

E-Messenger

First Church of Christ

From Bob Russell's Blog:

Although we're still fourteen months away from the presidential election, the campaign leads the headlines almost daily and the candidates are stumping the country seeking votes. In addition to the Presidential election, there are numerous Senate seats being contested and a number of close races anticipated in the House of Representatives. Pundits are predicting this will be one of the most brutal political campaigns in American history.

Before we get caught up with the charismatic personalities of the candidates and the heated rhetoric of talk radio, we

would do well to review a page from the history book of ancient Judah. The book of 2 Chronicles chapters 34-36 records the dramatic difference that was made in an unstable nation by one Godly leader whose name was Josiah.

Manasseh, Josiah's grandfather, and Amon, his father, had been two of Judah's most wicked kings. Under their corrupt administrations the morality of the nation plummeted so deep into depravity that God pronounced a curse on the land. The nation was going to be conquered and taken

into captivity.

Shortly after Manasseh died, Josiah was crowned king when he was just eight years old. Even though his father had been horribly wicked, young Josiah had a heart for God and surrounded himself with Godly advisors. "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left" (34:2).

When he was still in his twenties, Josiah ordered the violated temple refurbished, the newly-discovered Scriptures read and obeyed, the neglected Passover

September Issue

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Feast reinstated, the idol worship abolished and the sexually oriented businesses of his day closed down. The king vowed, "...to follow the LORD and keep

SELF HELP?

Our world is filled with self-help books, ways to improve our lives, and multiple "gurus" looking to make a quick buck while guiding us toward a personal Shangri-La. We are constantly inundated with information telling us we are not good enough. We need to be thinner, healthier, taller, better dressed, have whiter teeth, and any multitude of items to make us more acceptable in the public eye. It is almost impossible in today's society to avoid this noise. No matter where we are, we find ourselves influenced by voices that continually tell us that we should be and can be better than what we currently are

and certainly better than the person next to us.

I don't think there is anything wrong with making ourselves better as long as we remember that as Christians Jesus *made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant*. Philippians 2:7. There is nothing more important than serving others in the name of Christ and bringing Jesus to this world. It is something we are commanded to do every day. The world, and especially the prince of this world, tries very hard to get us to concentrate on ourselves

because if we do that we are not concentrating on saving the lost by being the hands and feet of Jesus. Remember that Jesus left the glories of Heaven to become a servant unto death for us. It's beyond what we can really comprehend, but be assured what He did is worth telling others about so they too can have eternal life.

Proverbs 16:18 says *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall*. Don't get caught up in what this world has to offer and how this world tells us we should be. Jesus

showed us by example to take on the mindset of a servant to bring His loving salvation to those in the world. If we lift up our heads then let it be only to refocus on Jesus and then to get back down to work shining the light of Jesus everywhere we go.

Continually Overcoming,
Tim Calvin

Serving in September

Greeters:

- 6—Tom & Cindy Horton (A)
- 13—Charlene Dean (A)
- 20—Vince & Nola Girardot (A)
- 27—Todd & Teresa Gambler (A)

Communion Ministry:

- 6—Jim & Pat McPeak
- 13—Jason Gregg
- 20—Kevin & Barb Gallagher

27—Brock Rohrer

Prayer Warriors:

Angie Murphy/Teresa Gambler

Welcome Center:

- 6—John/Nora Altman (9); Ron & Shellee Brown (9:45)
- 13—Lesley Shirkey (9); Kevin/Barb Gallagher (9:45)
- 20—Jordan/Heather Day (9:45)

Nursery:

- 6—Anna Tipton/Sabrina Ramey
- 13—Heather Day/Riley Sabins
- 20—Mary Lloyd/Megan Grimm
- 27—Kayla Tonneas/Caity Karnes

