

Pinellas Park church of Christ

Volume 47 Issue 3

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*P*rovoking Love & Good Works

In His Presence For Praise

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

(Psa 145:1-3)

Services were over and I was sitting in the foyer of our church building waiting for those who had missed the Lord's Supper at the morning services to partake of this feast when it happened. Into the lobby from the world outside walked a woman dressed in what appeared to be an outfit for running. She made a b-line for the bathroom and **waved, as if to say "Hello," to me and my youngest.** In less than two or three minutes time she was coming back out of the bathroom, only this time we were in the middle of having our closing prayer. She shrugged and feigned discomfort as she looked at me and then did one of the oddest things I think I have seen in a church building. This middle-aged woman flipped like a gymnast across our lobby, up to the door, stuck the landing, waved at me once more and was gone through the door. Again, it was very odd.

Then again, some odd things happen in church buildings, most of which many folks simply do not get to witness because they, unlike the preacher, do not get the opportunity to stand up front, elevate above the audience by four feet or more for prolonged periods of time. **They don't get to see the person's bare foot thrown up on the back of the pew for a quick, mid-service manicure. They don't get to see the family that brings their own personal buffet to worship or the sleeping beauties that don the pews.** Once an entire family, including mom and dad played a game of tag and had a paper ball fight using our visitor cards while I preached. On another occasion a boxer (yes, the dog) came into our building, jumped up on the back pew, sat a while as if he were listening and

then ambled back out the door.

Other odd things are a little more obvious to everyone. Children have gotten loose from mom and dad and have run about, which I can fully relate to and usually find more amusing than anything else. Once I had a man in the audience **"amen" the sermon (state his agreement)** using a string of curse words. Yes, odd things happen in the church. But, perhaps the oddest thing to me, which might lie beneath some of these other odd behaviors, is that people can come for the purpose of entering the presence of God, honoring Him and praising His name and yet they never really seem to make it out of the world. They are distracted by the things in the world and overly concerned that the world moves on without them as they engage in but a few distracted moments of worship while they write out shopping lists, balance the checkbook or arrange their schedules. You can see it in the constant disconnectedness, glazed over eyes, fidgeting fingers and disengaged body language. You can almost feel it as there is a lack of concern for truth and virtually no spirit.

It is perplexing to me that one can stand in the **Creator's presence and act so little concerned.** I offer no explanation for these occasional anomalies. We dare not impute motives here. Of course, that makes it no easier to understand, other than to say, I think most of us have been there at some point – disconnected and distracted before God. Perhaps it is because Sunday and other times of worship are the only times we have come to Him. Perhaps we have simply not taken the time to build the habit of close contact with Him to realize the significance.

Why not instead contact and connect with Him daily? Why not use His word and disciplines like prayer to foster that connection so when we do find ourselves in worship it is not such a challenge to set aside the world and connect with Him. In this day, begin that journey and enjoy His presence daily.

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



Study Opportunities

Sermon A.M./P.M.

- *Thomas Wise is filling in for Ed while he is in Mexico without mission team*

Sunday Adult Class
Walk Through The Bible

Wednesday Adult Class
Faith Lessons—Early Church

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.

VBS Preparation

The VBS theme for this year is "Believe it or not, its in the Bible." Plan now to attend for these intriguing lessons and invite your friends and family.

Thank You

Thanks to every single one of you who have supported both the Weeki Wachee Christian Youth camp and our mission to Mexico. Our mission team should be returning today and tomorrow from building houses. We could not have done it without every single one of you. God bless you all!

July Calendar

- **11-17 - Mexico Missions**
- **17 - Elders / Deacon meeting**
- **19 - Men's meeting**



Our Family Prayer Requests

- Paul Brown, friend of Kathy R. brain cancer.
- Brian Stover, Needing prayers
- Charlie B., Ongoing health issues
- Marion Brule, In assisted living
- Violet (D. Lampe friend) very ill
- Rick Woods, back problems
- Timothy Hicks, cancer in remission
- 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.
- Alex, **Madison's friend, cancer** has gotten worse
- **Dana And Bobbie Faulkner's** relative in Iraq, along with other soldiers
- Donna Lampe, requests prayers to be more spiritually focused; also

Spiritual Classifieds

Transportation

We are looking for those artistic people who can help by giving their suggestions for graphics for our new bus.

