

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

Look at the Book—The Gospel of Acts

What Should We Think? (Or Not!)

The event happened rather suddenly. No one knew that morning what the day held. Stephen, a disciple in the early church was described as full of faith and of the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:5) and full of grace and power as well as able to perform miracles (Acts 6:8). Evil men falsely accused him. Not only that, but they and others drove Stephen outside the city and stoned him to death. Suddenly the early church was without one of its most promising leaders.

In our own world, there have been several significant, and sadly, fatal events recently. They have affected some very near and dear to us. Events like these may trigger statements, while spoken with good intent, hoping to ease the pain of the situation, should be reconsidered.

"God needed them in heaven." I first heard this stated in regard to a friend of mine—a young father who was killed in a head-on collision with a drunk driver. In reality, the God of the universe has no needs. To tell someone that such an All-sufficient God needs and took their loved one makes our loving God seem more like the selfish gods and goddesses of the Greeks and Romans. They saw something they liked—they just took it. So, would God—the God of the Universe come and take that one away from a loving spouse, growing children, productive life? Is that really what we want our children to think about God? I don't think so!

"Time heals all wounds." There is something to be said about the passage of time. However, if the thought is that healing will get things back to the old "normal," it is wrong. Normal will never be the same. As time goes on, the pain does lessen—but is never completely vanquished.

"It was just their time." Men and women are made as free moral agents by God. That means choices are sometimes made that are not right. Those choices, allowed by God, but not approved by Him, often have consequences-- sometimes life-altering changes.

"It's all good." This allusion to Romans 8:28, is a bit misleading. Romans 8 says that all things work together for, but not that all things are good. Acts shows that the death of Stephen and the persecution of Christians led to the gospel being preached as the people scattered, Acts 8:4. Yet, the event of Stephen's death itself was not good. The church lost a dynamic leader and the pain was great. Scripture says that he was buried and "loud lamentation" was made over him.

"How do people make it without God and the church family?" That is a good question...and...I simply do not know!
—Larry Keele

Family Matters

"I most certainly understand now judgment. If you are visiting today, you are our honored guest. Please bless us by coming back at your next opportunity.

This evening, we will enjoy our monthly singing. Come and enjoy singing praises to God together at 6 PM.

Congratulations go to *Trey McClinton*, chosen *Student of the Year* at Tarleton State University. We are proud!

Be sure and pick up this week's lesson on Acts, Part 2. These les-

sons, found on the back counter, cover chapters 13-28. Those chapters comprise our reading assignment for this week.

There is still a need for adult volunteers for Vacation Bible School teachers and assistants. If you would be willing to help, please contact *Reid Stafford*.

PARTING THOUGHT:
Acts is not only a great "read"—it should lead us to a great "do."

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!
Amy

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IN THIS ISSUE

What Should We Think? 1
Family Matters 1
Worth the Reid 2
John's Jogs 2
Daily Bible Reading 2
Family News & Notes 3
Calendar of Events 3
Prayers & Notes 4

Worth the Reid: Camp Awesome!

Camp Awesome! Doesn't it just sound.... Awesome?! Well it's going to be! Camp Awesome is the new camp our 3rd - 6th graders will be attending this summer. We are making a slight change to our summer camp by joining Camp Awesome, which is a well-run and established camp program. The churches involved are White Rock, Angleton, Westside, Pearland, Robinson, League City, Hidden Valley, and Midway.

The camp is at Twin Oak Ranch Christian Retreat Center in Buda, TX. It is about 2 and half hours away from Champions. The cost will be around \$120 so fairly similar to what it has been in the past! This year's theme '*Cling to what is good*' is a wonderful message for our kids!

The dates will be August 2nd - 6th. We have a "commitment" deadline of May 1st, which means you won't need to have paid or registered, but we would

love to be able to give the camp directors a head count for our group by then.

One reason we are joining Camp Awesome is because it is the same group of churches who attend Camp Bandina for the junior high and high school camp session. This way, our 3rd - 6th graders will get to make friends they will continue to grow closer to in years to come at camp.

John's Jogs: THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON

PETER THEN PROCEEDS WITH THE FIRST GOSPEL SERMON OPENING THE DOOR OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD - THE CHURCH.

Peter goes on to say, "*Men of Israel, hear these words.*" Jesus was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through Him - this you know. He was handed over to you by God's set foreknowledge... You with the help of wicked men - put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him.

Peter then explains a prophecy of David concerning the Christ. Read Acts 2:25-28 Note verse 28 for discus-

sion. "Brothers, I can tell you confidently the patriarch David died and was buried and his tomb is here to this day. But He was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to the grave, nor did His body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said:, " '*The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.*"' (NIV)

Peter then drives home his point when he says: "*Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ*".

