

Pinellas Park church of Christ

Volume 45 Issue 5

29 May 2011



*P*rovoking Love & Good Works *A Male Sun?*

Our Shepherds

Phillip Martin

Dennis Folks

Tim Martin

Our Deacons

Glenn Duncan

Tom Hargis

Keith Sabiel

Ministers

All members

Preacher

Edward Benesh

Worship Times

Sunday

Singing 9:45 AM

Bible Study 10 AM

Worship 11 AM

Worship 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

Services 7:30 PM

The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the LORD will be your everlasting light... (Isa 60:19-20)

There are about 3,294 questions mentioned in the Bible. Do you know what that means? It means that it took God 1,400 years to do what a single small child can do in less than a year! Just joking, but it is certainly true that youth is full of questions, though adulthood, I have found is no less perplexing, but often tragically plagued by a deepening sense of embarrassment and awkwardness with the whole questioning process. I am convinced that while we may have fewer questions it is disastrous to let many of life's larger and perplexing questions go unanswered because we are fearful to ask, thinking, perhaps, that we may look silly. God Forbid that our pride would interfere.

Just the other day, while completing a journey home from worship we were reviewing some of the lesson my son had learned in Bible class. He has some wonderful teachers and their connection with him is certainly one that has created a zeal for learning and loving God's word. As part of our review he would stop and ask questions, most of which I felt were slightly beyond his years, but all certainly worthy of an answer. When all was said and done he came out with a question that kind of left us all somewhat perplexed. As if he had already given the matter a great deal of thought, he asked, "Dad, is the sun male or female?" Now, when he normally asks these types of questions my response is "Why do you ask?" On this occasion I never really had a chance. He had kind of figured it out on his own. He said, "You see sun is kind of like son, so I figure it is a boy like me."

In one sense, he was right. The word in the New Testament for "sun" is *Helios*, which is a

masculine noun (nouns in Greek have gender – masculine, feminine or neuter). So, in that sense he was right, but I doubt he was interested in the technical Greek ruminations of his father. Rather, I believe, he wanted to identify himself with something that he saw as good...something that God gave for good. He wanted the sun to be a boy like him because of the goodness he perceives in the sun. Do we not all want to be identified with something "good?" Sure we do, though our definitions and perceptions about what is good may be different and change over the course of our lives. I don't think that very many people would wake up one morning and say, "Boy I hope everybody who I see or encounter today associates me with bad thoughts, feelings or ideas." Even those folks who are engaged in what may be termed as "bad" behavior would seek others who do the same and establish a norm for such or the ability to say, "See, I am not so bad after all" or "I may be bad, but I am good at it."

The greatest good, however, that we could be associated with was alluded to by my son...the sun. When I say that, I am not referring to the great gaseous ball in the sky per se, but the idea of light, illumination or truth. In this world it should be our ultimate goal. Most understand this. That which is true is revered, though not always rewarded. On the other hand, falsehood, though not always punished, is never held in high esteem. When we strive to be like the Son we must strive to be like the sun, for Christ...God is light "and in Him there is no darkness at all." That is our ultimate good, regardless of our gender.

In this day make it your quest to get the answers to your questions regarding those important spiritual questions. Find the truth of God's word and guard it like a precious possession. Share it with all who will hear. Love it with all that you have. Let it grow within you and shine brightly from you.



Study Opportunities

Sermon A.M./P.M.

- *Why Did Christ Say That?*
- *Our God, He Is Alive*

Sunday Adult Class
Walk Through The Bible

Wednesday Adult Class
Teachable Moments

Wednesday Teen Class
The Me I Want To Be
Classes available for all ages during each service

Young Adults
Sun. - *Walk Through Bible*
Weds. - *James' Wisdom*

Sunday Morning Ladies Class, Raising Girls—
TBA please see C. Benesh

Connecting With God
The Preacher's Blog
edbenesh.blogspot.com

Online Worship Services
access to live video feed at
www.pinellasparkcoc.org

Daily EDifications
To receive daily devotion from Ed please sign up at
edbenesh@gmail.com.



Pinellas Park Potpourri

Marching for the Masters

MFTM is an outreach group of the Pinellas Park Church of Christ meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the church library following morning services. ***They have also set up a table in the foyer to greet visitors, invite them to return and give them valuable information about the church.*** Tim and Beth are visitation leaders. See them to help out.

Our Condolences

Remember Del Hollingsworth and family in your prayers at the death of sister Betty Hollingsworth this past week. Her funeral was Thursday.

Where are the DVDs?

DVDs are being produced every other week and are available on the media room door.

May

- **29th - Men's leadership Night**

June

- **5th - Potluck dinner**
- **19th - Elders Deacon Meeting**
- **21 - Men's Meeting**

Our Family Prayer Requests

- Paul Brown, friend of Kathy R. brain cancer.
- Audrey Young, ongoing health issues
- Brian Stover, Needing prayers
- Charlie B., Ongoing health issues
- Marion Brule, In assisted living
- Violet (D. Lampe friend) very ill
- Rick Woods, back problems
- **Connie Woods'** Recovering from surgery at home
- Homer and Lou Johnson Nephews, are both ill
- Timothy Hicks, cancer in remission
- Bob Martin, is doing much better and is home now.
- Co-worker of Beth Martin Asks for prayers for premature twins
- Audrey Young, declining health
- Tom Horis, friend of the Gentry's, has had surgery for recurring cancer.
- Larry Poteet, cancer

Spiritual Classifieds

Transportation

We are looking for those who can donate funds to offset the cost of our new bus.

WWCC Camp Time

All those planning on attending or helping out at WWCC the first week should get their applications in ASAP. The week is expected to fill fast.

Mission minded Givers

We are continuing to collect money for our mission work by using the collection containers in our classrooms.

Worship Order Change

From this Sunday forward we will have our announcements after services **conclude and a "Welcome" message** to open our services and call to order.



- Alex, **Madison's friend, has cancer**
- Vitinia Bonelli, stomach problems
- **Dana And Bobbie Faulkner's** relative in Iraq, along with other soldiers
- Donna Lampe, foot surgery
- Caroline Schlemmer, testing for stomach problems
- Del Hollingsworth, at the loss of his beloved Betty
- Darryl Flints Aunt, cancer
- Erin McKinney, is cancer free
- Pam G. had surgery after breaking her foot and is now at rehab.
- Dawn Ricketts, daughter of Jeanne Peterman, had her baby and all is well. Congratulations Jeanne
- Nancy Hefner, former member here, had back surgery in Colorado
- The Dahlstroms, whose daughter was accidentally shot
- All our travelers on this busy Memorial Day Weekend.

Weekly Bible Reading

- Sunday Ps. 111-118
- Monday 1 Kgs. 1-2; Ps. 37, 71, 94
- Tuesday Ps. 119:1-88
- Wed. 1 Kgs. 3-4; 2 Chron. 1; Ps. 72
- Thursday Ps. 119:89-176
- Friday Song of Sol.
- Saturday Prov. 1-3

Questions and answers for the weekly Bible reading plan are available online at www.pinellasparkeoc.org

Men to serve

Song Leaders

Sunday am: Tom Hargis
 Sunday pm: Men Leadership
 Wednesday: TBA

Lord's Supper

Bread: William Robinson
 Cup: Michael Grimmer
 Assisting:
 Kenny Brush Sr.
 Max Benesh

Opening prayer

Sunday am: Todd Walden
 Sunday pm: MLN
 Wednesday: TBA

Closing prayer

Sunday am: Timmy Martin
 Sunday pm: MLN
 Wednesday: TBA

Sermons

Sunday Am: Ed Benesh
 Sunday pm: MLN
 Wednesday: Phillip Martin

Are You There?

"Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" (Psalm 10: 1)



On a whim, I stopped at a fast food restaurant to get a cold drink while dashing about with my to-do list of errands. The line of cars at the drive-through was six deep, so I parked to go inside instead. I saw a dear friend of mine through the glass. She was bent over her computer, holding her right hand to her mouth, worry lines exaggerated on her forehead. I waved to get her attention but she was too busy concentrating on what was on the screen to look up.

