

# MESSINGER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 32

AUGUST 6, 2017

## Be The Change

*During our week at Maywood, I get to work with a special activity designed to help the kids think about their Christian lives and how to be a greater influence in their world. This year, our theme for that program was "Be the Change" and it dealt with ways that they could use their lives to bring positive change to the world. Each morning we discussed a different element of their spiritual lives that, if applied, could help them to "be the change." I would like to share a brief overview of those things with you because I think that there is an application for all of us in these points.*

There is no doubt that there are many ways in which our world has gotten off-track. In our own society, it seems that God and faith have been relegated to the shadowy corners of our world, if not banished altogether. As Christians, we worry about what our future holds and wonder what might be done to turn our world around, though we often feel helpless to bring about any real change. The reality is that there are many things that Christians and churches can and should be doing to bring about positive change in our world, but let me suggest that, before we begin any active efforts, we must first make these individual commitments in our own lives. In order to "be the change" that we want to see in the world, we must:

**Be Real.** If we are to be God's own special people, proclaiming His praises in this world (1 Peter 2:9-10), our faith and Christian lives must not be simply an act that we put on when it is convenient or expected. The praise, love, and devotion that we express to God on the Lord's Day must be genuinely lived out every day of the week. The sincerity of our relationship with Christ must be evident to the world.

**Be Different.** Jesus has called us to be lights to a dark world, illuminating and bringing glory to God (Matthew 5:14-16). The simple fact of the matter, though, is that we cannot make a difference in the world if we are unwilling to be different from the world. In our attitudes, words, and actions, we must be willing to stand out and let our lights shine.

**Be the Example.** Our world is full of followers. Those who "go along to get along." What we really need is more people who are willing to stand up and lead by showing the world what a faithful life looks like. Both among the saved and in the world, faithful Christians need to be leading the way by their example of faithfulness and service to God.

**Be Courageous.** The truth of the matter is that being the change that needs to happen in our world is not always easy. It can cause us to stand out, face ridicule, and forfeit some of the comforts of this world. We must have courage to face the challenges of faithfulness, remembering that God is always with us (Heb. 13:5-6).

*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.



## Chase Park Church of Christ

### Ministers

Rusty Hills ..... Pulpit

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

## Lamications—*Andrew Lamica*

School is back in session for most of our Chase Park teens. Our college age students will be heading back in the next couple of weeks as well.

I must admit, I have a love-hate relationship with back-to-school time. I always miss the time summer break allows with my family, friends, and the teenagers at Chase Park. There is no other time of the year that the teens and I have the ability to have such concentrated time together. At the same time, there is no other time of year that my four little ones have concentrated time together. Since both of those things are true, it is always difficult to say goodbye to summer break.

At the same time, there is a small part of me that looks forward to school being back in session.

Summer is a time where, for the most part, our family "schedule" is out the window. There is something to be said about being on a schedule and having a routine. When you have a routine you know what is coming next, you know what to expect. Routine is a good thing!

One thing we must be careful as Christians is to never allow our relationship with Jesus to become "routine." There is a very real danger in allowing our Christianity to become just another "activity" or box to check on our list of things to do for the week. It is easy to get into the dangerous mindset that thinks that as long as we are sitting in the pew at the appointed time, we are doing all that is required for our relationship with Jesus.

No doubt that Sunday morning, Sunday nights, and Wednesday

nights should be part of our routine, they are special times in which we come together. We must be on guard against the idea that those time periods are the only thing required in our Christianity. We miss out on so many blessings if we allow our Christianity to be something routine.

I want to challenge each of us with something. Let each of us keep guard against allowing our Christian lives to become just something we "do." Christianity is who we are, not a routine activity we engage in three times a week. *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up"* Galatians 6:9.

## Demonstrate Hospitality Towards Those Visitors Who Do Attend

As we continue to look at increasing opportunities to share the Gospel, this would apply to all visitors, whether they were invited by you, someone else, or are simply "walk-ins." Some "action steps" might include: Greeting them, letting them know they are welcome, inviting them home or out for a dinner or snack, or calling or visiting them after they have attended the services.

Showing such love towards those who may even be "strangers" is the true meaning of hospitality, a virtue that ought to characterize Christians (Hebrews 13:2; Romans 12:13b). Plus, in doing such things, you are preparing their hearts for the gospel! How? By demonstrating love as a congregation of Christians they will be more

likely to believe in the love of God demonstrated in the life of Christ! (1Pet. 2:11-12).

