



The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 4 Issue 6

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

February 08, 2015

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey
Deacons Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney
Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: To Be Announced
 Sunday Evening: To Be Announced

Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Grover Blanton
 Scripture Rick Martin
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper
 Message Robby Stocksdale
 Attendant Brandon Montgomery
 Attendant Jerry Montgomery
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
 Bible Reading Joe Sweeney
 Selection 5
 Prayer Irvin Williams
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Harold Tincher
*If you are unable to serve, please
 call Art Patrick 502-819-9481
 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

AM & PM Services

Announcements Jerry Casey
 Lord's Supper Ethan Welch
 Offering Nathaniel Welch
 Usher Art Patrick
 Count Offering Joe Sweeney
 Assist Count Hank Tincher

Last Sunday

Contribution \$2,880
 Attendance 71

Are we building our spiritual house upon the right foundation? One made of rock and not of sand? One built upon the word and foundation of God? Thought provoking...

We are building every day,
 In a good or evil way.
 And the structure as it grows,...
 Will our in-most self disclose.
 Till in every arch and line,
 All our faults and failings shine;
 It may grow a castle grand,
 Or a wreck up-on the sand,
 Build it well, what ere you do;
 Build it straight and strong and true;
 Build it clear and high and broad;
 Build it for the eye of God.

H.L. Boring, Sr.

You Are What You Eat

We've all done this: Eat a really good meal at a restaurant, note that "this chicken may have a little garlic in it," and feel the garlic pour out of our pores for the next twenty-four hours.

We are what we eat.

More serious effects come from long-time eating habits, too. A steady diet of Hostess Cupcake Twinkies apparently is not good for you. Nor is a regular diet of deep-fried everything. Balance is important, as is fresh fruit and vegetables.

Nutrition for the mind is also important: "Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes on me shall never thirst'" (John 6:35).

Bread is essential for life. We must have it to live. Even in modern speech this language is used: We "devour" a book," or drink in a television program (well a good one, any way), we "swallow" a story hook-line-and sinker, we "chew over" a difficult saying, we can (or cannot) stomach what someone says, and sometimes we must "eat" our own words!

All of these statements indicate that what we dwell on – our mental nutrition – is important. What we read, what we hear, these things affect us, perhaps for an eternity. Beware of a diet of spiritual junk food. Though some reading may be sweet to the taste, it might also be as insubstantial as children's Hostess Ding Dongs and be insufficient to build good, healthy Christian character. Conversations, too, can be either healthy, or not. Negative people, Christians whose constant conversation is negative and critical of others – may be worse than junk food; it might be toxic.

So what do you read? What kind of television programming do you watch? What do you read on the internet? Is it healthy? Do you listen admiringly to a negative, critical person as if he is some spiritual guru with all the answers for the church (they frequently have criticisms; rarely helpful suggestions)? Is yours a spiritual diet of continual criticism of the church, its leaders, and its endeavors to serve God?

Beware. This toxic food will cause more than heartburn; it may affect your eternal life.

-Stan Mitchell, Finger Church of Christ Finger, TN

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The next Monday Night for the Master group meeting is Monday February 9th at 6:00 pm. Sandwiches and chips are on the menu for our meal.

A Men's breakfast is scheduled for February 7th 8:00 am at the building. Please join us for a time of fellowship, prayer and a good meal.

[Hamburg Pike church of Christ Home Page](#)

The Importance of Good Singing

I would never tell a “bad” singer to sing more quietly, or not at all. The Bible commands that we “make a joyful noise to the Lord” (Psalm 100:1). The crucial instrument in worship is the heart, not the voice! If this were not true, we would just as well broadcast a recording of professional singers while we who worship sit and listen. The key to worship is that we offer our own voices in praise to God.

So, you might ask, is good singing a concern at all? After all, God judges the heart, not the voice. We sense that good singing lifts the spirits of those who sing. We are human, after all. This was the challenge Isaac Watts faced in his day: “The singing of God’s praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven,” he declared, “but its performance among us is the worst on earth.”

It was a problem at times in the early days of the Restoration Movement, too. The first instrument to be used in churches of Christ was at the Midway congregation in Kentucky. A small melodeon was introduced in worship. The reason? According to the preacher, L.L. Pinkerton, the cause was the poor quality of their singing. “It scared even the rats from worship” (Bill Humble, *The Story of the Restoration*, p. 58).

Poor singing is never an excuse for inserting an unbiblical practice in worship. A far superior response would be to improve our singing. Congregational singing must be attended to, or else it will suffer atrophy. Allow me to put my song leader’s hat on for a moment and make some observations.

* Church leaders should teach the spiritual importance of singing. We should articulate its role and function in worship. What is its purpose? Do we praise God or teach and admonish each other? What kind of hymn renders healthy teaching?

* Take a look at your songbook. First, read the preface. I have found some distinctly insightful things said about hymns by our hymnbook editors.

* Forget – oh please, please, forget whether a song is new or old. How silly (and harmful) is it to disdain a song because it was written 200 years ago, or last year. Could we please ask better questions of our songs?

* Are the words biblical? If not, the discussion is over. We don’t sing it in worship. If the words are biblical, write down the Bible passages it reminds you of (on a paper, of course, not on the hymnbook, unless the hymnbook is your own).

* Is it a song of praise, prayer or edification? Put the song in a category. That would entail thinking about the hymn, something we rarely do. Thinking about the song might save us from singing an unbiblical song, or, positively, it might make the biblical songs meaningful.

* In a bygone era we used to have singing seminars, where we were taught rudimentary music, how to sing in parts, and new songs. We don’t anymore, and frankly, it shows.

* Can we worship while singing exclusively the melody? Of course we can! But hymn writers have used their talents to write music that aids and emphasizes the words of the song. I feel certain that is one reason why God allowed us to use song (and not just reciting words) in worship. One example: Robert Lowry’s great hymn “Up From the Grave He Arose” utilizes music that is gentle and contemplative when speaking of Jesus’ death and burial, but his music soars in the chorus when speaking of Jesus’ resurrection: The words “He arose! He arose!” are sung at the tops of our voices. This is hymn-writing done well, but the effect is lessened when not sung the way the author wrote it.

* Listen to a good singer near you. Follow him, learn the part. I believe that almost anyone can learn to sing better.

“Do your best,” Paul urges us, “to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

When did God start accepting less than our best?

-Stan Mitchell, Finger Church of Christ Finger, TN