

# 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 50, Number 06 - February 11, 2018



## *The Spring Will Come*

In the dead of winter, a young man was told by his father to fetch some firewood. When he got to the wood box outside, he found it empty. Not wanting to disappoint his father, he went looking about their farmstead and found a tree that looked quite dead and he sawed it down and chopped it up.

In the spring, to his dismay, he found new shoots had sprouted from the trunk of the tree that he had cut down. He confessed to his father, "I thought sure it was dead; the leaves had dropped, the twigs snapped, it seemed as if there was no life there."

The father, wanting the boy to learn a lesson, told his son, "Never cut down a tree in the wintertime. It may look dead, but there may still life at the taproot. There are many things in life that may seem dead or hopeless, but still has life in it. Don't give up on it. Never make a negative decision in a low time. Wait. Be patient. The spring will come and reveal all."

**Elders:**

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

**Deacons:**

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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Prayer washes  
from the soul the  
dirt of everyday  
life.



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

Sharon Armstrong, Colleen Ash, Pat and Kim Barclay, Harvey Caplinger Sr, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Charlene Donahue, Jim Henry, Phyllis Johnson, Nancy Kimes, Todd Kirk, Bill Lemley, Linda Moncrief, Debby Nesselroad, Jane Pralley, Van and Nancy Putnam, Bob Smith, Eloise Smith, Tammie Wilson

**Prayers requested for family and friends**

Patty Alton, Gert Barnes, Bob Boyce, Kelly Boyce, Travis and Alisha Doyle (Hardman's granddaughter), Casey Freeman (Friend of Brenda Dougherty), Paula Garner (Julie Moser's mother), Malissa Hackathorn (Jerry and Shelly Todd's friend), Jean Huber (Clayton's mother), Judy Hughes (Melva Farris' sister), Ron Richards (Courtney Richards' father-in-law), Penny Spaur (Cotton and Patty Sayre's daughter), Anthony Thornabar (Phil Sturm's son-in-law), Angel White (Eloise Smith's niece), Debbie Westfall (Gene Phillip's daughter), Susan Williams (Brenda Dougherty's friend)

***Please inform the office of changes, updates and additions.  
Names will appear on the list for three weeks if no update is received.***

We extend our sympathy to the Merrill family in the passing of our sister Rose. Her service was Monday. Rose was a dear Christian lady.

Keep this family in your prayers.



Potter Children's Home thanked this congregation for our Gleaner Can campaign contribution. We contributed \$308.88.

- ♥ Thanks to all for the birthday cards and wishes. I enjoyed each of them. **Cotton Sayre**
- ♥ I appreciate all of the birthday cards. **Addie Miller**
- ♥ Thanks for the prayers and visits while I was in the hospital, also for the cards and food after I came home. I appreciated everything so much. In Christian love, **Eloise Smith**

**Belpre Landing**

Colleen Ash (Room 101)

**Address:**

1915 Hill Street  
Belpre, OH 45714



### **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

Care Group 2 invites everyone to the Fellowship Lunch today in the MP Room following worship and Bible study. Please bring covered dish items, desserts and beverages.

### **LADIES' LUNCHEON**

All ladies are invited to the Ladies' Valentine's Lunch in the MP Room tomorrow from Noon - 3:00. Bring your lunch and a Valentine card to exchange.

### **GUEST SPEAKER THIS WEDNESDAY EVENING**

Brother Ed Mosby will speak this Wednesday during our evening Bible study concerning mission work. The Middle school class and above will remain in the auditorium for this presentation.

### **CHURCH SECURITY SYSTEM**

The security system will be activated this Wednesday evening after Bible study. If you have any questions, see Rob Hoover or Jim Galloway.

### **GOLDEN AGERS SOUP BEAN DINNER- GAME NIGHT**

The Golden Agers annual Soup Bean Dinner - Game Night will be Friday, February 16 at 5:30PM in the MP Room. Sign-up sheets are on the counter for attendance count and food items.

### **MEN'S MEETING - LADIE'S MEETING**

Men's meeting and Ladies' meeting next Sunday at 5:00.