I leaned over the small landscaped shrubs and tapped the glass. No response. I went inside and stood in front of her, ready to say something jovial. Then I saw a tear run down her cheek, so I slid into the booth and placed my hand over her left one as it crunched a napkin. **She jumped, then relief filled her face and she hugged me. "How did God know I'd need a good friend right now?" she whispered. On the screen was an email from her son with disturbing news.**

In Psalm 10 David asked why God seemed so far away in times of trouble. I think if we are honest, that same question has crossed out thoughts as well. Why does God seem so far away? Back in the day, there used to be a bumper sticker that read something to the effect of "If you can't feel God in your life, guess who moved?"

God's love is constant, but our anger, our grief, and our doubts can push Him away from our thoughts. The negatives crowd out that small voice we know is not from our own brain waves. Despair robs us of the closeness we once felt. Yet the Bible tells us God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble. (Psalm 46: 1)

God is always there. Sometimes we just need to look up from our troubles to see Him. Maybe it will be in the form of a friend, a rainbow on a stormy day, the words to a hymn, or a passage of scripture. Perhaps it will be a sudden calm that coats us like a protective shell. David learned that. His faith helped him to see God through his despair. He says later on in Psalm 10 -

"O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear" (vs. 17).

God is a gentleman. He waits to be asked before entering into our situations. He also knows our hearts, and when we just may need someone we know to pull into a fast food restaurant on a whim and see us, unaware that she is about to become His instrument of peace.

I have been young,
 and now am old, yet
 I have not seen the
 righteous forsaken
 or his children beg-
 ging for bread.
 (Psa 37:25)

Pinellas Park
church of
6045 Park Blvd.
Pinellas Park, Fl

Phone: 727-544-8920
Preacher :727-723-4519
Preacher email:
edbenesh@gmail.com

Visitors are you in need of
help? For directions to our
building, roadside assis-
tance , finding points of
interest in our community
or for emergencies please
call: 727-647-6758.

Vital Statistics

Attendance Sunday
Bible Class— 78
A.M.— 98
P.M. - 53
Wednesday - 54
Weekly contribution
\$2825
Contribution Goal
\$2500

Looking Ahead

This is our extended calen-
dar for 2011. If you need
to put items on it, see Ed.

- WWCC week one -
June 12-18 **“American
Idols”**
- WWCC week two -
July 10-16 **“iAM”**
- Zorilla Mission -
July 11-16
- VBS - August 7-11

Put these items on your
calendar now and plan to
come or support these
events any way you can!

Visit the Pinellas Park Church of Christ online at www.pinellasparkcoc.org

Our Ministries

Preaching Programs

- P. Martin, E. Benesh

Missions

- C. Axe, T. Hargis, M. Drake, K.
Sabiel

Sonshine Day camp

- T. Martin

WWCC

- G. Duncan, P. Martin

Youth Ministry

D. Folks

Young At Heart

- B. Perry

Worship Coordination

- T. Hargis, D. Folks

Weds. Eve. Speaking

- W. Robinson

Benevolence

- D. Folks, H. Gentry,
W. Robinson

Transportation

- T. Martin

Bldgs. and Grounds

- H. Gentry, K. Sabiel, T. Walden

Education

- B. Perry, D. Folks

Women's Studies Ministry

- N. Gentry, A. Jucknath

Financial

- H. Gentry, P. Martin

Dear Visitor...

Welcome! It is hard for us to express in this small space just how blessed we feel by having you visit with us today. You will, no doubt, find that this small welcome address will be followed up by loving conversation with our members, as they introduce themselves and personally welcome you. We are a friendly group who cherish our time together and are always looking to adopt new folks into our family. We want you to feel welcomed and yet, we realize that visiting a church can be overwhelming.

You can expect us to not only make you feel at home and a part of what we do, but also find a willingness on our part to help you understand what we do and why we do it. Some things that are part of our worship may be different than what you are used to, just as some of the things you hear may be different than what you are used to. Rest assured, we welcome all your questions and will be more than happy to explain our reasoning and love for God. We do hope you have enjoyed being with us and come back again soon.

Edward Benesh, Minister

Refrain from anger, and forsake
wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends
only to evil.
(Psa 37:8)

Pinellas Park church of Christ

6045 Park Blvd.

Pinellas Park, Fl 33781

To:

