

# MESSENGER

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 50

DECEMBER 11, 2016

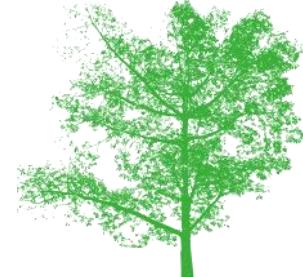
## Add To Your Godliness Brotherly Kindness...

*"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

2 Peter 1:5-8

Love. Paul calls it “the bond of perfection” (Colossians 3:14) and the greatest of the spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 13:13). John says that “God is love” (1 John 4:8) and that “if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us” (1 John 4:12). Love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things” so that it “never fails” (1 Corinthians 13:7-8). Thus, love completes the list of attributes that God calls us to add to our lives as it also completes the man that possesses and practices it. Maybe more than any other trait, love is the one that causes us to act, think, and look most like our heavenly Father.

There are many different ways to understand love. The word that is used in this text is the word “agape.” It refers to spiritual love – one that transcends human relationships and natural affection. It is a selfless and sacrificial love that puts the needs, well-being, and best interests of others before self. Obviously, agape love was displayed in its perfect form in the offering of Christ as the sacrifice for the sins of the world. In that act, God allowed the unimaginable suffering of His Son for no other reason than His love for mankind and His desire to see us saved. The love that we are called to have seeks to emulate in small and imperfect ways that great love that God has toward us. Our love is shown through kind words and deeds, acts of help and benevolence, and concern shown for those who are hurting, just to name a few. Maybe the most important manifestation of agape love, though, is seen in our concern for the souls of our fellowman. Whether it is encouraging and edifying the saved, reaching out to the lost, seeking to restore the fallen, or sacrificing of our means so that the vital work of spreading the gospel might be done, showing this type of love means that we have an overwhelming desire to see the salvation of souls and are willing to put forth whatever effort is required to accomplish that goal. May God help us to become mature and complete as we add love to our Christian lives.



Chase Park Church of Christ

### Ministers

Rusty Hills ..... Pulpit  
Nathan Adams..... Outreach  
John Denney ..... Education  
Andrew Lamica.... Youth Minister

### Elders

John Denney  
Curtis Hill  
Sam Kachelman  
Dennis Lawson  
Greg Parker  
Barry Todd

### Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza .... Chalco, Mexico  
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico  
Slava Savkovsky ..... Ukraine  
Barton Kizer..... Peru  
Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

*Rusty*

## To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.

## Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

What a blessing it is to be able to work full time in the ministry and to do so at Chase Park. My family and I have been so richly blessed in serving alongside each of you this year and all of the previous years as well.

You, as our church family, provide us with encouragement on a regular basis and we are appreciative of it. Each opportunity we have to assemble with the saints gives us an opportunity to “take a breath” from the hustle and bustle of life and we look

forward to it every time.

As we head toward a new year, 2017, we do it with great anticipation. We are anxious to see what God, the Father, has in store for the church here at Chase Park. We are excited to celebrate with you the blessings God bestows on your family. We stand ready to walk by your side through the valleys of life that sometimes come your way. We look forward to 2017 with our great church family.

We reflect back on 2016 and it is easy to see all of the

wonderful ways God has blessed our lives and the Chase Park congregation. We are thankful to have experienced all of the wonderful things of God this past year with you.

Though it doesn’t seem possible, 2017 is right around the corner. I am looking forward to another great year for the Chase Park youth group and the Chase Park congregation as a whole and I hope you are as well!

## Live In Harmony Like Christ—*Nathan Adams*

Paul began Philippians 4 by commanding them to stand firm in unselfishness. In the next verse he addressed two ladies in the church at Philippi. He urged Euodia and Syntyche to “live in harmony in the Lord.” These two ladies obviously were at odds with one another in some way. Paul’s plea for them to “live in harmony” was from the same root word for an attitude, mind, or intent of thought that we have seen throughout the letter (1:7; 2:2,3; 3:15; 4:10). Once again, Paul was calling for these ladies to have the same mind in them that was in Christ Jesus. A mind and attitude of putting others first. Can you imagine how many grudges and difficult situations between Christians would disappear if each put the other’s needs first? Disputes and hard feelings flow from selfishness. Clearly, this dispute between these ladies had grown to a point to merit apostolic address. Such a degree of dispute would have an impact upon the unity of the church. Paul gave four commands that these two ladies would have to “live in harmony in the Lord” to obey.

Verse 4 is a very familiar verse that we often reference. It was still in the context of the issue with these women. Paul was contrasting the lack of joy that surely existed between two individuals who were not living in harmony with each other. They needed to put their selfishness aside so that they could obey the imperative command to “rejoice in the Lord.” They could never obey this while not living in harmony.

In verse 5 Paul commanded that their “gentle spirit” be known. This gentle spirit is one that is not self motivated or concerned about always getting one’s way. Disputes often tend to have roots in getting my way. One or both needed to let go of their way in consideration of the other, the church, and the Lord. This attitude needed to be clearly seen by all.

Paul then commanded that they be anxious for nothing (v. 6). “Anxious” is undue or unneeded worry. This anxiousness will dominate our emotions. When we are in conflict with someone, we will always suffer from anxiousness about the situation. Instead, we should focus on God and not self. Look to Him and not our selfish motivations. When we do that, we will trust in God to help us with our difficulties and that will create thanksgiving in our hearts. Only then can we know the peace of God that is beyond comprehension. A peace that exists outside unneeded worry.

