

The Mars Hill Messenger

April 17, 2016

The Purpose of Life...

Life is a precious gift from God. It is God who “forms the spirit of man within him” (Zechariah 12:1), and it is to God that our spirits return after death (Ecclesiastes 12:7). Consequently, it would seem that men ought to use their lives to please God. But rather than striving to “seek the Lord” (Acts 17:27), men often expend their energies in other ventures.

Some, for example, act as if their purpose in life is to gain physical wealth. And to that end they focus all of their efforts. Those who struggle in this area should be reminded of several basic Biblical truths: 1) “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses” (Luke 12:15); 2) Christians ought to “lay up for [themselves] treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal” (Matthew 6:20); and 3) “The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10). Life’s purpose is not to amass earthly wealth.

Others act as if their purpose in life is to maintain their physical health. While it should be granted that our bodies are important to God (1 Corinthians 6:19), and that “bodily exercise profits a little” (1 Timothy 4:8), it must be remembered that at the longest, our lives are but brief (James 4:14). For this reason, we must make sure that we do not become so consumed with caring for our bodies that we lose focus upon God.

Still others act as if the purpose of life is to experience pleasure. This, too, misses the point of our existence. Our purpose is to “Fear God and keep His commandments. For this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

—Chad Ramsey

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:15 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 p.m.
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CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 185
 Vilonia, Arkansas 72173
 Phone: (501) 796-2052
www.churchofchristmarshill.org

Elders

Thomas Martin	796-3741
David Riley	472-5108

Deacons

Rodger Harlan	207-2334
Rodger Moore	288-0135
Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	796-8889

Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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Youth Minister

Dan Blair	514-3450
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Missions

- Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)
- Roberto Sarmiento, Costa Rica
- Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)
- Youth Outreach University Youthoutreachuniversity.com
- Truth For Today World Mission School
- Gospel Chariot (Africa)
- Gospel Crusade (Local)
- Camp Areopagus

At A Glance

April 18 – Preacher’s Meeting. Greenbrier C of C. 10 a.m.
April 18 – Area-Wide Fellowship Supper
April 23 – Men/Boy’s Breakfast at Areopagus.
April 24 – Contribution to Building Fund
May 1-4 - Gospel Meeting. Perryville C of C.
 Speaker: Carroll Sites
May 7 – Southern Christian Home Homecoming
May 15 – Senior Banquet
May 21 – Fellowship Meal and Singing at Areopagus.
May 29 – Cookout following the evening service
May 29 – Contribution to Building Fund
June 6-9 – Bible-Market Day Camp at Areopagus. K-3rd grade
June 12-18 – Summer Camp at Areopagus. 9th-12th Grade. Director: Allen Myers
June 19-25 – Summer Camp at Areopagus. 4th-6th Grade. Directors: Rod Leslie, Cody Bradford
June 26-July 1 - Summer Camp at Areopagus. 7th-8th Grade. Directors: Stephen McFaddend, Spencer Cromwell
June 26 – Contribution to Building Fund
July 10-15 – Gospel Crusade at UCA
July 22 – Dixon/Stocks Wedding
July 31 – Potluck Meal following a.m. service
July 31 – Contribution to Building Fund
August 28 – Contribution to Building Fund

Bible Class Lessons

Sunday, April 17: Lesson #253 – Mark 6:30-56
 Wed., April 20: Lesson #254 – John 6:22-71
 Sunday, April 24: Lesson #255 – Review
 Wed, April 27: Lesson #256 – Acts 9:1-31

April 24, 2016 SOUND ROOM

Clay Winn
Nursery
 Ruth Duncan
ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Mark Mauney
SCRIPTURE READING
 Jack Hancock
A.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Caleb Shock
LEAD PRAYER
 Carey Wells
 Rodger Harlan
LORD’S TABLE
 Roy Bulice, b.
 Keith Moore, c.
 Stanley Gordon, o.
 Toby Stocks
 Jade Smith
 Thurman Brown
P.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Eddy Jones
LEAD PRAYER
 Keith Moore
 Jack Hancock
LORD’S TABLE
 Greg Floyd
 Sawyer Floyd
Wed., April 27, 2016
LEAD SINGING
 Bob Johnston
LEAD PRAYER
 Mark Mauney
 Steve Shock
DEVOTIONAL
 Clay Winn

