

Two Coal Piles

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



Hugo McCord tells the story of a congregation in which, unfortunately, two distinct factions developed. The division became so sharp that finally, one group used the building at one time on Sunday and the other at another time. They were in a part of the country where coal was burned for heat in the winter months, and a dispute arose over who was using the most of the coal. Despite their bickering and bitterness, they readily resolved that problem by simply dividing the coal into two piles. A little boy who lived nearby learned of the unfortunate situation and, having heard some of the preaching that had been done there on unity, he proceeded to teach a needed lesson. Somehow, he obtained the use of the letters for the little marquee sign in front of the church building. He fixed a sign which read: "One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism—and Two Coal Piles."

All too often, this spirit is noticed in the church. Brothers are at variance with other brothers, sister against sister, and other party spirits. All too often, it is apparent, the mind of Christ is lacking. What prevails is a spirit of selfishness and pride; party spirits often take over. The result is brothers and sisters at odds with one another, sometimes leading to division.

Paul addresses this problem with the Philipians in chapter 2 of his letter to them. Please read verses 1 thru 4 in this chapter. Brother Wayne Jackson states that the "ifs" verse 1 assume a truth. Brother Avon Malone states this verse might be translated: "Since there is therefore exhortation (comfort) in Christ, since (we possess) the consolation of love, since (we have) fellowship of the Spirit....Be of the same mind..." Paul is encouraging these brethren to

use these resources to achieve unity and fill his cup of joy.

In verse 3 he states his proposition negatively: "doing nothing through faction or through vainglory..." He urges them not to look for their own interests but to consider those of others. Consequently, he urges them to be "of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (v.3)

There is always a possibility that brothers and sisters can be at odds. This is evidenced by the constant warnings in scripture against it. Abraham warned Lot: "Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between thy herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are brethren" (Genesis 13:8). Solomon warned that sowing discord among brethren is an abomination to Jehovah (Proverbs 6:19). The New Testament is full of instructions to protect against division and rebukes such sin. Paul wrote to the churches in Rome, Galatia, and Corinth concerning this very problem.

Now let's look at ourselves. Ask yourself these questions: "Do I have a problem with a brother or sister? Does a brother or sister have a problem with me? Do I want this to continue to the point of division?" Paul answers this question in Philipians 2:5: "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:..." If these problems exist in your Christian life, swallow your pride, brother or sister. Admit wrong to the one who is offended. Pray for God's help. Let's all be one! Read Philipians 2:1-4 again, and let's look at ourselves.

Wayne Douthitt



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 Haught, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Chester Lyons, Pearl McCleary, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Pat Risley, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Velda Wood, Sue York.

- **Pearl McCleary** is at Granby House for rehabilitation.
- **Bob Murray** is at Freeman West following open heart surgery and a second emergency surgery.
- **Velda Wood** is back at Medicalodge.

Sympathy: We offer our deepest sympathy to the Wolgamott family in the loss of their beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Treva, on Sunday. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday at Hillcrest, at 1 pm.

Congratulations! Todd and Ginger Murray are excited to announce the official adoption of Holland and Jubal Ry Bailey. Chance and Lindsay are the proud parents. Bob and Rita Murray are the great-grandparents.

Your kind hearts and generosity provided food, clothing, toys, and a family night-out at the movie theater for a local family in need this Christmas season. They are deeply appreciative!

A special thank to those in the Lads to Leaders program for wrapping presents for our Christmas family! You took care of a lot of work in a short time!



every **ONE** counts!

Thanks to everyone for giving an extra dollar on Sundays to help someone in need. This past week we have helped a family who has fallen on hard

times.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *The World He Loved*
(Luke Yates)
P.M. *A Persecuted People*
(Luke Yates)

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

The ladies' annual Christmas ornament exchange will be tonight at 6:00 in the Activity Center. Bring finger foods and a wrapped ornament or decoration. Thank you!

James 1:27 Project: You can help foster families in our area by bringing new and good used clothing here for children. All sizes are needed: Pajamas, underwear and shoes are especially helpful.

Anyone with at least two years of college credit who would like to **volunteer as a substitute teacher for Neosho Christian Schools** please contact Casey Flint, Lynda Holverson, or Tim Murray.

Join us this Sunday for a brief devotional and visit with the residents at **Medicalodge**, at 1:30.



Fifth Sunday: December has five Sundays, so we get another shot at giving extra to reduce the debt on the Activities Center December 31. Please make prayerful plans.

New Year's Eve: Sunday night, December 31, Caleb Boggs will preach in our 6:00 service, then we'll enjoy all kinds of fun in in the Activities Center until midnight. Watch for details, and plan to spend good time with your fellow Christians.

2018 Calendar: If you have something planned for 2018 that needs to be put on the calendar, please visit the office and claim your date asap. The 2018 calendar is below the 2017 calendar on the wall beside the copier.

2018

January	February	March	April
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
May	June	July	August
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
September	October	November	December
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

PRAYER LEADERS

Sunday, December 17

- AM Opening: Charlie Collinsworth
- AM Closing: Wayne Douthitt
- PM Opening: Carl Cobb
- PM Closing: Tyler Phillips

Wednesday, December 20

- Opening: Trace Wilson
- Closing: David Fehring

RECORDS

12-10-17

12-11-16

Bible Study	131	145
AM Worship	183	209
PM Worship	137	143
Wednesday	148	136
Contribution	\$9,056.81	\$7,912.01
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67