Lastly, Paul commanded them to dwell on those things that were good instead of dwelling on conflict. The list in verse 8 does not exist in conflict. Whatever is in our minds will exist in our actions. Focus on these good things and your life will have joy, peace, harmony, and thanksgiving. Paul had these attitudes and commanded them to practice in their lives what they had seen in him (v. 9). To live in harmony is only possible through a selfless heart of Christ.

## *News Of Interest*

### Sick

### HealthSouth Rehab

Louise Merryman

**Home:** Barry Todd, Martha Norris, and Dwight Steele.

### Directory Changes

Tracy Stiegler e-mail Tracy.stiegler@hsv-k12.org

Remove **Tom** and **Anita Vajentic**. They have placed membership at the Mayfair congregation. We will miss Tom, Anita, and Jilian but know they will be an asset to that congregation.

### Volunteers Needed

The 2017 sign-up sheets for volunteer workers for the Hospitality Desk, Bread Bakers, and Attendance Cards are at the Hospitality Desk. Please sign the month you can help.

### Officer Appreciation Tokens

Today is the last day to leave tokens at the Hospitality Desk for our Officers who direct our traffic. Their names are Jermaine Nettles and Terrence Petty.

### Balance Class

Tues., Dec. 13; Thurs., Dec. 15; 1:30 p.m.

### Church Offices Closed

Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, for Christmas holidays.

### Pantry Item

Canned Pinto Beans

### Invitation from the Hills

The Hills family would like to, once again, let the Chase Park family know how much we love and appreciate you. There is no word or action that can adequately express our thanks for the love and support that you constantly show toward us, but, nonetheless, we want to do something to say "thank you." Please plan to stay tonight after p.m. service for a period of fellowship and holiday cupcakes provided by us. Just bring yourselves and a smile. We hope you will join us.

*Rusty, Andrea, Tyler, Ashley, and Ally*

## *Today and Upcoming at Chase Park*

### Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dennis Lawson

Song Leader: Michael Sims

### Hospital Visitation

Team #2 (Emerson), please pick up your assignments today after evening worship.

### Little Lights

Quilt giveaway, Regency, tomorrow 1:15 p.m.

### Ladies Bible Class

Tuesday, December 13, 10:00 a.m.

### Regency Retirement Village Singing

Thursday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.

### Sunshine Gang

Saturday, December 17, 1:00 p.m. See **Ron McCall** for more information.

### K-3rd Grade Devotional

Sunday after p.m. service, December 18, dining room/fellowship hall.

### Big Sister/Little Sister Sleepover

At the Chase Park dining room/fellowship hall, December 18, immediately following the devotional.

### Chase Park Services—Sunday, December 25, 2016

- 9:00 a.m. Meet for Sunday morning worship.
- Following worship, abbreviated Bible class period (30 minutes) because of shortage of teachers out of town. Little Lights/k-4th programs meet in small auditorium for Bible class. All others remain in auditorium for class.
- Following Bible class, everyone meet in auditorium for brief (15 minute) prayer service to conclude service for the day.
- There will not be a 5:00 p.m. service that day.

## **Thank You**

"We want to thank all of you for all the love and support shown to us during the loss of our mother, Dolly Sutton. Words can never express how your prayers and expressions of sympathy have comforted our family. Thank you to those who were able to come to the funeral. The prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers, donations to the Building Fund, Children's Home and the blanket from Little Lights are deeply appreciated. We are so blessed to have a church family like Chase Park. In Christian love,"

*Greg and Joan Parker  
And The Sutton family*

"To Every one at Chase Park,

Many, many thanks for all the greetings I received on my birthday. Yes, I was happily on my way to visit my granddaughter and her dear family on that memorable day. I spent Thanksgiving with her and the family and arrived back at 1910 on the 29th of November. On the 18th of November was my great-granddaughter, Anna's birthday—she was 13—me a bit older—a good, good visit but needless to say 'good to be home.' I am fortunate to call you all family. In Christian love."

*Mabel Albright*



# Weekly Bible Reading

## Reading for December 11-17: Revelation 6-11

As we watch, through the eyes of John, the remarkable unveiling of this revelation, we are undoubtedly struck by the violence and destruction that is created as a result of the cosmic war being waged for the souls of men. God vs. Satan; good vs. evil; with the eternal fate of mankind hanging in the balance. But even in those moments that it seems if good is being overcome and Satan is winning, the message of this great book is clear: there is no power, either physical or spiritual, that can stand victoriously against God. When all is said and done, He wins! As you study this week, consider:

- *What message and encouragement do we find in the symbolism of the seals and trumpets?*
- *How does the book of Revelation offer us comfort?*

### VERSES TO REMEMBER: *Revelation 7:16-17*

“They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

### Statistics

Sunday, December 4, 2016

AM Worship .....	348
Month Average .....	348
Bible Class .....	323
PM Worship.....	262
Wed., Dec. 7 Bible Classes .....	248
Regency Ret. Worship .....	41
Offering.....	\$19,413.56
Budget.....	\$18,300
Average '16 .....	\$18,716
Over Budget for year ....	+\$20,397
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$140.00</b>

MESSINGER is published weekly by the Chase Park Church of Christ: 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811; (256) 852-3801. Send address changes to Messenger, 1640 Winchester Road, N.E.; Huntsville, AL 35811

### Services

*Sunday*

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

*Wednesday*

Super Seniors .....	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class .....	6:30 p.m.

### Web Site Home Bible Studies

<http://bible.us/e/Hdj>  
(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God's Holy Word