

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

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
 Jerry Casey
 Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Brandon Slotman
 Clint Smith Jr
 Robby Stocksdale
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Missions

Panama Pablo & Myra Sanchez
 Panama Denicio & Carmen Miranda
 New Zealand Nick & Marisa Parker

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and

Free Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us

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Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Joe Sweeney
 Scripture Reading Hank Tincher
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper Message Irvin Williams
 Table Attendant Grover Blanton
 Table Attendant Marc Owens
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale
 Bible Reading Ethan Welch
 Selection 32
 Opening Prayer Doug McArthur
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Brandon Slotman

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Leon Stocksdale
 Lord's Supper Prayer Rick Martin
 Offering Prayer Hayward Blanton
 Usher Derrick Smith II
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Joe Sweeney

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

King – John 1:40-42

Sunday Evening

I Will Pour Out My Spirit – Joel 2:28-32

Last Sunday

Offering: N/A

Attendance: 94

HARMLESS FUN?

The typical gambler, according to John Goodman of Focus on the Family, is a male in his thirties without any financial resources. He is deeply in debt to banks, loan companies, credit card companies, friends, business associates, and his family. He is behind in mortgage payments, car payments, utility payments, and has no life or disability insurance, or hospitalization coverage.

A study of financial liabilities accumulated by gamblers found that the typical addict is from \$53,000 to \$92,000 in debt. The average compulsive gambler's debts exceed \$80,000.

Gamblers have confessed to robbing children's piggy banks to play. Others have sold themselves into prostitution for a night's wagers.

Paul warns, "...they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many Foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" 1 Timothy 6:9,10

The Worker

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Stewards of the Gospel

Steward—one entrusted by a master over possessions of the master. We usually think of a steward of a vineyard (Matt. 20:8), possessions (Luke 16:2), or such. Paul and the rest of the apostles were stewards of the gospel. Paul wrote, "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; for woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel. For if I do this of mine own will, I have a reward: but if not of mine own will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me" (1 Cor. 9:16-17).

God entrusted Paul with His precious possession—the gospel. Then, and today, it is to be guarded with all care. Like Paul, we are stewards of the gospel. We sing: "Into our hands the gospel is given, into our hands is given the light. Haste let us carry God's precious message, bringing the erring back to the right." Paul told Timothy to commit what he had heard from him, to faithful men (2 Tim. 2:2). He was to pass along what he had learned so others would be enabled to continue teaching others.

We must know the gospel in order to guard it and to present it to others in its pure form as God would have us do. Hosea wrote, My People are destroyed for lack of knowledge -- that's why many today think, "What's the use! So many different religions! They can't all be right!"

Paul also wrote to Timothy and told him to handle the truth correctly (2 Tim 2:15). Do you know the gospel? It is the only thing powerful enough to save us! Can you say as Paul did: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes" (Rom. 1:16)?

But knowing it, reading it, and studying it is not enough, It must be believed. We must trust it, put our hope in it and have confidence in its power to save.

We must love it! The Psalmist wrote "Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." God's law is best for us! He made us! He knows us and what we need!

True Christians will show their love for God's word and demonstrate their stewardship of the gospel by living the gospel. The gospel of Christ is not merely an academic exercise of study or a philosophical theory to muse about. We must read, hear and keep the things that are written in the gospel (Rev. 1:3). We are not to say "Lord, Lord" and fail to do what Jesus says (Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:46).

(continued on page 3)

The Most Precious Element in the Universe

Eric Welch

Today increasingly more Americans are seeking meaning to their lives with the pursuit of more possessions, pleasure and power through politics. Yet, after all the searching for purpose in life, they still come up empty. It is a deep hole in the heart, an emptiness that they cannot explain. Many turn to substance abuse to numb the pain of depression this aimlessness causes.

Yet, the preacher explains what the problem is. God “has put eternity into man's heart. (Ecclesiastes 3:11). And this bottomless pit in man's heart cannot be filled with non-eternal things. One cannot have enough possessions, do enough and be enough to be worth something. We all desperately want to feel worth something, to have meaning, don't we? What more do we need? How much is enough? What we end up doing is just living for this life and forgetting the One who gives purpose to life because He has Life within Himself. Only an infinite God can fill a bottomless pit.

The most precious element in the universe created by God is not diamond, gold or platinum but life found on a blue ball floating in space, but not just any life--human life. God has created us for a purpose far greater than anything that we can imagine here on earth. God has created us to be the bearers of His image (Genesis 1:26-27). There are only seven billion alive today and billions more who once lived. This element, though marred by sin, is so valuable to God that it took the blood of His very own Son to offer redemption and recreation into His own image (Romans 8:29). Sadly, few will choose to believe in Him so that they might have life. What will you give in return for your soul (Matthew 16.26)?

“A SQUASH OR AN OAK?”

James A Garfield noted, “When God wants to grow a squash, He grows it in one summer; but when He wants to grow an oak He takes a century.”

Personally I like squash. As a teenager, I could eat it as fast as my mother could fry it. It was delicious. However, I don't want to be a squash. Squash vines can be pulled up easily and stomped down quickly. They are here in the summer and gone by fall. I want to be an oak. I want to have deep roots and rugged strength. I want steady through multiple seasons.

President Garfield's point is well made, isn't it? You can't grow oak trees or men quickly. It takes time to grow things that endure. Understanding this, we need to be patient with children and new converts. It will take some time for them to reach maturity. However, if they desire to grow, they will eventually get there (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:15). With time, they will go from children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine to men who cannot be moved (Eph 4:14-16; Ps. 16:8; 21:7 46:5; 55:22; 62:6).

As elders, preachers and Bible school teachers and parents our goal is to help the young to grow into mighty oaks spiritually.

Wade Webster

Stewards of the Gospel *(continued from page 1)*

We can and should promote the Gospel, teach it to others, defend it (earnestly contend for the faith, Jude 3), and support the spread of the Gospel. Some Christians know all about the latest sports stats or the new movies and music, but they don't know much about the gospel. What a shame! Do you truly believe, love, and live the gospel?

The best Bible translation on the market today is a Bible that has been translated into the lives of its readers (2 Cor. 3:2-3)!

Paul said of the Corinthians: “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart (2 Cor. 3:2). How are you using your stewardship?

-- Ron Davenport. Hickory Ridge Church of Christ Lebanon, TN

Hamburg Pike Happenings

A Fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday August 19th after the morning worship service. The meal theme is breakfast foods.

The Elders would like to thank all of you who gave generously for our 5th Sunday contribution with a total of \$5,080. We have dedicated \$1,900 to the “World Video Bible School”. They do great work and are the source we use for our summer series video Bible lessons.

The Elders have decided, instead of a Fall Gospel Meeting, to schedule a Bible Teaching Seminar on Saturday morning November 3rd, time to be determined. This is being announced early in order to give everyone opportunity to plan their schedules. Our speaker will be Michael Whitworth who conducts about 60 seminars a year. This is for everyone who would like to attend, not only teachers; more information to come.