



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV January 21, 2007 No. 3

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

Sunday was a good day here at Etown. Attendance was good at all three services and a very good number attended the skating party after services last night. Many thanks to Henry and Wilma McAlister for providing that opportunity.

It was good to share that time with the brethren at the 313 church in Radcliff. They brought a good number as well. Among that number was their "new" preacher Omah Smith and his good wife Sandra. They are a fine couple and Ray and I have gotten to know Omah and we look forward to a great association over the years. It looks like good things are in store for the 313 congregation. One of their members told me their numbers are up as well. Let's continue to pray for 313, Etown, and all of God's people.



Remember that **Homecoming 2007** will soon be upon us. Please clear your calendar for the weekend of June 3-6 so that you can be a part of this special occasion. That Sunday, June 3, we will begin a Gospel Meeting with John Kachelman doing the preaching. We are looking forward to a great weekend with lots of friends, family and visitors.



The news this morning was abuzz with the news of the winter storm crossing the plains states and the rain that is threatening flooding here in our area. This on the heels of much concern about the recent record warm spell. That made me think about how many times the Bible uses the weather in teaching great lessons. The wise man Solomon in Ecclesiastes uses the phrase "a grasping for the wind" to illustrate the futility of seeking meaning in life in the wrong places.

James talks about life being but a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. He is talking about a morning fog which we experience often here in Kentucky. Jesus spoke of the trials of life when he said that the "rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the..." houses built on the sand *and* the rock. He also used the fact that rain falls on everyone to illustrate that both good and evil folks are blessed by God's goodness: "for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust..."

Finally, Jesus said: "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times." How many lessons could you draw from the weather, good or bad?

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

Our young folks will be having another busy year. The monthly devotionals schedule has been set. Thanks to all who have volunteered to host one of these. Below is a schedule of devotionals and other activities planned thus far. Terry Nowland, Dennis Hogan and myself will be meeting in the near future to plan some other activities for the coming year.

Monthly Devotional Schedule

January 21 - David & Claudia Woodring
February 18 - Terry & Tracy Nowland
March 18 - Craig & Monica Bartelt
April 15 - Beth Boyd & Misty Dunn
May 20 - Jason & Carrie White
June 17 - Henry & Wilma McAlister
July 15 - Ron & Linda Carter
August 19 - Rick & Kim Whobrey
September 16 - Tom & Vivian Morgan
October 21 - Ken & Monica Bybee
November 18 - Mike & Mary Greene
December ??? - Youth Holiday Party

Other Dates of Interest

March 2-3 - Bible Bowl @ FHU
May ??? - Senior Banquet
June 10-15 - Taylor Christian Camp
June 24-28 - Vacation Bible School
July 1-6 - Horizon's Senior Week @ FHU
July 8-13 - Horizon's Junior Week @ FHU
July 20-21 - Youth Rally (Tentative)

Other events being planned:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Lock-in | 2. Karaoke Night |
| 3. Six Flags | 4. Kart Kountry |
| 5. Scavenger Hunt | |

Make your plans to be involved in these events and others as they are announced. Let's make 2007 the best year for everyone.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M.	Launch Out Into the Deep Luke 5:1-11
P.M.	Songs From the Dungeon Acts 16:25-34

The Company You Keep

A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Corinthians 15:33

True friendship is one of life's greatest and richest blessings. It is said that a person that has friends is rich, no matter his financial circumstances. But all too often folks do not do a very good job of understanding what a friend is, and how to pick friends.

A friend is someone who has your best interest at heart. A friend would never encourage you to do something that is harmful or against your best interest. Young folks have a particular problem understanding this. For example, a true friend would not be the one who is urging you to do that which is illegal, or goes against your parents wishes for you. Of course, young folks are not the only ones who have such problems.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul tells us that evil company corrupts good habits. The New American Standard translates the verse: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

The word company means our companions. Corrupts means "to destroy," "to ruin." Morals are our ethical concepts. It is modified by the word good. Evil company corrupts good morals. Our observations of life confirm the truth of Paul's words. We have seen it happen. We can call the names of those of all ages who "fell in with the wrong crowd" and their good morals were corrupted. They knew better. They were taught better. But we saw it happen. We saw the hurt it brought to parents, grandparents, siblings and others who loved and cared about the one who was led astray.

From all of that we can observe two great truths we need to remember and we need to teach our young folks when it comes to choosing our friends and companions.

First, it matters who you are with. The company you keep may tell you a lot about the direction your life is going. Again, a true friend has your best interests at heart. Years ago, I heard sworn testimony from a young man who found himself in trouble with the law. He was in court facing a multitude of charges, not the least of which was a couple of serious drug charges. He had never been among the popular crowd at school. He was a bit of a loner. He had a hard time "fitting in."

One night some of the "in crowd" met him at a local teen hang out and invited him along for their evenings activities. The young man thought to himself "Here is my opportunity to be a part of the in crowd, to be accepted, to be popular." Before the night was out, he had been encouraged to drink his first alcohol. Then while under the influence, his new "friends" shot him up with drugs. He ended up in the hospital, arrested, and in court. Was that what he wanted or intended? No, but evil companions corrupt good morals.

