

# Announcements and Church News

## Our Stick

John Nickl for a broken hip; Ashley Wygal—for her pregnancy; Emily George for hip surgery on Jan 4th; Teresa Broyles and Vicky Lube—cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;** Tammy Odom's brother Robert; The Broyles—friends daughter, Teresa Moon for serious injuries; Dolly Martin's sister Patsy/health issues; Kim Taylor's—brother recent hip surgery; Regina Hunter's sister, Cynthia for health issues and friend Kim recovering of knee surgery; Samantha Jones daughter Ariel, brother Eddie and son Joshua; Carol Mitchell—tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; Susan Villoch's dad James/heart issue; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Yllka Bejo's—mother for broken hip; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons and cousin Paula in the hospital; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield and sister Lynn Owens; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/ lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues.

### PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dyanna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; John Benson's friend, Wendell; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Randall Deily's—uncle; Linda Haddock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Debbie Methvin's—friend Michele Fuguero; Deb Adams friends son, Jason; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Lou and Rose Fiores also co-worker Marie Woleck.

**INMATES:** Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

**OUR SERVICE MEN:** Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy) Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

## Activities

**LADIES BIBLE CLASS**— This Friday, January 6th at 1:00pm in the small building.

**FSOP LECTURESHIP**— The 48th Annual Lectureship at the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland is from January 16th-19th. The title is the Rise of the Messianic Kingdom. Flyers are in the foyer.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**— Saturday, January 21st at 8:30 in the small building. Please add your name to the sign up sheet if you plan to attend.

**SYMPATHY**— Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ronnie Sommerville, Jr. and his family. Ronnie's mother Carolyn Sommerville passed away on December 24th in Tennessee. Remember Ronnie and his family in prayer as they mourn the loss of their dear loved one.



**REMINDER**—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

### THOSE SERVING TODAY

*Announcements*—James George  
*Song Leaders*—Patrick Bonelli/Joe Bonelli  
*Opening Prayer*—Joe Bonelli/James George  
*Lord's Table*—Mark Bernhardt  
*Closing Prayer*—Bob Haddock/John Benson

## Birthdays This Week

Mary Bonelli—January 1st

**January 1, 2023**  
 centralofchrist@gmail.com  
 www.centralofchrist.com

Office: (727) 446-4808  
 1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater, FL 33756-2357

Gospel Broadcasting Network  
<http://gbntv.org> YouTube  
<https://spiritualsword.org/>

TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday YouTube  
 watch & hear Phil Sanders

YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

[www.HouseToHouse.com](http://www.HouseToHouse.com)  
 House to House Heart

Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL  
[www.childhaven.com](http://www.childhaven.com)

fairhavenchildrenshome.com

soaringforsouls.com

cocindia.net

[www.christiancourier.com](http://www.christiancourier.com)

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking  
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance  
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

### Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles  
 James George

### Deacons:

Max Herman  
 Van Stewart

**Preacher:** Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

**Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM**  
 Charles Broyles

**Major Prophets—Ezekiel 37**

**Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM**  
 Charles Broyles

**The Certainty of Uncertainty**  
 Proverbs 27:1; Psalm 90:10

**Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM**  
 Charles Broyles

**More Blessed To Give Than Receive**  
 Acts 20:35

**Ladies Bible Study-Friday**  
**January 6th at 1:00PM**

**Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM**  
 Charles Broyles

**The Divine Godhead**

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and YouTube YouTube Live!



**From the Preacher's Pen**

**“Behold, I Am Making All Things New...”**

Happy New Year, everyone! 2023 is here, the beginning of a new year. As is the case every January 1, many of us are looking at things in a new way. We have new goals and resolutions. We are fixated on the fact that it is a new year, a new beginning. As the film Forrest Gump puts it, we all get

a second chance.

However, is that really true from an eternal perspective? Does the changing of the calendar year really make any sort of difference as far as God is concerned? Does the ball dropping at midnight on January 1 change the condition of our souls in his sight? The Bible, God's message to us which trains us in righteousness so that we may be complete in his sight (2 Tim. 3:16-17), gives no such indication.

What truly gives us a second chance? What makes us truly new in the sight of God? Rather than the flipping of a page in a desktop calendar, God tells us it is the blood of his Son which gives us a second chance. “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace” (Eph. 1:7).

