

The *Mars Hill* Messenger

April 3, 2016

Believe God...

After Paul was seized by the mob in Jerusalem, he was taken into Roman custody. And because a Jewish plot to take his life was discovered, the Romans transferred him to Caesarea. While there, Paul had the opportunity to defend himself before governors Felix and Festus. And it was before Festus that Paul made his famous appeal to be taken before Caesar saying: "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you very well know. For if I am an offender, or have committed anything deserving of death, I do not object to dying; but if there is nothing in these things of which these men accuse me, no one can deliver me to them. I appeal to Caesar" (Acts 25:10-11).

After assuring Paul that his request would be granted, Festus made provisions for him to be taken by ship to Rome. But that voyage, like most of Paul's other experiences, was not to be without incident. In the midst of the long journey, a storm, so severe that "sailors were seeking to escape from the ship" (Acts 27:30), encompassed the vessel. Nevertheless, an angel assured Paul that he and all those present on the voyage would survive the impending wreck. Thus, Paul spoke: "Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me" (Acts 27:25).

Paul's words reflect the confidence that all Christians should have in God's Word. He knew that if God had promised his safety, he would be safe indeed. No wonder Paul later wrote: "...I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

—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 10 – Gospel Meeting at the Judsonia C of C. Speaker: Carroll Sites
April 10-13 – Crowley's Ridge College Lectureship. Theme: 1 Samuel
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 – Potluck Meal following a.m. 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: David Riley, Spencer Cromwell
June 26 – Contribution to Building Fund
July 10-15 – Gospel Crusade at UCA
July 22 – Dixon/Stocks Wedding

Bible Class Lessons

Sunday, April 10: Lesson #251 – Mt. 9:9-34
 Wed., April 13: Lesson #252 – Mark 6:1-29
 Sunday, April 17: Lesson #253 –
 Wed, April =20: Lesson #254 –

April 3, 2016 SOUND ROOM

Dan Blair
Nursery
 Ruth Duncan
ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Mark Mauney
SCRIPTURE READING
 Rodger Harlan
A.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Thomas Martin
LEAD PRAYER
 James Moore
 John Carper
LORD'S TABLE
 Greg Floyd, b.
 Sawyer Floyd, c.
 Caleb Shock, o.
 Josh Moore
 Connor Marsh
 Ralph Hunter
P.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Randy Riddle
LEAD PRAYER
 Curtis Sawrie
 Rodney Partee
LORD'S TABLE
 Keith Moore
 Jack Hancock
Wed., April 6, 2016
LEAD SINGING
 Jade Smith
LEAD PRAYER
 Rodger Moore
 Josh Moore
DEVOTIONAL
 Rodney Partee

April 10, 2016 SOUND ROOM

Thomas Martin
Nursery
 Ruth Duncan
ANNOUNCEMENTS
 Mark Mauney
SCRIPTURE READING
 Roy Bulice
A.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Jacob Moore
LEAD PRAYER
 Steve Shock
 Dan Blair
LORD'S TABLE
 Colton Hunter, b.
 Michael Hunter, c.
 Thomas Martin, o.
 Rodger Moore
 Josh Moore
 Joey Moore
P.M. SERVICE
LEAD SINGING
 Michael Hunter
LEAD PRAYER
 Jarod Partee
 Carey Wells
LORD'S TABLE
 Jade Smith
 Thurman Brown
Wed., April 13, 2016
LEAD SINGING
 Randy Riddle
LEAD PRAYER
 Jacob Moore
 Joey Moore
DEVOTIONAL
 Jarod Partee

This Much More

“I love you, Papa!” his children and grandchildren would often exclaim.

Papa (Marvin Irvin) would often ask, “How much?”

I’m sure that through the years the answers would range from “a whole bunch” to “this much” as a grandchild stretched his or her arms as wide as possible.

But then Papa would hold out his hand and measure an inch or two between his thumb and forefinger and say, “I love you this much more than you love me.”

Meme (Martha Irvin) said that at first their children and grandchildren thought Papa was saying that he only loved them a little bit. But with tender explanations backed by an abundance of demonstrations of that love throughout his lifetime, they began to fully understand that Papa was saying he loved them *more* than they loved him.

Truth be told, that love was reciprocated, but the depth of that love has been realized more and more as Papa has gone to be with Jesus. *

The message from Heaven to you and to me is, “I love you.”

As we consider how much we have messed up our lives through our sins, we may wonder how God could love us.

God responds: “I love you because I made you. I created you in My image (Genesis 1:26-27).

“But God, we have marred that image because of our foolish choices and our sins.”

“I still love you. In fact...” Imagine now that God holds out His divine hand measuring an inch or two between His thumb and forefinger, and He says, “**I love you this much more than you love Me.**”

“**God, how much do You love me?**” we may ask.

He responds: “I love you this much.” And He spread out His arms and died on the cross for you and me.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:9-10).

God loves us so much more that He gave His Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we might be saved from our sins and receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16).

God will save those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7).

God loves us so much more; His love is immeasurable!

Won’t YOU reciprocate that love by surrendering your life in grateful trusting obedience?

-- David A. Sargent

PRAYERS NEEDED

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

Bill Ward is undergoing radiation treatments.

Alex Lafferty is continuing to have problems with his back.

Jack Moore, brother of James and Rodger Moore, has experienced some mini-strokes.

Pam Dale, Lou Riley’s daughter, is in the Searcy Hospital undergoing tests.

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

Building Fund: \$3833 was contributed toward to Building Fund last Sunday.

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.

Pizza and Games: The students in Kindergarten – 2nd Grade are invited to pizza and games following the morning service on Sunday, April 17th. Parents of the children should arrange to pick them up at 2 p.m. If you have questions see Kim Wells.

Men and Boys’ Breakfast: All the men and boys of the congregation are invited to share in a breakfast at Camp Areopagus on Saturday, April 23rd. The meal will be served at 8 a.m. If you will be attending please sign the sheet on the table in foyer.

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.

Church Grounds: If you are willing to help care for the church grounds for one month during the period April – August please sign the sheet on the bulletin board.

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

(2 Corinthians 12:10)

A new thought has been given to Paul—Christ’s glory will be enhanced. At once he begins to glory in this infirmity, “Most gladly” (2Co 12:9), or most sweetly; it became a delight of the highest kind. What he wanted to lose he now wants to keep. With the thorn in the flesh he can become, as he could not without it, the dwelling place of the power of Christ. It is enough if through his humiliation Christ may be exalted, if through his suffering Christ may be glorified.