

JAN. 5, 2014



Real Life News & Notes

church of Christ of Grand Junction

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers

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The Purpose of the Church?!

What is the purpose of the church? Although there may be many different purposes I believe they all could fall under two main purposes—**evangelization** and **edification**. **Evangelization** is the process of sharing the good news of the saving grace of God found in the atoning death of Jesus and His victorious triumph over death bringing believers in Him eternal life in the presence of God. **Edification** is the process of helping disciples grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and of helping disciples mature more and more to be like Jesus.

Jesus was/is all about evangelism. It was the primary purpose of His life. “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent” (Luke 4:43). “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10). To His apostles He said, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Paul wrote, “His intent was that now through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10,11).

Jesus was/is all about edification. “So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 7:12). “A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out” (Matthew 12:20). Paul likewise wrote, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Sometime after Paul and Barnabas’ first missionary journey “Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing’” (Acts 15:36). Even concerning church assemblies Paul said, “When you come together...Let all things be done for the edifying of the church” (1 Corinthians 14:26).

As we end one year and begin another it might be helpful to see how we are doing as a church and as individual members of the body in fulfilling these two main purposes of the church. Next week in this space we will take a look back at 2013 and then peek at some of the plans for 2014 for evangelizing and edifying.

For evangelism and edification, John Cooper

Memory Verse For January— Rev. 21:5

“I am making everything new”.

Our Gathering Today

Sermon: "God's Favorite Word!" We will explore a remote little passage in 2 Corinthians 1. Of all the things we most need in this new year, we need affirmation from God. His promises and favorite word overwhelm us with what we truly need.

Resolutions: We often share the feeling that we don't need **resolutions** as much as we need **solutions**. However, the heart desiring to follow Jesus more closely through focusing on resolutions that actually pertain to our spiritual growth may help us resolve much of the daily spiritual angst so many Christians harbor. I have posted a familiar but revised list of discipleship resolutions on the church website. grandjunctionchurch.org. Take a look. Choose a few. **Be brave! Live free!**

Guests: Thank you so much for being here this morning! May you feel welcome, loved, and filled!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairs, TV's To Give Away

The church has two tv's and some gray chairs that will be given to anyone who wants them. The tv's must be taken today or they will go to the Salvation Army on January 8. One tv is in the utility room and the other is upstairs. The chairs are stacked upstairs and in various places around the building. If you cannot get them today, let us know how many you will be taking today. What is left over will also be given to the Salvation Army.

Homeless Meal

We will be serving the homeless meal at the North Ave. Shelter tomorrow evening (January 6). The lasagna trays will be distributed in the foyer right after morning assembly today and servers should be at the shelter tomorrow at 5:30 PM.

Creative Christian Art Guild

The guild meets on the first and third Sunday of the month in the fellowship hall. This Sunday we will be having an organizational meeting at 1 PM to make plans for the coming year. Everyone is welcome and now is a great time to join.

Please remember the following in your daily prayers.

There are many who need our continued prayers as they recover from various illnesses , and some have on going health issues. Please continue to pray for them and their families....

GARY WALLACE extensive brain cancer,

MARY CATHEY... in rehab at Larchwood

LARRY LUCERO FAMILY...pray for healing of several health issues in their family.

MILLIE’S son, as he deals with ALS, and for his family.

JOHN AKERS, continued healing RAGS RAGSDALE.... Lung cancer

BRYAN CROWE....healing from the TIA he recently had.

PEGGY LAMKIN...pray for recovery from a fall and healing of other health issues .

WALTER, Barb Akers brother in law....pray for healing and the treatment for a blood clot in his heart to be successful.

Pray for MARY CLAYTON, Safety, guidance and wisdom as she works in Africa.

Also keep the other MISSIONARIES and families in your prayers.Continue to Pray for travel safety for the many that are traveling.

ROWAN WILLEKE... friend of the Briggs, 15 yr old son, had a sledding accident at the old Powderhorn area . He has a broken hip (not sure if there are other injuries yet) and was flown from St Mary’s to Children’s hospital in Denver on Monday. Pray for healing and comfort for him, and peace of mind for his family Always keep our MISSIONARIES in your prayers. Many are in dangerous places and need God’ protection, wisdom and guidance.

The MILITARY and their families, and the VETERANS.

Pray for our NATION and the leaders, be led to do His will and our return to God

God’s family here ... may we renew our faith and our desire, along with our efforts to bring others to the Lord in the coming year.

Continue to give thanks to God for answered prayers! How blessed we are to have such a loving, caring God, who listens and answers. Praise His Name!

