

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:	Lowell Smith
Prayer:	Les Smith
Lord's Table	Don Salisbury Bruce Curfman Frank Glover George Smith
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Bob Parker
PM Song Leader:	Bruce Curfman

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	36	44
Morn. Assembly	72	72
Sun Eve.	18	17
Wednesday	**	**
Zoom Class	17	**
Contribution:	\$2647.00	\$1798.00

Are you truly awake?

We live in a culture that tells us to eat drink and just have a great time. After all, life is short. The truth is that we “mortals” are short-sighted and focus merely on the moment. *Carpe diem* is deemed to be the noble choice. The gospel reaches beyond the moment, beyond your mirror and places eternal purpose as the true meaning of life. When Jesus describes the plague of mankind, he speaks of people who are blind, unable to see what matters or those who are lost, not knowing even why they exist. Then there are those demon possessed, unable to even resist the spiritual/emotional maladies of life. Yet hope is found in truth, knowledge and change. Hope comes not from earth but from heaven's throne.

It all sounds pretty foolish when you think about it. Even Paul admitted that God's way is the fool's way. ***“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*** ^{1 Cor. 1:18}. When you look beyond the brevity of this life, there is that spark of eternity in each man's heart. ***“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”*** ^{Ecc. 3:11}. But most fail to live with the alertness of life's purpose.

In Matthew 25 Jesus tells a parable about ten virgins, five “prudent” and five foolish. In this short story the final conclusion is ***“Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.”*** ^{Matt. 25:13}. Preachers have used this story to keep people in the church on a weekly basis just in case the Lord comes. Yet there is something even more profound here. This is a story about life lived. Virgins here seem to represent those who have just started out in life and have not reached their purpose or destiny. The five prudent grasp the idea of purpose and commitment all while looking to that fulfilled obligation as their ultimate shining moment. Life fulfilled may seem to be so near but never arriving as quickly as expected. Just the same, they are alert, always living God's purpose no matter how simple or uncelebrated by others. The foolish virgins are equally unfulfilled in terms of purpose or destiny. They somehow know what they should be and they know what matters but they are never alert and never awake for that life of purpose. In the end, life passes by unfulfilled, meaningless and void.

I believe the parable is for all of us but especially for those who have potential but fail to look beyond self-pleasure or the inward focuses of their lives, never understanding that all of us who are created in the image of God are created for a greater purpose, one that reaches for a fulfillment, even if it takes all of our lives.

Thrill seekers seem to be the envy of us all. They live on the edge. They live for the moment. Then there are those who just want to live their lives with no interference from others, of course unless such choices bring desperate need for rescue. They earn only enough to scrape by, do only enough to see the next day of entertainment. Always wanting, always needing but rarely helping, lifting up or rescuing.

When the moment of purpose arrived, these five foolish virgins were without. ***“Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.”*** ^{Matt. 25:8}. These are those you can never depend upon but who assume they can always take some of your oil when needed.

Like a leech, always needing, never feeding. A life lived not seeking purpose, not blessing but always spiritually asleep. This is perhaps the greatest tragedy of all. Yet such lives are worshipped on social media, music and every avenue of entertainment. We live lives of distraction with the latest foods, fashions, sports, postings and even our careers. Never understanding our purpose designed in heaven for lives lived here on earth.

This parable describes the idea of distraction, lives that fail to focus on life's true purpose with God. These ten virgins had a purpose of being ready all the while unseen others who were at the feast seemed to be the center of attention. Your purpose may not have the zest promised by this world. But living for God and finishing the day awake to life is what matters most.

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.

March Teachers

Cradle Roll - Lindsey Stith
Pre-K-K - Nancy Salisbury
1st-6th - Jessica Mayes

Sunday Morning Adult classes:

Frank Glover

Wed. Eve. Start back up in the spring



March Teacher

Kacie Schunk

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

March Building & Communion

Sheila/Morgan Gelter
Linda Shinkle



Zoom Meetings - every Thursday evening at 7pm. Let Sue know if you want the link to join in.

Announcements:

Libby Watkin's 7 hour surgery was successful. They removed the tumors from her back. She will remain in the hospital for at least a week recovering. Keep her in yours prayers.

Leanne Smith also had her surgery and all went well though she is very sore.

Karen's hip surgery will be April 4th.

Ladies class will resume March 30th. See you then.

Juanita Benton's grandson Nathan will be leaving for Georgia and starting boot camp.

Paul Craycraft's sister, Donna Henson is in Eastgate Caresprings Nursing Home; 4400 Glen Este Withamsville Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45145. Please send her a card and some encouraging words during this difficult time.

Thank You Steve Wright, Tom Wright, Les Smith and all others who helped with the Men's Breakfast yesterday. A great time was had by all.

March Birthdays

3/1 Larry Paul
3/2 Joe Sena
3/24 Leann Smith
3/29 Graci Book
3/30 Henry Mayes

Continue to Remember: Mary Carrothers, Karen Smith, Carol Basham, Joyce Warman's sister, Ruth Barnes and our church family.

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