

Brad Hurd. Under Hospice Care.

Steven Kelly. Friend of Lovell's. Stage 4.

Ken Moran. Odell's son. Stage 4 cancer.



Ryan Kendrick. Special needs.

Jaydan Patrick. Special needs.



Sibbie Byrd. Health issues.

Sharon Teschendorf. Dementia.



Brandi Beavers. Health concerns.

The Beavers Children. Health concerns.

Jack Beavers. Health concerns.

Dixie Clifton. Health concerns.

**Drew Clifton.** Dixie's grandson. Need of prayer.

Norman W. Hill. Health concerns.

Hester Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Matthew Hollandsworth. Health concerns.

Rita Lawless. Health concerns.

Pete & Karen Lovell. Health concerns.

Paul Mays. Health concerns.

Darel Patrick. James' father. Carpal Tunnel surgery.

Skip Walker. Friend of James. Hip replacement.

Caregivers.

Our Country & Our Military.

Israel, Palestine, & Ukraine.

To have someone added to the prayer list or to have information updated, please contact Matthew or Jonathan.

Names will be removed after four weeks if no updates are received.



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## The Collinsville Herald

A Weekly Publication of the Collinsville Church of Christ.



Vol.14





Collinsville Church of Christ

P.O. Box 158 2115 Daniels Creek Rd Collinsville, VA 24078 www.ccocva.org (276) 647-8454

#### **Times We Meet: Sunday:**

Bible Study: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m

**Thursday: Virtual Bible Study:** 12:30 p.m.



August 4, 2024

Proceed!

No. 31

Earnest Shackleton and his men sailed for Antarctica on the very day that England de-

clared war on Germany in World War One. At their first port of call the party sent word they would abandon their expedition and offered themselves and the ship to their country. But Shackleton received a cable from a man who could see the ultimate value of the venture even in the moment of a national struggle for survival. The message was a single word: "Proceed," and it was signed by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill.

It's so easy to turn aside from our main goal and be lured in other directions if we are not careful. That happened to the Rich Fool in one of the parables of Jesus. The man was so focused on his success, and building additional barns, he forgot about his soul. The verdict came suddenly, and without warning, when God said, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you."

Life comes to all of us as it did to the Rich Fool. We know not when the pronouncement shall be made, "This night your soul is required of you."

"Proceed!" Continued on Page 2...

"Proceed!" Continued from Front Page ... All of us need to proceed in the Christian life with the same determination of the apostle Paul who desired to attain the resurrection from the dead. Listen to his resolve: "Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil.3:12-14).

When Paul writes to the churches of Galatia he says, "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart." To the Thessalonians he said, "Brethren, do not be weary in well-doing." The writer of the book of Hebrews enjoins us, "Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

We must proceed so that Christ may say of us as he did of the church at Ephesus, "I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary" (Rev. 2:3).

—John Gipson

#### Not the Same

I drive an SUV. It is called a "crossover." I noticed many of the "crossovers" that are made by different companies in the same year as mine look very similar. If you were to put them all side by side, it would be difficult to tell what company made which vehicle. If you took the company logo off it would be very difficult. Mine has push button start as do some of the others. Mine has a feature where the engine shuts off if I am at the stoplight for a short period of time. So, it looks like others. Its exterior design is very similar. The engines are the same. Yet all these "crossovers" are different.

In our world of "Christianity" there are a lot of groups that are similar, and to the outsider might be considered the same.

"Not the Same" Continued on Page 3...





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August Birthdays!
MARK BARBER

OTH WALTER BEAVERS
2TH IACK BEAVERS

18TH NORMAN W. HILL 20TH JONATHAN

BEAVERS 23RD DONN SHUMATE

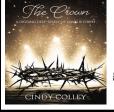
#### August Anniversaries!



H GARY & JAN HOLLANDSWORTH H DAVID & LORI

PALMER

#### Ladies Digging Bible Class!



Our next Monthly Ladies Digging Deep Bible Class is Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

# CALL CONTROL OF THE PARTY OF TH

#### Game Night!

Next Game Night is on August 31, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your favorite games & finger foods to share.



#### Pizza & Movie Night!

Our next Pizza & Movie Night is on Sept. 14, 2024! Pizza Supper @ 5:00 p.m. Movie @ 5:30 p.m.





Lurch News



#### Solution

wise, rock; blew, house, founded; foolish, sand; rain, floods, fell; astonished, authority



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## Bird Fight in the Church Parking Lot at Dawn!

Wednesday morning, as I drove in, I noticed dark feathers flopping around on the parking lot. It looked like a bird had a broken wing and was trying to right himself. The wings kept fluttering, but the bird silhouette that is normal for a bird never emerged. I immediately wondered what happened. Was it a baby who had fallen out of the nest? Was it a bird who had a spinal injury by flying into a glass door?

As I approached, I noticed it was not one bird but two. Both were on the ground, one bird had the other pinned and was pecking mercilessly at the other. As much as the other wanted to get up and get away, the feet were locked and he was not strong enough. Meanwhile, birds everywhere were watching this struggle and chirping their approval or disapproval at this scene. I approached and immediately the birds flew off in different directions, presumably disturbed that their fight had been interrupted by this towering interloper.

As I contemplated the birds, I thought of our heavenly Father. I wonder if He looks from afar, aghast at the way His creation often prances, pecks, chases, claws, and pins others when there is conflict. I wonder if He cries seeing the spectators cheering on their side. I wonder if He shakes His head on the throne knowing it's not supposed to be this way. I'm not talking about birds.

The promises of our Father, the knowledge to be able to contemplate how we are different than the birds, and the will to be able to change ought to distinguish us as a special creation by God (Genesis 1:26-28). Whether aggressor, antagonizer, spectator or other, our God gives us wisdom to change our behavior towards one another for His glory. The answer is love—the highest good for you at the expense of me (John 13:33-34; 1 Corinthians 13).

The truth is that the birds will continue to fight, probably in the church parking lot. People see them and don't think anything of it...because they're birds. Yet, when Christians fight (sometimes in the church parking lot), with the spectators and others that see, they know something about our commitment to discipleship...or lack of it. Lord teach Your children to stop the fighting, start uniting, all as one. —*Andy Baker* 

"Not the Same" Continued from Page 2... Many have a sign in front of their building that identify them as a "church;" yet they are very different.

Many churches teach something about Jesus. Their buildings are filled with a lot of good people. There are a lot of good works being done. Communities are better because of many of these groups. They look the same to many, yet they are not the same.

Many churches teach something about salvation. One group would say grace only saves. Another would indicate the "sinner's prayer" is all that is needed to be saved. Others teach something about baptism. Many teach a person is to be baptized as an outward expression of already being saved. Others would say baptism should occur because Jesus was baptized, but you can be saved without it. The Bible teaches baptism precedes salvation and is necessary to be saved (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21). To many this might be considered similar, but they are not the same.

When we look at the New Testament, we find a big difference between the church we read about and the other religious groups of that day. The church was different. There was no mistaking it. On one occasion it was said of some Christians, "These who have turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). There was no mistaking the early church. It was not the same as the religious practices of that day. It was different.

Paul told the church at Corinth to be different. In a context where a religious emphasis is placed, he stated," What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols?" (2 Cor. 6:16) Then he adds this: "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." (2 Cor. 6:17) The emphasis here is that the church is to be holy, separate, and distinct. Too many today want to be like the present culture. The Bible indicates the church is to be different and distinct.

—Bill Brandstatter

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#### Matthew 7:24-29



- 1. Those who hear and do the words of Jesus will be like a \_ man who built his house on the \_.
- 2. "...and the winds \_ and beat on that \_; and it did not fall, for it was \_ on the rock."
- 3. Those who reject Jesus' words will be like a \_ man who built on the \_.
- 4. "...and the \_\_ descended, the \_\_ came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it \_\_. And great was its fall."
- 5. "And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were \_ at His teaching, for He taught them as one having \_\_, and not as the scribes.'

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 7!** 

### Don't Sweat the Small Stuff

I used to coach high school football with a gentlemen who also served our state as a Kentucky State Trooper. Kids loved him (and still do) and I learned about life while being in his presence. When it came to dealing with emotions or people, he was, as my momma would say, "cool as a cucumber." I noticed he never really got upset, but was firm, fair, and focused with all interactions (even referees). He always had a lot of funny little sayings. One of them I remember most is he would say, "Don't sweat the small stuff, because it's all small stuff!" Of course the context of this statement was aimed at "coach" trying to calm the nerves of a bunch of teenage boys before a game against other teenage boys in front of a crowd of fans. Needless to say, the air would always be tense. H was reminding the boys not to be nervous and pushing them to think about "bigger things" and not allow their "nerves" and emotions to trip them up. The intent was to simply get the team to calm down, stay focused, and don't make an emotional decision.

Of course, we know Scripture teaches this concept on a much higher plane. "Don't Sweat" Continued on Page 5...

"Don't Sweat" Continued from Page 4... When it comes to addressing being "upset" or reacting with anger which creates more problems for us, one of the more turned to passages referenced is James 1:19-21. Here James says, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." Here we see James is teaching the church to pursue hearing the word, and to avoid hasty speech and unrighteous behavior. How grand is that and how easy is it to say, but more difficult to practice? James knows the answers to my questions. James knows about the fragility of humanity. James is echoing Jewish tradition on the misuse of the tongue and the anger that can result (Proverbs 10:19, 11:12; 15:1; 17:28). I once saw a poster hanging in a classroom at the school I worked at that said, "Anger is one letter away from danger!" That has always stuck with me. We see through the inspired pen of James a deeper lesson. Lack of listening, combined with a lack of restraint in speech, leads to ill-tempered action.

The man I coached with, through his age and training, obviously had a better understanding than I when to it comes to not allowing our emotions to become obstacles. If we read on in James 1:25 the loop is closed for us. "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does." May we seek to follow the words of James because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Let's not focus on the small stuff, but seek what's really important.

—Allen Jones (edited for space)



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