded with sculptors, so quality was sometimes lacking. Less qualified and dishonest craftsmen would cover their errors with wax, and frequently the customer could not see the flaws. To compensate for this practice, authentic sculptors would mark their statues with the words *sine cera*, from two Latin words: *sine* (without) and *cera* (wax). Today, we frequently use the word to close letters: “sincerely.”

As Christians we are to live authentic lives. We are the clay jar (Isaiah 64:8). The jar is flawed but does not want anyone to see the defects. Jesus cleanses us and transforms us into honorable jars (II Timothy 2:20-21). Jesus died on the cross for us (II Corinthians 5:21) to take away those defects/sins.

Many churches have become showcases for saints rather than hospitals for sinners. Let's live without wax. We have no reason to wax ourselves to impress others. We need to seek to “do nothing for selfish ambition or conceit” (Philippians 2:3) and love each other with a “sincere brotherly love” (I Peter 1:22). We are to live to serve and bring honor to Jesus. We need to be real so the love of Jesus can be seen clearly in each of us.

It is time we started giving God and others a life that is *sine cera*.

### **Elders:**

Pat Barclay  
 Jim Galloway  
 Brian Haught  
 Paul Inman  
 Stan Inman  
 John Life  
 Ron Riddle  
 Paul Saunders  
 Dwain Shears  
 Dearll Vincent

### **Deacons:**

Delmas Carr  
 Kevin Cochran  
 Marion Goldsmith  
 Steve Gray  
 Leonard Haid  
 Doug Hershman  
 Jon Hescht  
 Bill Hoover  
 Rob Hoover  
 Kevin Inman  
 Kyle Inman  
 Scott Johnson  
 Todd Kirk  
 Keith Smith  
 Jeff Taberner

### **Ministers:**

Dana Slingluff  
 304.483.3546

Mark Tonkery  
 740.350.5713

### **Camden Avenue Church of Christ**

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 26101

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Feeling thankful  
 and not expressing  
 it is like wrapping a  
 present and not  
 giving it.



### **Our church family in need of prayers.**

Sharon Armstrong, Pat and Kim Barclay, Harvey and Mary Caplinger,  
 Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Sheila Deems, June Freels,  
 Marion Goldsmith, Dustin Hughes, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Todd Kirk,  
 Jo Langler, Bill Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Heather Osburn, Gene and Peggy Phillips,  
 Betty Porter, Jane Pralley, Van and Nancy Putnam, Ray Sams, Bob Smith,  
 Theresa Steed, Dorothy Weaver, Tammie Wilson

### **Prayers requested for family and friends**

Patty Alton, Luann Ayers (Shelley Todd's cousin), Leo Blair (Robin Anthony's  
 brother), Gert Barnes, Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Melissa Burgess (Friend of Robin  
 Anthony), Elijah Clark, Alan Eaton (Lois Nulter's son), Casey Freeman (Friend of  
 Brenda Dougherty), Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), To-  
 ny Haid (Len's son), Jean Huber (Clayton's mother), John Knotts (Billie Coe's  
 co-worker), Barbara Richards (Jean Martin's sister), Ron Richards (Courtney  
 Richards' father-in-law), Helen Ruble, Susie Smith (Kay Stanley's cousin),  
 Rick Travis (Jerry Todd's cousin), Angel White (Eloise Smith's niece), Wilma White  
 (Kay Stanley's aunt), Donna Vincent (Dearll Vincent's sister-in-law), Merl White  
 (Terry Hofmann's father), Susan Williams (Friend of Don and Brenda Dougherty),  
 Linda Wires (Sister of Susan Haid and Richard Marshall)

### **Eli Clark**

499 Montgomery Hill Road, Walker, WV 26180

Please keep Eli and family in your prayers and remember him with cards.

### **HealthSouth - Richard Cozad**

♥ What a blessing and comfort to have so many prayers, cards and calls of  
 concern shown to us the last couple of months. Prayers were especially  
 appreciated! A special thank you to the Rake and Run group who worked so  
 hard that cold afternoon to help us out. Realize that when life gets us down  
 it's our Christian family that lifts us up.  
 Thank you all and love, **Marion and Jo**

Thank you to **Julie Moser** for preparing the communion bread this month.

