



The next youth devotional will be hosted by Archana Verma. More information to come!

- July 19-24 Peach Valley Camp.
- The next Thursday area-wide Summer Youth Series will be held July 16 @ 7 p.m. at Norton Street and is entitled, "Trust and Obey."



**EDUCATION**

**In Search of the Lord's Way**

The lesson for Sunday, July 19 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Left Behind?" Several books and movies recently talk about the rapture and a sudden disappearance of a mass of people. Does the Bible speak of a rapture and what does it say? What is the kingdom of Christ and when will it begin?

**SUNDAYS**

**Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**  
**Morning Worship .....10:00 AM**  
**Evening Worship ..... 5:00 PM**

*Mondays (every first and third week)*  
**Ladies' Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM**  
*Tuesdays (September through May)*  
**Men's Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM**  
**Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM**

**WEDNESDAYS**

**Midweek Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM**

**EVANGELIST**

Clay Bond

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

Cecil Shaw  
*Ocho Rios, Jamaica*

Mike Batot  
*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

JULY 12, 2015

"SURPRISE!" by Clay Bond

I think it is safe to say that when we reach adulthood, surprises tend to take on more of a negative connotation. While in childhood a "surprise" might take the form of a lollipop, trip to the zoo, or fun gift, in adulthood a "surprise" may take the form of a broken air conditioner on a hot summer day, a broken water line, a flat tire or a pink slip at work. The idea of being caught off guard has some spiritual implications. We do not want to be surprised because we entered in to eternity unprepared or because Christ returned to judge this world before we were ready. In the New Testament there are many passages that herald the coming day of judgment (Matthew 24:35-44; Acts 17:30-31; Acts 24:25; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:9-10). Sadly, many will still be surprised at judgment for various reasons.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only"

*Matt. 24:36*

Some will be surprised when Christ actually returns. From early in the Christian era there were scoffers who asked, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). This failure to recognize the unexpected nature of Christ's return is simply a failure to listen to the Lord, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the an-

gels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36). Read carefully what Peter wrote, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness" (2 Peter 3:10-11). Since it is not left up to us to determine the time of Christ's return, we will just have to be ready at any moment if we are to avoid being surprised. Some will be surprised that they cannot cancel or postpone the day of judgment.

We are accustomed to being able to reschedule dreaded events. However, judgment is one appointment we cannot postpone (Romans 2:3). While we do not have any control over our scheduled appointment before the Judge of all the earth, we do have control over our own readiness. As the Old Testament prophets declared, "prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). Since we have no power to cancel, postpone or "no show" for our judgment day appointment, we would do well to listen to Amos' exhortation and avoid the horrible surprise of showing up at court unprepared.

Some will be surprised that at judgment it will be too late to get right with God. In Ezekiel 19:5 we learn that Israel one time waited to get right with the Lord and because they waited all hope was lost. The wealthy farmer and wealthy man of Luke 12 and Luke 16 both live in eternal regret because they waited to seek the Lord until it was too late. Many are like Felix who said, "When I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25). Salvation is not a matter of convenience, it is a matter of urgency for those who know "the terror of the Lord" and understand that "today is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 5:11 & 6:2). Even Jesus' "Great Invitation" urges us to make a choice right now, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Since the judgment day will be too late to be reconciled to God, it is urgent that get right with God now and stay right with Him always.

There are more potential judgment day surprises such as: some being surprised that excuses will not be accepted at judgment. In the parable of the marriage feast, people began to make excuses to avoid attending the marriage feast (Luke 16:16-20). Or, some being surprised that judgment is not based on good intentions. We can

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
JULY 5, 2015	
<b>Attendance</b>	
Sunday Bible Class.....	108
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	145
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	162
<b>Offering: \$4,096</b>	

almost hear Felix saying "but Lord don't you remember how I trembled when I heard the gospel? I had every intention of hearing Paul again, time just got away from me." However, the saddest of all judgment day surprises is that so many will be surprised that Jesus Christ was serious when He said "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21).

Since we don't know when Christ will return, since we can't avoid or postpone judgment, since no excuses will be accepted or good intentions considered and since God is serious about His commands, we should simply prepare to meet our God by obeying the gospel. As the apostle John wrote, "little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:28). If we are living as a faithful child of God, we will meet the surprise of judgment with childlike delight, rather than the shocked surprise of an unexpected event coming at the worst possible moment. If we are ready, we will be able to approach the judgment of the almighty God without fear and with great boldness (1 John 4:17). The judgment day is sure to come without warning, but will it be a delightful or dreadful surprise for you?

## News & ACTIVITIES

### Sunday, July 12

The Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

### Sunday, July 26

Plan to attend the Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal following evening services.

### Wednesday, July 29

Fifth Wednesday singing.

### Thursday, July 30

The Young Ladies' Potluck luncheon will be held at Noon.

- Homewood Team #2 will meet today.
- Be sure to pick up your Life Touch directory on the table in the hallway.
- Remember to place your bible questions in the Q&A box in the foyer.
- Please bring baby wipes and 8 gallon trash bags for Sunny Glen Children's Home by Sunday, August 9.
- Please email information for the bulletin to [nia\\_fitzsimmmons@yahoo.com](mailto:nia_fitzsimmmons@yahoo.com)

### Meeting Minutes

Today, the Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. The minutes and financial report from the Men's Meetings are posted on the hallway bulletin board.

## Keep in PRAYER

### MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady  
Tre Cannady  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Betty Key

Sandy Malone  
Bob Neel  
Ann Pantel  
Glen Pitts  
Rex Sims  
Etta Williams

### & Friends Family:



Cynthia Barrett,  
*daughter of Dee Gilpatrick*  
Sandra Barton,  
*sister-in-law of Karon*  
Josephine Escojido,  
*mother of Lupe Escojido*  
Pam Hawkins,  
*daughter-in-law of June*  
Jim Hinchey,  
*brother-in-law of Lupe Escojido*  
Amy Jamison,  
*daughter of Terry*  
Perliene Johnson,  
*mother-in-law of Steve Randle*  
Dorothy Koenig,  
*mother of Mickey DeDear*  
Dorothy McCarn  
*aunt of Pam Clifton*  
Edna Randall,  
*aunt of Randy Tipton*

Sarah Randle,  
*mother of Steve*  
Ernest Rundzieher,  
*brother of Jackie Rutherford*  
David Smith,  
*brother of Bob Smith*  
Richard Smith,  
*uncle of Les Daltry*  
Ray Shannon,  
*son of Donna*  
Mark Withers,  
*nephew of Clark*  
Ray Williams,  
*son of Etta*  
Martha Young,  
*friend of Elana Carroll*