Finally, we are ready for the most important step in all our efforts, **SEE THAT THEY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE GOSPEL.** Ideally, this will come AFTER witnessing a demonstration of the gospel in our lives, by our love, hospitality, both as individuals and as a congregation.

If you feel confident in discussing it with them, then approach them yourself and suggest some sort of Bible study. Either of these two suggestions are effective: 1) A Bible study with them in their home (using aids like video tapes, charts, or simply an open Bible), or 2) That they study on their own with the aid of a Bible correspondence

course, or by viewing a video Bible study series (like Jule Miller's "Visualized Bible Study Series").

If you do not feel you are yet confident in approaching them concerning a study, or in conducting it yourself, there is still much good that you can do. Bring it to the attention of members who are able and willing to teach. Provide opportunities for the teacher and the prospect to become better acquainted, and the teacher can take it from there.

Christ's mission was to seek and save the lost. Are we following His example?

*Your Elders*

## *News Of Interest*

### Sick

**Regency Rehab**  
**Steve Bradford**

**Home: Morris Bridges and Sarah Irwin**

### Baptisms

Three of our young people were recently baptized into Christ: **Ashlynn Chrisco**, daughter of Jeff and Traci Chrisco; **Drew Blankenship**, son of Clay and Andrea Blankenship; and **Jack Rosenblum**, son of Rick and Rhonda Rosenblum. Please let these young people know how proud we are of them.

### Congratulations

To **Haileigh Stiegler** and **Grant Purvis** who were married yesterday at Dalraida Church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama. They will make their home in Montgomery. We wish them well and hope that they will have many years together.

### Bridal Shower

Everyone is invited to a Come-And-Go Bridal Shower honoring both **Stephanie Earles** and **Adam Goode**, Sunday, August 13, 1:30—3:30 p.m., fellowship hall/dining room. They are registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, and Target.

**Pantry Item:** Mac n Cheese

## *Today and Upcoming at Chase Park*

### Family Care Program

Teams **C** and **E** will have potluck lunch today in the dining room. Team **C** Leaders: **Don Champion**, **Mac Landman**; Team **E** Leaders: **Eric Corder**, **Barry Maples**, **Bob Williams**.

Teams **D** and **F** will meet Sunday, August 13, for potluck lunch, dining room. Team **D** Leaders: **Ray Brown**, **Michael Sims**; Team **F** Leaders: **Justin Gransky**, **Joel Heady**, **Greg McCreless**, **Jared Olbricht**.

### Regency Retirement Services

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Wes McDonald**

Song Leader: **Jon Rosenblum**

### Balance Class

Tues., Aug 8; Thurs., Aug 10; 1:30 p.m.

### Super Seniors

Wednesday, August 9. No lunch.

### Big Sister/Little Sister Tea Party

Saturday, August 12, 12 noon—2:00 p.m.

**Friend's Day**  
**Sunday**  
**August 27, 2017**



# Questions from the Master Teacher

## 2017 Midweek Summer Series

August 9

**“Have I been with you so long and you still do not know Me?”**

**John 14:9**

*A question about spiritual growth*

Guest Speaker:

**Mike Winkler**



Madison Church of Christ  
Madison, Alabama

It was the night before Jesus' crucifixion and He was trying desperately to comfort and encourage His apostles in preparation for the traumatic events that were about to transpire. These men had been with Jesus daily for the three years of His ministry. They had heard Him teach and witnessed His miracles. They had enjoyed the advantage of spending a great deal of private time with Jesus, learning from Him and coming to know Him as their Lord and friend. However, these men, who had been chosen and called to lead the charge after Jesus' work in this world was complete, still struggled to fully understand His mission and purpose. Their preconceived ideas and physical mindset had prevented them from seeing the true glory of their Lord. Seemingly exasperated with their lack of understanding, Jesus asks the question that is the subject of Wednesday's study: "Have I been with you so long and you still do not know Me?" I hope that you will be here Wednesday as Mike Winkler leads us in an examination of this question and its application to our lives.

### Statistics

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

AM Worship .....	394
Month Average .....	360
Bible Class .....	320
PM Worship .....	268
Wed., Aug. 2 Bible Classes .....	287
Regency Ret. Worship .....	46
Offering .....	\$18,590.39
Budget .....	\$18,000
Average '17 .....	\$17,844
Under Budget for year .....	-\$4,821
<b>Building Fund .....</b>	<b>\$31,281.92</b>

### 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**

<https://www.epcofc.org/home-bible-studies>

**(Lesson 1 Link)**

**The Bible—God's Holy Word**

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