

Youth NEWS

F. U. E. L. Youth Rally 2017

There will be a youth rally hosted by MidTown May 5-6 with Joe Wells entitled, "Confronting Culture." Plan to attend Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. with lunch provided.



Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp

July 16th-21st, 2017. Camper (9-15 year olds) applications available online. Camper drop off Sunday 2 p.m. Camper pick up Friday 2 p.m. Priority registration is now through June 8.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, April 30 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Worship in Prayer." Prayer is man's great opportunity to pour out his heart to God the Father. In this final lesson of our series on worship, we'll explore ways to make our prayer lives more meaningful.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 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

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The MidTown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

APRIL 23, 2017

"WHAT'S LACKING WHEN WE FAIL TO ASSEMBLE WITH THE SAINTS?"

by Ronnie Scherffius

The Bible clearly sets forth the responsibility of every Christian to assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:25); to gather together on the first day of the week to worship God (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2) in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). The oft debated question has been, "But do I have to 'go to church' on Sunday night and Wednesday night? After all, its just 'tradition' and not a commandment, right?" The truth of the matter is that such a mind set begs the question, "Is thy heart right with God?" After all, what could be more desirable to a Christian than to gather with the saints to worship God, be edified by those of like precious faith, study the Bible, and to grow spiritually?! Another question that arises when one fails to assemble with the saints (whether on the first day of the week in the morning/evening or Wednesday evening services) because they choose to be somewhere and/or do something else is, "What is lacking in our spiritual lives?" Here are some thoughts.

Failing to assemble with the saints demonstrates **a lack of love for God and for Jesus Christ.** Love

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."

John 3:16

is the great motivating factor: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16); "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his

friends" (John 15:13); "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). Jesus admonished His disciples, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15), thus our very actions demonstrate our love (or the lack thereof) for God and for Christ! An example of this is found in Luke when Jesus healed ten lepers but only one, "turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks:" (Luke 17:15-16) This man's love was demonstrated in his gratitude and worship. How much more have we received from Jesus and yet how much is lacking in our love for Him when we

fail to assemble with the saints and show our gratitude for His great sacrifice.

Failing to assemble with the saints demonstrates **a lack of spiritual development.** Our closing admonition from the apostle Peter is, "But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Pet. 3:18) He earlier instructed that we should with great diligence and earnestness "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness love." (2 Pet. 1:5-7) and that we should "be ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope" that we have in Christ. (1 Pet. 3:15) The Hebrews writer rebuked the Hebrew saints for their lack of spiritual development: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Heb. 5:12-14) A faithful habit of gathering with the saints greatly contributes to our spiritual development and gives us the tools to stand against the adversary (Eph. 6:10-12), defend the gospel of Christ (Phil. 1:17), and teach others the truths that have been committed to us (2 Tim. 2:2).

Failing to assemble with the saints demonstrates **a lack of will to edify others.** Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Col. 3:16). The Hebrews writer admonished us to "provoke one another unto love and to good works" and to "exhort one another," and these are to be done especially when we are assembled together with the saints (Heb. 10:25). Yet, when we fail to assemble with the saints we show a lack of will and desire to encourage our brethren as they, like us, daily face difficulties of this life that challenge their

faith and which places temptations before them continually! How beautiful it is to see Christian brethren who can be depended upon for strength and edification!

Failing to assemble with the saints demonstrates **a lack in spiritual priorities.** Our priorities should be in those things that bring glory, honor, and praise to God, and that bring us closer to Him and His body. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33); "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col. 3:1-2). Perhaps the greatest example of right spiritual priorities is seen in the parable of the *PEARL OF GREAT PRICE*: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it" (Matt. 13:45-46). Here is a man who not only put the kingdom above other things BUT made the kingdom the **ONLY** thing in his life! How telling it is when members of the body of Christ choose to put things of this world ahead of the church of Christ!

The mindset of "have to" when it comes to assembling with the saints for worship is indeed a telling one. Such character reveals a heart that is lacking in a love for God and Christ; spiritual development; a will and desire to edify others; a focus on spiritual priorities. May we never be found lacking!

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
APRIL 16, 2017	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	108
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	154
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	78
Wednesday Attendance.....	88
Offering: \$4,221	

News

& ACTIVITIES

Today!

Ronnie will answer the following bible questions during the evening service:

1. What does the term *Selah* mean in the psalms?
2. In Acts 9 (the conversion of Saul) why didn't Jesus just tell Saul he was saved, like the thief on the cross in Luke 23:43?
3. We are commanded to come together the first day of the week to sing, pray, worship, partake of the Lord's Supper, and give of our means. Are we sinning if we omit one or more of these acts and are we "forsaking the assembly"?
4. Lord's Supper: when Jesus said "Do this in remembrance of me" was He only talking about His death or about all He had done and taught?

Sunday, May 7

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. here at the building.

Sunday, May 21

Plan to attend next month's Sunday Fellowship meal following evening services to honor our 2017 graduates **Emily DeDear** and **Desmon Flonnory**. Please bring sandwiches, chips and dips. A cake will be provided and there will be a basket for your cards and best wishes.



Keep in PRAYER

IN SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Jack Roberts, brother-in-law of Roberta Turner.



MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Kathy Laws

Susie Mesa
Betty Mabe
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Angela Sneeringer
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Keith Lempa,
son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton's
sister-in-law

Amanda Mueller
sister of Amy Harris
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Madeline Posey,
family of Julie Posey
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Polly Ray,
aunt of Connie Cleveland
Scott Reeves,
son of Sam and Leta
brother of Sherry Lynch
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnos
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Agnes Sergel,
grandmother of Athena Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory