

Church of Christ at Ellendale

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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Worship.....5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies' Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study and Devotional...7:00 p.m.

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

January 1, 2012

Announcements. Billy Sharp
Lead Singing. Mike O'Guinn
Opening Prayer.. Jowe Albrecht

Lord's Table:

David Dement Ham Kirk
Justin Kirk Kim Nance

Sermon. Mike Mays
Closing Prayer. Ed Williams

P.M. Services

Opening Prayer..
Closing Prayer..

(Please meet in the library as soon as possible after Bible Study.)

Our Elders

David Dement
Billy Sharp

Our Deacons

Steve Elrod
Jerry King
Mike O'Guinn

Our Ministers

Mike Mays

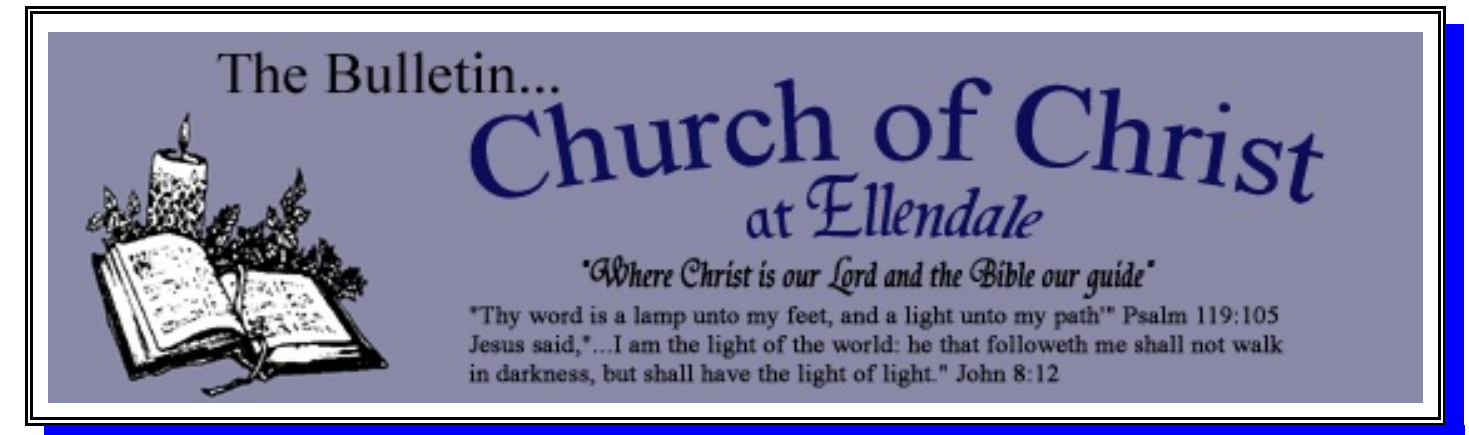
Mission Work

Eastern European Mission
Galloway church of Christ
Haiti
Hungary
India
Milledgeville church of Christ
David Nance (India work)
Paragould Children's Home
Prison Ministry

FOR THE LORD'S SERVICE

December 25, 2011

Budget. \$2,900.00
Contribution. \$2,923.00
Attendance. 51



January 1, 2012

Because They Wanted To

On September 7, 1995, Cal Ripkin, shortstop for the Baltimore Orioles, became the first man in history to play 2,131 consecutive games. When asked why he was always there and never missed a game, he said it was because he wanted to be there. It wasn't that he never got mad at the Coach, or the Umpire, or the fans, or other players. It wasn't because he felt just perfect or never had a personal problem. It wasn't because the weather was never too hot, or too rainy, or too windy. He was always there because he wanted to be there.

There was a lady in Augusta, Georgia, who had not missed Bible class or worship service in 44 years. That's 2,288 Sundays! Why to you think she was always there? Do you think she never had company that came in at the last minute or was ever too tired to come? Do you think she ever had a headache or a cold or indigestion or nervous spells? Do you think she ever wanted to sleep late on Sundays, or ever had her feelings hurt by the preacher or the elders or some member? Of course she did! But she didn't believe that was a reason to "forsake the assembly." She came because she wanted to, and she knew it was the right thing to do.

