

We Need Christian Friends

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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We all need friends; God *made* us that way. More than that, we need Christian friends; God *wants* it that way.

Paul urged Timothy and us to **“flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart”** (2 Tim. 2:22). Note the two leading verbs in this instruction: “flee” and “pursue.” Do you remember the occasions when you have run the fastest? You were being chased or you were chasing something! That physical exertion is paralleled in this passage by extreme spiritual effort. How badly do you want to escape youthful passions, and how deeply do you want to develop Christian character?

The key to success highlighted in this passage is the right kind of friendships. Some friendships hurt, and some friendships help. “Friends are like highways; they lead somewhere” (Stu Weber, *All the King’s Men*, p.235). Do your priorities and relationships reflect a quest to fulfill youthful passions or the pursuit of spiritual excellence?

God wants us to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace “along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” People who call on the Lord are Christians (Acts 9:14, 1 Cor. 1:2). Are your best friends Christians? If so, what caliber of Christians are they? Do they call on the Lord “from a pure heart?” Some people call themselves Christians, but their effort at Christian life is misguided (as in denominationalism). Others call themselves Christians, but their effort is only half-hearted. The Lord wants mature spirituality to be our all-out pursuit, and He wants us to pursue it in teamwork with close friends who are equally serious about being New Testament Christians.

“Righteousness, faith, love and peace” sum up Christian character. “Righteousness” means doing right. “Faith” means trusting God and being loyal to Him. “Love” means dedication to others and what is best for them. “Peace” is multidimensional: peace with God (Rom. 5:1), peace within (Phil. 4:6-7), and

peace with others (Rom. 12:18). Where can a person find continual encouragement to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace? In the church! Find your best friends in the church!

Aristotle identified friendships based upon (1) utility, (2) pleasure, and (3) virtue. Utilitarian friendships are mainly about getting work done. Pleasure-oriented friendships center upon sensual gratification. Virtuous friendships are about making each other better. The last is what 2 Timothy 2:22 promotes. That leads us to a penetrating question: What makes you friends with your friends? Christian friends who have the same high values and goals are on the right track. They are friends because they make each other better (Pr. 27:17).

Do you want to be closer to your fellow Christians? Do you want them to know you better? If “Yes” is your answer, it means that you want to be the person God wants you to be, and you know that you cannot do it alone. You understand that you need good, close Christian friends. If “No” is your answer, it could mean that you are chasing things that you would not want fellow Christians to know about, and you want to keep chasing them. Or it could mean that you pursue the wrong things and want to stop, but you are afraid fellow Christians will only react with condemnation and not compassion if they find out. In the first case, you need to repent—now! In the second case, you need to think better about your fellow Christians and give them a chance to help.

Make friends who are Christians. Gather with the church “every time the doors are open.” Arrive early. Stay late. Interact. Find time to do things together during the week. Pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Danny Boggs



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Fred Bukowich, Angela Collett, Charles Collinworth Sr., Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haight, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Jack Johnson, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Pat Risley, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgammott, Velda Wood, Neosho Christian School and Honduras mission work.

- Don Goeman is at Freeman West Hospital.
- Bobbie Tuggle has been released from Mercy Hospital.

It's a Boy! Beckett Wilder Anderson was born to Tucker and Abby Anderson this past Thursday at 9 am. Beckett weighed in at 6 pounds 7 oz, and is 18" long.

Note Of Thanks!

Hillcrest Church, It's times like this we realize just how important our church family is. Thank you so much for the comforting words, flowers, many cards, and most important the prayers. We are so blessed to be part of this family.

In Him,
Mike and Anita Hinman

Thanks so much for the cards. Joyce Clarkson



every ONE counts!

Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar on Sundays to help someone in need. Recently we helped a member of our community who is having lots of medical expenses. See Luke if you know people we can help.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Worship* (Danny Boggs)
P.M. *Hosea in the New Testament; Out of Egypt* (Luke Yates)

The Thursday morning ladies' Bible class will begin this Thursday at 10 am.

Men's BBQ Night is this Thursday at Woody's in Webb City. We will leave from the Hillcrest parking lot at 6 pm.

Neosho Christian School is hosting a donation-only benefit concert this Saturday, September 23, at 6 pm, in the NCS auditorium. For more information please see flier posted on bulletin board or call the school office at 417-451-2724.

Free Wednesday night dinner for college students and young adults at 6:00 pm in the new fellowship building! Come enjoy good food and company. Bring friends!

The **Hottel Springs church of Christ** is hosting a *gospel meeting* next week with various speakers from the Bible Institute of Missouri in Springfield. See the flier posted on the bulletin board for more details.



We will be attending **R.U.S.H. at FHU** from September 29 to October 1. Cost is \$35 and we will be leaving that Friday at 10:30 am. Please let Luke know ASAP.

Come and Worship, Go and Serve! Sunday, October 8, we will meet for Bible study at 9:00 and worship at 10:00, then enjoy lunch together in the new building. Instead of coming back together for worship at 6:00, we will spend the afternoon serving older members and our community. How could we help you, a neighbor, a family member or a friend?

2017 Neosho Fall Festival: If you can help with the Hillcrest booth during the fall festival, please see the sign up list on the bulletin board. We will need people to work the booth and provide cookies.

Congregational Singing Seminar with Brad Carter November 3-5. How can we offer God and each other our best when we worship in song? This is for all of us, whether you're a virtuoso or couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. Your kids will enjoy it, too. Brad is a faithful Christian and a lot of fun. He teaches music to kids every day in the school at Dadeville, Missouri.



Opportunity! Would you be willing to serve in a rotation to help keep our new fellowship room clean throughout the year? If so, please see Todd Murray for more information or sign up at the bulletin board.

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, September 24

- AM Opening: Aaron Wilson
- AM Closing: Todd Tyler
- PM Opening: Peter Wald
- PM Closing: Todd Murray

Wednesday, September 27

- Opening: Kaed Thomas
- Closing: Josh King

RECORDS	09-17-17	09-18-16
Bible Study	140	149
AM Worship	186	181
PM Worship	144	130
Wednesday	132	138
Contribution	\$8,383.40	\$7,799.85
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67