

## *Giving Peter A Bad Rap*

### **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

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Imagine you are out fishing with your buddies. The night is in full darkness, your boat is so far out that you can barely see the land, and you start to see some mysterious figure walking towards you upon the face of the waters. Would you shrug it off as no big deal? Would you just go back to fishing with no increased heart rate? Or would you tremble in fear and trepidation at the figure coming your way? I think most of us could say that we would react with some level of panic.

In Matthew 14 we are met with an enthralling event. The disciples are in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and they notice a fearful sight coming their way. Matthew 14:25-32 reads, “And in the fourth watch of the night He [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’ And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

We often look at this passage in Matthew 14 and focus greatly on Peter’s shortcoming. We point out the weak faith of Peter as he sunk into the water upon seeing the wind (Matthew 14:29-31). We make application to our faith and how we should be stronger than Peter was in this moment. Although these focuses are true and good, I think we sometimes give Peter a bad rap by neglecting to give equal focus to what took place just before he sunk into the sea.

Notice the sequence of events leading up to Peter’s fall. After their fright, Jesus speaks out and says, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27). Out of the twelve apostles, Peter was the **only one** who replied to Jesus’ comforting words. He said, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water” (Matthew 14:28). Peter took initiative while the other apostles apparently remained still in the boat. After Jesus gave in to Peter’s request to command him to come did Peter say, “Nah, I’m good”? No! Peter immediately stepped up to the edge of the boat and walked on the water (Matthew 14:29). It wasn’t until he made his way towards Jesus and experienced the scary storm that Peter began to falter and yearn for Jesus’ assistance (Matthew 14:30).

Even though Jesus highlighted Peter’s momentary lack of faith towards the culmination of the chapter (Matthew 14:31), the text also alludes to multiple positive qualities of Peter. He exhibited initiative. He found comfort in Jesus’ words. He stepped up while others didn’t. He was a go-getter. He wanted to be with the Lord. He recognized his need for Jesus.

Peter certainly had his moments of sin and doubt. He wasn’t always a solid man of diligent faith. Yet, Jesus used those good characteristics that Peter already possessed in order to shape him into a more stable disciple. Jesus molded Peter by directing his leadership and passion towards godly aims. Eventually Peter became a strong leader and elder in the church (Matthew 10:2; Acts 2:14; Galatians 2:9; I Peter 5:1), which shows us that Peter’s story wasn’t over the moment he sunk beneath the waves. He wore a metaphorical sign around his neck that read “Work In Progress” and we likewise wear that sign around our necks every single day. Just as with Peter, what you are today doesn’t have to be what you are tomorrow. You can grow to maturity and be a great living sacrifice to the Lord (Romans 12:1-2). Look to the example of Peter and don’t ever give up, brothers and sisters.

*Luke Yates*

*His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14*



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Fred Bukowich, John Burlingame, Joyce Clarkson, Angela Collett, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tim Dawkins, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haight, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Bob Murray, Rita Murray, Gary Nielen, Pat Risley, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Velda Wood.

**Sympathy:** Our hearts go out to Max Naramore and family after the passing of Price Naramore last Friday. Services will be conducted at Clark Funeral Home Saturday at 10:00, followed by a private graveside service.



every **ONE** counts!

**Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar** on Sundays to help someone in need. Please continue to contribute, pray, and offer candidates to Luke for this benevolent work.

**Update:** God's grace and your generous giving have resulted in a recent \$50,000 payment on our new Activities Center! Our next fifth Sunday extra giving opportunity will be April 29.

**You can help!** Bring canned chili & fruit juices to help stock our pantry to help people in need.

**Men's Breakfast:** Join us this Thursday at 7 a.m. at Braum's.

**Remember to read your *One Word* devotionals this week**, and learn more of what the Bible says about holiness. We'll follow up with a lesson on it Sunday night.



 Students, remember **Devo & Donuts** every Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the Activities Center.



**This Sunday's Sermons:**

AM: *Salvation in Jesus Alone*  
(Acts 4:12, Danny Boggs)  
PM: *One Word: Holiness*  
(Danny Boggs)



**Boys' Retreat:** All boys in grades 5-12 and their dads are invited to a campout near Branson April 13-15. Younger boys can come, too, so long as a dad or grandpa comes. Please see Casey Flint for more information.

**Neosho Christian School:**

- NCS is participating in the city-wide yard sale this Friday and Saturday. Please bring your yard sale donations to the school.
- Chili Feed/Pie Auction Thursday April 12, 5:30-7:00, at the NCS cafeteria. All proceeds will go towards Spring Celebration for the high school students.
- The Benefit Banquet is April 21 at the Neosho Civic Auditorium. There will be a silent auction, dinner provided by Butcher's Block, and entertainment. Please RSVP to 451-1941.



**Our gospel meeting on the move** is less than two weeks away—Monday-Friday, April 16-19!

- Fliers in the foyer give details.
- Make plans to attend at Carthage, Seneca and Joplin, and invite someone to be here that Wednesday.
- The church bus will run to the out of town services.
- Everyone, please bring a batch of cookies for snacks Wednesday night after the meeting. The Burgundy Hostess group will set up and serve.



**Ladies' Virtual Retreat:** Join us Saturday, May 5, for the first **Come Fill Your Cup** virtual retreat in the Activities Center. It will start around 1:00. So, plan now...if you are a mom talk to your husband about watching your kids and invest in yourself for the afternoon. No kids, clear your calendar as well and let's spend time together growing closer to the Lord and to each other. We will all bring a dish/finger food to share and snack and study all afternoon. More information is posted on the bulletin board and on the Hillcrest Ladies' Facebook page.

**Green Valley Bible Camp:** Have you registered yet? Our week is June 10-16, and our theme is "Our Identity in Christ." We'll look at 26 good ways God gives us to look at ourselves. This year, *friends go free!* If you invite someone from outside our congregation who was not already planning to come, we'll cover the cost. Register at [greenvalleybiblecamp.com](http://greenvalleybiblecamp.com).



**The Miami church of Christ** invites you to a gospel meeting next Sunday through Wednesday with Doug Dingley.

**PRAYER LEADERS**

**Sunday, April 8**

- AM Opening: Todd Tyler
- AM Closing: Pete Babb
- PM Opening: Sam Collinsworth
- PM Closing: Mike Kidwell

**Wednesday, April 11**

- Opening: Jim Friend
- Closing: Zechariah Anderson

RECORDS	04-01-18	04-02-17
Bible Study	137	149
AM Worship	182	200
PM Worship	105	148
Wednesday	128	114
Contribution	\$6,106.55	\$9,613.86
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67