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

Our Red Cross Blood Drive will be Monday, February 19 in the MP Room 1:00-5:30. Sign-up sheet is on the counter. See Marion Goldsmith for more details.

### **SECRET SISTER REVEAL**

The Secret Sister reveal will be Tuesday, February 20 at 6:00PM. Bring snacks and desserts and something to help identify yourself to your sister. Any questions see Laura or Kimberlee.

### **MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The Men's Breakfast will be Saturday, February 24 at 8:30 in the MP Room. Sign-up sheet on the counter.

### **LADS TO LEADERS-LEADERETTES**

If you would like to make a monetary donation to help send students to the LLL convention, please see Todd Kirk or Bill Mills

Mark Tonkery has an article published in the Gospel Herald (February 2018 edition) entitled Let's Bury the Hatchet. Copies are in the foyers.

#### **Daily Bible Reading**

February 11 - Matthew 26:1-13, Exodus 38-39  
February 12 - Matthew 26:14-35, Exodus 40  
February 13 - Matthew 26:36-56, Leviticus 1-4  
February 14 - Matthew 26:57-75, Leviticus 5-6  
February 15 - Matthew 27:1-26, Leviticus 7-8  
February 16 - Matthew 27:27-56, Leviticus 9-10  
February 17 - Matthew 27:57-66, Leviticus 11-12  
February 18 - Matthews 28, Leviticus 13

Two things are hard on  
the heart...  
Running uphill and  
running people  
down!

Be an encourager!

#### **Bible Class Reading**

February 12 - 1 Samuel 18:1-3,6-11,15  
February 13 - 1 Samuel 19:1-2, 4, 6-7  
February 14 - 1 Samuel 20:1-4  
February 15 - 1 Samuel 20:11, 14-17  
February 16 - 1 Samuel 20:32-34, 41-42

# DANA'S DIRECTION

## The Difficulty Of Steadfastness

When Paul admonished the Corinthians to be “*steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,*” he gave a commandment not easy to obey. It is extremely difficult to continue on a path which, though exciting and thrilling at the onset, can become tedious and laborious as time passes on.

We are by nature a people who like change. We don't want to eat the same food every day, or wear the same clothes all the time, or even drive the same route to our jobs every day. We like variation. If a man's job calls upon him to sort nuts and bolts eight hours a day, five days a week, he gets tired of that monotonous routine.

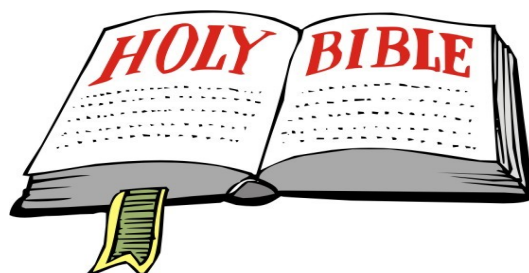
In view of this, it is not difficult to see why some would look upon Christianity as a “routine” which could become arduous in its nature. After all, we worship God continually; we thank him for our food at every meal; we observe the Lord's Supper in the same manner every week. Often the cry goes out for some kind of change. “Wake me up! Excite me! Thrill me! Do something to get me out of the sameness of this worship experience.”

This is where that great word “steadfastness” comes in. One of the definitions of the word, as given by Thayer's Greek lexicon, is “those who are fixed in purpose.” What a great thought! When we are fixed in purpose, what matters if we do the same thing every week? When the Lord instructed us to remember his death on the first day of the week, and we have “fixed that purpose” in our hearts, then it becomes a thrilling experience every time we do it. I pray that the circumstances of my life will never hinder me from remembering the Lord's death. The very thought of His having died for us is so precious that a weekly reminder is not overdoing it for the Christian.

When the Christian can fix his purpose on the idea that Christianity is a lifelong experience, and that he will truly offer his body as a living sacrifice unto God, then the matter of steadfastness will become his very life.

-Selected

IT WILL JUDGE US  
John 12:48



IT WILL ENDURE FOREVER  
I Peter 1:25

# Why Congregations Grow?

Sermon by Mark T. Tonkery  
Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:11-16



## The Problem:

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## The Biblical answer:

Ephesians 4:11-16, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we \_\_\_\_\_ attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to \_\_\_\_\_ manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be \_\_\_\_\_, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of \_\_\_\_\_, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, we are to \_\_\_\_\_ up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the \_\_\_\_\_ body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is \_\_\_\_\_, when each part is \_\_\_\_\_ properly, makes the body \_\_\_\_\_ so that it builds itself up in love."

## Notice how these verses instructs the church to \_\_\_\_\_:

- I. First, congregations grow when godly \_\_\_\_\_ equips the church (Ephesians 4:11-12).
  - A. 2 Timothy 2:2, "and what you have \_\_\_\_\_ from me in the presence of many witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ to faithful men, who will be \_\_\_\_\_ to teach others also."
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- II. Second, congregations grow when spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ are kept before them. (Ephesians 4:13-15).
  - A. We must keep the message \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_.  
We must grow in \_\_\_\_\_.  
We must grow in \_\_\_\_\_.  
We must grow in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Someone one has said, "If you \_\_\_\_\_ for nothing, you will \_\_\_\_\_ it every time."
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
  
- III. Third, congregations grown when \_\_\_\_\_ member \_\_\_\_\_ together (Ephesians 4:16).
  - A. Do we just " \_\_\_\_\_?" Where do we find this \_\_\_\_\_ in scripture?
  - B. God \_\_\_\_\_ only \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 20:1-16).  
1 Corinthians 3:6, "I \_\_\_\_\_, Apollos \_\_\_\_\_, but God gave the \_\_\_\_\_."
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_



# Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

## Helping them get to Heaven

Fred B. Craddock tells the following story: “At Fannin County Hospital, ministers take turns being chaplain for the week. I took my turn, and the week I was on watch, there was a baby born. Not a lot born in that little bitty thirty-bed hospital. But I went there, it was about nine o’clock in the morning, and I saw all these people gathered, looking through the glass. There was that little bitty new baby, and it looked like a clan of people gathered around. I said, “What is it, boy or girl?”

“It’s a girl.”

“What’s the name?”

“Elizabeth.”

“Well, is the father over here in this group?”

“No.” Looked back over there, and leaning against the wall, was a young man.

He said, “I’m the father.”

I said, “Baby’s name Elizabeth?”

“Yeah.”

“Beautiful baby.” She was squirming – you couldn’t hear through the glass – but she was squirming and red faced, and all like that. I thought maybe he might be concerned, and I said, “Now, she’s not sick. It’s good for babies to scream and do all that. It clears out their lungs and gets their voices going. It’s all right.”

He said, “Oh, I know she’s not sick. But she’s mad, preacher.” I said, “Why’s she mad?” He said, “Well, wouldn’t you be mad? One minute you’re with God in heaven and the next minute you’re in Georgia.”

I said, “You believe she was with God before she came here?”

He said, “Oh, yeah.”

I said, “You think she’ll remember?”

He said, “Well, that’s up to her mother and me. It’s up to the church. We’ve got to see that she remembers, ‘cause if she forgets, she’s a goner.” (Craddock Stories, p.127)

We might not agree with the young father’s thinking totally but he does state an important truth about his young daughter’s future; if his daughter is ever to have a home in Heaven it is up to him and his wife and the church to help her get there.

This is what the Bible has been telling us all along in Ephesians 6:4, it reads, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

And as a congregation of God’s people it is our goal to help children get to Heaven. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

This is why we at the Camden Ave. Church of Christ offer weekly Bible School, Vacation Bible School, encourage Christian youth camp, and do what we can for our youth’s spiritual life by offering other spiritual activities. We want to do our part in helping our children go to Heaven. But parents must do their part in seeing the importance of these spiritual activities and getting your children to these spiritual opportunities.

If we do not help our children get to Heaven, who will? Think about it!



Our Blood Drive will be next Monday (February 19)

1:00-5:30 in the MP Room.

**Donors are needed.**

**The American Red Cross has a critical need for eligible blood donors.**

In addition to unfavorable weather, seasonal flu has contributed to very low donor turnout at many blood drives. Donations are critically needed in the coming days so that patients can continue to receive lifesaving treatments.

Achieving and exceeding our blood drive goal is crucial and can help shore up collections.

We need just one more donor. Invite your family and friends to donate at our drive and please remember if you sign up that is of importance to keep your appointment.

The sign-up sheet is on the counter. Any questions, see Marion.

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## **Youth Section**

- \* Transportation will leave tomorrow evening at 6:30 for the **Monday Night Merge** at the Little Hocking congregation. Let Jeff know if you plan to go.
- \* The 5th grade and under will have a **skating party and devotional** Saturday, February 24 10:00AM-Noon. Bring \$2.00 for skates. See Kyle for details.
- \* North End congregation will host a **Youth Rally** Friday - Saturday: March 9-10  
Flyer on the youth bulletin board
- \* The Norval Park congregation in Zanesville, OH will host a **Youth Rally** (6th grade and above) Saturday, April 28 from 9:00AM-4:00PM. Mark Tonkery will be one of the speakers. If you are interested in attending, let Jeff know.

*Farewell*

### **Farewell to Shanks**

Harold and Sally Shank will be moving to Oklahoma later this week.

Harold will begin working for the Truth for Today World Mission School.

His work will include writing commentaries and other study materials that are provided to missionaries and young Christians across the world (see their Facebook page).

Their new address:

1101 Outabounds Drive  
Edmond, OK 74034.

## Opportunities To Serve

Sunday, February 18

ELDER IN CHARGE - Ron Riddle

DEACON IN CHARGE - Jon Hescht

### SONG LEADERS

AM - Ryan Highman

PM - Ben Haught

### PRAYER

9:30 AM - Steve Moser

Close - John Hall

6:00 PM - Scott Johnson

Close - Dwain Shears

### SCRIPTURE

AM - Kevin Cochran

PM - Dustin Hughes

### COMMUNION

AM - Bill Merrill

PM - Stan Inman

Bill Camp

PA SYSTEM - Jim Galloway

### DOOR GREETERS

AM 1 - Dave Nulter

2 - Josh Hall

3 - Lois Nulter

PM

1. Donovan Walton & Josh Hall

2. Mike & Teresa Wade

3. Brian & Natalie Haught

4. Paul & Nancy Inman

5. Sonya Hescht & Tammy Kerns

6. Jon & Brandi Hescht

## Facts and Figures

February 11, 2018

AM Service.....254

Bible Study.....168

PM Service.....179

Wednesday.....184

Contribution .....\$8993.00

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 2018

Baptisms.....0

Restored or Requested

Prayers.....1

Placed Membership.....0

## Services Times

### Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30

Bible Study...15 min. after worship

PM Worship.....6:00

### Wednesday

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

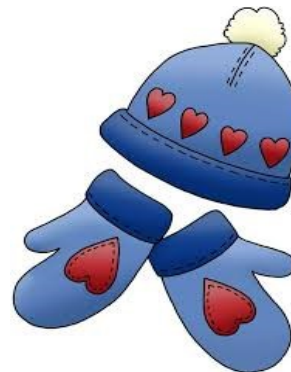


The North End congregation is planning a trip to the Arc Encounter Friday, March 30. The bus will leave from their parking lot at 5:00AM and return at 10:00PM. They have approximately 20 seats available. Cost (includes entrance ticket and bus ride): Adults \$75, Seniors \$66, Children (Ages 5-12) \$63. Pricing is based on filling a 55 passenger bus. If you would like to go or have questions, contact Kevin Grose 304.428.1865 by February 19.

### March 3

42nd Annual Men's Inspiration Day  
Norval Park congregation in Zanesville, OH  
Speaker: Scott Pfetscher

Flyers on the foyer bulletin boards



## **Thank you for worshipping with us!**

If you have any questions or would like additional information (i.e. home Bible study, Bible Correspondence Courses, etc.) please let us know.

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.

### Upcoming Topic

February 18  
True Success