

A Simple Reminder

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

Phone

(417) 451-2724

Email

info@neoshochurchofchrist.org

Website

www.neoshochurchofchrist.org



Now that the 2016 election is over, a transition is taking place within our government. On this Friday, January 20, Donald J. Trump will become America's 45th President during the 2017 Inauguration. Before this time of transition in the United States, I want to simply remind us Christians of a couple thoughts.

First, pray for our government both before and after the inauguration. In March and October of 2016 we gathered together on two Wednesdays to have a special prayer service for this country. I thought both services went very well and that God was glorified in our worship those nights. Great men and leaders in our church family prayed diligent and sincere prayers for our nation, state, and community. Those two nights we prayed together in a public manner for our government, which made me ask myself a question. As individual members of this congregation, how much do we pray **privately** for our government and nation? Jesus certainly showed us the importance of private prayer life (Matthew 6:6; Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). He also revealed to us that we need to pray for our leaders and country. "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (I Timothy 2:1-2). The next verse says that such prayers are pleasing to God (I Timothy 2:3). I urge you to pray for President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden in their last few days in office. I urge you to pray for President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence as they take on a large task. Pray that the transition on Friday will go smoothly and safely. Pray that other new leaders in the Senate and House can have good health and make righteous decisions for this country. Pray for the sinister abortion laws to be taken away. Pray for the unborn babies. Pray that the church can continue to have peace in this nation.

Second, remember that the President is not your Savior. Throughout the history of the world people have been tempted to put their stock and trust in mere man. God warned His people of this in Deu-

teronomy 8:17, saying, "Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'" Remember that the Lord whittled down Gideon's army so they would not be guilty of trusting in their own strength (Judges 7). Remember that some people trusted in Egypt more than they did their God (Isaiah 31:1). Remember that Cornelius initially treated the apostle Peter as his savior (Acts 10:25). Remember that the Corinthians were divided in their loyalty, with some claiming to be of Paul, Cephas, or Apollos (I Corinthians 1:12-13). None of us would ever vocally say, "Obama will save me!" or "Donald Trump is my savior!", but we may practically and realistically treat them as deliverers. To humble ourselves in a time when the temptation is strong to put more faith in our government to change things than for God to change things, saturate your mind with the following three passages: (1) Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7); (2) It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man (Psalm 118:8); and (3) Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation (Psalm 146:3). The President will not save you from the fires of an eternal hell. Only the Supreme God can do such a glorious act (James 4:12).

I don't know what the future of this country holds. I am very thankful to live in the United States and I am glad for the opportunities I have had living here. I hope and pray that the transition to the new leaders goes well and that much good can be done. I am very aware, though, that the United States and the government can change on a whim. Promises can be broken, immorality can run more rampant, and division can exacerbate. Therefore, I choose to put my hope and faith in the One who never changes and who never breaks a promise (Numbers 23:19; Malachi 3:6; II Timothy 2:13). Pray for good and trust in God. Please heed this simple reminder.

Luke Yates



Kay Anderson, Betty Ball, Yvonne Barker, Carol Bessman, Jack Brodie, Shannon Brodie, Derek Campbell, Charles Collinsworth Sr., Pete and Leona Conrow, Jace Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lana Couch, Lee Crabtree, Robert Crawford, Glenda Daniels, Kenneth Daniels, Kristie Deffenbaugh, Wayne Deffenbaugh, Wayne Douthitt, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Faye Haught, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Larry Jones, Wilma Knoll, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- **Steve Cornell** went home Monday after an overnight hospital stay.
- **Kristie Deffenbaugh** will have surgery Friday in Springfield.
- **Mary Jane Flint** is recovering at home from her surgery last week.
- **Richard Tink** is hospitalized at Freeman West after hip surgery Sunday.
- **Susie Tomlin** is in rehabilitation at Freeman Neosho after surgery last week.

“Ladies, Thank you all for the ‘Twelve Days of Christmas!’ I don’t know I was chosen, but it sure was fun and I appreciate all the time and effort you put into it. God bless you all for your love and support.”

Susie Tomlin

The Thursday morning ladies’ morning Bible class will meet at 10:00 this Thursday for a study of Exodus 19-20.



This Sunday’s Sermons:

A.M. *The Gospel: Meaning for Our Mortality*
(Danny Boggs)

P.M. *We Pray* (Danny Boggs)

Juice boxes: We’re collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.

Youth Group: The youth group will go ice skating in Bentonville this Friday. The church van will leave at 3:30. Cost is \$5, plus money for supper out. Please make sure Luke knows if you plan on going or driving separate.

Don’t forget! Everything given above our budget on January 29 will help to pay for our new building. We expect concrete to be poured within the next few days, and then the shell will go up fast. Keep thinking about how to use this new facility to glorify God, build our church family relationships, and reach out to others.



Are We a Friendly Congregation?

While we must be concerned with doing what we do in worship according to Christ’s expressed will, we must also be sure to reflect His love to strangers, newcomers, outsiders, and otherwise unfamiliar faces. To improve upon our friendliness, we should consider the following principles:

- We must stop expecting that others will represent us in friendliness. Maybe we look at those few members of the congregation that “go after” our visitors and conclude that they are covering the bases for the rest of us. They cannot reach everybody, but even if they can their friendliness does not let us off the hook. Dear reader, the chances are great that I am challenging you!
- We must not use our introverted nature as an excuse. Introverts may mistakenly conclude that extroverts are merely doing what comes natural to them. As a representative of the extrovert clan, may I suggest that connecting with visitors requires effort. Everyone must make an effort!
- We must avoid the thinking that the visitor bears responsibility to be friendly. We’re the hosts and they’re the guests. It’s hard to come into an unfamiliar place where you know no one and reach out to them. This is our “home turf,” and we must always take the initiative!
- We must practice the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Again, put yourself in their shoes. Treat them how you’d want to be treated if in their place.
- We must see ourselves as direct representatives of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:20 calls us just that. Treat visitors exactly like Jesus would. Seek them out and do everything within your power to let them know how glad you are they are here.
- We must understand the eternal implications of being friendly to visitors. Wouldn’t it be awful if we contributed to someone being discouraged, even to the point of walking away from Christ? We cannot minimize the eternal impact, for good or ill, we make by how we do in this matter.
- We must break out of our ruts and routines. What creatures of comfort we are! We must get uncomfortable and change our current habits. Avoiding eye contact, walking past unfamiliar faces, withdrawing into ourselves, talking only to those who talk to us or those we feel comfortable with may be the niche we’ve carved for ourselves over a long period of time. Confront those well-established patterns and insist on breaking them.

Neal Pollard

Via Bulletin Digest

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, January 22

- AM Opening: Bryan Reiboldt
- AM Closing: Mike Kidwell
- PM Opening: Aaron Wilson
- PM Closing: Zechariah Anderson

Scripture Reading Sunday, January 22

- 2 Timothy 1:8-12, Noah Reiboldt
- Prayers Wednesday, January 25**
- Opening: Aaron McCarthy
- Closing: Charlie Phillips

RECORDS	01-15-17	01-17-16
Bible Study	135	167
AM Worship	194	210
PM Worship	130	112
Wednesday	133	147
Contribution	\$7,684.97	\$6,616.45
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67