

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

Phone: (812)-284-3125

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 Ryan Irwin
 Table Attendant Leon Stocksdale
 Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr
 Bible Reading Bill Cravens
 Selection 16
 Opening Prayer Derrick Smith II
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Robby Stocksdale
 Lord's Supper Prayer Jerry Casey
 Offering Prayer Grover Blanton
 Usher Greg Blanton
 Count Offering Art Patrick
 Assist Count Marc Owens

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

Why We Believe What We Believe About Church
 Membership - Acts 2:42-47

Sunday Evening

Blessed Are the Forgiveness - Psalm 32

Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,834

Attendance: 94

A Barrier to Growth

Peter wrote to Christians living in difficult times, when suffering was their routine lot. They frequently found themselves at odds with government officials and mistreated in the marketplace. The apostle's first epistle outlines useful advice on how to handle the adverse situations. At the heart of Peter's counsel is the valid assumption that the process of living the Christian life will present opportunities for sharing one's faith in Christ. To take advantage of these openings Christians must possess the ability to clearly explain their belief. He wrote:

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed" (1 Peter 3:15-16).

Convincing evidence must be offered to explain the lifestyle of a committed Christian. The most powerful evidence to be proposed would be the Word of God. It alone carries the authority to convince and the ability to convert. The greatest testimony against faith is for the world to ask and the Christian to be unable to explain the very Gospel they profess to believe.

Bulletin Gold, David Bragg

The Worker

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How Important is Knowing God's Word?

Randy Duke

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children." Hosea 4:6 (NKJV)

The school systems, the political climate, the degradation of the family, drugs & alcohol, the entertainment industry – all are easy targets for us to blame in the current state of our nation. Hosea tells us centuries before Christ that a lack of knowledge and rejection of that knowledge leads to destruction. Are you concerned about the spiritual well-being of your children and/or your grandchildren? (Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.)

How can you protect those precious souls of tomorrow by your actions today?

1. Know the word of God. Don't just read your Bible, but study it. Jesus says in John 17 that we can be sanctified by truth (the word of God). John 6:68 focuses on Peter confessing that Jesus' words are words of eternal life. Being sanctified (set apart for a holy purpose) and having access to eternal life are far too important to be given less than our all. Spiritual maturity comes from learning God's word.

2. Teach the word to your children – Deut 6:6-9. This passage highlights the importance of teaching your children in everyday activities. Hauling children to church assemblies on Sunday and Wednesday won't make up for a lack of effort in the home. Make Bible discussions a habit as you ride in the car, at the dinner table, or sitting around waiting for an appointment or meeting. Making scripture a priority to you will develop a priority in them.

3. Influence others through your actions. You don't have to be a Bible scholar to influence others. Your actions and your interests will peak others' curiosity. Children often imitate their parents and grandparents. Let them see you spending time in reading God's word. Include your children in activities of the church – clean up days, classroom decorating, visitation, carrying food to shut-ins, etc. All these activities will help form habits that will last a lifetime.

Psalm 119 is a marvelous chapter that meditates on the excellences of knowing and keeping God's word. I encourage you to read this lengthy chapter and consider how God's word can direct your paths.

http://www.mtjulia.org/how_important_i/

Does Sin Bring Blessing?

Eric Welch

Over the weekend I received a question from someone I befriended at a local radio station in Vicksburg, Mississippi. We often discussed many things as I came and recorded one-minute radio spots. He also “emcees” at a local casino and he asked this question, “Every day I hear how much people lose, but when they win they call it a blessing from God....How can what is perceived as sinning, [namely] gambling, be received as a blessing? Maybe He did, and it was to them. What are your thoughts?” Here is my reply with some editing for an article with additional comments.

This great question reminds me one time in Romania where someone thought that God had blessed the owner with money that he had found but did not return to its rightful owner. In his warped thinking, it was God who caused the owner to lose the money.

How can anyone violate the second greatest commandment (“to love your neighbor as yourself” or to “treat others the way you want to be treated”) and then call it a blessing from God? This twisted mentality reminds me of Isaiah 5:20, “woe to those who call evil good and good evil.”

Do you remember when Jesus was tempted after fasting 40 days in the wilderness to turn some stones into bread to satisfy his extreme hunger? If Jesus had used His miraculous power to do that, could He have claim that the bread was a blessing from God after giving in to sin?

Gambling is incredibly destructive, and it ultimately robs people of the dignity and true blessing that hard work gives (Ephesians 4:28). From the beginning, God Himself worked and served mankind by forming a planet fit for habitation (Genesis 1). The first blessing He gave to the man He breathed life into was the ability to multiply (Genesis 2:7 and 1:28), and the first command was to work (2:15).

Alas, the man and his wife sinned, violating God’s instruction not to eat of the forbidden fruit. They marred the image in which they were created. They were banished from the garden and the work of farming and childbirth became much harder. Sin does not bring blessing (the fullness of life), but death because it violates the nature of God, the source of life. Paul says that “...the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

At first the fruit tasted good, but that “blessing” is temporary. That is why sin is so deceitful. The only true and lasting pleasure is to do the will of God (1 John 2:15-17).

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life — is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

A Youth devo ages 12 and under is scheduled for Thursday April 19th 6:30 p.m. at the building. The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. The meal theme is pizza.

Potter Children’s Home and Family Ministries in Bowling Green, KY has provided us with 20 coin canisters for their annual “Silver for Children” campaign. If your family would like to take one home, please see one of the Elders. The campaign return date is Sunday September 2nd.

Sunday April 29th is the first 5th Sunday of 2018 and the Elders have set the day for a special contribution. Our goal is to double the budget amount in order to assist the Jacksonville, Alabama church of Christ. They oversee the House to House Heart to Heart publication and Polishing the Pulpit. Their buildings were damaged by a tornado on March 19th, 2018.

The ladies Bible class will meet Saturday morning, April 28, at 10:00 at the church building. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.