

January 17, 2016



# Real Life News & Notes

## *Patterson Road church of Christ*

*A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers*

### Outreach Minister

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### Preaching Minister

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## Sips from the Well (by Doug Clayton)

### Summit

With well intended hearts we can fall into the very human trap of trying to measure our relationship with God in terms of highs and lows. Our spiritual mood ring can too quickly change between a brilliant red glow (as when we first come to Christ) and a depressing blue as we struggle to summit the mountain of God and make camp there only to discover it's impossible to inhabit the tip of a rock for very long.

The prophet **Elijah** needed an encounter with God as he feared for his life. So, he went on a forty day journey, climbed a mountain and waited in a cave. When God finally showed up it was in the form of a whisper, a probing question, and a work order surely deflating the balloon of Elijah's expectations. God said, "**What are you doing up here? Go back the way you came and get to work...**"

When I worked with teens I tried to insulate them from that fleeting sense of spiritual validation. I reminded them that the euphoria of the mountain peak, though helpful, would soon fade and was not a barometer of God's love or presence, much less an indicator of their salvation, but rather an Elijah-like reminder **to go back where they came from and get to work living for God**. As wonderful and needed as those retreats, camps, and even an exhilarating worship experience can be, that spiritual buzz is generally absent on the rough and dusty road of daily cross bearing. When that happens we are inclined to think... "**The spiritual high is gone, so God must be gone too. No religious rush, no faith. I cannot keep doing this hot and cold, high and low Jesus thing...**" And disillusioned souls wander back down the mountain feeling unworthy, sad and confused.

**Oswald Chambers** masterfully reframes the Mountain Peak conundrum: "**When we think of being delivered from sin, of being filled with the Spirit and of walking in the light, we picture the peak of a great mountain, very high and wonderful and we say - 'Oh, but I could never live up there!' But when we do get there by God's grace, we find it is not a mountain peak, but a plateau where there is ample room to live and grow.**" I love that image! The **summit** of our faith is not a sharp pinnacle that requires sustained hyper-spiritual excitement, flawless doctrinal understanding or unwavering super hero devotion. To live daily on such a peak where there is no room for error, doubt or depression is both impractical and impossible. Even the most spiritually healthy and doctrinally astute cannot manage to occupy that tiny space for very long before tumbling down in a dejected heap.

The Mountain Top of God turns out not to be a peak after all, but a Grand Mesa, a flat top mountain; wide, expansive, beautiful, challenging, but with room enough for us to move and grow, learn and fail, question and struggle and lock arms and hearts with other sinners needing never to compete for a place at the table or on a tiny crest. The **Summit** is a broad plateau of Christ's love where we can freely live by grace through the highs and lows of faith, together.

**May we ascend the Mountain of God and find ourselves resting and thriving on the plateau of grace where a little piece of heaven, the whisper of God, touches us each day!**

Memory Verse For January: Gen 1:1

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth"

## **Gathering Today**

### **Feeding on the Word!**

It must be (at least I hope so) natural for us to endure highs and lows in our faith. Sometimes those are self-induced, sometimes they are due to misunderstanding God or a result of how we read and use the Bible, sometimes they are just the normal ebb and flow of the tides of faith and the seasons of life. We are, after all, creatures gifted with moods and emotions. This morning we will take a look at **Elijah** and his mountain top experience and see what we can learn about God and ourselves as we look into the mirror of His Word. See you in **First Kings 19** in a little while! *(P.S. my "Sips" article on the previous page hopefully will be helpful and complimentary to the thoughts we share together)*

### **Welcome Guests! (Guest WiFi is available)**

May you be blessed and encouraged by our simple Christ centered gathering as we sing, pray, commune and feast on the word of God. *If you would like to know more about us go to [grandjunctionchurch.org](http://grandjunctionchurch.org) and click on the "About" tab and then "What we believe."*

For your convenience we have a **nursing/cry room** (with audio) at the back of the auditorium, an **attended nursery** across the hall from the cry room, as well as a **Kid friendly program** during the worship assembly for **ages 3 years to 3rd grade** (we dismiss them just before the sermon). **Thank you for being our Guests this morning!**

### **Spiritual Growth Prompt**

This week let's individually and as a community together, as a church family, add to our faith "**goodness**" (**2 Peter 1:5**). How do we do that? Well, let's not over think it. Each day this week when **you** wake or when **you** are standing in front of the mirror doing...what you do there... ask God to help **you** to be a **reflection** (pun) of His **goodness** to others and to obey His desire for **you** to add **goodness** to your spiritual character in ways **you** might have ignored for awhile. Be deliberate and open to seeing opportunities that stretch you and lead you into God's **goodness**. **Do good! Be good! Think good!** ...And "*Our Father who sees your good deeds in secret will reward you.*" (*Jesus*)

## **Love One Another**

### **Thank You!**

I am overwhelmed and humbled by the kindness shown to me since I slipped on ice and injured my ankle. No doubt about it—I have been ministered to by angels! Now I am going to take up a lot of space to tell you what is on my heart:

Jenna, Nancy, Stephanie, Jill, Hunt, Diane, Bre, Susan, — your delicious food nourished our bodies and the beautiful expressions of concern behind the giving nourished our spirit. John, you brought food, checked on me every day, sent texts and even wrote me a poem, Doug, you and Jenna worked together to set up the care calendar for us, you took such good care of my little plant and saw to it that it got water and light, checked on me every day, and have been a runner for me to the mailbox. Matt, it's because of you that we had a very nice bulletin last Sunday. Bill, you were a very good nurse. You brought every chair in the house into the living room trying to find one that I could be comfortable in and get out of. You nearly smothered me with pillows, froze me with ice packs, catered to my every need and it was very much appreciated. Thank all of you for everything, for your cards, calls, texts and prayers. Wow! What can I say except that I did not fully realize the depth of love in this church family until now. You are some of the most amazing, precious people I have ever known. Thank God for you. The love and caring you have shown to me is "back atcha" ten times over!!  
Jimmye

### **Agape Sunday January 31**

January 31<sup>st</sup> we'll be having a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Agape meal after morning services. The theme is "Chili & Cornbread" so that is the suggested menu and, of course, a desert to share with others. We invite everyone to stay and participate in a time of food and fellowship.

### **Men's Retreat February 26 & 27**

There will be Men's Retreat Friday and Saturday February 26th and 27th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and 8 AM till noon on Saturday. Refreshments on Friday night will be served and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. A suggested donation of \$25 per person will help defray the cost of guest speaker Don McLaughlin's airfare and the food.. Further details will follow when John gets back.

### **Found Men's Wedding Band**

A men's wedding band was found in the men's restroom. If you have lost yours, see Doug Clayton.

## Special Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following in your daily prayers. We and they appreciate your prayers, they are so important. Thank You!

THELMA DAVIS—She is suffering from lower back pain will be undergoing an MRI and shots in her back tomorrow. Please keep her in your prayers.

Please pray for Bill Tidwell's sister, Inez Ford, who lives in Florida. She has suffered a heart attack and is not doing well. Pray for her comfort and if its God's will for her to recover. Pray for her family during this difficult time, for comfort and peace for them.

Pray for Sandy Harris as he recovers from shoulder surgery he had this week. Pray for comfort and a complete recovery and that the pain he has had will be gone. Prayers of thanksgiving that the surgery went well.

Pray for the family of Jim Morgan, a former member here, who passed away last week. Also for the Scheuerman family in the death of Glenda's father.

Pray for John and Holly Cooper as they travel to Guam to work with the church there. Pray for safety in travel and while there and for God to bless them in the work there, that many will hear the message and come to know Jesus.

Continue to pray for Jimmye as she heals from her broken ankle. She is up and at work. Pray for comfort and complete and quick healing for her.

Prayers of thanksgiving for those who were there for Richard Moore as he went home to the Lord. We were his only family and a number of our family were with him and took care of the things a family has to do at the end of life. We will miss Richard.

Prayers of thanksgiving that Oneita Higgins is out of the hospital. They were able to take care of the clot in her lung and other issues and she is not in a nursing home. Pray for her family as they continue caring for her.

Continue to pray for Ryan's mother, Donna Smith, as her time on earth gets shorter. Pray for her family as they care for her. And for safety in travel for them .

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### Wednesday Night

**Wednesdays at 6:00 PM** Our Youth group will meet in the middle school room for hot chocolate and discussion.

### Huddle

**Tonight, January 17th** our Huddle will be hosted at the home of Rick and Jill Wilkins on the 31st. 3520 Ponderosa Way Grand Junction, CO 81506. Huddles are from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

January 31st Doug and Ann Clayton will host our Huddle. If you would like to host a huddle please contact Keri Fleming.

### Parent Meeting

**Sunday, January 24th** there will be a meeting for all youth parents in room 202. This meeting will be a 9:00 AM. Please make plans to attend this meeting for our year calendar and a chance to meet other youth parents. There will be a time to ask questions and see what our group is doing.

### Winter Peak

**February 26-28th** The theme for Winter Peak 2016 is **"Explore"**. Join us this year for a huge gathering of High Schoolers that will get together to spend time developing their relationship with each other and with God.

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God Bless,  
Matt Lee (214)554-1253  
[grandjunctionchurch.org](http://grandjunctionchurch.org)



# Patterson Road church of Christ

2893 Patterson Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Phone: 970-245-4210  
Web: grandjunctionchurch.org

## For the Record

Jan 10, 2015

Attendance	?
Contributions	\$8694.56
Budget	\$6,358.00

## Communion Preparation—January

**Leonard & Lynne Harvey**

## Communion Table 1/17/16

**Tyler Pruitt**

## Upcoming Children's Bible Verses

February—Isa. 40:26  
 March—Isa. 40:22  
 April—Isa. 40:29  
 May—Col. 1:15  
 June—Col. 1:17

## Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in January

Chuck Tourney  
 Ed Treu  
 Dick Truitt  
 Vince Urbina  
 Dan Vorse  
 Bill Wade  
 Gabe Wilkins  
 Rick Wilkins

## Announcements

Jan. 3 & 10TH—Audric Franklin  
 Jan. 17 & 24— Audric Franklin  
 January 31—Mark Brassette

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

Tom Deister	Auditorium
Vince Urbina	103
Young Adult (Under 30)	Room 207

## Wednesday Evening Bible Classes 6—7 PM

Doug Clayton	Auditorium
Singing Class	103

## Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2	Nursery
2 & 3 Year 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

## Thursday Morning Bible Classes

Thursday Bible School for Pre-Schoolers	9:30 am—1 pm
Ladies Bible Class, starts 9:30 am	207

**Sunday Morning Bible Classes Begin at 9 AM**  
**Sunday Morning Fellowship Time 9:45 AM—10:15 AM**  
**Sunday Morning Assembly Begins at 10:15 AM**  
**Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins at 6 PM**