

East Columbus Bulletin

Vol. 2, No. 12 – December 6, 2015



East Columbus church of Christ
811 Alabama Street, Columbus, MS 39702
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Pr 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise. (32) He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Worship/10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Worship with Lord's Supper

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible classes for all ages

Other Study and Worship Opportunities

- Second Sunday 2:00 p.m., Trinity Care Home Worship Service
- Second Saturday Men's Bible Study Ranch House Restaurant 6:30 A.M.
- Third Sunday Neighborhood Bible Study 6:00 p.m. location (TBA)
- Young Bible Scholars meet each month - Time and Location (TBA)
- Bible Study at the Pines - 8 p.m. Sundays & 5 p.m. Mondays, Cady Hill 6 p.m. Thurs..
- CD's of sermons and Gospel Meetings are available by signing up in the foyer
- Recorded sermons and gospel meetings and other resources are also available at the church website <http://eastcolumbuschurch.com/>. Contact Steve Coburn if you need assistance.
- Auditorium class- remember to read a chapter in Proverbs every day, summarize chapters, and select favorite or notable verses for the Sunday adult class this quarter.
- Don't forget to submit questions for the preacher for the first Sunday lesson each month.

Prayer Requests

Home Bound Members: - Mike Butler, Jack Burks, Eula Mae Harless, Burt Wheeler

Others Limited by Health: - Frances Barham, Joyce Manasco, Joyce Ratcliff, Willena Woods

Sick - Harold Young, Lynette Coburn's father, continues at home under hospice care. Joyce Ratcliff continues receiving therapy at home. Wade and Willena Woods daughter, Sheree', is undergoing treatments for leukemia. Desiree' Wilson's mother, Adriana Borst, is undergoing cancer treatment and hospice care in Tupelo.

Births – Amelia Bell Breland, granddaughter of Anne Temple, was born to Phoebe and Chris Breland on November 26, 2015.

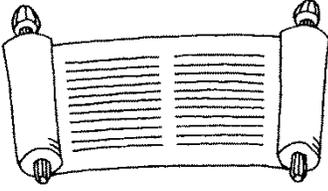
Deaths – Annie "Tete" McCrary passed away November 2, 2015.

Note: If you would like to make known a prayer request for an individual or family member who has experienced a sickness, death, hospitalization, or other need, please contact Ed Williams, 323-9502, or glenedwilliams@yahoo.com

Elders: Jay McCrary and Jerry Paschall

Deacons: Clyde Hollis, Ed Williams, Don Zant

Preacher: Kevin Kay



Pr 17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man Than a hundred blows on a fool.
Pr 27:5 Open rebuke is better Than love carefully concealed.

It's Never Just Music

Whenever a church decides to use musical instruments in worship, they open a door to many other departures from God's will. Frankly, many compromises have already occurred to get to the instrument, but the departure is not official (in some people's minds) until the piano and guitar are brought into the building. From there, anything that meets human approval is seen as being acceptable to God, be it social, charitable or political. "As long as we acknowledge Jesus and do good in the community, we are glorifying God as a church." The line of doctrinal right and wrong then becomes as stable as a kite in the wind—changing with every generation, moving from faith to faith, flowing down the path of least resistance. And all along, God lets us choose which path we want and will even "send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess. 2:11-12).

Altering God's will in worship is nothing new. People have been doing it since Cain (Gen. 4:3-7). It is the ultimate reason the nation of Israel was led into captivity. When Jeroboam, their first king, was afraid of losing the people's loyalty in going to Judah to worship (1 Kings 12:26-27), as God wanted, he set up golden calves in Israel to worship instead (vv. 28-30). The people bought into his lies "hook, line, and sinker" and performed every other form of error he initiated (vv. 31-33). What they failed to realize was their compromise was only a stepping stone for further apostasy (even idolatry) by future generations. For two hundred years "the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight...So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day" (2 Kings 17:21-23).

In Israel's case, it was never just the golden calves; further departure was imminent. In our case, those who dismiss God's instructions to sing in church ("speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," Eph. 5:19), and opt instead to sing and make melody on a device, open the door to further compromise. Future generations will not only build on that error, they will water down spirituality to that which is entertaining and carnal. Consequently, the religious community goes from gospel preaching to gimmick-promoters to get people through the doors, as they repeat an age-old problem: "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play" (1 Cor. 10:7). But all along, God is in the background looking for people who will seek His will — knowing that "true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him" (John 4:23). Anything less than that only leads to more sin.

Mike Thomas, Standing Firm, Beaver Dam Church of Christ, November 2015, Vol. 46, Number 8