

## Brady's "Squared-Off-Edge-of-the-Paper"

### Refocusing

I don't know if y'all have noticed this, but if you put my bulletin articles in chronological order, they pretty much fall in the order that Scripture is put together. The reason for that is that I write them based off of my daily Bible reading. Whatever comes out of God's word and hits me, that's what I write about. Last year I read through the entire Bible, and so that's how my articles went. This year though, I'm doing something different. I've decided to read through the Gospels, slowly, meticulously and repeatedly.

This decision came from a couple of conversations. One of those was with my lovely wife Shanna. She suggested I undertake a personal project involving each of the Gospels. But I wouldn't be able to accomplish that project without some serious reading and study. The other conversation was one I had with a friend of mine from Harding named Daniel Lee. He expressed a deep pain over the fact that so often in our churches, families, and even everyday life, we have a lack of focus on Jesus. We get so busy trying to figure out how to "be Christian" that we forget we're supposed to "be Christ." It was one of those conversations that right in the middle of it, you realize God's smacking you around a little bit. I needed to reset my focus. It shouldn't be on Christian stuff. It should be on Christ. Period.

So, in light of this, get ready for a year's worth of articles about the life of Christ. If you're reading this now, you hopefully will continue to each week. That means that you're going on this journey with me. I honestly don't exactly know where it leads, but that's part of following Jesus. You follow. He leads. So, strap on your sandals, because we're about to do some walkin'.

"Follow Me." ~Jesus (Mark 2:14)

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Welcome to the Manchester Church of Christ. The congregation is made up of people who meet regularly to share in worship, study, prayer and fellowship. In Jesus Christ, we have found new direction for our lives. We are now seeking to follow the Lord's instructions in fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20 and the Greatest Commandment (Matt 22:34-40).

Attendance and Contribution For 1/24/2010	
Sunday Bible Classes	210
Sunday AM Worship	305
Wed. Bible Classes	115
Sunday Evening Worship	101
Offering to God	\$13,332.50
Weekly Budget	\$9,120.00

- Upcoming Events**
- January 31: Leadership Group Meeting @4:30
  - February 7: Congregational Potluck/BYND
  - February 18: Area Preachers/Elders Mtg.
  - February 21: Fellowship Groups Mtg.
  - February 18-21: Teen Winterfest
  - February 27: Senior Saints Breakfast@ V.Diner
  - February 28: 4th Sunday Special Programs
  - March 7: Congregational Potluck/BYND
  - March 7: Conversation w/Shepherds
  - March 12-13: N.E. Church Growth Seminar
  - March 14: Daylight Savings Time Begins
  - March 14: Ladies Small Group
  - March 18th: Area Preachers/Elders Meeting

**Sunday, January 31, 2010**  
**Vol. 49 No. 21**

### Assembly Times

**Sunday:**  
 Bible Class: 9:00 a.m.  
 Worship: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.\*

**Wednesday:**  
 Bible Classes: 7:00 p.m.

\*Small groups at homes 3rd Sunday evening  
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**Staff:**  
**Arnie Holmes**, Pulpit Minister 860.643.8540  
 arnierae@cox.net  
**Anthony Melakian**, Outreach Minister  
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**Brady Easter**, Youth Minister 860.818.9553  
 Beaster05@cox.net  
**Pat Mosher**, Church Secretary 860.646.2903  
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**Our Shepherds**  
**Charlie Brown**—860-267-4289  
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# Arnie's Corner

## Music In Worship (2)

This morning I would like to continue to look at the question, "why don't we use instrumental music in our worship?" In their massive, twelve-volume "Encyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature," by John McClintock and James Strong, they noted: "The Greeks as well as the Jews were wont to use instruments as accompaniments in their sacred songs. The converts to Christianity accordingly must have been familiar with this mode of singing; yet it is generally believed that the primitive Christians failed to adopt the use of instrumental music in their religious worship." These scholars further noted that: "the general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5th and 6th centuries A.D."

These scholars also observed that the early reformers such as Martin Luther and John Calvin, protested against the use of instruments in worship. The same could be said of Adam Clarke and Charles Spurgeon, men who were leaders of their respective religious movements. In 1965 James W. McKinnon prepared a dissertation at Columbia University on "The Church Fathers and Musical Instruments." In this exhaustive document, McKinnon contended that "early Christian music was vocal" and that there was a "patristic (the church fathers) polemic against instruments."

The truth is that there is no authority in the New Testament for the use of instrumental music in Christian worship. If we were to introduce instrumental music into our worship we would be going beyond what the Bible teaches.

# News and Notes

To date our offering for the Haitian Earthquake victims is: \$ 6408.35 and you may still contribute if you have not had the opportunity.

- Are you interested in a Spanish Bible class? It would be held here at our normal class time, 9:00am Sunday. Please see the sign up sheet on the information table for details.
- Pat will be out of the office Monday & Tuesday. Anthony Melakian, Leroy W., Peter Scanlon, Bob King and Kim Ramaglia will be in Phoenix Arizona on a "We Care" campaign this week.
- We extend our sympathy to Bill & Charmaine Daley. Bill's mother passed away this week in Atlanta and they will be traveling to Georgia to be with the family.

