

December 11, 2016

Real Life News & Notes

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers



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Elder of Month

Bryan Crowe

Our Gathering Today



Bread of Life . . .the sermon

Ann and I are in Denver this weekend (traveling back this afternoon). In my absence **John Cooper** will be sharing an encouraging message today. **Thank you John!** Not sure of the sermon topic but he may share some of his experiences on his recent mission trip to Russia as well as some other faith building lessons. Next week we will bring our **Acts series** to a conclusion. Reading homework is Acts 27-28. As you read, write down your own challenges and blessings from the text :-)

****Christmas Day (just two weeks from today): No Bible class on Sunday December 25th. Our worship Gathering time will remain the same and start around 10:10 AM like normal. I am planning an abbreviated sermon focusing on the theme of "When God became man." (No children's church on Dec. 25th.)**

Bulletin article: Charlie will join John and I in our bulletin article rotation. Today is his first installment! Be sure to read it! We look forward to Charlie's written words of blessings and encouragement every 3rd edition :-)

Welcome Guests!

May you be fed and encouraged by our gathering in the name of Jesus Christ as we sing, pray, share the Lord's supper, encourage each other and open the Word of God together. We dismiss by about 11:30. Please stay around and let us get to know you a little better.

View our web site at grandjunctionchurch.org and Face Book page **Church of Christ of Grand Junction to discover a little more about us.

Love One Another!

Memory Verse For December: Job 38:32

"Can you lead forth a constellation in its season?"

Being a teenager is hard.

Being a teenager is hard. The further and further I become removed from my teenage years, the less and less I remember this fact. I believe this has been a truth since the first teenagers existed. All teens ever have wrestled with the transition from child to adult, some having exceptionally difficult circumstances to overcome. Today, our teens are facing an increasingly difficult world to grow up in. Add to that the factor of growing up as a Christian teenager and the outlook goes from increasingly difficult to downright terrifying. Our culture is more “connected” than any other people ever. Not only can you get in touch with anyone in the world in moments, but at your fingertips you have a plethora of apps and programs to choose from. Obviously, the tools that technology provides can be used to spread the gospel and reach further than ever before with the news of Jesus’ love. Sadly though, these same tools are often used by the enemy to separate, segregate and enslave. Our Christian teens are surrounded by media and an electronic society that can easily drown them in sin and isolation. In general, if you are over the age of 25, it is my opinion that the world of your teenage years is nowhere near as wearisome and trying as that of today’s teens. It is no wonder that fewer and fewer teenagers stay strong in their faith after high school. Something needs to change.

I remember one Wednesday evening when I was in Jr. High. I had been assigned to present a short devotional thought before bible class that evening. I spent a lot of time preparing and was excited, yet very nervous to speak to our congregation. While I remember vividly my legs shaking from nervousness during my talk, I cannot tell you what my lesson was about, or even how I thought I did afterward. What I do remember quite well is a comment from an older lady after services. As we were saying our goodbyes that evening she came and found me to tell me “you sure are going to be a good preacher someday!”. If it wasn’t for the fact that she was always loving and encouraging to me as a young man, I might have taken her words slightly differently. As it happened, she did make a lasting impression on me. I hear all the time that our teens are the “church of tomorrow” and as such we must care for them. While this idea, and the comment I received that Wednesday night are meant to be encouraging, they can have a different effect. If I was going to be a good preacher *someday*, that must mean I wasn’t very good that night. If our teens are the church of tomorrow, then what does that make them *today*? Obviously, this is not the intent behind this kind of talk, but we must remember that words have meanings and often, the way we talk about something affects the way we think and act. We must recognize that while our young people are in fact the future of the church, they are part of the church today.

Mark was as active a member in his youth group as anyone. His parents were very involved in church as Dad was a deacon and Mom taught Sunday School. They were there anytime the building was open. Mark never missed a Youth Group function, even if it meant missing a little school or even an important ballgame. Church came second only to family. He led devos, prayers, and singing, and everyone in the youth group looked up to him as a leader. After graduation, he spent the summer on staff for several different church camps. Yet, when he got to college, things were different. Mark found it difficult to sit through Sunday service. He stopped going to bible class. As his interest, participation, and commitment began to wane, so did His faith. Before long, Mark had given up completely. He had found himself no longer a part of the youth group, but he was still not really a part of the rest of the church either. All too often, Christian teens, even those active in youth group, graduate high school and at the same time, graduate “church” because they have no clear identity as part of the church today. It is our job as older brother and sisters in the faith, to show them where and how they are part of the church today, so that they will be members tomorrow.

