

HIGHWAY 32 MESSENGER



Highway 32 Church of Christ

1688 Tri-County Highway

P.O. Box 642

Williamsburg, OH, 45176

www.highway32churchofchrist.com

Elders

Lowell Smith

Ron Smith

Marc Curfman

(513) 553-3703

Sunday Bible Class	10:00AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	11:00AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00PM
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00PM

Privileged to Serve

Announcements:	Ron Smith
Song Leader:	David Goble
Lord's Table	Ashton Hutchinson Rich Book Les Smith Aaron Humphries
Opening Prayer:	David Turpin
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Tom Mayes
PM Song Leader:	Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	39	45
Morn. Assembly	67	73
Sun Eve.	17	**
Wednesday	06	**
Zoom Class	17	14
Contribution:	\$3321.00	\$2475.00

A man to stand in the Gap

Ezekiel the prophet lived in one of the most dire times of Israel's history. In fact, Israel was no more, only Judah remained with that great city of Jerusalem at its center. But soon even the great city of David would collapse under the forces of Babylon. How could such a travesty happen? Was this not the city of promise and hope? In truth, it didn't happen in a year or decade but over a few centuries. Ezekiel himself couldn't fathom that God would allow or much less sanction the fall of the city on a hill. And the fall of Jerusalem was not because of any army but because of Jerusalem's faithlessness. In the case of Sodom, there were not ten men to redeem Sodom. But with Jerusalem there was not one. The lone prophet Jeremiah preached and prophesied but who would listen, who would lead? So, God speaks to the distraught prophet Ezekiel up in Babylon. God wants Ezekiel to understand how this could happen.

"I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one." Ezek. 22:30.

The symbolism paints an image of a city under siege and the enemy is breaking through the wall in order to invade. A gap is the wall has been formed. Yet there could still be hope. All that was needed was for one man of courage and faith to take his stand in that gap and keep the enemy at bay. If God could find even one, then God would align himself with such devotion and protect the great city of David. But God declares: ***"I found no one."***

That passage from Ezekiel has a stronger message than just explaining what happened to Jerusalem. God has preserved these words for all time for the church to take heed. In today's crisis it isn't an army with a battering ram that plagues the church but it is the forces of Satan.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Eph. 6:12. Far too often, the satanic forces are not voices from without but from within. Who will ***"build up the wall and stand in the gap"*** for God?

It is a call for courage, determination, sacrifice and often you or I may be called to stand alone. Alone is a very lonely place. Better as Solomon says are two standing together or ***"A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart"*** Ecc. 4:12. But if it comes down to just one, may I choose to be that one. Perhaps with one who will not cower or deflect, God would rescue an entire city or in our case today, a church.

In 2 Samuel 23 we have David's mighty men. Each one was impressive. Each one was one who surely would "stand in the gap." Often they stood alone to face great enemies. Again, I do not think God is calling on us to fight a leopard in a snowy pit or three hundred men with a spear. What God does call on us to do is to stand in the gap, protect the flock from wolves that seek to devour the flock. While others are waiting for a hero to ride in and save the day, God's mighty men of today's church understand they must not wait for another. God's mighty men today must have the courage to ***"reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."*** 2 Tim. 4:2.

I believe the greatest struggle for the modern day church is a lack of strong, biblical leadership, men to stand in the gap. Yes, the church needs elders and deacons and maybe some are not quite ready to assume such titles. But are you willing to stand up and be accounted for? Are you one to stand in the gap? When the enemy punches a hole in the wall, when wolves attack the flock, you don't have time to send a message to headquarters, looking for the right officer.

You are there, so you stand in the gap. And perhaps the reason many churches do not have elders and deacons is because no one was ever willing to take that stand in the gap. Before David was king, he was a shepherd. Before he slew a giant, he defeated a lion. And young Isaiah heard a voice over the "heavenly intercom" saying: ***"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"*** to which Isaiah shouted: ***"Here am I. Send me!"*** Isaiah 6:8.

marc

Welcome to Highway 32 Church,

We are a group of Christians worshipping God according to the Teaching in the New Testament. May we all worship our loving Father today with sincere hearts, open and receptive to His Spirit and His love.

August Teachers

Cradle Roll - Libby/Melody
Pre-K-K - Nancy Salisbury
1st-6th - Jessica Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Frank Glover

Wed. Eve. 7:00 pm – Don Salisbury



August Teacher
Lindsey Stith

Note: Children will go to Bible Hour during the song before the morning lesson.



August
Building & Communion
Don/Nancy Salisbury

Zoom Meetings – Zoom meeting
(Ecclesiastes) every Thursday 7pm.
See Sue for the link if you would like to participate.

Announcements:

The Potluck luncheon for the month of August will be on the 17th due to the five weeks in August. On the Sundays when we have the potluck luncheon the evening services will be cancelled, enjoy family time.

Morgan Gelter will be having a graduation party Sat. August 23rd from 1-4 pm Please rsvp to Morgan if you are able to attend. 513/488-5844.



Ladies Day (Mark your Calendars) this year will be on Saturday 9/13/25. The program is completed and thank you for all those volunteering to help. Sign up sheet for side dishes/drinks/desserts will be available when Sue Curfman returns next week.

The cookout at the home of Jim & Laura Hutchings on 10/18th at 3:00 will also entail a pie bake off. Whatever pie is your specialty, chicken pot pie, sweet pie, quiche. They will grill hamburgers and hot dogs and we will bring side dishes. There will be games for all to participate in.

August Birthdays

8/6 Mark Book
8/10 Penny Goble
8/23 Alex Watkins
8/26 Linda Pennington
8/27 Linda Bukvic

August Anniversaries

****8/3 Bob/Mary Parker**
8/20 Ron/Linda Carter
8/26 Betty/Ted Sutton
8/28 Rich/Jenni Book

Continue to Remember: Mark Book, Karen Smith, Carol Basham, Paul Sena and our church family.

"The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."