

Times of Service

Sunday Morning
Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning
Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night
Bible Study - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night
Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

December Birthdays

December 1
Janet Cole

December 3
Lida Peay

December 12
Matison Cardwell

December 15
Beth Dishman

December 19
Gavin Grinstead

December 23
Julie Crabtree
Clara Ground

December 25
Leslie Grinstead

December 29
Shirley K. Mills

December 30
Justin Mutter
Patrick Staples

December Anniversary's

December 10
Dixie & Dean McGuffey

Three Forks Church of Christ

December 2008

The Lamp

... as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



God Has Promised

God has not promised us sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, wealth without pain,
But He has promised us His loving care,
Hope for tomorrow, answer to prayer.

God has not promised us eyes without tears,
Love without heartaches, faith without fears,
But He has promised us strength for today,
His constant presense all of lifes way.

God has not promised us stars without night,
Health without illness, growth without blight,
But He has promised us He will provide
Bread for our journey, His word to guide.

God has not promised us gain without loss,
life without dying, crown without cross,
But He has promised us peace where there's strife,
a home in heaven, eternal life.

- Owen D. Olbricht

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11

Some Keys to the Christian Life!

As in all things pertaining to life, being a Christian takes thought and energy. Striving for a standard of life such as the one that Christ has left us is not achieved overnight. In fact the Christian Life in many ways is a radical departure from what the world would view as the "norms." For example the world would teach a humanistic self-centered philosophy. Whatever is good for you, even if causes great pain to others, that's what you should pursue. Yet Jesus teaches us to lift others up even above ourselves. To love even our enemies and to love with such a love that led Jesus to the cross.

Such a life must have some keys, or concepts that keep us in the right frame of mind. I believe three of these must be prayer, walking with wisdom and speaking with grace. These three concepts or keys are essential to keeping our mind on the right things and if we keep our mind on the right things we limit the opportunity for our minds to

wonder to the wrong things. Lets consider these ideas.

A strong prayer life cannot be substituted by anything else. There are no supplements to boost a deficiency in this area. We have to realize that even our Lord and Savior spent much time in prayer. Noting the short time He had, the great importance on His mission and the reality of His every word and deed, emphasize how important prayer is. Paul tells us, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). Prayer helps us in a number of different ways. First its an avenue, or a line, to bring our cares before God. Second it helps us to build patience and offers a respite to the often self inflicted torment of anxiety. Third it offers a chance to put a check on our perspective. By giving God the thankfulness He is deserving of it offers us the chance to remember that it is God who holds the power in



C H R I S T M A S

P A R T Y

The Lady's Annual Christmas Party will be held Tuesday, December 23 in the fellowship hall. The time will be announced soon. All the women of the church along with friends and family are invited for an evening of fun. If you would like more information, see Janet Cole or Melanie Staples.

We look forward to seeing you there!

this universe. Comfort, patience and hope naturally spring from a good prayer life. After all, in prayer we are conversing with the very creator of the universe. What could bring more encouragement than this?

If we live prayerfully then surely we will be more mindful of the steps we take. Walking with wisdom or better yet walking in the wisdom of God brings about the life that God seeks from us. A life enriched by His wisdom and a life that leads those watching us to better know Jesus. "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25). We are told that those who seek after the spiritual should no longer live after the carnal.

If by much prayer and by careful steps we seek to walk in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7), we must understand that words hurtfully spoken can quickly tarnish our reputation. "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." (Ephesians 4:29). Let's be not only mindful about our words but purposeful to speak things to edify. Words can leave lasting scars but words can also build the soul and encourage the troubled spirit.

I know that heaven in the end will be worth the troubles, trials and the sacrifices but I also know that a life lived after Christ will be a life we will be proud to share with our kids and our grandkids. Surely their walk towards heaven's gates is worth it!

By: Nick Secula

December Challenge

This time of year is filled with holiday activities. We are usually busy with shopping, cooking, visiting family and seeing friends. It is also a time of mixed emotions. For some it is a time of great joy being with family, for others its a time of somber missing a love one who won't be home for the holidays. We are told how important prayer is and knowing there will be so many soldiers away from their homes and families this holdiy season, lets pray together for those soldiers and their families, that their joy may be met even if they are apart. May God bless those who put their lives in harms way to protect the freedoms we so cherish.

Women of Worth

The WOW - Women of Worth Ladies Bible Study will meet again on December 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship building. If you would like to attend or need lesson materials please see Tiffany, Lesson 4 will be over Names Untold: A Comparison of the Wife of Noah and of Lot. There will be refreshments after class.

PRAYER LIST

Sick

Gerald Watt
Bette Gilmer
Leah Botma
Riley Daniels
B. T. Webb
Vivian McDaniel
Cane Kinser
Richard Hurt
Phil & Joyce Crick
Natalie Williams
Cassie Dubree
Kane Martin
Becky Dubree
Rouble & Wilma
Lawrence
Roger Wood
Tammy Edwards
Billy Burnett
Phillip Ginsler
Ruth Ann Cayton
Daniel Pedigo
Lana Young
Jackson Blackford
Kent Madison
Bettye Hendrick
Bill Slade
Warren Lindsey
Eddie Beckham
Toni Dearing

Sympathy

Tony Phelps Family

Soldiers

Theo Raymer

Mission Work

India
Athens
Disaster Relief

Shut-Ins

Maxie & Dorothy Grounds
Ruby Doolin

Special Requests

Bonnie Lamberson for
Strength

SERVICE LIST

Announcements

Don Mills

Preparing Table

Gene Grinstead

Waiting on Table

Rob Dishman *Patrick Staples
Brandon Eadens Timmy Watt

Reading

December 7 - Eugene Coop
December 14 - Thomas Watt
December 21 - Payton Staples
December 28 - Nick Secula

NOVEMBER

Average Attendance:

Sunday Morning Worship: 89

Contribution

Total for Oct. 26 - Nov. 23
\$6695

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

December dates to be announced.

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7

The logo features a stylized cross on the left, followed by the text "THREE FORKS" in a large, serif font, and "CHURCH OF CHRIST" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

200 Three Forks Road • Smiths Grove, KY 42171
270.563.6649 • email: 3forks@inchristianlove.com
web: threeforkscofc.org