

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:	Lowell Smith
Song Leader:	Ron Smith
Prayer:	Jim Hutchings
Lord's Table	Tom Mayes Keith Pennington Bruce Curfman Rich Book
Sermon:	Marc Curfman
Closing Prayer:	Les Smith
PM Song Leader:	Lowell Smith

Attendance

	Last Week	Week Before
Sun. Bible	29	36
Morn. Assembly	68	67
Sun Eve.	22	17
Wednesday	14	**
Zoom Class	19	23
Contribution:	\$1959.00	\$2140.00

Forgetting What Lies Behind

Famous American Author Henry David Thoreau once wrote: "Never look back unless you are planning to go that way." A powerful philosophy, yet one that not even Thoreau practiced. In fact, although known for his insightful writings, his life seemed stifled from an inability to escape his past failures of life, many over which he had no control. So many people seem to be imprisoned by their past. A Missionary in Korea tells the story of being introduced to a 90+ year old man who introduced himself as an orphan. The scars from decades ago still haunted him as he approached death. Probably all of us can vividly recall some tragic event or even some tragic decision from our past. It whispers in our ears in the still of the night shackling us to what was rather than what can be. Maybe it keeps you from pursuing opportunities or challenges because we have tried and failed, maybe you have failed many times. To pretend your past never existed might seem hypocritical or foolish. So, how do we dream of a better tomorrow? Psychologists have struggled with this dilemma for years. How can I "fix" myself?

The answer is found not in self but in God. The two words that give hope to all of mankind are grace and repentance. From the earliest chapters of God's word we see hope when men turn to God and God gives grace. Neither one alone is sufficient. Together we find hope. In the book of Acts, the guilt of the crowd was pronounced by Peter. Rather than deny guilt's sting, Peter called on the people to embrace the bitterness of what was. Desperately embracing their failure, the throng asked: "**what shall we do?**" **Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;"** Acts 2:37-38.

In other words choose change in life but also reach for grace. True forgiveness comes only from the only one who can truly forgive and wash clean a life trapped by what was. Paul will later write: "**And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,... But God, being rich in mercy,.. made us alive together with Christ.**" See all of Eph. 2:1-5. By faith, by repentance and by grace we find hope, not just for one day or some day in the future but for today.

A man whose past was filled with arrogance, pride, hatred and even murder knew this lesson better than anyone. This absolute failure of a human being gives us the formula for hope when he wrote: "**Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.** ¹³**Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**" Phil. 3:12-13.

Paul also writes: "**If God is for us, who is against us?**" Rom. 8:31 (read that whole chapter for a hope for tomorrow). We are those who forget what lies behind. Although Thoreau was never a Christian, I truly do like his words: "Never look back unless you are planning to go that way." It is such a shame he never understood grace and forgiveness. Repentance is knowing not to go back to what was but always looking forward to what can be, what can be with the grace and love of God. But remember, you must choose. Choose to "**press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**" Phil. 3:13. Not so much because you can but because He has already paid the price and provides the grace. No, you can't do it alone but "**God... made us alive together with Christ**" Eph. 2:5. Choose faith, choose change, choose grace.

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. 7:00pm



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:

Joyce Warman has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will be meeting with an oncologist this Tuesday to talk about starting chemo, then surgery and radiation. Keep her in your prayers.

Libby Watkin's is now at home recovering from her back surgery. Thank you all for your prayers.

Emma Posey has a new phone number. Change in your directory; 513/436-0532.

Karen Smith's hip surgery will be April 4th and Carl Beard will have hip surgery 4/9. Keep them in your prayers.

Ladies class will have to be postponed until April 27th. We will also prepare vbs for July at this time.

Paula 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.

Potluck Luncheon Today - Come and enjoy.

Pancake Breakfast & Devo will be Saturday April 13th at 9:30am in lieu of potluck luncheon for that month.

March Birthdays

3/1 Larry Paul
3/2 Joe Sena
3/22 Dwane Morton
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."