

### 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 Clint Smith Jr  
 Brandon Slotman  
 Robby Stocksdale  
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch  
 Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

#### Missions

Panama Mission Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and  
 Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us at

(812) 284-3125 or email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
 Opening Prayer Bill Cravens  
 Scripture Reading Leon Stocksdale  
 Sermon Eric Welch  
 Lord's Supper Message Rick Martin  
 Table Attendant Greg Blanton  
 Table Attendant Nathaniel Welch  
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

#### P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr  
 Bible Reading John Keaton  
 Selection 34  
 Opening Prayer Derrick Smith II  
 Sermon Eric Welch  
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

#### A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Jerry Casey  
 Lord's Supper Prayer Brandon Slotman  
 Offering Prayer Doug McArthur  
 Usher Brandon Montgomery  
 Count Offering Joe Sweeney  
 Assist Count Art Patrick

#### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning Gender Identity – Matthew 19:4

Sunday Afternoon To Be Announced

#### Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,434 Attendance: N/A

### **A BAD BARGAIN**

A Sunday school teacher asked her class if they could give Bible examples of anyone making a bad bargain. The first said, "Esau made a bad bargain when he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage". Another said, "Judas made a bad bargain when he sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver". A third said, "Ananias and Sapphira made a bad bargain when they lied about the price of their land". A fourth said, "Jesus said it is a bad bargain when a man gains the whole world and loses his own soul".

We might add another to the above list by observing that it is a bad bargain for you and me to trade our hope of heaven for the pleasures, riches, power and glory of this world. Jesus was shown all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and told he could have all these if he bowed down to Satan. Jesus knew that would be a bad bargain.

What kinds of bargains do we make? Do we trade the worship time for a few hours of sleep? Do we trade Christian service for idle pleasures? Let us not trade Heaven for anything!  
 John Wright

# The Worker

## Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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### **Rain and Rainbows Are Great Reminders**

At age 500, Noah spent the next 100 years building the ark when finally God told him the rain would begin after seven more days. Imagine Noah's relief (and probably terror) when God finally followed through with what He said He'd do, putting an end to what must have seemed like an eternity of jeers and sneers from skeptical neighbors.

On the Jewish calendar, it was seventeenth day of the second month of the six-hundredth year of Noah's life. On our calendar that would be somewhere between late April and mid-May.

Drop... drop... drop. Panic must have flowed through every unbeliever as the memory of Noah's words began to soak-in like a deluge of regret and sorrow. They were likely feeling, seeing, smelling and even tasting rain for the very first time in their life (since the Bible leaves the impression that it had not rained previously). This would also be a very good reason why the people were so resistant to Noah's preaching if they felt the consequences were unlikely. But Noah was telling the truth all along.

Genesis 7:11-12 tells us, "--On that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights."

When the water receded, Noah left the ark and sacrificed some of the animals on an altar. God was pleased. So, He placed a rainbow in the sky as an agreement between Himself and all life on earth (ref: Gen. 9:18) that He would never again destroy the earth by flood (v.21). A rainbow must have been quite an impressive sight since it may also have been the first time one had ever appeared.

This wonder of nature is still an incredible sight today. The message it has brought for over four-thousand years now continues to paint a beautiful picture of hope for believers, and should strike fear in the hearts of non-believers. The colors that arch through the clouds remind us that God keeps His promises.

So, what does this mean to us today? The message of Jesus Christ is true! But sadly, scripture says that most people will not choose the righteous path that leads to salvation (Matthew 7:13-14). Yes, this fact poses a challenge for Christians who spend their lives telling their friends and family the Gospel story of salvation through Jesus Christ.

But, it will be a bigger problem for non-believers who, just like in Noah's days, refuse to listen until it is too late. May God bless your efforts to win souls.

Barrett Vanlandingham

## **Christ and Him Crucified**

Eric Welch

Is it possible that the Lord's church can suffer from preacheritis as denominationalists do with the likes of Joel Osteen, Bernice Hicks and William Branham? The Lord's church in ancient Corinth knew something about that. They too misunderstood the importance of the messengers. When the Christians put preachers on pedestals, it led to division in the church. Some enjoyed listening to articulate Apollos and dynamic Peter. Others liked Paul who planted the church and claimed charter membership (1 Corinthians 1:12-14).

Paul had to remind the church how he preached when he first came. He did not go there as a peddler of his own ego. His speech was on eternal things, not sophistry, as most ancient pagans were used to. Preaching the gospel is not about the preacher. Paul says, "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:1). Paul was not there to impress or entertain; he certainly did not want people following him (v. 5).

Rather, the good news is about Jesus Christ on the cross. "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (2:2). The message of a dead Jew on the cross was foolishness to pagans (1:18-31), but Paul says it means salvation from sin. "But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Galatians 6:14). Paul's focus was upon Jesus and what he did for us on the cross.

The church today must guard against preacheritis. I thank God for the opportunity at the Hamburg Pike congregation to preach Christ—crucified for our sins, raised from the dead, ascended to the throne of His Kingdom and coming again soon!

### **Where's the Foot Tub?**

One night just before the crucifixion, Jesus shared a meal with his disciples. Customarily, a servant washed guests' feet before seating them at the table, but no servant was present on this occasion. Who would humble himself and do the servant's task? Each of the apostles considered himself too important, and so Jesus "rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded" (John 13:4-5).

After resuming his place at the table, Jesus said that "if I [...], your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15). To honor this teaching, some churches gather periodically for a foot-washing service. Are the churches of Christ failing to obey the Lord in this matter? Where is our foot tub?

Actually, the Lord and his apostles never assembled to wash feet. Neither did the church of the NT. In the John 13 narrative, Jesus simply met a practical need. Feet were dirty, and he washed them.

The Lord expects his followers to do the same as they go about their daily lives. Does a child with learning disabilities need help with a simple math assignment? Does an elderly woman need help cutting her toenails? Does an elderly man need help getting a bath? Does an injured neighbor need someone to cut his grass for a few weeks? Then the true disciple is to humble himself and perform the needed task. Assembling annually to wash perfectly clean feet misses Jesus' point entirely.

David Wright

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

A youth devotional for ages 12 and under is scheduled for Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. See Robby Stocksdales for questions.

A Mom's evening out is scheduled for Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>, location to be determined. See Kate Slotman for questions.

### **Willing To Share**

"Charge them that are rich in this world...that they do good, that they be rich in good works, that they be ready to distribute, willing to communicate" (1 Timothy 6: 17, 18).

My son recently sent us a video of our grandson who is two and a half years old. My son and his wife were trying to get Kai to share the little bag of candy they had given him. Kai, our grandson, said, "It's mine." He shook his head and pushed his mother's hand away when she asked for some.

That's how many of us were at Kai's age. We did not like to share. Hopefully, selfishness is something we have outgrown. When Paul writes to Timothy that we should be "willing to communicate," he does not mean we should be willing to talk. Paul wants us to share.

Christians have so much. Paul tells Timothy, "God gives us richly all things to enjoy." God gives us spiritual riches and blessings that we don't deserve. But Christians living in the United States have far more than spiritual blessings. We are blessed materially way beyond most Christians living in other countries.

So do we thank God for His care and His goodness? If so, that is good. We ought to, need to. But do we just go happily on our way, thanking God, and forgetting the needs of others? Is that all God expects of us? No. Paul says we should do good and be rich in good works. That means being willing to share. Those who share are "laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed" (1 Timothy 6:20).

- Donna Richmond Wittlif, the founder and first editor of BulletinGold, lives in Denver, CO. Donna is also a writer of fiction. Her novels, World Eternal: Promises and World Eternal: Proselytes, and World Eternal: Perils are available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other book outlets. For more information visit her website. <http://www.donnarwittlif.com/>

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