Study Along with WWCC

If any of you would like a copy of the notes used at the weeks of camp this year, just let Ed know and these will be printed for you. The themes were American Idols an iAM.

Mission minded Givers

Thanks for all who have "filled the cup" for our mission to Mexico. From this Sunday on all money collected in these cups will benefit Disaster Relief in Nashville and their efforts to help those recovering from this years extreme weather.



has ongoing stomach related issues.

- Darryl Flints Aunt, cancer
- Pam G. is recovering from a broken leg and some broken ribs sustained in a fall during recovery. She could use some encouragement and visits. She is now home from rehabilitation.
- Nancy Hefner, former member here, had back surgery in Colorado - is home
- Bud Stover, had knee injections
- Bob Weyandt recovery from kidney stone surgery
- Diane Martin, had outpatient surgery and will need further procedures
- Pray for our upcoming missions at camp and in Mexico; also our many travelers this week



Weekly Bible Reading

- Sunday Isa. 1-4
- Monday Isa. 5-8
- Tuesday Amos 1-5
- Wed. Amos 6-9
- Thursday 2 Ch. 27; Isa. 9-12
- Friday Micah
- Saturday 2 Ch. 28; 2 Kg. 16-17

Even with the Mexico mission, we will continue our Bible reading. Questions and answers are available online at www.pinellasparkcoc.org

Men to serve

Song Leaders

Sunday am: Phillip Martin
 Sunday pm: Tom Hargis
 Wednesday: Phillip Martin

Lord's Supper

Bread: Tim Martin
 Cup: Keith Sabiel
 Assisting:
 Kenny Brush
 Chris Bell

Opening prayer

Sunday am: Todd Walden
 Sunday pm: William Robinson
 Wednesday: Bryan Martin

Closing prayer

Sunday am: Dennis Folks
 Sunday pm: Chris Dorris
 Wednesday: Lee Duncan

Sermons

Sunday Am: Thomas Wise
 Sunday pm: Thomas Wise
 Wednesday: Tim Martin

What Is Your Idol?

It is a word we hear often... in athletics, entertainment and there is even a television show dedicated to it. I refer to the word "idol." The dictionary defines it as an image used as an object of worship, a false god, or one that is adored, often blindly or excessively.

Any object that becomes a focus of our lives can become our idol. Some things we may think are spiritually neutral really are not. Even things morally neutral, like our career, a sport or any passion other than for God can be our idol. Anything can become demonic when it gains first place in our life.



What is gaining first place in your life? If it is anything other than Jesus then you need to run from it, for it can lead you into dangerous territory. We are a fool to play with temptation, as none of us are strong enough to overcome sin on our own.

God wants to be first place in my life and that requires me to not let anything, even though good in its own right, to get between God and me. How serious are we to make God first? Are we willing to lay down our lives and good fortunes to lead our enemies to Christ? Do I do what is best for me rather than what is best for others?

How do I demonstrate that God is first in my life? I do it by being where I can best serve to the glory of God and I am closest to Jesus when I am selflessly serving others. Worshiping God is vertical. Serving others is horizontal.

Paul had some good advice to the Philippians when he said: "Your life in Christ makes you strong, and his love comforts you. You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another. I urge you, then, to make me completely happy by having the same thoughts, sharing the same love, and being one in soul and mind. Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble toward one another, always considering others better than yourselves, and look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."

"What profit is an idol when its maker has shaped it, a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts in his own creation when he makes speechless idols!
 (Hab 2:18)

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 assistance , finding points of interest in our community or for emergencies please call: 727-647-6758.

Vital Statistics

Attendance Sunday
Bible Class
A.M.- 92
P.M. - 44

Worship
Worship
\$3632
Contribution Goal
\$2500

Looking Ahead

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

- VBS - August 7-11
"Believe it or Not, It's in the Bible"

Put this 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

"But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him."
(Hab 2:20)
ESV

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6045 Park Blvd.

Pinellas Park, Fl 33781

To: