

Train Up A Child

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). We most often think of this proverb as a directive to parents concerning the raising of their own children, and rightly so. There is no greater responsibility that a person can be given than that of caring for and leading a young soul to Christ. But the training up of children is also a community responsibility within the church. The children of this congregation are our children, whether we are biologically related to them or not. As elders, deacons, ministers, Bible class teachers, volunteers, mentors, and examples, we each have a great responsibility to lead, guide, and “train up” our children to know, love, and serve the Lord, and I am firmly convinced that we will be held accountable for the way in which we carry out or neglect that responsibility.

While in Georgia a couple of weeks ago for a speaking engagement, I was particularly impressed with one of the elders of that small congregation. He was the oldest of the three elders and one of the oldest members of the congregation. Everyone lovingly referred to him as Papaw, a nickname that he seemed to be proud of. I had several opportunities to talk with this brother over the course of the weekend and, inevitably, his thoughts and comments would turn to the children of the congregation. He constantly spoke of how much he loved them—all of them, and how important it was that the church work hard to teach and train them in their spiritual lives. He spoke of the financial investment that the church made in their youth and of the time and effort that so many put in. He proudly stated that their teenage young men were capable and comfortable of leading in any area of worship (and several did throughout the weekend). This congregation’s love for the Lord and for their young people was evident and clearly seen in the fruit that it was bearing.

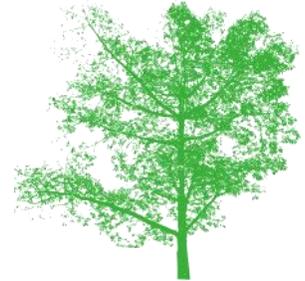
We are blessed with over 100 young people in our Chase Park family. What a great group they are! But think of the responsibility that God has given us to lead those 100+ souls to Christ and to train them to lead and serve for Him. One of the wonderful tools that we have in place to help us in that effort is the Lads to Leaders program. This great program provides the tools and opportunities for our children to grow in their knowledge of God’s word and to develop skills that will help them to be leaders in the Lord’s church. As one who has been involved in Lads to Leaders since my own teenage years, I have seen the results that it can produce in the lives of young people and congregations. I am so thankful for our program here at Chase Park, but I also know that, with your help and encouragement, it can be so much more than what it is. Tonight, our young men will be leading our worship service, and you will have the opportunity to support and encourage all of our young people who have worked hard in preparation for this year’s convention. I hope that you will be here to show them that you love them and that you are proud of them.

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
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

Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

Matthew 5:13 says, “*You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.*”

Jesus uses a physical element to describe how Christians are to interact with the world around them. Salt has a variety of properties. One of the many qualities of salt is that it is a preservative. Before the breakthrough of refrigeration, salt was used heavily to preserve meats and other foods. Salt is an effective preservative because it reduces the water activity of food. The water activity of a food is the amount of unbound

water available for microbial growth and chemical reactions. Salt is an effective preservative. Likewise, Christians should be acting as a preservative. They can help preserve the link between God and man by bringing the lost to their Savior. It is also the Christian who can help the fledgling brother or sister in their relationship with Christ.

In addition to being a preservative, salt in the right quantities makes food more palatable, makes it more edible. It is the Christian who brings the food of God’s word to a lost and dying world around them. While we have a responsibility to bring the word of God to the world

around us, we must be mindful of how we do it. Just as too much salt would be overpowering and offensive, if we are not mindful of how we present the truth of God’s word, it can come across as offensive. Sweet Christians, may we always be mindful of how we interact with those around us, teaching the truth in love.

The second part of the verse says if salt loses its taste, it is no good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. Christians we have a job to do, and that job is to be salt. We must be mindful to not allow ourselves to be overexposed to the elements of the world and lose our savor.

Deep Faith In A Shallow World-Daniel 5—*Nathan Adams*

Daniel 5 (Read) takes place 20 years after the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. His grandson, Belshazzar, was ruling in the city of Babylon. The city was surrounded by the Medo-Persian army at the time of these events. In an effort to show his confidence in their ability to overcome the siege, Belshazzar had a celebration. During this celebration, the fingers of a man’s hand appeared and wrote on the wall. Belshazzar calls for Daniel and offers him a high position in the government to interpret the message. Knowing that the king had been mocking God by using the captured temple vessels, Daniel refused the honors and gave the interpretation (v. 17). It is often a temptation to give up our principles and honor for the acclaim of the world. Daniel shows us four things to remember in those moments when the world calls for our honor.

First, Remember the Real Issue.

It is easy like Peter on the Sea of Galilee to be distracted from what is most important by all that is going on around you. Daniel seems to have

been forgotten since the death of Nebuchadnezzar. It had to be tempting to once again be noticed and have influence. However, to be that again, he would have to join a king whose feast was focused on mocking God. His honor would not allow him to be a part of such activities or people. People will flatter us and try to get us to join them, but remember, “Flattery looks like friendship—just like a wolf looks like a dog.” Do not allow yourself to become distracted by the praise of men, stay focused on God.

Second, Don’t Change the Message. I wonder if Daniel considered not telling the king the bad news found in the handwriting. Sometimes, we can be tempted to give away our honor by changing the message of God into something that people would rather hear. We must never do that because at that moment it ceases to be the word of God.

Third, Consider What is Appropriate. While Daniel accepted similar rewards from Nebuchadnezzar (chapter 2), he refused the rewards of

Belshazzar. The difference seems to have been the circumstances involved. It was not appropriate for Daniel to join in with these people who had just been mocking God. It is similar to Abraham’s response to the king of Sodom in Genesis 14:22-23. Neither of these Godly men were going to be beholding to such ungodly men.

Fourth, Fear God’s Judgment. God’s judgment came upon Belshazzar that very night and he died as the Persian army conquered the city of Babylon. In a moment where Belshazzar felt completely secure, the judgment of God came upon him. May we always be living in preparation for God’s judgment and not in the security of the accolades of the world.

Simply put, remember that the real issue is always a focus upon God. The message is always the truth as written by God through the Holy Spirit. Those actions that bring honor to God alone are always appropriate. God’s judgment is sure and coming for all men.

News Of Interest

Sick

Crestwood Hospital
Juanez Tanner

Regency Health Rehabilitation
Mark Henry (former member)

Home: Aleta Davidson and Carrie Jennings

Sympathy

We express sympathy to **Mabel Albright** in the death of her grandson, Kyle Ready.

Also to **Jeff Chrisco** in the death of his aunt, Shelby McDaniel.

Balance Class

Tues., Apr 11; Thurs., Apr 13; 1:30 p.m.



P.M. Service—Lads to Leaders Young Men

Young men participating in Lads will direct tonight's service. Ladies of the congregation will get to hear from the girls after worship service.

Pantry Item

Canned Tuna

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Wesley McDonald**

Song Leader: **Joel Heady**

Hospital Visitation

Team #2 (**Emerson**), please pick up your assignments today after p.m. service.

Big Sisters/Little Sisters

Today, after Bible Class, dining room/fellowship hall.

\$Financial Peace Class\$

Tomorrow, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, April 12. Cooks will prepare lunch.

Question-And-Answer Session

Sunday p.m., April 23. Please submit questions.

Ladies Night Out

Monday, April 24, 6:00 p.m.

5th Sunday Singing

Sunday, April 30, 5:00 p.m.

Special Contribution

Sunday, April 30 (5th Sunday)

First 2017 Planned Special Contribution

For

The "Chase Servants United Appeal Fund"

This fund supports all of our benevolence work.

Target

\$25,000.00

There will be two collections, one for our regular weekly contribution and a separate one for benevolence. Checks should be made out to "Chase Servants United Appeal Fund."



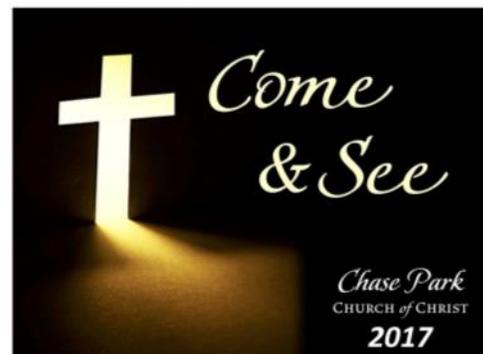
UPCOMING

Mark Your Calendars
EVENTS



Here are just a few of the opportunities that are coming up in the next few weeks:

- April 14-16 Lads to Leaders Convention
- April 23 Question & Answer Night
- April 30 5th Sunday Singing (pm)
- April 23 – May 7 3-Part Sermon Series (am)
 "Three C's of the Christian Fight"
- May 12 Friday Night Area-Wide Singing



MESSENGER 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

Statistics

Sunday, April 2, 2017

AM Worship	421
Month Average	421
Bible Class	373
PM Worship	217
Wed., Apr. 5 Bible Classes	NC
Regency Ret. Worship	45
Offering	\$19,059.04
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$18,044
Over Budget for year	+\$609.50
Building Fund	\$118.00

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 Class6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

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

(Lesson 1 Link)

The Bible—God's Holy Word