



# Real Life News & Notes

*church of Christ of Grand Junction*

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

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**Sips from the Well (by Doug Clayton)**

**Brothers**

Most are familiar with the story of the wayward brother in Luke 15. It teaches us many lessons about the perils and foolishness of wandering away from our heavenly Father, living selfishly in wasteful excess and immoral behavior, then finally coming to our senses and returning to where love, forgiveness and provision were freely offered. So, we pick ourselves up from the gutter, wipe off the revolting residue of self-indulgence and head home, a place we never should have left. As we come up the path we are greeted by the open arms of a loving father and the not so welcome disgust of a jealous, resentful, and angry brother.

**What if this story ended differently?** Imagine this: Wise and gentle old dad is sitting on the porch scanning the horizon, praying for and wondering what has become of his younger son. Older Brother, dutifully working hard in the field, sweating with a song in his heart and a grateful smile, sees a figure coming up the road. There is something familiar about him. Is it a stranger, a neighbor? As Older Brother looks up from his labor he squints intently at the tattered and weary soul shuffling closer and realizes it is his little brother. His heart quickens. He chokes back the lump in his throat as tears well up blurring his vision. **"Could it be? It's been so long. I feared I would never see him again!"** Yes it is him, the one he played tag with, shared countless Sabbaths and secrets with, splashed with down in the creek, giggled, wrestled and grew up with. Suddenly, Older Brother throws down his shovel, races through the field as fast as his legs can carry him. As he gets closer he sees remorse and brokenness in his little brother's face. He approaches him, still in shock as he grabs and wraps his arms around him overcome with joy and relief. He takes his little brother's face in his calloused hands and holds his eyes with his. Both are crying now as they embrace. Father sees the commotion from the porch and is now standing, straining, as he hears shouting. It's hard to make out but his son is laughing, or is he crying, **"Father, he's home! He's back! Send the servants to kill the calf and get him some new clothes and that cool ring I like! My brother, my precious little brother who I thought was lost and dead is now found, he's alive, he's home! Praise God!"**

As Jesus told the story I can imagine how he might have longed to tell it differently. Jesus knew the sad truth that hearts are too often clouded with jealousy, resentment and self-absorption to realize that love, forgiveness, and restoration are how God wants every story to end. We realize the older brother's self-centered response in the actual story was a subtle yet direct challenge to self-righteous Jews to embrace wanderers, overcome biases, share grace, and include the excluded, the "undeserving," the sinner, the Gentile, into faith, into "church," into their lives. Instead... they killed the story teller.

We are the older brother. As one occupying the Father's house, how will Jesus tell our parable?

**(PS. Please keep my family in prayer as I leave for Singapore this Thursday. Love one another!)**

**Memory Verse For January— Rev. 21:5**

**"I am making everything new".**

### Our Gathering Today

**Guests:** Thank you for being with us this morning. Please let us get to know you. I challenge our members, **(they are already very good at this)** to warmly greet you and specifically **ask you how they might pray for you today and serve you this week.**

**Bulletin:** You might have noticed John, Brian and *yours truly* recently began sharing the front page from week to week. John offered to share that space and rotate it between the three of us to lighten our weekly deadlines a bit. John and Brian are great writers and offer challenging thoughts and occasional ministry updates. So, please get a bulletin and read it all. Jimmye does a wonderful job of printing and folding (with Mary Ann Rayside and Jean Hollinger's help) the bulletin each week and keeping a current list of church events, announcements, and prayer needs. If you don't get a bulletin, you can read it online on our website at [grandjunctionchurch.org](http://grandjunctionchurch.org)

**Sermon:** Today we will look at an alternative ending to a familiar story. The parable of the lost boy of Luke 15 may be more about the older brother than the younger. Let's dig into God's word together and be blessed, challenged and fed! **In my absence the next 3 Sundays: John Cooper (Feb 2), Brian Peacock (Feb 9), and Bobby Heath (Feb 16) will preach. Anticipate some great messages from these men! Thanks guys!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Valentine's Day Dinner

Mark you calendars for Saturday, February 15th, for a Valentine's Dinner honoring married members. Dinner will be served at 5:30. Please sign up in the fellowship hall by February, 9th.

### Baby Shower

There will be a baby shower for Lacy Smith on February 8 at 10 AM here at the building. Please plan on honoring Lacy and her baby at this time.

### Mary Clayton's Mailing Address

Some have asked about sending Mary a letter or package. Her address is:

Mary Clayton  
C/o the Miller family  
BP 94 Musanze, Rwanda  
East Africa

### **Youth News**

**Classes today:** Middle and high school are **combined** for what I'm sure will be another great class! Join us in the high school room!

**No huddle tonight:** Enjoy a peaceful evening with your families!

**Wednesday night worship:** As usual, we'll all be meeting at **7pm** on Wednesday evening in the high school room for a time of worship and fellowship. And maybe snacks? You don't want to miss it!

**Winter Peak:** Just ask Brian if you're wanting a form to fill out to come to the high school youth rally in Estes Park (Feb 21-23). The cost is \$100, and more info is on the form. Forms and payment need to be turned in to Brian by Wednesday, Feb. 5.

### **Honduras Mission Trip**

There will be a meeting right after morning assembly on Sunday, January 26 for those wishing to go on the Honduras Mission Trip July 6, - July 12. See Mike Hughes for details.

Please remember the following in your daily prayers.

Pray for travel safety for those who are traveling this week.

Continue to pray for those who recently lost loved ones.

GARY WALLACE extensive brain cancer,

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

Please keep Doug in your prayers as he heads for his teaching obligations with the Kendalls. Pray for safety and for him to be able do what it is that God has planned for him there.

Mary Mendenhall has asked for prayers for her sister BARBARA ROTH, she had surgery this week to remove a tumor from her neck/spine. The surgery went well, pray that it will not be malignant. She has two more tumors in other areas of her spine which will be addressed at a later date. Pray for healing of the vertbrae that they had to fix from damage done by the tumor. And for comfort as well as a good prognosis.

Always keep our MISSIONARIES in your prayers. Many are in dangerous places and need God' protection, wisdom and guidance.

The MILITARY , both active and inactive veterans, and their families, for safety, comfort and guidance from above. And for encouragement and healing for those who suffer illnesses both physical and emotional.

Pray for our NATION and the leaders, for guidance from above for all, for them to lead as God would have them to , that they will recognize their need of God's guidance in their positions.

Our church family ... may we renew our faith and our desire, along with our efforts to bring others to the Lord in this new year. And to be a family that others can see Christ by our love.

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 known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6,7



# Church of Christ of Grand Junction

2893 Patterson Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

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

### For the Record

Jan 19, 2014

Attendance	246
Average Attendance, 4th qtr.	238
Contributions	\$7,869.22
Budget Pending	

### Communion Preparation—January

Leonard & Lynne Harvey

### Communion Table 1/26/14

Karl Antwine

### 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

**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 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

The nicest place to be is in someone's THOUGHTS!  
The safest place to be is in someone's PRAYERS!  
And the best place to be is in.... GOD'S HANDS!