

You Should've Seen What Happened on Sunday

By Allen Webster

The view from the pulpit is often interesting. People are so used to watching unresponsive TV and computer screens that they forget preachers can see them! After a while, the unexpected becomes commonplace, and he is able to keep his composure though 'the walls come tumbling down.'

When Christians gather for worship on the Lord's Day, something special happens. Their common bond is strengthened as in concert they pour out their gratitude to their Savior. It is a time of worship (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), rejoicing (Psalm 118:24), examination (2 Corinthians 13:5), and fellowship (Acts 2:42-47). It is the week's beginning and the week's highlight-nothing else done in the next six days equals it. We understand why Paul delayed a journey for seven days so he could worship the Lord on the Lord's day with the Lord's people (Acts 20:6-7).

People of all ages are usually present: babies, children, teens, young adults, families, empty-nest couples, senior saints, widows, and widowers. Each comes to express a common love for an uncommon God; each feels a universal thirst for eternal truth. While worship is formal and congregational, it is neither cold nor impersonal—it is 'in spirit' (John 4:24). Personalities are involved, and that can make it interesting. This past Lord's day we had an uncommon service. You should have seen what happened ...

A BABY CRIED.

Occasionally someone frowns when a child cries during services, but most of us smile. Parents recognize the need to take a child out to avoid disturbing others, but we don't want them to feel self-conscious. We are glad it happens! What if no baby had cried Sunday? It would have meant there were no babies there, for all babies cry. No church wants to be that quiet—a tomb is quieter than a nursery, but who wants to worship in a cemetery! A church without children is a church with its best days behind instead of ahead. If no babies had cried Sunday, it might also have indicated that parents saw no need to train the next generation in the Lord's way (Ephesians 6:4). Good parents want children to learn about God from their first Sunday on planet earth (cf. Matthew 18:1-3; Matthew 19:13-14). They do not want them to be able to remember the first time they came to worship. We know they'll eventually learn to be quiet, but for now we're glad to hear them.

A SISTER LEFT EARLY FOR WORK.

In a perfect world, all businesses would close on the Lord's day so that every person could exalt the name of God in worship (Psalm 34:3). It will be that way in heaven, but it is not that way on earth. Christians are sometimes forced to make decisions. This sister had to be at work before the service ended ... what to do?

She could have skipped the service and told others that she 'had to work.' She could have slept in, had plenty of time to get ready, left in time to avoid traffic, and got a bite to eat before her shift. But she chose to get up early, be in Bible class, sing God some songs, open her heart to Him in prayer, thank Him for Christ's sacrifice during communion, give Him part of last week's check, and listen to His Word. She sat toward the back so as not to disturb others when she got up a few minutes before the sermon ended. Few saw her sermon on priorities (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1-2)—but the preacher did. *(continued next week)*

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Barbara Luna was admitted last Saturday to Baxter with a severe kidney infection. She returned home Tuesday afternoon.
- ◆ Sue Hambelton was transferred to Baxter last Thursday for rehab.
- ◆ Barbara White is recovering at the nursing home.
- ◆ Granger Stevens has had an ear infection, and Ryan is now sick.
- ◆ Andrew Eller has shingles affecting his eye.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the family of E. J. Hampton whose service was Tuesday. He preached at Souder for 65 years.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Melinda Abraham, Larry Butler, Don Luna, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins, Annette Chisam Tilley.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Harold Reynolds, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains.

Blessings

- ◆ Tinker Langston is home recovering from knee replacement.
- ◆ Melinda is recovering from Achillies's surgery. This week she gets to put weight on her foot.
- ◆ Don Luna's bladder scope showed no new tumors.
- ◆ Mary Lou Snelson's eyesight is improving slowly after infection.
- ◆ Rene Blackburn's surgery to help prevent strokes was successful.

...seek ye first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness
and all these things
will be added unto you.
(Matthew 6:33)



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
3-6	Melinda Abraham	3-8	Doyle & Peggy Johnson
3-6	Tinker Langston	3-27	Trey & Merle Scott
3-8	Norma Jones	3-31	Dana & Marsha Crisp
3-11	Lauren Hillhouse	Birthdays	
3-18	Karen Langston	3-29	Rene Blackburn
3-19	D. E. Pleasant	3-29	Richard Blackburn
3-22	Renee Hambelton		

Barbara Stevens will be serving something delicious for Wednesday night fellowship supper before Bible classes.

Date	Event	Details
Sat., Mar. 16, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	Theodosia United Methodist
Sat. Mar. 16, 6 p.m.	Area Wide Singing Night	Riverside Church of Christ, Gassville
Sat., Mar. 20, 11:30 a.m.	Community Easter Egg Hunt	Need lots of help.
Fri-Sat-Sun April 12-14	Gospel Meeting Here	Devin Swindle, Speaker
Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	WE HOST!

March Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer Communion & Closing Prayer

3-3	Don Luna	Vance Hambelton
3-10	John Abraham	Dana Crisp
3-17	Mark Lane	Spencer Wade
3-24	David Stevens	Titus Smith
3-31	Don Luna	Larry Butler

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

March 3, 2024

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, *Jesus: His Kingdom, His Righteousness*

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#162, All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name; #166, *He's My King*

#361, *Nailed to the Cross*, Communion Service

#1018, *Joy to the World*

Scripture Reading by Howard Wade, Matthew 6:33-34

Sermon and Invitation

#940, *Only a Step*

#578, *We Will Glorify*

Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

Elders

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler	817-504-1604
Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355
Halbert Smith	417-257-3880

Preacher

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us