# Anthony's Corner

Do the Old Testament scriptures take on an evangelistic tone at times? As we read through the Law & Prophets, we find the answer to that question to be a resounding "yes". Ezekiel 33 for instance, speaks of the charge made by the Lord to the prophet, appointed as a watchman for the house of Israel, so that as a watchman, Ezekiel might warn the wicked to turn from their ways. To sum up the gist of verses 8-9, if the prophet did not warn the wicked to repent, the wicked would still perish and their blood would be on the hands of Ezekiel. On the other hand, if the wicked were warned yet still failed to repent, they would die, but the life of the watchman would be saved. You may say that God was speaking to one of His prophets in that context and that is true, but that does not absolve any of us "regular people" of responsibility in this matter of warning the wicked to repent & turn to God. Earlier in the history of Israel, in the days of Elisha the prophet, a great discovery of food, clothing, drink, gold & silver was made by four lepers who stumbled upon an abandoned Syrian army camp while there was a great famine in the Israelite city of Samaria (II Kings 7). Now we would all agree that lepers were regarded as being way down on the food chain of Israelite society, far below even the "rank & file". Yet, even they recognized their responsibility to share good news when there was good news to share. Verse nine of II Kings 7 reveals their firm belief that punishment would come upon them if they withheld news of their great find of abandoned supplies in the Syrian camp. No matter what part we play as a member of God's family, if we know some good news, we must tell it. If those who lived prior to the coming of Christ understood their responsibility in this regard, how much more so we who have full knowledge of the saving power of Christ's death for our sins and His resurrection from the dead?

### Song Leader

Phil Stice

### Song

### Song

### Welcome

Arnie Holmes

### Prayer

Eugene Brewer

### Song

### Song

### Communion Thought

Toimi Martikainen

### Lord's Table

### Song—1st Verse

### Offering

### Song con.t

### Song

### Scripture

John Ramaglia

### Song

### Sermon

"When God Acts We Should Listen"

Luke 1:57-66

### Song

### Announcements

Arnie Holmes

### Closing Prayer

Robert Klein

### Children's Bible Time

Jamie McMillian/Kelsey H

### Toddler's Bible Time

Heather Davidson/Aletrice B

### Evening Service

Significant Moments in the O.T.  
#1 "Paradise Lost" Gen.3:1-21

### Remember in Prayer

- Those having health issues: Cora Marshall, Becky Todd, Daniel Gipson (Don's son) heart and lung problems. Agnes Wuorio (Rae Holmes mother-cancer). Trudy Wright (Marsha Adams' mother) chemo, Don Bennet (preacher Northside) chemo. Sandy Hannington, Delia Renteria (sister of Becky Chapa) heart problems, Mary Lietz-rehab
- Those looking for employment: Richard Chang and John Bouffard, Lillian Jones brother.
- Those Traveling: Robert and Holly Klein & kids (Florida two weeks), Don Gipson (Fl.)
- Haiti-country struggling after an earthquake

### Special request of all members:

Preparations are beginning for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Manchester Church of Christ which will take place on September 10, 2011. Photographs that have been taken of church members and church activities over the past 50 years are needed for a special presentation.

Please search through your old (and recent) photographs for any church related photographs. Place them in an envelope clearly labeled with your name, and then give them to Phil or Janet Stice. Phil will scan them and return them to you. If you have digital pictures, you may email them to Phil at [pcstice@cox.net](mailto:pcstice@cox.net). Contact Mary Brown with questions.

### Directory Changes:

Lori King: email loribob261@att.net

Ruby Thorpe Tele: 413-222-3443

Marsha Adams: cell# 860-670-9053 and email: mdadams72@comcast.net

### Our Congregational Pot Luck is Coming!

February 7th (next Sunday) we will meet after worship to have lunch together. Those families whose last name is : A-E-bring salads

F-M-Main Dishes

N-Z—Desserts

Please bring enough to serve 10-12 Any questions see Linda or Steve Klein

### Ministry Contacts

#### Education

Chris Costa-Elementary  
Jim Lietz-Adult  
Phil Stice-Adult

#### Worship Ministry

Phil Stice

#### Family Ministry

Chris Costa

#### Financial Ministry

Dick Courtney

#### Outreach Ministry

Anthony Melakian

#### Missions Ministry

Dave Berberian

#### Building & Grounds

Jeff Hannington  
John Geysen  
Eric Foley

#### Webmaster

Graeme Davidson

#### World English Inst

Mike St. Germain

#### Benevolence

Russ Mosher  
Ken Arey  
Mike McHugh

#### Seasonal Sharing

Pat & Beth Courtney

#### Young Adults

Mike McHugh

#### Care Ministry

Steven Klein

#### Treasurer

Charlie Silva

#### Communications

Gary Yeats  
Rich Sale

#### Fellowship & Involvement

Steve Klein  
Dave Stewart

#### Children's Leadership & Training

Jeff Brissette  
Dave Berberian

#### Staff Administration

Dick Courtney