### **Daily Reading - Bible classes**

November 27 - Judges 3:1-11  
 November 28 - Judges 3:12-30  
 November 30 - Judges 1:1-8, 16-21  
 December 1 - Judges 1:22-36, 2:1-5  
 December 2 - Judges 2:6-23

### **Daily Bible Reading**

November 26 - James 4, Ezekiel 24-26  
 November 27 - James 5, Ezekiel 27-28  
 November 28 - I Peter 1, Ezekiel 29-31  
 November 29 - I Peter 2, Ezekiel 32-33  
 November 30 - I Peter 3, Ezekiel 34-35  
 December 1 - I Peter 4, Ezekiel 36-37  
 December 2 - I Peter 5, Ezekiel 38-39  
 December 3 - 2 Peter 1, Ezekiel 40-41

# Church News and Announcements

## **DEACON'S MEETING**

Deacon's meeting today 5:00

## **POTTER CHILDREN'S HOME BANKS**

A representative from Potter Children's Home will be here to collect the banks. Please leave the banks in the office today.

## **SECURITY ALARM TRAINING MEETING**

Rob Hoover will hold a training meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00 here at the building to instruct on the church building alarm system.

## **LOVE AND CARE SING**

Everyone is welcome to the monthly sing at Love and Care tomorrow evening at 7:00.

## **BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS MEETING**

Mark would like meet next Sunday at 5:00PM in Room 109 with all teachers

## **COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES**

Items are still needed to make Care Packages for OVU college students and the students from here. The sign-up sheets are on the counter listing requested items. Items need to be left in the bin in the parking lot foyer by next Sunday. There is also a sheet for anyone willing to help assemble the packages next Sunday after evening services.

## **LADIES ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**

Ladies of all ages are invited to the 2nd annual Ornament Exchange Thursday, December 7 at 6:30PM in the MP Room. Bring a wrapped ornament and snack to share. If you have any questions, see Laura Tonkery

## **LADIES' HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

All ladies are invited to the Ladies' Holiday luncheon at the Parkersburg Country Club Tuesday, December 19. The menu information, prices and other details are with the sign-up sheet. The deadline to sign-up is Wednesday, December 6. Checks need to be made payable to Gala Miller and given to her by December 6. There is a \$5 optional gift exchange.

## **GOLDEN AGERS HOLIDAY LUNCH**

The Golden Agers Holiday annual holiday lunch will be Tuesday, December 12 at North Bend State Park. We will leave the building at 11:15 and have lunch at noonish. The buffet will include baked steak and turkey. The sign-up sheet is on the counter. The cost will be \$20 each. See Dwain for details.



# DANA'S DIRECTION

## “Unusual things for which to be thankful”

I hope everyone has been enjoying a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We all have so much to be thankful for. I want you all to know how thankful I am for the opportunity that I have been given to work with the congregation here at Camden Avenue. I love you all with the love of the Lord. I pray everyday for our leaders and that God will use this church to do His will.

A few years ago, about this time, I ran the following article in our bulletin. I received so many comments about it that I decided to run it again. I'm thankful for the fact that during the time I am usually working on my article for the bulletin, I can now spend with my granddaughters who are ready to “have some Poppy time.” ~Dana

### “SOME UNUSUAL THINGS FOR WHICH TO BE THANKFUL”

- **Be thankful** you don't already have everything you desire. If you did what would there be to look forward to?
- **Be thankful** when you don't know - it gives the opportunity to learn.
- **Be thankful** for difficult times - during those times you grow.
- **Be thankful** for limitations - they give opportunities for improvement.
- **Be thankful** for a new challenge - it will build strength and character.
- **Be thankful** for your mistakes - they teach valuable lessons.
- **Be thankful** when you are weary - it means you've made a difference.
- **Be thankful** for the mess after a party - it means you have friends.
- **Be thankful** for the taxes you pay - it means you are employed.
- **Be thankful** for the clothes that fit a little snug - it means you have plenty to eat.
- **Be thankful** for the lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing - it means you have a house.
- **Be thankful** for the spot you find at the end of the parking lot - it means that you can walk.
- **Be thankful** for all the complaining you hear about our government - it means we have freedom of speech.
- **Be thankful** for the huge heating bill - it means you are warm.
- **Be thankful** for the lady behind you in church who sings off key - it means you can hear.
- **Be thankful** for the piles of laundry and ironing- it means your loved ones are nearby.
- **Be thankful** for the alarm that goes off early in the morning - it means you are alive.
- **Be thankful** for weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day - it means you have been productive.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks. “In everything give thanks.”

# The Attitude of Gratitude

Luke 17:11-19

“And \_\_\_\_\_ of them, when he saw he was healed, \_\_\_\_\_, and with a loud voice glorified \_\_\_\_\_, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him \_\_\_\_\_.” (Luke 17:15-16)

**Ingratitude** - the source of all \_\_\_\_\_. “Although they \_\_\_\_\_ God, they did not \_\_\_\_\_ Him as God, nor were they \_\_\_\_\_.” (Romans 1:21)  
The greatest ingratitude of all is \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.

## Three Keys of Gratitude

**#1) To show gratitude** - We must be \_\_\_\_\_. Our vast blessings are by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**#2) To be grateful** - we must \_\_\_\_\_ gratitude. Thankfulness does not become \_\_\_\_\_ until it is \_\_\_\_\_. The Samaritan \_\_\_\_\_ God with a loud voice and fell down on his face at His feet giving Him \_\_\_\_\_.” (Luke 17:15-16)

**Worship is \_\_\_\_\_ God.** “Enter into His gates with \_\_\_\_\_, and into His courts with \_\_\_\_\_. Be \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, and \_\_\_\_\_ His name. (Psalm 100:4) “Therefore by Him let us \_\_\_\_\_ offer Him the \_\_\_\_\_ of praise to God, that is, the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lips, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to His name.” (Hebrews 13:15) **Gratitude is expressing \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**Gratitude toward God - Results in gratitude toward \_\_\_\_\_.** “In \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks, for this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” (I Thessalonians 5:18)

**#3) To truly express our gratitude** - we must live \_\_\_\_\_. The most flagrant sign of ingratitude is \_\_\_\_\_. “Neither \_\_\_\_\_ as some of them complained and were \_\_\_\_\_.” (I Corinthians 10:10)

**Gratitude leads to \_\_\_\_\_.** “Let your conduct be without \_\_\_\_\_; be \_\_\_\_\_ with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, ‘I will never \_\_\_\_\_ you or \_\_\_\_\_ you,’ so we may boldly say; the Lord is my \_\_\_\_\_, I will not fear.” (Hebrews 13:5-6) **Grateful Christian will live a gracious \_\_\_\_\_.** A grateful Christian is a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian. **When you see all the gifts - look to the \_\_\_\_\_.** “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ all of His \_\_\_\_\_.” (Psalm 103:2) “Surely the \_\_\_\_\_ shall give \_\_\_\_\_ unto Your name.” (Psalm 140:13)

Mark will be preaching this evening. Title: Ehud the Left-handed Judge  
Scripture: Judges 3:15-17



# Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

## I appreciate elders who...

Elders who oversee the local congregation are an essential part of the organization of the local church. They are on the front lines of leading the local congregation and I appreciate them so much.

I appreciate elders who visit the sick. Jas. 5:14, states, “Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church...” One of the responsibilities of an elder is to pray and be concerned for the sick. One elder I knew not only visited members in the hospitals, but would get one’s prescription, and run errands for members who were recuperating at home. This is an elder who knows how to take care of the sick.

I appreciate elders who lookout for their members. In Act 20:28, the Apostle Paul states, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” Elders are charged with caring for the flock. One elder I was acquainted with found out that one of the single moms in the congregation child needed a very serious surgery. She needed to be in the hospital with her son and she needed to be at work. Her husband had left her and had no use for the child or her and she had not worked at the fast food restaurant long enough to get any time off. She was going to lose her job if she went to the hospital, but her son needed her. She was in quite the dilemma. One of the elders heard about her plight. He talked it over with this lady and then went to her manager. The manager would not work with the lady she was either to be at work or be fired. So, the elder, who was also a CEO of a company, asked if he could work the church member’s shift while she went to the hospital. The manager said, “yes” but the elder would need trained. The elder was trained and worked for the church member for the next few weeks. He also gave the money he earned to this young mother. That is an elder who looks out for the members of the church.

I appreciate elders who are servants. Jesus said those who want to lead must be a servant (Mt. 20:25-28; Jn. 13:14-15). A servant is a person who has the go first attitude, as Jesus modeled in His life. Leaders do jobs that no one else is willing to do; like the one elder I was familiar with. One of the church members passed away and this elder went to visit the spouse. As often the case, family and friends had visited and left a pile of dishes in the sink. The elder made his visit and asked if there was anything he could do to help the man cope with the loss of his wife. The gentleman said there wasn’t anything he could do so the elder had a prayer and started to leave. As the elder started to leave he noticed the dishes, and without thinking about it he went over and began to wash dishes. That is an elder that is a servant.

I appreciate elders who check in with their members. 1 Pe. 5:2, states, “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly...” The Lord has instructed the elders to shepherd the congregation, this means to care for and look after the congregation. One elder I knew would call each member every month to “check in” with them. He called them regardless if they missed Sunday worship or not. This was his way of shepherding the flock, he wanted them to know that he truly cared for the congregation and to help each member with any need they may have had. That is an elder who knows how to shepherd the flock.

I could share other examples such as the elders who every Friday would go with their preacher to have Bible study and visit the local nursing home. The elders who would go to their members’ weddings, funerals, and sporting events. The elders who teach the gospel, counsel their members, and lead by example in every area of their life. I appreciate elders because this is God’s plan (I Timothy 3:1-7/Titus 1:5-9). Not only is this God’s plan, but elders like this will help lead a congregation to Heaven. Think about it! Mark T. Tonkery

# THANK YOU!

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the Widow/Widowers/Veterans dinner. We had a large group of adults and our youth participated in this effort. I know all enjoyed the time together. It is a great time for our kids to work together. It is also very encouraging to see the large number of our kids give up their day off from school to serve others in the congregation.

*Todd Kirk*

## Youth Events

Transportation will leave today at 5:45 to join the traveling youth group at the Newport congregation. Let Jeff know if you plan to go.

### Youth Holiday Breakfast

The Youth Holiday Breakfast will be Saturday, December 16 at 9:00AM in the MP Room. Details are with the sign-up sheet.

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## A Prayer For Our Elders

Our Father let me be a pillar of strength to our elders, not a thorn in the flesh to sap their strength, nor a burden on their back to pull them down.

Let me support them without striving to possess them. Let me lift their hands without placing shackles upon them. Let me give them aid that they may devote time to saving others and less time to gratifying my vanity.

Let me see them as shepherds of the whole flock, not compel them to spend precious time bragging on me. Let me be unselfish in what I do for them, not selfish in demanding that they do more for me. Let me serve church more, happy that they serve me less.

Let me receive not an accusation against them except at the mouth of two or three witnesses. Help me to be merciful in judgment upon them—for I have never walked in their shoes. Help me, Lord, to be a Christian at all times that their work may be easier and my own soul may be brought close to Thee. In the name of Christ Jesus our Lord in this petition offered unto Thee. Amen.

## Opportunities To Serve

Sunday, December 3

ELDER IN CHARGE - Stan Inman

DEACON IN CHARGE - Len Haid

### SONG LEADERS

AM - Jon Hescht

PM - Ryan Highman

### PRAYER

9:30 AM - Paul Saunders

Close - Mark Tonkey

6:00 PM - Gary Herridge

Close - Chris Mullins

### SCRIPTURE

AM - Steve Gray

PM - Bob Miller

### COMMUNION

AM - John Life

PM - Brian Haught

Russ Alton

PA SYSTEM - Clayton Huber

### DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Ron Riddle

2 - Donovan Walton

4 - Peggy Ridde

### PM

1. Jon & Brandi Hescht

2. Robin Anthony & Sherry Wilcox

3. Mike & Pam Bayer

4. John & Linda Hall

5. Mark & Laura Tonkery

6. Jim & Charlotte Galloway

## Facts and Figures

November 19, 2017

AM Service.....302

Bible Study.....203

PM Service.....212

Wednesday.....NA

Contribution .....\$7366.00

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017

Baptisms.....1

Restored or Requested

Prayers.....3

Placed Membership.....2

## Services Times

### Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study.....11:00

PM Worship.....6:00

### Wednesday

Bible Study....11:00AM & 7:00PM



## Help Us Remember

Heavenly Father,

Help us remember that the inconsiderate person who cut us off in traffic is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for the next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Author Unknown

In this hustle and bustle time of year, pause and be kind to everyone.

Watch

### **"IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY"**

each Sunday morning at 7:30 on WTAP, Dish Channel 239, Sunday 7:00AM, DIRECT TV Channel 307 Sunday 7:00AM, Local cable Channel 4 Sunday 6:30AM, GBN Sunday 7:00PM, Monday 2:00PM, Thursday 5:00PM.