April 17, 2016 SOUND ROOM

Thomas Martin
Nursery
 Ruth Duncan
ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Mark Mauney
SCRIPTURE READING
 Keith Moore
A.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Curtis Sawrie
LEAD PRAYER
 Rodney Partee
 Jarod Partee
LORD’S TABLE
 James Moore, b.
 John Carper, c.
 Steve Shock, o.
 Mark Mauney
 Dan Blair
 Carey Wells
P.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Bob Johnston
LEAD PRAYER
 Rodger Harlan
 Roy Bulice
LORD’S TABLE
 Gary Lambert
 Harold Moody
Wed., April 20, 2016
LEAD SINGING
 Michael Hunter
LEAD PRAYER
 James Moore
 John Carper
DEVOTIONAL
 Rodger Harlan

Encouraging Words

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the unfortunate frogs they would never get out. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and simply gave up. He fell down and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and suffering and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

When he got out, the other frogs asked him, “Why did you continue jumping? Didn’t you hear us?” The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time!

This story teaches us two very powerful lessons:

- 1) There is power of life and death in the tongue (Proverbs 18:21) – An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.
- 2) A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill them (Proverbs 12:6) – Let’s be careful of what we say! Speak life to those who cross our path! The power of words ... it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times.

Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another. We desperately need this kind of individual in the church of our Lord today. We need more Christians like Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement” – Acts 4:36) to help build up and encourage others in the work of the Lord’s church.

Brethren, may we always be an encouragement to others! May our lips speak words of encouragement instead of disparaging words. My prayer is that you will send this story to someone you would like to encourage today!

*Mike Riley
Ripley, MS*

“Pick your words carefully as it has the power to make the sentence beautiful or ugly....”

— **Adil Adam Memon**

“Words can be medicines; they can also be poisons. Words can heal; they can also kill... It all depends on how, when and where they are use and against whom! Let us not abuse our words. It's a misuse of the tongue!”

— **Israelmore Ayivor, The Great Hand Book of Quotes**

PRAYERS NEEDED

Pam Webb is recovering from surgery to repair a broken arm.

Bill Ward has one more radiation treatment.

Dorothy Glover is recovering from pneumonia.

Barbara Ausbrooks has pneumonia.

Bob Johnston is scheduled for hip replacement surgery on May 16th.

Alex Lafferty is continuing to have problems with his back.

Ted Knight was released from the hospital on Tuesday.

Extended Sick List: Lou Riley, Carolyn Brown, Thurman Brown, Ethan Lafferty, Karen Lambert, Phil Autrey, Karen Carper, Shelia Riddle, Robie Permenter, Monteen Ward, Paula Stocks, Martha Walker, Jerry Walker, Carroll Sites, Gordon Newsome, Ken Cope, John McBee, Henry Knonnemacher, Jason Elliott, Jessie Ellison, Sr., Bob Dalton, Pam Johnson, Ruby McKenny, Sandy Hill, Varnell Wood, Leah Nugent, Chester Hale, Marjory Stanley, Ava Walker, Ron Smith, John Riddle, Jerry Almond, Rick Miller, Marie Stocks, Anna Kay Jones, Barbara Fowlkes, Jim Canter

FAMILY NEWS

Directory Pictures: John Carper and Debbie Moody are taking pictures for an updated membership directory. Everyone’s cooperation is needed in this effort.

Pizza and Games: The students in Kindergarten – 2nd Grade are invited to pizza and games following services this morning. Parents of the children should arrange to pick them up at 2 p.m. If you have questions see Kim Wells.

Fellowship Supper: The monthly Fellowship Supper is tomorrow at the building of the Downtown Church of Christ. The meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$6. If you plan to attend please let David know.

Boy’s Day at Camp Areopagus: Tomorrow, 3-4:45 p.m. Transportation will be available from the Frank Mitchell School, but all young men are welcome. Bible study, games, team building, refreshments. If you have questions, see Rodney Partee.

Men and Boys’ Breakfast: All the men and boys of the congregation are invited to share in a breakfast at Camp Areopagus next Saturday. The meal will be served at 8 a.m. If you will be attending please sign the sheet on the table in foyer.

Little Leaders: Our boys and girls meet each Sunday at 4:30 p.m. There is a training program for both boys and girls. Please invite your friends to join you! Please parents, make sure your sons are involved.

Areopagus Summer Camp Sessions: Application forms for the session this summer are available on the tables in the foyer. Or, you may register online at www.campareopagus.org.

Deadline: The deadline for registering children for the Day Camp at Areopagus is May 1st.

Fellowship Meal and Singing: Everyone is invited to a meal and singing at Camp Areopagus on Saturday, May 21st. The meal will be served at noon. Following the meal will be a singing.