Before we decide to associate with someone, before we choose a person as a friend, we need to ask, will this person corrupt or reinforce my morals? Will this person help me to be a better person? Will this person help me get to heaven? How we answer such questions might help us avoid a lot of heartache and trouble.

Secondly, it matters where you go. Not long ago the news told of a young man in his twenties who was shot to death in a large city near here. The shooting took place in a bad part of town at 2:30 a.m. My first thought was, what was he doing there at that time of night? He should have been at home in bed.

If we are in the wrong place, we are much more likely to come under the influence of those "evil companions."

I know a young man whose marriage failed. It didn't last long. Less than two years. When I talked to him about it I discovered that he had met the girl in a night club. This young man had been brought up in the church. I asked him if that was really a good place to go looking for a prospective bride. From his painful experience, he admitted it was not.

But this is not just a problem for young folks. More mature folks can find themselves in places where they ought not to be and under the influence of bad company or evil companions. There are clubs and organizations with dignified sounding names that are nothing more than fronts for gambling, drinking and carousing. In such places bad company is common. Yes, it matters where you go!

Real friends are indeed a blessing. As Christians we need to be and to seek real friends and avoid the bad company that can corrupt good morals. Remember, it does matter where you go and who you are with. Such cannot only affect this life but eternity.

—Michael D. Greene

News and Notes

CAROLYN BURDEN has whooping cough. **NEIL BURDEN** underwent some heart tests Tuesday at Hardin Memorial. **TERRY TURNER** was seen in the ER Sunday morning with some back problems. **ROY JOHNSON** continues to undergo tests. **KEVIN FOX** has been released from HealthSouth and continues his rehabilitation at home. **SYLVIA TAYLOR**, Mayford Spear's sister, has been released from the hospital in Texas.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	J Martin
Alyenne Bates	Doris Martin
Neil & Carolyn 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
	Mary Walker

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, Marie Dennison, Sydney Dover, Thomas Elkins, John & Connie Gardner, Evelyn Gattis, Betty Goheen, Tonya Harper, Greg Helm, Nicole Johnson, Art Lattanzi, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Mike McCormic, Terri McDonald, Donald Montgomery & Family, Joe Pawley, Phyllis Pirtle, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Janet Rogan, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Betty Tucker, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Laura & Roy Woodcock

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 1/21/07 Canned pork'n'beans

Seeds Needed

We are again collecting garden seeds to send to our brethren in Donetsk, Ukraine. These can be put in the mission box in the lobby or brought to the church office.

Bible Bowl

Bible Bowl practice resumes this Sunday, January 21, at 4:00 p.m.

Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia during the holidays and the flowers I received during my recent hospital stay. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Terry Showers

Dear Christian friends,

Your cards, phone calls, visits, prayers and flowers were very uplifting while I was in the hospital. I am feeling better and hope to be out next week. Special thanks, also, for the fruit basket and the holiday food basket.

*In Christian Love,
Mary Walker*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MONTHLY PHONE CALL** to our Central brethren, Sunday, January 21, 8:30 a.m.
- **YOUTH DEVOTIONAL**, Sunday night, **January 21**.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **January 28**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **BABY SHOWER** for Kelly & Emma Paxton, Sunday, **January 28**, at 4:00 p.m. in the South Wing. Kelly is registered at Wal-Mart and Babies R Us.
- **FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY LECTURES**, February 4-9.
- **ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday night, **February 10**, in the South Wing.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **February 12**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **ATTENTION: 5TH GRADERS & UNDER!** There will be an Old Fashioned Family Game Night in the South Wing Sunday, **February 18**, immediately after evening services. Bring your favorite finger foods and board games and join in the fun and fellowship. See Ken or Monica Bybee if you have any questions.

OUR RECORD FOR

January 14, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	140
Sunday Morning Assembly	211
Sunday Evening Assembly	145
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	16
Wednesday Bible Study	112
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$6,087

**Elder/Coordinator for January
Dennis Hogan**

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: Where is sadness described as the breaking of tent ropes?

Last Week's Bible Question: Multiplied sin, lying, and departure from God had caused justice to be at a "distance". What had happened to "truth"? The correct answer is it had "fallen in the street," Isaiah 59:12-15. Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Mary Greene, Martha Cato (TN), Bloria Taylor, Mary Walker, Betty Bray, and Katy Watson correctly answered the 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. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

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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Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.elizabethtownchurchofchrist.com

5. Genesis 36, 37; Matt. 11:2-30
4. Genesis 33:18-35; Matt. 10:24-11:1
3. Genesis 31-33:17; Matt. 10:1-23
2. Genesis 29-30; Matt. 9:18-38
1. Genesis 27-28; Matt. 8:28-9:17

Week 3

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Jan. 21 — Monthly Phone Call to Ukraine
Jan. 21 — Youth Devotional
Jan. 28 — Singing at Atria
Jan. 28 — Paxton Baby Shower
Feb. 4-9 — FHU Lectures
Feb. 10 — Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 18 — 5th Grade & Under, Game Night
June 3-6, 2007 — Homecoming

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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