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 2 Vivian Holdsworth, Eugene Johns, Matt Nixon, Lydia Rogers
- 3 Karen Witt
- 6 Stacie Beerbower
- 7 Jim Armstead, Carter Dominique, Emily Hetrick
- 8 Tim Gordon
- 9 Drew Grimm, Luke Hill, Marilyn Lundy
- 10 Skip Ritchey, Rachelle Row-ison
- 11 Gil Cramer
- 12 Sabrina Ramey
- 13 Charlotte Brandt

- 15 Anne Bard, Mackenzie McBride
- 18 Lisa Turnbull
- 19 Derek Stiverson
- 20 Adaleigh Herendeen
- 21 Erin Beals
- 22 Margie Olds
- 23 Dave Frazer, Kaitlyn Hessel-schwardt, Pat McPeak
- 24 Carmen Schultz
- 27 McKenzie Frazer, Bryan Ton-neas
- 28 Kendra Reasor
- 29 Mark Cramer, Steve Lundy
- 30 Evelyn Deetz, Brigitte Kusz-maul, Jenifer Shaw

- 2 Jim & Melinda Armstead (37)
- 4 Brock & Tacha Rohrer (16)
- 7 Gil & Carole Cramer (47), Dale & Leona Puff (47)
- 9 Dean & Sue Smethurst (48), Matt & Miranda Wiese (9)
- 11 Dan & Margie Olds (28)
- 13 Luc & Rachel Hessel-schwardt (12)
- 15 Todd & Teresa Gambler (25)
- 19 Bill & Janet McCarthy (56)
- 24 Eric & Angie Murphy (21)

Family News

Congratulations!

Oaklee Scott Bard made his debut Thursday, July 23rd. He weighed in at 7# 6.6 oz. and was 21" long. He is the first child of Jarrad & Amber Bard. Paternal grandparents are Scott & Anne Bard. Great-grandmother is Shirley Bard.

Congratulations to Samara Calvin on receiving her doctorate.

SYMPATHY

The church family extends her sympathy to John & Mary Garver and family on the loss of Mary's brother, Bill Mavis.

Ladies & Girls Christmas Celebration:




This special event is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th, starting with dinner at 5:30 followed by a program at 7. The theme for the evening is "Behold Him." Guest speakers

will be Carol & Kristen Kurivial. Six women are needed to serve on the committee. If you are interested, please contact Kim Snavelly.

Prayer Breakfast: The Bryan Area Christian Prayer Breakfast will feature speaker Char Binkley, former WBCL personality and soloist Kay Fox Allison. Both men and women are invited to be uplifted by their program entitled "You Are the Light of the World" at Wesley UMC on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Tickets cost \$7. See Joanne Allison or JoNell Gotshall for tickets, or buy them at the door.

SEPTEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons	4	5
		6 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	7  LABOR DAY	8 10:00 Craft Group	9 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Fusion 6:40 Adult Bible Study	10 9:30 Senior Seekers 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	14	15	16 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Fusion 6:40 Adult Bible Study	17 Fair Day 9:30 Senior Seekers 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons	18 9:00 5th Quarter	19
20 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	21	22 12:45 Visitation Ministry	23 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Fusion 6:40 Adult Bible Study	24 10:15 Quiet Corner Day Trip 9:30 Senior Seekers 9:30 Ladies' Bible Study @ Seasons	25 9:00 5th Quarter	26
27 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	28	29 11:45 Lunch Bunch @ Bob Evans, Defiance	30 5:30 Supper 6:15 Fusion 6:30 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 Fusion 6:40 Adult Bible Study			



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Love All, Worship One,
Make Disciples

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Facts & Figures

August 2

Attendance SS 26 Worship 60/
Offering \$8,914.00

August 9

Attendance SS 27 Worship 41/115
Offering \$5,235.00

August 16

Attendance SS 23 Worship 49/91
Offering \$3,472.00

August 23

Attendance SS 30 Worship 54/135
Offering \$4,996.00

Needed for Budget \$5,980.01

Love All

Our Service Personnel: Kevin Bergman (GA), Igor Blinzler (MO), Jared Headley (CO), Lindsey Kaiser, Nathan McCoy (Japan), Stewart Martin (NC), Jessie Stillman (OH), Josh Severs (Afghanistan), Josh Tonneas (MA)