We each bear an obligation to our young people. It is easy to think of them as the youth minister’s responsibility, or that they are their parents concern. However, Romans 13 actually describes our relationship with one another as being “in debt”. We are to owe each other a debt of love. This is especially true when it comes to those younger than us in the faith. So as the writer of Hebrews stated “*let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds*”, even and especially our younger generation. One thing I’ve learned from working with teens for the last several years is that they see right through words without actions to support them. Young people learn by following example, as is taught in Titus 2. So the next time you find yourself frustrated, confused, or disappointed by a teenager, don’t jump to negative conclusions. Remember that their struggle is real and difficult, just as yours is. Think about the responsibility you bear in seeing them grow and mature in their faith, and set a Christ-like example of love for them to follow.

Ephesians 3:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

by Charlie DeLong

Caroling December 17

The Carolers will be practicing Wednesday evening on December 14 here at the building—please join us. The group plans to go caroling at several homes on the 17th. Details will be presented on the 14th.

Christmas Day

Bible classes and Children's Church are cancelled on Sunday December 25th. Our worship time will remain the same and start around 10:10 AM. Doug is planning an abbreviated sermon focusing on the theme of **"When God became man."**

Christmas Dinner Invitation

Darlene Rettig invites anyone who is alone or would just like the company of warm friends on Christmas Day invites you to join her for Dinner at her home right after church on Christmas Day. She asks that you let her know that you will be attending and that you bring your favorite holiday dish to share. For questions, contact Darlene.

Baby Sitter Camp

Earn your American Red Cross CPR/First Aid and Baby Sitter Certification!!

Monday 12/19 to Thursday 12/22
8AM—Noon (morning snack included)
Ages 12—18
Cost—\$60

To register call or visit Western Colorado AHEC, 2938 North Ave., Unit B. Phone 970-434-5474. For more information see flyer on bulletin board outside office.

Snub Liles would like to request the addition of some good friends of theirs from Cimarron to the prayer list. Larry and Lula Collins are their names. Larry has many health problems but is having aortic valve replacement surgery on December 8th in Grand Junction.

Pray for Tom English as he recovers from having some teeth pulled this last week. Pray they will not become infected.

Larry and Lula Collins, friends of the Liles...He has numerous health issues...and is having aortic valve replacement surgery Dec 8 th, in Grand Junction.

Continue prayers for:

Betsy Brown, C difficile infection

David...leukemia

Shane Briggs, ...leukemia, recent bone marrow transplant, pray for it to work and for there to be no rejection.for his comfort and his family.

Betty Jo Lewis....cancer

Victims of the Tennessee fires

Tyler Johnson, Jerimy Gadberry and Cameron Fisher who are incarcerated....help to place their trust and lives in God's hands. And for their families.

Pray for those suffering from addictions of any kind that they will get help and allow God to lead them. Also for those suffering from mental illnesses such as PTSD, and other illnesses to be able to get help and overcome. Pray for God's healing for all.

Prayers of thanksgiving to our loving God who sustains us in every way. Thank Him for taking care of our needs as they arise, and is there to guide and protect us always.

Continue to pray for our nation, for those involved in the transition of power in the White House, pray that they will let God be their guide in all the decisions made both now and in the future.

YOUTH NEWS**Huddles:**

No huddle tonight

December 18 - 6-8 pm at the home of Oakley (Charlie & Kristen DeLong). Their address is 712 1/2 Willow Creek Rd - GJ 81505). Invite a friend and watch for what to bring next week!

January 8 - at the Franklins' house



Reminder: Progressive Dinner--December 16



Patterson Road church of Christ

2893 Patterson Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

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

For the Record

Dec. 4, 2016

Attendance	299
Weekly Contributions 12/4/16	\$10,083.00
Contribution 4 week average	\$6,311.50
Weekly Budget	\$6,100.00

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in December

Bill Wade
Gabe Wilkins
Rick Wilkins
Jeff Yeager
Wes Yeager
Hunt Zumwalt
Jeremy Antwine
Jerry Austin

Communion Preparation—December/January Jan Nelson

Communion Table 12/11/16

Bo Hill

Announcements - December

Eddie Tinkle

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

Ron Wilson	Auditorium
Wes Yeager	202
Bill Wade	103
Young Adult (Under 30)	207

Wednesday Evening Bible Classes 7—7:45 PM

John Cooper	Auditorium
Singing Class	103

Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2	Nursery
2 & 4 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 & 5 yr. old	104
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd	205
1st thru 5th Grade	208
All teens meet in	203

Thursday Morning Bible Classes

Thursday Bible School for Pre-Schoolers	9:30 am—12:30 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
Sunday Evening Class begins at 6 PM In Fellowship Hall
Wednesday Evening Bible Study Begins at 7 PM