



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV January 7, 2007 No. 1

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

It is my prayer that all who read this bulletin had a great New Year's Day. Mary and I appreciate every remembrance from the congregation over this holiday season. We appreciate the gifts, the hospitality of several who invited us into their homes to

enjoy part of the holiday with them, and we especially appreciate the check that was presented to me by Ron Carter on Wednesday evening before the holidays.

It is a joy to work with a congregation that appreciates our feeble efforts to advance the cause of Christ. Please continue to pray for us as we work together here in Elizabethtown.



At the beginning of a new year, I always encourage folks to become a Daily Bible Reader. We have placed printed copies of a Daily Bible Reading Schedule out in the foyer on the table and the stand. We will also print each week's readings in the bulletin, like we did last year. This is a different schedule than we have used for the last two years. This one also has an Old Testament and a New Testament reading for each day.



Would you accept a job that required you to spend several hours a month in meetings and involved being responsible for a couple of hundred people, most of whom are not related to you and do all this and more for no financial remuneration whatsoever? Well, our Elders have done exactly that.

But not only do they spend all that time in meetings and have the care for the souls of the flock, they often have to hear the complaints of the flock (which can be many). They also labor and feel pain over the needs of the members of the Lord's church. They know those who are in pain physically, emotionally and spiritually. I am not sure that I would take the job of elder if it were offered.

However, I know one thing I can do, I will do the best I can to keep from making their job any harder than it already is. To do that I will not complain over every little thing and I will pray for them. I found the following prayer for Elders that we could all utter:

Our Father, let me be a pillar of strength to them, not a thorn to sap their strength, nor a burden on their back to pull them down. Let me support them without striving to possess them; lift up their hands without placing shackles on them.

Give them help that they may devote more time to saving others and less time to gratify my vanity.

Let me work and not compel them to spend precious time bragging on me. Let me be unselfish in what I do for them, not selfish and demanding that they do more for me.

Help me to serve the church more and to be happy that they need to serve me less.

Help me to be as good a member as I expect them to be good elders. Help me to appraise them with love--for I have never walked in their shoes.

Help me to act as a Christian at all times that their work may be closer to you; in Jesus' name, Amen.



This past week-end and yesterday (New Year's Day) especially was a time to watch a lot of college football on television. That is, if you are any kind of football fan at all. As I am writing this the news media in our neck of the woods has been buzzing about Kentucky's win over Clemson and the upcoming game between Louisville and Wake Forest, which will be over by the time you read this.

Football has a lot of lessons for life. This, I suppose, is the justification for so much time being spent playing it or any other sport. One thing athletes who compete at a high level learn is how much dedication and commitment it takes to succeed. Another is the need for setting and working toward goals. Nearly every coach and player interviewed talks about the goals they had for the season.

It makes you wonder, what about me and my life? To what am I committed? Do I have any goals set that I can achieve? Or am I just kind of floating along and hoping I will come out somewhere good? Paul had a goal (Philippians 4:12-16). It took a commitment and some goal setting to achieve it. Is your goal heaven? Are you committed to that goal? I pray it is and that we can work together in 2007 to move toward that grand goal.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Keep Me Near the Cross,*
John 19:13-24

P.M. *Faith is the Victory,*
1 John 5:1-5

Barnabas... A Son of Encouragement

Sometimes we can learn great lessons from Bible characters that are not as well known as others. We all know about David's faith and his defeating the giant. We know about Noah and his obedience in building the ark. We know about Jonah and the time he spent in the belly of the great fish. We have heard about Moses and his leading God's people out of Egyptian bondage. We can even learn from the story of Judas and his betrayal of our Lord.

In the book of Acts we are introduced to one of my favorite Biblical characters. Why is Barnabas is one of my favorite Biblical characters? Simply because he could see the potential in people. He did so with Saul of Tarsus. When Saul came to Jerusalem after his conversion in Damascus, the disciples were afraid of him, and perhaps rightly so seeing as how he had persecuted the Christians, even to the point of death, and it was on a mission of such that he had left Jerusalem. But Barnabas could see what no one else could see. He saw the potential in Saul and became a character witness for him. As a result, however tenuously, the disciples in Jerusalem accepted Saul, and the rest, as they say, is history (Acts 9:26-28).

Barnabas also spoke on behalf of John Mark. John Mark had started out on the first missionary tour with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25). But John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Some time later, when Paul and Barnabas made plans to return to the mission field, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark along. Paul did not. Their disagreement was so strong that the two friends and co-workers separated (Acts 15:36-41). Paul took Silas and Barnabas took John Mark and they went in different directions. Years later, Paul acknowledged what Barnabas saw in John Mark when he wrote to Timothy with instructions to come to him quickly: "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11).

No doubt there is a relationship between this ability and his being known as the son of consolation or encouragement (Acts 4: 36). In being able to see the best in people, Barnabas surely emulated our Lord.

Jesus was able to see the potential of a Samaritan woman, a tax gatherer, some ignorant and unlearned fishermen, the poor, the "sinners", the lepers, a woman taken in adultery, and in you and me!



And Joses who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement) a Levite of the country of Cyprus"

Acts 4:36

Unfortunately, we do not always see with the eyes of Jesus or even with those of Barnabas. Sometimes we are like the preacher I read about who conducted a tent meeting of two weeks duration with only one teenage girl responding to obey the gospel. The preacher's assessment of the meeting was: "I thought the meeting really hadn't accomplished much." But God knew the potential of that young girl.

In a few years that girl married. Over the years she had seven children—five boys and two girls. These seven were brought up in the ways of the Lord, in spite of the difficulty of dealing with seven kids in church services! When they grew up, all five boys became preachers, and the two girls married preachers! The number of souls touched by that young girl's influence measures in the thousands. But the preacher who baptized her didn't see the potential! He was too near-sighted! And at times, so are we!

Let us not prejudge a person unfit or unreceptive to the gospel, but rather let us look for the potential the person has to do great things for God. I am glad someone did that for me and risked failure to encourage and teach me. I am glad someone did that for you, aren't you? Remember, it is "God that gives the increase."

-Mike Greene

News and Notes

NEIL BURDEN continues to deal with his breathing problems. **GAYLE MASSEY**, Barbara Underwood's sister, is scheduled for exploratory surgery this week in Nashville.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	J Martin
Alyenne Bates	Doris Martin
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
LaVelle Dyer	Bonnie Payton
Howard Gardner	Marie Rose
Bernard Gillim	Terry Showers
Faye Guess	Grace Speer
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
David Keister	Lonnie Underwood

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:

Evan Guldenschuh, Justin Burg, Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards

Additional Prayer List: Darcie Bergeson, Gil Berry, Sue Cantrell, Sydney Dover, Ina Jo & Ricky Duncan, Thomas Elkins, Kevin Fox, John & Connie Gardner, Evelyn Gattis, Betty Goheen, Tonya Harper, Greg Helm, Nicole Johnson, Art Lattanzi, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Mike McCormmic, Terri McDonald, Marjorie McKinney, Donald Montgomery & Family, Joe Pawley, Phyllis Pirtle, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Janet Rogan, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Betty Tucker, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Laura & Roy Woodcock

New Class

A new adult Bible class will begin this Sunday morning, January 7. Dennis Hogan will teach this class for 18-30 year olds in the South Wing.

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 1/07/07

Peanut Butter

Benevolent Center Update December 2006

Food Center	117 families helped
Clothing Center	46 families helped

Bible Correspondence Update December 2006

Courses graded	352
New enrollees	62

Thank You

We want to thank the wonderful loving people for your cards, phone calls and most of all your prayers for us during my convalescence. It is so good to be a part of this family of God's people.

Love, Faye & Buddy Guess

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for the beautiful cards, prayers and phone calls I received while dealing with surgery and the blood clot that followed it. You are all so kind and thoughtful.

Thank you so much!

Love, Judy & Kevin Large

To our treasured friends in Christ,

I cannot thank all the ladies enough for feeding my family and friends. The food was delicious and greatly needed and appreciated. You all were very special to my mom as you are to me and my family. I will never forget your love, care and concern. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers. They were so elegant and "classy" — a tribute to mom.

In God's Love, Susie (Blair) Inman

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **January 8**, 10:30 a.m.
- **CONGREGATIONAL SKATING PARTY**, Sunday, **January 14**, at Hardin County Roller Rink in Radcliff following evening services.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **January 28**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday night, **February 10**, in the South Wing.
- **HOMEcoming**, June 3-6

OUR RECORD FOR December 31, 2006

Sunday Bible Study	120
Sunday Morning Assembly	185
Sunday Evening Assembly	103
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	17
Wednesday Bible Study	136
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$5,782

**Elder/Coordinator for January
Dennis Hogan**

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Dennis Hogan	234-0705
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

Michael D. Greene	862-9971
	cell # 735-6908
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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www.elizabethtownchurchofchrist.com

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: What man's death during the days of David was described as being the fall of a great man and a prince?

Last Week's Bible Question: What king, famous for his building projects, also planted vineyards, gardens, and orchards? The correct answer is Solomon, Ecclesiastes 2:4-5. Mary Greene, Martha Cato (TN), Kay Thomason, Bloria Taylor, Edna Ashlock, Mary Walker, Betty Bray, and Katy Watson correctly answered the question. Mary Walker, Betty Bray and Katy Watson also correctly answered last week's question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to rpack119@bbtel.com by Tuesday afternoon.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Are You Part of the PARTICIPATION?

Jan. 8 — Church Workers Workshop
Jan. 14 — Skating Party
January 28 — Singing at Atria
Feb. 10 — Sweetheart Dinner
Apr. 27-28 — Men's Retreat
June 3-6, 2007 — Homecoming

Daily Bible Reading Schedule
Week 2
1. Genesis 15:1-17; Matthew 5:21-48
2. Genesis 18, 19; Matthew 6:1-18
3. Genesis 20-22; Matthew 6:19-7:6
4. Genesis 23, 24; Matthew 7:7-29
5. Genesis 25, 26; Matthew 8:1-27

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