

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 29, 2016

HOME: Fred & Romaine Elliott, Henry McDonald, Gene McDonald, Carl & Ann Myers, Connor Roden, Bettye Henderson

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Jamie Sanford, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Joyce Jacobs, Patrick Parker, Gene McDonald, Sabrina Handley, Mike Miles, Terry Galloway, Jon Sanford, Marvin White, Jimmy Harrison, Otto Tolbert, Diane Chambers

AM - DAVID STAFFORD

PM - DEREK PORTER

**CORRESPONDENCE COURSES WILL BE GRADED TONIGHT AFTER SERVICES.
PLEASE STAY AND HELP IF YOU CAN**

OUR VBS IS JUNE 5-9. BE MAKING PLANS TO ATTEND AND INVITE OTHERS

GOSPEL MEETING AT CARBON HILL, JUNE 12-16. NEIL WILL BE PREACHING

GOSPEL MEETING AT HATT JUNE 10-12. FRIDAY & SATURDAY AT 6:30 PM

OUR 5TH SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GOING TO BE GIVEN TO VARIOUS MISSION EFFORTS WE SUPPORT: MAY - RICKY BERGER, JULY - L.T. GURGANUS, OCTOBER - MSOP/GBN

BIRTHDAYS:

May 30: Jasmine Griggs

ANNIVERSARY:

June 2: Vince & Jill Roden

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HWY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Class 9:30

Worship 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827
Carlton Myers 221-0637
Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213
David Preston 300-1927
Kevin Richardson 295-8864
Chris Robbins 388-1354
Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

ONBOARD NAVIGATION

Billy Alexander

“And He spoke a parable to them: ‘Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch (Luke 6:39)?’”

The weather conditions in Tobermory, Ontario were stormy and dark on one recent evening but a Canadian woman boldly drove on trusting her GPS to direct her. Following the prompting of her navigator she drove directly into Georgian Bay. Fortunately, she escaped unharmed, although thoroughly soaked. Her car was totaled however. Her GPS dependence may still be recalculating.

How many today are driving in the dark in this world following a faulty navigation system? Our pluralistic society encourages individuals to follow any guide so long as one doesn't promote theirs as the only reliable director to others. The results are predictable, just look around us or watch the evening newscast for further evidence.

The issue is that men are incapable of guiding themselves despite our continued attempts to do so for several millennia. “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps (Jeremiah 10:23).” King Saul was condemned for seeking a medium for guidance (1 Chronicles 10:13). As His people were adrift God said of Judah, “There is no one to guide her among all the sons she has brought forth; nor is there any who takes her by the hand among all the sons she has brought up (Isaiah 51:18).” Is it beginning to appear that He may say the same of America in our times? Truly, our countrymen are following the way that seems right but it will end in death (Proverbs 14:12). They continue follow various guides according to the course of this world (Ephesians 2:2) but their destination is common and disastrous (Matthew 7:13).

God has provided us with dependable direction to navigate our course in this world. His word has proven a reliable guide to the righteous for generations and the storms of light do not dim its right instruction (Psalm 119:105). Jesus' life serves as a model for us as our “forerunner” (Hebrews 6:19-20) and even in the darkest trials his path remains for us to follow (1 Peter 2:21). He Himself said that His sheep follow Him and hear His voice (John 10:4).

Indeed in our spiritual journey, Jesus is the only way (John 14:6) that will bring us safely and surely to heaven. Upon his return to Ethiopia a eunuch searched the road map of life searching for the right way. When asked if he comprehended it he answered, “How can I, unless someone guides me (Acts 8:31)?” There are sound elders and teachers that Christ designated to the church to help all men on the right course (Ephesians 4:11-12). It's ok to ask for help in receiving instructions in the way.

A faulty compass is just as deadly as none at all. Is your spiritual GPS dependable or subject to recalculating your way?

“Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths (Psalm 25:4).”

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU!

Chris McCurley

“Then King David said to the entire assembly, “My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God. Now with all my ability I have provided for the house of my God the gold for the things of gold, and the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, onyx stones and inlaid stones, stones of antimony and stones of various colors, and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance. Moreover, in my delight in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already provided for the holy temple, namely, 3,000 talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the buildings; of gold for the things of gold and of silver for the things of silver, that is, for all the work done by the craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord (1 Chron. 29:1-5)?”

David had a desire to build a house for God. It was a legitimate desire; a noble and honorable desire, but God had a different plan. God wanted David's son, Solomon, to build the house. Now, David was still the king at this time. We might expect him to pout, be mad, or react like I've seen a lot of church members react when they don't get their way—“Well, I'll just take my toys and go home.” David could have said, “What's in it for me?” He could have walked away and said, “I'll have no part in it.” But instead, David helped build a house of worship that he would never enter. He gave the gold, the silver, the bronze, the wood, etc. According to modern day calculations, David gave roughly \$20 billion to the construction of the temple—a temple that he would not even live to see. Some church members today might well say, “I'm not giving a dime to something that doesn't benefit me!” “I'll take my money elsewhere!” “If it doesn't benefit me, then I want no part of it!” Sadly, far too many Christians approach church with a consumer mindset. They expect the church to cater to them, rather than selflessly serving the church.

Notice David's heart. He says, “I want to invest in the work of God any way that I can.” “If it means that God will be glorified then I will play whatever role I can.” His attitude is summed up in the following statement:

“My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God (v. 1).”

God had chosen whom he wanted to build His house, and that was alright with David. David understood, “It's not about me.” He goes on to say, “For the temple is not for man, but for God.” David speaks to all of us. The church doesn't belong to us. We have been entrusted with her care and well-being, but it's not ours. It belongs to our Lord. Therefore, what our Lord wants should be what He receives. When we approach church as a consumer, we've made it all about us. Church is not about us. Yes, church can be a great benefit to us, but it's not about us. It's all about God, who established it. And Jesus, who died for it.