There was a man who was an elder of the church in New Orleans. He owned a chain of restaurants, and over a period of time he was president of 33 different business and civic organizations. Yet, he never missed one service of the church. He was always there. Why? Because he wanted to be. Just like the well-known obstetrician in Nashville, Tennessee, who was also an elder in the church, yet even with his extremely busy schedule and patient emergencies, he only missed three services in 36 years. Why did he always make arrangements to be present to worship God? Because he wanted to be there!

If you could boil them all down to the main reason as to why, the answer would be because they "wanted to." Whether we realize it or not, 99% of all we do in life is because we want to.

"Choose you this day whom you will serve" (Joshua 24:15).

Ferman Carpenter

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone. We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Please fill out an attendance card located on the back of the pew in front of you and drop it in the contribution plate as it is passed.

Mike's Message

There's something refreshing about the beginning of a new year - getting a new start with a clean slate.

Hope has been defined as believing that we will exceed tomorrow where we failed today. Believing that we can turn our past failures into successes motivates us to renew our efforts.

The Key To Willpower

Have you ever started a diet or an exercise program, and failed to stay with it? Have you made New Year's resolutions that did not last longer than a June frost? Have you wondered why you have not been successful?

In John 5 Jesus confronts a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been an invalid for 38 years. The Lord asked him, "Do you want to get well?" That's the question we have to answer before we can hope to make whatever changes we would like to make in our lives. Do we really want what we say we want?

I read an article about quitting smoking. The thrust of the article was that the person

must make a commitment to quit. Until that commitment is made, their attempts will fail. They will be like the man who said that quitting smoking was easy; he had done it a thousand times. Do you want to quit smoking more than you want to continue?

In John 7:17 Jesus tells us how we can know if His teachings are from God or were His own teachings. The Contemporary English Version translates it this way: "If you really want to obey God, you will know if what I teach comes from God or from me." Do we really want to know and obey the Lord's will, or, do we want to rationalize and convince ourselves that our will is God's will? Until that issue is resolved in favor of wanting to do God's will rather than our will, we will deceive ourselves into believing what we want to believe.

The key to willpower is *wantpower*. What do we really want in our heart of hearts? Because we are free moral agents, God will allow us to convince ourselves that what we claim we want is what we want, when it really isn't. That mindset may salve our conscience, but it will not change the truth.

Life is 98 percent *want-to* and two percent *how-to*. Once we make the commitment, we can do whatever we want to do - with God's help. What do you *really want*? That is the starting point for change.

News & Notes

OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND

Edd Marie Agnew, Jim & Birdie Arnold, Martha Harris, Kameron Kirk, Yvonne Meyers, Kim Nance, Charles & Lucille Neal, Evan Rasberry, Maggie Schlafer, Lorene Watson, Carolyn White

(Please pick up a copy of the Friends & Family sick list and remember them with your prayers and cards, calls or visits. Also, please let the office know of any additions, corrections or deletions that need to be made.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 9 - Truck from Children's Home

Suggested grocery items are: pancake mix, sugar, cream of celery soup, hair spray, men's stick deodorant and snack bars. Clothing and household items are also appreciated.

Jan. 14 - Ellendale will host a free lecture on the Constitution by Hal Rounds. This will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. For further details check with Mary Bryson or Jowe Albrecht. Also, there is a flyer on the bulletin board.

Jan. 29 - Congregational Dinner/1 p.m. Service

SIGN-UP SHEETS

New sign-up sheets for Wednesday night devotionals and Ladies' Night are on the bulletin board.

SYMPATHY

Our sympathy is extended to **Linda Wheeler** and family on the death of her brother-in-law, **Bobby Wheeler**, on Christmas Eve.

Procrastination is not only the thief of time, it is also the grave of opportunity.

Sermon Outline

A Spiritual Check-Up 2 Corinthians 13:5

How healthy are you spiritually?
What about your...?

1. _____.
1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1
2. _____.
Matt. 4:4; Acts 17:11;
2 Tim. 2:15
3. _____.
Prov. 3:9-10; 2 Cor. 9:6-9
4. _____ for the _____.
Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 1:17
5. _____.
Heb. 10:24-25; Mt. 6:33;
Luke 10:27
6. Your _____ as a _____ of _____.
Acts 9:4; Eph. 4:16

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!....

2 Cor. 13:5