The One who sits on the throne in heaven said, “Behold, I am making all things new” (Rev. 21:5). Contextually, he was referring to the holy city, new Jerusalem, the dwelling place of God with man in which he will dwell with us, wipe our tears from our eyes, and eradicate death, mourning, crying, and pain...“for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:2-4). While many apply these sayings to refer to the eternal reward of heaven, a more immediate and biblical application would be to Christ's church, “the assembly (ekklesia, church) of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” which the Hebrew writer calls “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,” and in which is that “sprinkled blood” of Jesus which has freed us from our sins (Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 1:5). That same church is called the body of Christ (Col. 1:18). Do you want Jesus to save you? If so, you must be a part of his body, the church (Eph. 5:23). It is the church God was speaking of when he said, “Behold, I make all things new.” It is only in the church that we find that precious blood of Christ which cleanses us from our sin (1 John 1:7-9).

Do you want to be a child of God? The Bible says you must be “in Christ Jesus...through faith” for that to happen (Gal. 3:26). That means you must be in Christ's church, because the church is the body of Christ. In fact, the church is said to fill up Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), so it makes sense that conclude that to be “in Christ” means to be in his body, his church. How does one get into Christ? How does one get into his church? Through immersion, the literal meaning of baptism (Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13).

Notice what Paul wrote in Rom. 6:3-7: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set

free from sin.”

How does God make all things new? How do we get our second chance? When we repent of our sins (2 Cor. 7:9-11) and are baptized (Acts 2:38), we die and are born again in a spiritual sense (John 3:3-5). All things are made new. Our old self is dead. We walk in a new life. A new beginning. A clean slate. The baptism washes our sins away (Acts 22:16), for it is at that point that we come in contact with the blood of Christ that cleanses us (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5). When we come up out of the water, we are in Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3). We have been baptized into his body (1 Cor. 12:13), his church (Eph. 1:22-23) of which there is only one (Eph. 4:4), the church of which Jesus is Savior (Eph. 5:23).

It's January 1. A new year, with many possible new beginnings. Yet, in eternity all of these new beginnings we associate with a new year will very shortly pass away (James 4:13-17)...but God's Word will never pass away (Matt. 24:35). Do you want the REAL clean slate? Do you want God himself to make all things new concerning you? Do you want your sins forgiven and washed away? Do you want to be saved and born again to a new life? Read and study each of the scriptures previously cited with an honest and open heart (Luke 8:15). If you believe in God's Word (Rom. 10:17) and believe with all of your heart in Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10), then prove your faith to be alive rather than dead by your actions (James 2:14-26). Obey God's command to repent of your sins and be baptized into his Son's body (Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; 1 Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Cor. 12:13), and you will rise up out of the water with all things new (Rom. 6:3-7; Rev. 21:5).

THAT, my friends, is how to start the new year off right!

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**Bible Q&A: What About Demons and Demon Possession?**

The Bible says that we may be entertaining angels unawares. What about demons and demon possession?

There are several differences between angelic interaction with man and demonic interaction with man. Angels interacted with men in Old Testament times (cf. Gen. 18-19), but there is no record of demon possession in the Old Testament. The New Testament implies that angels continue to interact with man, albeit in an unknown way (Matt. 18:10; Heb. 1:14; 13:2), whereas both Testaments show that demonic possession was only a temporary phenomenon (Zech. 13:1-2; Heb. 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8).

To elaborate, Christ was sent to save the lost (Lk. 19:10) “in the fullness of time” (Gal. 4:4), i.e., at the right time. To save us, He had to destroy both the devil (Heb. 2:14-15) and his works (1 John 3:8)...all his works. Thus, God allowed demon possession during this time to show Christ's complete authority over Satan in all realms, including the spiritual (cf. Lk. 4:35-37; Matt. 12:22-29). The purpose of miraculous demonic expellation (Mk. 16:17) was to confirm the Word of God that was being preached (Mk. 16:20). Once the Word was completed, miracles would cease (1 Cor. 13:8-10; cf. Rom. 12:2; James 1:25). That took place 2,000 years ago. Thus, demonic possession stopped at the same time, as was prophesied in the Old Testament (Zech. 13:1-2).