



Real Life News & Notes

church of Christ of Grand Junction

A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers

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Reassessing, Redirecting and Re-enlisting

What a wonderful time of year! Most of us have had some quality family time, had some good food, maybe received some gifts and now we are ready for a great new year! Paul wrote, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (II Corinthians 5:17)

This an opportune time for **reassessing, redirecting and re-enlisting.**

A time for reassessing-How did we do in our walk with Jesus this past year? What worked well? What did not work as well? What changes in our lives might bring us closer to God in this coming year? Paul once said "...examine yourselves..." (II Corinthians 13:5).

A time for redirecting- Once we find things we may need to do differently we need to redirect our lives towards those things that can get us closer to God. Maybe more time praying or searching the Word, maybe more time with our spouses and/or children. Maybe more time serving others in the name of Jesus or sharing our faith with those who have little. James said "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

A time for re-enlisting- Very easy sometimes to check out of some of the more important pursuits in life. However, to accomplish much we need to sign on the dotted line. The great man of faith Caleb, aging though he was, once said "give me this mountain that the Lord promised me..." (Joshua 14:12) At 85 he was still ready for one more battle.

Let's do what we need to for Jesus this year!

John Cooper

Memory Verse For December— Isa. 9:6

"to us a child is born, a son is given".

Our Gathering Today

Sermon: As we close the door on 2013 we look to the early church for reminders and encouragement of what we share: **A common past, a common bond, and a common hope.**

Guests: We never want our greeting and welcome to become routine. We truly do appreciate your being with us this morning and hope you feel loved and welcome, Our desire is to be a vessel of God's light and fullness for you and your family. Let us know how we might serve you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Evening Classes

We will not be meeting Wednesday evening (January 1, 2014). Happy New Year!

Homeless Meal.

We will be serving the homeless meal at the shelter on North Ave. on Monday January 6. The lasagna trays will be distributed in the foyer right after assembly on Sunday January 5, 2014 for those who prepare the meal. Servers should be at the shelter at 5:30 PM on Monday.

Youth News

No huddle tonight: Enjoy a night with your families!

Wednesday activity: There will be **no worship night** at the building on Wednesday, but we will be going to the 1:20pm showing of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* at the Regal Canyon View movie theater on Wednesday afternoon! The movie is rated PG, and the cost is \$9 for anyone 11 and up. So don't sleep too late that day!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas! Enjoy the rest of your winter break! Next week, the junior high and high school will be joining up for Sunday morning class. Be sure you don't miss the beginning of a new series!

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, pray she will soon be able to go back to her residence,
 LARRY LUCERO FAMILY, Alyssa and the others for healing of their different health issues
 MILLIE’S son, as he deals with ALS, and for his family.
 JOHN AKERS, continued healing of his digestive system.
 RAGS RAGSDALE.... Lung cancer has returned
 JEAN HOLLINGER.... Healing from her fall, and thanksgiving her hip was not broken.
 MELVA WILLBANKS and her family in the loss of her grandson, and
 TAYLOR & CARRIE FUOCO and family in the loss of Carries father.ray for Jan Nelson’s brother in law,
 GALEN, that the surgery they have done on infection in the pins in his foot will take care of the problem and amputation will not be necessary.
 Pray for MARY CLAYTON, as she goes to her job in Africa. Pray for protection, strength, wisdom and guidance from the Lord. And for peace for her family.
 PEGGY LAMKIN—Pray that she recover from a fall and other serious health issues.
 BRYAN CROWE—Pray that he recovers from a medical condition called TIA which sent him to the hospital last week. Pray he fully recovers.
 Pray for those searching for employment that they will be successful. Thanksgiving prayers for those who have found work. Continue to Pray for travel safety for the many that are and will be traveling at this time of year.
 Always keep our MISSIONARIES in your prayers. Many are in dangerous places and need God’ protection, wisdom and guidance.
 Pray for the MILITARY.... Both those now serving and the veterans who have served...and their families.
 Pray for our NATION and the leaders, for God’s will to be done. Pray for a return to God , and for the leaders to be led to do His will.
 Pray for our church family that we will become the kind of servants and Christians that God intended us to be in the coming year. For us all to grow in our relationship with our Lord. Continue to give thanks to God for answered prayers!

“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

Words

“Don't speak unless you can improve the silence.” - Old Spanish proverb

As we wind down another year we reminisce on 2013. In the midst of every encounter, relationship, experience, and conversation, incredibly potent little sounds leave our lips, they are called **words**. Words are like feathers in the wind, once unleashed they can never be completely retrieved and sometimes, despite our best intentions, we verbalize what was best left unsaid. Words are potentially very encouraging and helpful, but also potentially very destructive and hurtful. **So much is at stake every time we open our mouths.**

I am amazed how Jesus never misspoke, never used a single inappropriate or ill-timed word, not once. Beyond consonants and vowels, I am confident even the inflection and tone of the Messiah’s words were always proper and without sarcasm. Jesus never used words to add fuel to the already raging fire of opposition to his heavenly mission. Yes, people put words in Jesus’ mouth, misquoted, accused and even arranged interviews with him for the sole purpose of entrapping him (Sound familiar? Quack, quack). Jesus knew when to respond and when to remain silent. **Jesus understood that it’s not the loudest voice that wins and how we say a word is just as critical as what we say because the truth can suffer if words are not carefully used.** And, despite evil’s best efforts, Jesus was never successfully baited into a shouting match or using hateful and harsh words. This perfect **taming** of the tongue does not surprise us for Jesus is God. More specifically, Jesus is "**Word**" (no pun), which was God and became man (John 1:1).

I confess that I occasionally release feathers that I would rather have kept on the teeth side of my lips and the finger side of the keyboard. Because we admit that we will never be able to flawlessly manage our words we are compelled to freely extend grace. For grace, (to praphrase Ann Voskamp) is like air that none of us can live without. Despite the temptation to verbally make war Jesus calls us to **soft answers, to return curse with blessing, to have lips that drip with love, diffuse anger and cover a multitude of sins.**

Words and feathers challenge us to make a deliberate effort to check our tone and measure our words before we unleash them. May we honestly consider the motive behind every syllable and phrase. May our words and tone reflect the disposition of Heaven and infuse peace and light into every corner of a dark and angry world. May our tongue and pen never be a venue for discord, gossip, sarcasm and attack. Let’s learn to say what God says, for his words are perfect. **Let’s use the language of the Redeemed.**

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight.” (Psalm 19:14)



Church of Christ of Grand Junction

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For the Record

Dec. 15, 2013

Attendance	282
Average Attendance, 3rd. qtr.	265
Contributions	\$6,363.00
 Budget	 \$6,208.96

Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in December

Tony Clayton
Lane Coale
Bryan Crowe
Tom Deister
Lonnie DeLancey
Paul DeLancey
Scott DeLancey
David Downey

Communion Preparation—December Dielle Norton & Daughters

Communion Table 12/29/13

Announcements: Ron Wilson

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

Dec 22	Bobby Heath, Matt King	Mark 8:22-26
Dec 29	Jerry Austin, Craig Austin	Mark 8:31-9:1
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)