Cancer: Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Bruce Beerbower, Arlene Boyer, Brent, Tim Bright, Sherry Buchsteiner, Jennie Case, Chuck, Martin Collins, Gwen Acker-Dickinson, Diane Distan, Weston DuBois, Carrie H., Gene Johns, Molly Johnston, Kent, Judy Koerner, Chuck Lees, Marshall, Tim Mavis, Connie Pence, Jim Pringle, Elaine Purdue, Kathy

Rittenhouse, Bob & Sue Secoy, Gail Siebenaler, Lyle Snavely, Dinah Stiltner, Jaime Trevino, Tammy, Joe Vaccaro, Linda Walker, Kathy Walton, Drew Wayman, Al West, Gloria Wright. **Other Concerns:** Ann Rittenhouse, Jennifer Mavis, Evelyn Fox, Bill McCarthy, Brianna Lloyd, Amy Boyd, Jo Harman, Troy Hug, Trevor Bailey, Leona Puff, Neighborhood, Geri Cox, Dale Boyer, Danielle Strouse, Mike Rosendaul, Bob Wagner, Paul Newcomb, Denise Easterday, Asher Cravens, Georgianna Weaver, Brenda Ridgway, June Shook, Annie Engel, Lola Pardee, Maribel Duckworth, Kelly Phil

lips, Brian Snively Family, Darren Jones, Nathan Gambler, Juanita Ruble, Ron Walker, Henry Kidd, Alexander Tressler, Mike Huffman, Tonneas Family, Bryce Gambler, Cindy Wolf, Mark Snavely, Goltare Family.

Shut Ins: Fountain Park: Maribel Duckworth, **Hillside:** Floyd Puffenbarger, **Home:** Marcena Bly, Linda Lewis, Georgianna Weaver, **Fairlawn Haven:** Gerald Wetmore, **Genesis:** Vivian Holdsworth, **The Lakes of Monclova:** Roger Ellis

his commands, regulations and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book” (34:31).

The result of Josiah’s righteous leadership was dramatic. God delayed His judgment, the nation of Judah thrived, and for thirty-one years the country experienced peace. Josiah’s leadership teaches four needed principles for America:

(1) There is a direct correlation between the morality of a nation and its stability.

“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people” (Proverbs 14:34). Obedience to God still brings blessing; disobedience still brings disaster. What America needs most right now are not charismatic leaders who look good on television but Godly leaders who seek to walk in God’s will. We don’t need a heavy turnout at the polls as much as we need a national spirit of repentance.

(2) The spirituality of a declining nation can be reclaimed. It’s rare and it’s difficult, but spiritual revival can occur without a national disaster. It happened to the nation of Judah under Josiah. It happened to the city of Ninevah after Jonah’s warning. It happened in America in what is called the great awakening. It can happen again—but it needs to happen soon.

(3) Spiritual renewal demands dramatic measures. Josiah took drastic steps that disturbed a lot of people. He removed pagan shrines that were the source of pleasure for many. He eliminated the false prophets, who were relatives and friends of many. He established the Scriptures as the basis of morality, which undoubtedly was resented by many. Surgery hurts and Josiah initiated spiritual surgery that was painful.

(4) If real change is to occur, the leadership will most likely come from young people. Josiah was a young man when he led Judah back to God. If spiritual renewal comes, the leadership will probably come from young men and women who still have high ideals and courageous energy. Many older Christians are appalled at the moral decadence of our time but some have given up and others lack the energy to prompt much of a following. Older leaders are easily dismissed as “out of touch.”

First Chronicles 12:32 describes the men of Issachar as men, “who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...” Let’s pray that God will raise up young, Godly, courageous leaders both inside and outside the political arena who understand the critical times in which we live and are willing again to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to reclaim the values that once blessed America.

**Destined to win,
Larry Snavelly**

