

# The Northwood Messenger

Telephone 205-339-6122

Sunday, December 18, 2011

www.justchristians.info

## We Welcome Our Visitors

Visitors are a special part of our service and we are so glad to have you here today. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and include any way that we may be of service to you.

## Last Week's Attendance and Contribution

Sunday AM— 186 Sunday PM—142

Contribution—\$3,725

Wednesday—132

## Several Need Prayers & Help

As you approach our Father in prayer, be sure to ask His help for those who have had recent surgeries or medial procedures. Keep in mind, Amanda Allen, Marla Gray's father, James Arrowood and Andrew Holoweicki. If you would be willing and able to provide a meal or two for them, it would be most appreciated. See Jason Wright or Michael Holt to coordinate these meals.

## Volunteers Needed

Remember to sign up for preparation of the Lord's Supper or building lock up, if you can help.

## **A Squeak In The Pulpit**

Steve Higginbotham

Recently I read of an entry found in an old church record of a business meeting. It stated: A committee was appointed to investigate the squeak in the pulpit. Upon reading this, I couldn't help but think that today's world, even today's church, desperately needs more than a "squeak" coming from the pulpit. Now, as much as ever, we need the clear tones of the gospel resounding from our pulpits.

We are hearing far too much about churches who are selling out to the culture. The distinctive preaching of New Testament Christianity is seldom if ever heard in some pulpits. Sermons that challenge our morals, expound our doctrine, question our ethics, and rebuke our mediocrity are exchanged for sermons that have an air of religiosity, but are lacking in substance.

In 1 Chronicles 12:32, it was said of some of God's children that they "understood the times." There remains a multitude of God's children who understand the times. They understand that now is not the time for a squeak in the pulpit. There are many godly elders, and godly Christians who are demanding to hear more than a squeak from the pulpit. They have not bought into the idea that distinctive preaching has harmed the church. They want substance over style and flair. They want truth over entertainment. They want biblical authority over pragmatism. And they would rather have the sometimes bitter truth over a watered-down gospel. To put it in the words of John MacArthur, they realize that the weakness of the pulpit today does not stem from frantic cranks who harangue about hell; it is the result of men who compromise and who fear to speak God's Word powerfully, with conviction.

There are many challenges that face the church today. If we are to rise up to the occasion and defeat our adversary, we must have a strong pulpit; Pulpits that will speak the truth in season and out of season, with all the love it can muster; Pulpits that will not compromise the truth; Pulpits that do more than just squeak!

## IGLESIA DE CRISTO

Lugar de reunion (4601 Northwood Estates Drive, Northport, AL 35476)

Para clases biblicas llamar al telefono. (205) 296-7208

Sergio Herrera: Siervo de Cristo Horario. Domingo. 2:30 a 4:30 pm.

Les invitamos a que vengan a escuchar la palabra de Dios en español. Tal vez usted ya sea religioso o tal vez no. Pero de todas maneras le invitamos a escuchar y a observar de cómo adoramos a Dios y como enseñamos la palabra. Y tal vez después de escuchar y meditar en esto, usted tenga alguna pregunta, sugerencia o comentario. Trataremos de escuchar con atención y respeto y contestar con la Biblia abierta con amor y humildad. TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.

Sunday	December 18
Song Leader	Pressnell
Speaker @ Table	Mason
Lord's Supper	G. Mann
Assist	Stricklin
Assist	S. Smith
Assist	Jk Arrowood
Assist	J. Arrowood
Assist	P. L. Davis
Prayer	R. Haley
Announce- ments	N. Huggins
Closing Prayer	P. Davis
Sunday	December 18
Song Leader	Roberson
Prayer	Greear
Lord's Supper	G. Mann
Assist	Stricklin
Announce- ments	N. Huggins
Closing Prayer	Holladay
Wednesday	December 21
Song Leader	Holt
Invitation	D, Smith
Closing Prayer	Holoweicki
Audio/Video	Wright

## "Woe is to me if I preach not the gospel."

Justin Roberson

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:16, "Woe is to me if I preach not the gospel." Brethren, it's time to teach lost souls. There is an urgency to teach the lost. Jesus says in Matthew 9:37-38, "*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*" We must work in the Lord's harvest because if we don't then those we could have taught will be lost and we don't want that to happen. Bible studies are desperately needed. Whether you are willing to conduct them, or just set them up, there are lost souls that must be reached. Here are six ideas and methods that God teaches us to practice.

**1. Pray to God to help** you to say the right thing, in the right way. Pray for open doors, for wisdom & strength to take advantage of the opportunities. Pray for open hearts and for the prospect to have ease of understanding. James 5:16

**2. Until a study is set up it can't be conducted.** To set up a study we must **ASK**. We should not be afraid that we are going to make a mistake in asking a person to study the Bible with us. The only person who never made a mistake is the one who did nothing for fear of making a mistake, but he made the biggest mistake of all by doing nothing. If we have sincerity and love for lost souls then what we say will not be so important. We must realize that everyone has a precious soul. Remember to always strive to gain a study appointment with a definite time and date rather than just answering questions on the spur of the moment. WE CAN DO IT!!!

**3. Different people should be approached differently.** Jude 22-23 says, "And on some have compassion, making a difference; and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

**4. Avoid a prideful, know it all, excited, argumentative, or angry attitude.** If we don't then a wall of opposition springs up. (A) If you say "I'll prove it to you", in his mind he thinks "I'd like to see you do it." (B) If you say "Let me show you", he thinks "Maybe so but I won't accept it from you if you do." It is better to say "could we see what the Bible says?" Don't quote scriptures to him. Ask him to read the scripture. 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us to do this with meekness and fear.

**5. In talking to another we should remember that his convictions are just as sacred to him as ours are to us.** What he believes may seem foolish to us, and it may be easy for us to see his error, but it is hard for him. It is difficult for him or her to give it up.

**6. Be genuinely sincere when we are talking to someone about his soul.** Thier soul is the most important thing in the world, and if he or she thinks we think so then he will see how important it is. Love of the lost will lead us to an untiring effort for the salvation of others. If we really love the souls of people, we cannot bear the thought that they will be lost forever. People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. People will be more willing to listen to us if they really believe we care. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart 1 Peter 1:22.....God bless you!!