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”
James 5:16 NKJV

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, WITH THANKSGIVING, let your requests be know to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6,7

We live in a world that is obsessed with celebrity. Anyone with a television can tell you that much. Just turn on the news - you're more likely to see something about the latest Hollywood breakup than anything about the ongoing war in Syria or the new healthcare act. There is an entire industry built around the lives of a handful of beautiful and (sometimes) talented people. What do they wear? Who's dating who? What controversial statement did musician X or actress Y make today?

It can all be very fun. It can be almost addictive for some people. There are millions of people who take it all very seriously. If you're aware of Twitter, you'll know that death threats directed towards a disliked celebrity are almost a running joke. As strange and even funny as it is, the emotions are very real.

But before we go around feeling superior to the legions fourteen year old *Twilight* fans, we ought to be aware of the way this culture has influenced each of our lives. The culture of celebrity worship has a pervasive influence on the way we view almost everything we're a part of. Even church.

You see, celebrity culture teaches us that there are certain *indispensable people*. The walk among us like normal human beings, but they are not normal. We are told that they are prettier, wealthier, and that what they do has genuine significance for our lives. We are supposed to value them in a unique way.

Don't you think the same culture exists in our churches? A person might rise to prominence because of what they have accomplished. Once they achieve the status of *celebrity*, however, things take a different turn. Their actions are noteworthy not because of the noteworthiness of the actions themselves. Instead, it is the person that is noteworthy. Their actions are important because the person is important.

This isn't always a negative thing. If you have enjoyed the last several books by a popular Christian author, then there's nothing wrong with buying their next book just because they wrote it. And if you enjoy hearing a certain preacher preach, then why not go online and see if you can download some of their previous sermons?

I hope you can see the danger, though. We begin to see certain people as indispensable, as though without them we cannot get done what we want to see done. When we don't achieve our goals, we scratch our heads and look for what was missing. We start to look for individuals who we can put into the equation, hoping that we'll finally get the result we've been looking for.

We have to remember that the church doesn't function like a corporation. We're not manufacturing cars or selling sneakers. Our bottom line isn't measured in profits or productivity. It's measured in faithfulness.

The church doesn't employ CEO's or company presidents. *Spiritual* leadership expresses itself through service, not through one person dominating another. And ultimately, our leader is Christ, who set the ultimate example of servant leadership with his life.

In 1 Corinthians 3, the apostle Paul compares himself and other leaders to workers in a field, each with a different task. In the end, he says, "neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." It is not personalities that accomplish the work of God. It is not hardworking men and women who make the Kingdom grow. As Paul says, individual people don't amount to much in the big scheme of things.

We are like tools in the hands of the craftsman. That's humbling, isn't it? We are envelopes carrying mail or bottles containing wine - it's the content that counts, not the container. Yes, it is very humbling. But it's an essential lesson for us to learn if we are going to truly live out the call to leadership through service and sacrifice.



Church of Christ of Grand Junction

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For the Record

Dec. 29, 2013

Attendance	280
Average Attendance, 4th qtr.	238
Contributions	\$8,763.77
Budget	\$6,208.96

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in January

Tom English
Scott Ferguson
Curtis Fleming
Ray Gehrett
Mark Gomez
Nolan Grigsby
Kit Hatfield
Bob Heath

Communion Preparation—January

Leonard & Lynne Harvey

Communion Table 1/5/14

Announcements: Vince Urbina

Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Ron Wilson—Covenant of God—Auditorium
Young Adult (Under 30)—Room 207
Sermon On The Mount—Vince Urbina—Room 103

Wednesday Evening Adult Classes—7– 8 PM

Doug Clayton— 1st John—Auditorium
Shirlene Caraway—103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2—Nursery
2 & 3 yr. old—104
Pre KK, Kindergarten—205
1st & 2nd Grade—209
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
Middle School—213
High School—203

Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 4 yr. old—104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd—205
3rd thru 5th Grade—208
All teens meet in—203

Sunday morning worship begins at 10:15 AM

Mesa View Retirement Service Schedule

Meets Sundays at 10 AM

Jan 5	Chuck Tourney, Bud Treu	Mark 9:2-13
Jan 12	Bill Tidwell, Wes Yeager	Mark 9:14-32
Jan 19	Bob Heath, Darren Mahoney	Mark 9:33-36
Jan 26	Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy	Mark 9:42-50
Feb 2	Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga	Mark 10:1-12
Feb 9	Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris	Mark 10:13-16
Feb 16	Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman	Mark 10:17-31
Feb 23	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 10:32-45

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NIV)