

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Karen Stallings and also Mark and Irene Bernhardt for covid; Penny Bevaqua— broken wrist; Alison Harris for cancer; Tim Adams trmt for bacteria in lungs; Teresa Broyles for cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Sandy Caldwell, Fran Barclay, and Nancy VanWinkle for health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;

The Stewart's son Zachary/ health issues; Rick Mirra's co-worker Alyssa/cancer surgery; Bill Ingram's wife, Joy recovery of surgery; David Sain's wife Phyllis health issues; Steve Wilder healing from spine surgery; Mattie Simmons brother Joe in rehab; Kay Jessup's niece for covid; Yllka Bejo's—mother; Les Vasterling's—father/Hospice care; Kim Taylor's mother, Jayne health issues also baby William; The Bernhardt's relative Rustin/colon issues; Dianne Stewart's brother, Bobby Goodfield; Van Stewart's aunt Linda Parsons/health issues; The Stingles niece's baby; Paula Davis' niece for lupus; Carol Mitchell's mother, Mary; Darrell Broking— health issues. Dawn McFarland's — sister for covid and health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Freeman Cooper former member; Debbie Methvin's co-workers father Vasilos; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousins Paula and Kevin; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's brother-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friend, Lou.

INMATES:

Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN:

Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy)
Austin Reyes (Marine Corp)

Remember Our Shut-ins

At Home: Winston Sandlin

Activities

Directory Update— It's time to update the membership directory. If you have any changes or corrections to be made, please give them to Mary.

New Phone Number— Joyce Fezell has a new phone number in Ohio— (740) 357-0353.

Placed Membership—Please welcome Eula Lytle and her son Jim Lytle to our family here at Central. Their address is: 2362 Jamaican St Apt 68, Clearwater, FL 33763-3032. Phone number: 727-404-4323.

Wedding Shower—For Matt Pryor and Hannah Taylor on Saturday, February 19th at 5PM in the small building. They are registered at: Zola.com/wedding/hannahandmatthewmarch19. See Kadie or Mary with any questions.

Responded— Last Sunday morning William McRoy came forward for forgiveness of sin and to express his thankfulness for the church. Matt Pryor came forward Sunday evening needing the prayers of the church for restoring his focus on his Christian walk. Remember them in your prayers as they strive to walk closer with the Lord and be a Christian example to those around them.

Reminder— The 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. If you need the Bulletin, Christian Service List, Calendar or Directory call the office at (727) 446-4808.

Those Serving Today

Announcements—James George
Song Leaders—Joe Bonelli/James George
Opening Prayer—James George/Joe Bonelli
Lord's Table—Van Stewart
Closing Prayer—Matt Pryor/Bob Hadsock

Birthdays This Week

Tom George—January 24th



CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Office: (727) 446-4808
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January 23, 2022
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Gospel Broadcasting Network
http://gbntv.org YouTube
https://spiritualsword.org/

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

THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR YouTube (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

House to House Heart www.HouseToHouse.com

Childhaven, Inc. Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL www.childhaven.com

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME fairhavenchildrenshome.com

FSOP fsop.net

Soaring for Souls soaringforsouls.com

INDIA MISSIONS cocindia.net

www.christiancourier.com

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance

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: Lamentations

Sunday Worship—10:30AM

Charles Broyles

Why You Need God In Your Life

Psalm 103:1-2

Sunday Worship—5:00 PM

Charles Broyles

Walking With The Lord

2 John 4-7

Ladies Bible Study—Postponed

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM

Charles Broyles

The Bible

All of our services are available
on Facebook Live and



YouTube Live!





From the Preacher's Pen

WATER: OF ALL THE THINGS TO STUMBLE OVER

Alan Adams

Nicodemus wanted to know if “born again” (John 3:3) had reference to a physical birth. Jesus said, No. It is certain that no one can be “born again” in the physical sense. Jesus explained that He had in mind a rebirth of “the spirit,” a “renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). The Holy Spirit, causes our spirit to be “begotten again” through the “incorruptible seed, the word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). God’s Word enters the ears, then the heart of man, and brings about faith, repentance, and a desire to be right with God. This is being “born of the spirit” (John 3:6,8). But now, what about that water? There are some pretty exotic views about this little word.

When Jesus first said the thing about being born again (anew), Nicodemus was puzzled, so the Lord explained that being born anew means to be “born of water and of the spirit” (John 3:5). There is nothing to indicate that Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant by the words water and spirit. It is granted that sometimes words are used figuratively; just as here where Jesus is using the normal word, born, to talk about something other than what that word usually means. But, and this is a really important rule to follow when interpreting the meaning of words, Jesus made clear from the context that he was using the word born in a figurative sense; because, when Nicodemus asked him about a man entering his mother’s womb the second time, the Lord explained that he was not talking about being physically born, he was talking about spiritually born.

Yet, when Jesus said that the new birth was “of water and of the spirit,” He left no indication whatsoever that the words water and spirit mean anything other than what they normally mean. Were it not for some people being so dead-set against the idea of water baptism being connected to one’s being saved, it is doubtful that anyone would ever have read John 3:5, and come away understanding any thing other than Jesus saying, in order for a person to enter the kingdom of God, he must undergo a change of spirit and he must be baptized in water.

Did you know that just twenty-two verses before Jesus talks of being born of water (John 3:5), he uses the exact same word? In John 2:7, it says that Jesus told some people to “fill the waterpots with water.” And, did you know that just 18 verses after John 3:5, it says that John “was baptizing in Enon near to Salim, because there was much water there” (John 3:23)? It is not reasonable to doubt that water in John 2:7 and John 3:23 means anything other than H2O. Why would anyone imagine that it means something other than that in John 3:5?

Some say that water in John 3:5 really symbolizes the Holy Spirit, because they want to argue that Jesus is saying a person must be baptized in the Holy Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. If that were true, then you would have Jesus saying, a person must be born of the spirit and of the spirit to enter the kingdom of God; which, of course, would be absurd. Jesus uses two distinct words side-by-side: water and spirit. Neither symbolizes the other. There is no reason to imagine they do. Some say that the water here symbolizes the word; again, in the absence of compelling reason. Does Paul not speak of the church being cleansed “with the washing of water by the word” (Eph. 5:26)? Both the word and water have their place. One does not symbolize the other.

The most exotic explanation of the water in John 3:5 is that it refers to the amniotic fluid in which a prenatal baby lives for nine months of its life. Now, did Jesus mean to say, “except a

baby be born after his mamma’s water breaks, and then years later as a man he be born of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven?” Surely not. In fact, to answer Nicodemus’ query about being in his mother’s womb again, Jesus explained that he was talking about an entirely different birth, that of being born of water and of the spirit. There is really no way around the fact that somehow, somehow, pure, plain old water has some connection with one’s entering the kingdom of God. And, if that water is not water baptism that is mentioned no less than seventy-five times in the New Testament, then it can have no meaning at all.

When the Bible says, except, that pretty well settles it. Those, and only those, who are born of water and of the spirit will enter into the kingdom of God; which is to say, only penitent baptized believers are in the kingdom of God. 2021 E Main St. Manchester, TN 37349

DON'T BE LEFT OUT

There are many denominations in the world today and not one of them is mentioned in the Bible. None of them existed in the first century —the time the New Testament was written. Consider some of the following dates when some of the modern-day denominations were established:

- The Catholic Church — ca. A.D. 600.
- The Lutheran Church — A.D. 1517.
- The Baptist Church — A.D. 1522.
- The Episcopal Church — A.D. 1534.
- The Presbyterian Church — A.D. 1536.
- The Methodist Church — A.D. 1729.
- The Mormon Church — A.D. 1830.
- The Nazarene Church — A.D. 1907.

The word “church” is used very loosely here, since there is only one church (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23). The point is clearly made in the Bible that in New Testament times there was only one church.

The church was purchased with the precious blood of Christ which he shed on the cross. In Acts 20:28, Paul mentions to the elders of the church at Ephesus, the church which Christ “hath purchased with his own blood.”

In the Old Testament, we find prophecy of the establishment of the Lord’s church (Isa. 2:2-3; Micah 4:1-2; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14). These prophecies were fulfilled on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). That is the day the Lord’s church was established. “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

One who is a member of some other religious organization is outside of the Lord’s body, the body of baptized believers, the saved (Eph. 1:22-23; Mark 16:16). When God sent the flood, only saved were in the ark (Gen. 7:1,7,13; 1 Peter 3:20). The entrance to the ark was sealed shut to those outside the ark (Gen. 7:16). It is not hard to picture the flood waters rising and those left outside of the ark trying to pry the door open, and screaming “let me in, let me in,” but to no avail. On the Day of Judgment, the door to heaven will be sealed shut to those outside of the body of Christ. Live faithfully for God while there is still opportunity. Do not be left out!

—Andy Gates