

Youth NEWS



Thank you to the Pitchford and Randle Families for hosting the Family/Youth Devo and Jr./Sr. High Devo last Sunday!

TODAY!

Today at 3 p.m. is the November GEMS devotional here at the building.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES

All kids are invited to build gingerbread houses at the building on December 16 at 9 a.m. All materials will be provided. See Amy Harris for more information.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, November 26 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "A Christian." Who and what is a Christian? People often misunderstand what a Christian is by looking at people who call themselves Christians but fail to live as God wills. How does God define a Christian and what does He wish from us?

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

ELDERS

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2017

"WE ARE THE SAME" by Ronnie Scherffius

Centuries ago, in the city of Athens, on an elevated piece of rock, which from ancient times was known as *Ares Rock* (Areopagus), and in Roman times *Mars Hill*, the apostle Paul proclaimed the God of heaven to an idolatrous and superstitious people. In this sermon for the ages he made a very simple and often overlooked statement: "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26).

One of the saddest commentaries on the world is the division that exists among humanity. In our society specifically, we are divided by class, gender, and race. We read daily in the news of class warfare, gender bias, and racial prejudice. The fact that these divisions exist cannot be denied. Sadly, many politicians (from both sides of the aisle and even from those who try to stand in the middle), rather than working to bring about some semblance of equality among people, often seek to exploit and deepen the divide and even build upon the inequalities that exist.

The truth of the matter is, when we get right down to it, we are all the same. Consider the following, All men have the *same Creator*. Moses wrote, "In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Adding to this Moses would later affirm, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and **all that in them is [this includes humanity!]**" (Ex. 20:11). Showing His agreement Jesus stated, "Have ye not read, that **he which**

made them at the beginning made them male and female" (Mt. 19:4). The psalmist also affirmed the shared origin of humanity declaring, "O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord **our maker**" (Psalms 95:6). The sadness of the divided state among humanity is only increased when one realizes all men have the same Creator.

Note also that all men have the *same lineage*. That's right! even though many would never acknowledge this truth, all share one parentage. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul....And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man...And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because **she was the mother of all living**" (Gen. 2:7, 21-22; 3:20). It is the height of arrogance and the depth of

depravity for one to declare a superiority over another simply because of race! The truth is we have the same lineage.

Adding to this it should be noted that all men have the *same problem*. The true problem among humanity is not social injustices; the true problem facing humanity has nothing to do socio-economic inequalities! The true problem among men—the shared difficulty of all humanity is sin! Sin separates *all men* from God (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 59:1-2) and sin, regardless of one’s socio-economic status, if left unchecked will condemn one’s soul for an eternity. As terrible and disheartening as the injustices and inequalities that exist among men today are, the true problem that we all share is the sin problem!

Furthermore, all of humanity have the *same Savior*. John wrote that Jesus “is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the *whole world*” (1 John 2:2), and the Hebrews writer affirmed, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death... that he by the grace of God should taste death for *every man*” (Heb. 2:9). Now, these passages are generally used, and rightly so, to expose the error of calvinism—that Jesus died, not a predestinated elect, but for all humanity. But do these words of inspiration not also apply to the fact that regardless gender, race or social status, all humanity have the same Savior? Or do the words of the inspired apostle that “there is no respect of persons with God” (Rom. 2:11), apply to people of my choosing? No! we all have the same Savior.

Finally, we are all the same because we all must obey the *same gospel*. Have you ever considered that the Bible never refers to the gospel in the plural?! There is but one gospel, which produces one faith, and it is given to one race—the human race! Jesus did not say, “Go ye into all the world and preach the *gospels* to the particular people to which each gospel applies.” Jesus did not say “Go ye into all the world and preach this gospel to this class and that gospel to that race, and this other gospel to the other gender.” Jesus said, Go preach *the* gospel to all! Paul wrote,

“For I am not ashamed of *the gospel* of Christ” (Rom. 1:16). There is no man or woman this side of the cross, regardless of wealth or a man-originated social status that will be saved apart from *the gospel* of Jesus Christ—NOT ONE!!! Why? because we are all the same.

It is beyond tragic that there are divisions among humanity—divisions which cause oppression, injustice, discrimination, and yes, even sins against our fellowman. The tragedy of such division is even greater in light of the fact that all men have the same Creator, share the same lineage, struggle with the same problem, seek the same Savior, and are saved by the same gospel.

May we as a people of God, strive to show the world the true picture of unity and equality as we *walk together* in the light of God, *stand together* on the Word of God, *worship together* in spirit and in truth, *work together* for the cause of the kingdom, and *live together* in the harmony of the gospel of Jesus Christ!

MIDTOWN’S LADIES’ DAY

Mark your calendar for



Saturday, January 20, 2018

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Attendance

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Sunday Bible Class..... | 120 |
| Sunday Morning Assembly..... | 145 |
| Sunday Evening Assembly..... | 106 |
| Wednesday Attendance..... | 103 |

Offering: \$3,797

News

& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, November 26

Ronnie Scherffius will answer bible questions placed in the mailbox in the foyer every fourth Sunday evening.

Wednesday, November 29

This month, there will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing.

Friday, December 8

The Annual Ladies’ Christmas Ornament Exchange will be held on Friday, December 8 at



6:30 p.m. at the home of Kasi Jobes, 720 Live Oak. Please bring a new wrapped ornament \$5-\$10, and your favorite holiday snack (finger foods).

Sunday, December 17

Mark your calendar for the Annual White Elephant Exchange. More details to come!

- This month there will not be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal due to Thanksgiving.
- The Tuesday Bible Studies will not meet on November 21.
- Thank you to the Tuesday Ladies’ Bible Class for delivering cookies to fire stations and first responders.
- Be sure to visit the midtown website for bulletins and to listen to sermons at www.midtowncoc.org

Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson
Dee Gilpatrick

Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Mary Lou Arguelles,
sister of Virginia Escojido
Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Cheryl Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Jennifer Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel

Janell Marshall
family of Karon Barton
Susie Mesa
former MidTown
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Cynthia Sneeringer,
mother of Angela
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory