

(continued from the front page)

(4) Christians know “how great is the love the Father has lavished on us” (1 John 3:1). We know we are the children of God right now! What we don’t know yet is what we will be like when Jesus appears the second time, but we do know this: that when Jesus appears the second time, we shall be like him (1 John 3:2). Having this hope gives us the assurance we need to live pure lives in the present (1 John 3:3). Learning to live like God today gives us a joy that anticipates the day we can live with Him forever!

(5) Despite the trials of life, Christians can “be joyful in hope” (Rom. 12:12). If we choose, nothing in this life can rob us of the joy and anticipation of life with God.

Joe Chesser preaches for the Fruitland church of Christ, Fruitland, MO. website: <http://www.cofcfruitland.com/>

### Remember This...

Nobody can go back and make a new beginning or undo anything that has been done. But we can always start again at the present moment, correct things that are wrong and start doing what is right and make a brand new ending.

“One man with courage is a majority.” (Thomas Jefferson)

“THAT BOOK (the Bible) is the rock on which this republic rests.” (Andrew Jackson)

“The worst moment for the atheist is when he is really thankful and has nobody to thank.” - Dante Rosetti

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: “Heaven is for Real, But is the Book” - Revelation 21:1-8

Sunday Evening: “A Prayer That Jesus Never Prayed”

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
Robby Stocksdales, Joe Sweeney

**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch

**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Missions

Evans Campbell Pablo Sanchez

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

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Ernie Marshall  
Scripture Matt Johnson  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Lord’s Supper  
Message Caleb Hambelton  
Attendant Jeremy Montgomery  
Attendant Art Patrick  
Closing Prayer Clint Smith Jr

#### PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdales  
Bible Reading Nathaniel Welch  
Selection 41  
Prayer Jerry Montgomery  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr  
*If you are unable to serve,  
Call Art Patrick 502-819-9481  
Or Harold Tinchler 288-5956*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Jerry Casey  
Lord’s Supper Joe Sweeney  
Offering Grover Blanton  
Usher Hank Tinchler  
Count Offering Hank Tinchler  
Assist Count Harold Tinchler

#### Last Sunday

Contribution Attendance  
\$2535 106

### 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



# The Worker

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## The Joy of Hope

By Joe Chesser

Sometimes the best part of taking a vacation is the time spent gathering information and making plans for it. Anticipating what you will do when you go camping or traveling or to Disney makes the vacation that much more enjoyable. Getting brochures or checking out the web sites, studying the maps to learn what is available along the way, and marking the days on a calendar fill you with excitement. In fact, there are times when the anticipation of the vacation far exceeds the actual event.

Anticipating heaven should be even better than anticipating a vacation. It’s too bad that many Christians haven’t learned to enjoy the preparation for heaven. Instead of finding joy in the present (John 10:10), some Christians (and I hope you are not one of them) view the present Christian experience as one of drudgery and travail. They see their walk with God in this life as one of hardship and suffering, and only view heaven as a rest from their current troubles. But the hope of heaven is not intended to be restricted to eternity. There is joy in the hope of heaven right now!

The hope of heaven serves to bring meaning and enjoyment to this present life in several ways.

(1) Hope in God serves as an anchor for the soul. The world is constantly in a state of flux, yet God gives Christians the ability to live in this world with stability in the present because of hope for the future. Instead of being “blown here and there by every wind of teaching” (Eph. 4:14) Christians are offered “hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (Heb. 6:19). Christians have the security now that the world longs for!

(2) Christians are saved by hope (Rom. 8:24). This hope is a “confident expectation” that removes fear and doubt. Since we are confident of receiving the salvation of Christ that comes by faith and obedience, joy fills our souls. We find joy in doing whatever God expects of us because of the hope of what He has promised those who are faithful.

(3) Happy is the soldier that is properly equipped to wage war. While we are in the flesh we are in a constant battle with Satan, but God has given us all the equipment we need to successfully defeat him. A part of that equipment is having “the hope of salvation as a helmet” (1 Thess. 5:8). Christians are assured that Satan cannot defeat the army of God. We can celebrate our ultimate victory right now, today! Live joyfully as God’s soldier.

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## Flowers of Humanity

[Eric Welch](#)

Earlier this year, I heard a speech entitled “Flowers of Humanity.” The speaker compared the diversity of flowers in a flower bed to the diversity of humanity, especially in languages and religions. The speech sounded good until his topic turned to religion. He claimed that not one religion has a corner on truth and that there is no one way to truth. As a Baha’i, he proudly said that he respects all religions Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism. He concluded that we all should just embrace human diversity and accept all religions as flowers and not weeds. If we do, things would be better in the garden of humanity. Then, we would not have to focus on pulling out each other’s’ weeds.

If I had an opportunity, I would have responded this way: “Sir, your point about truth is self-contradictory. Is your claim “no one has all the truth” itself the only way? If you respect Christianity, do you respect Jesus’ claim to be the only way (John 14:6). Was he a liar?”

“Upon what basis could Hitler be condemned for the murder of Jews if that was his truth? You say that you respect Islam. Many Muslims to this day praise Hitler’s atrocities. The only peace that Muslims care about with non-Muslims is on their terms. Just recently, a Syrian Muslim group demanded Syrian “Christians” to pay infidel taxes, convert or die. Do you respect that? Buddhists only look out for themselves and couldn’t care less about the plights of others. Do you embrace that? Does the pluralism of Hinduism work in the real world? Do you respect that?”

“I believe, sir, that what you see as flowers, I see as weeds. Will you respect that? The weeds of false religion in the garden of humanity are the cause of humanity’s ills. Where the good news of Christ has been cast, humanity has flourished. Where the tares of false religions have been sown, humanity suffers in every way, politically, socially, economically and spiritually. By the way, God is the gardener. He, not us, will do the plucking (Matthew 15:13).

Satan is the enemy who plants these deceitful tares. We must always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks [us] for a reason for the hope that is in [us]; yet do it with gentleness and respect (1 Peter 3:15).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

### Hamburg Pike Happenings

Please plan to attend and pray about our Vacation Bible School; here are a few details:

- Theme: “Marvelous Moses”
- Date: Sunday July 20<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Time: 7:00 – 8:30 pm each night
- Lessons: “Drawn from the Water”, “Take Off Your Shoes”, “Let My People Go”, “Manna, Quail / Milk, Honey”
- Classes are planned for all ages including adults.
- Activities each evening include: crafts, snacks, songs, prayer and a “BIG” Bible character.
- Snack time Wednesday will be “Make your own ice cream sundae”

In preparation for VBS we need volunteers to help move chairs/tables, decorate classrooms, set up, etc. If you can help please meet at the building on Friday July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 pm to 8 pm and Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 am until we finish.

Ron and Tammy Iverson have several items to giveaway; a sleeper sofa, glass kitchen table and 4 chairs (need seat covers) and an old style 19” TV. The items are free but you must provide the transportation and help to haul them away.

We extend our appreciation to David and Teresa McClintock for decorating the bulletin board in the foyer. It looks great, thank you for the good work.

The Building Committee is scheduled to meet Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the building.

A youth Devotional is scheduled for Sunday evening July 13<sup>th</sup> after the evening worship, see Caleb for details.