What was the reaction of the people who heard this ? They were cut to the heart - therefore they must have believed what Peter had told them about Jesus for they said, "*Brothers, what shall we do?*" Peter's reply to those convicted believers was: **REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED** everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS**. Peter then warned and pleaded with them: "*save yourselves from this corrupt generation.*" The result was: Those who accepted the message were baptized, and about 3000 were added that day.

CHURCH BONDS AVAILABLE

The church has a few long term bonds available. As you know, church bonds, secured by property, offer an excellent investment. Plus, they provide funds to be applied to the construction project.

If you are interested in all or part of these bonds, please see David Arnold.

Daily Bible Reading

WEEK of April 2—April 8:

April 3: Monday—Acts, Chapters 13-15

April 4: Tuesday—Acts, Chapters 16-17

April 5: Wednesday—Acts, Chapters 18-19

April 6: Thursday—Acts, Chapters 20-23

April 7: Friday—Acts, Chapters 24-27

April 8: Saturday—Acts, Chapter 28

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

EVENTS AND NEWS

Worship In Song, Today!

A highlight of each month is our opportunity as a congregation to share in "First Sunday evening worship in Song." That's Today!!!

This is not just a time to practice singing; it is a time when we can share with each other as we praise God. We can pay attention to the words that lift our spirits, express our feelings, draw us together in unity. The beautiful thing is: each one of us participates equally in worship.

God loves singing!! God loves worship!! God is pleased when we worship together. (No, you do not have to sing all the notes, everyone can offer sweet smelling praise to God as we absorb the words.)

—David Arnold



We extend our love and sympathy to the Tippit, McClelland, and McConathy and families in the loss of their

loved ones.

Stephanie, and sons, Zachary (7) and Colton (4), Billy and Kathy Tippit and Dave and Dixie McConathy and their family in the loss of their beloved husband, son and nephew, **Craig Randall Tippit**, on Saturday, March 25, 2017.

A Celebration of Life was held yesterday at West Houston Church of Christ for Craig.

Barbara McClelland and her family in the loss of her niece, **Keri Blachard Guillory**, on Saturday, March 25, 2017. Both Craig and Keri were killed in a hit and run accident while training for various events. Keri's service was held on Friday.

Please keep their families in your prayers as they deal with their great losses. *Revelation 21:4 "He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared."*

Ladies Night Out "Second Chances" April 6th at 6:30 p.m. Family Center Brown bag Night

Drop by a favorite restaurant, fast food place or your own refrigerator and bring your dinner to the building for an evening of dining, sharing thoughts about second chances, and fun. Contact: Susan Sammons



*Dear Church Family,
I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and love you have shown me and my family over the past few months as I have received radiation treatment. I especially appreciate those of you who took the time and effort to drive me back and forth to MD Anderson several times over the past many weeks. The treatment was successful, but now the healing process must take place. The comfort and care you've shown for me has been a blessing in so many ways. I am forever grateful. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.*

In Him,
Gregg Chappell

Church Calendar

April

- 6: Ladies Night Out
- 8: LTC Dress Rehearsal
- 12: LTC Class Dress Rehearsal
- 14: Office Closed
- 20: Men's Night Out
- 23: Homecoming Committee Mtg.
- 30: Friend Day

May

- 28: Senior Day

Youth Calendar

April

- April 3: Final Four Party & Dinner @ Bounds
- April 8: LTC Rehearsal
- April 9: Camp His Way Deadline to sign-up
- April 21: FNL

Sunday Morning Bible Hour Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to check in following the Lord's Supper.
April 2: Aaron & Ashley Trent
April 9: Reid & Natalie Stafford
April 16: Tiffiany Thomas

Final Four Party with Dinner for the Youth Group Monday, April 3rd!

at Dave and Darlene Bounds Home
Time: Arrive between 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Special Opportunity For Champions & Special Thanks!

It's not too late to help with the unexpected expenses for the building remodel. For additional information or questions, please contact one of Champions' elders. Any added donations will be appreciated.

The Elders would like to thank those who have graciously given contributions and/or donated purchased church bonds back to Champions to help offset unexpected remodeling expenses.

Church of Christ Men's Basketball League

Date	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Location
4/10/2017	7:00 PM	WO	C	Northland Christian
4/10/2017	8:00 PM	JV	FW	Northland Christian
4/17/2017	7:00 PM	FW	WO	Northland Christian

Dates to Remember!
VBS June 19-23
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HOME COMING
September 16 & 17th



IN CHAMPIONS

“A Place to Belong.”

13902 Cutten Road,
Houston, Texas 77069
281-440-9898

www.championschurch.org

Elders:

- David Arnold
- Glenn Asher
- Jim Chitwood
- Bill Johnson
- Britt Jones
- Danny Mize
- Don Sammons
- Marvin Trice

Deacons:

- Phelan (Al) Allee
- Chris Ball
- Kevin Barnett
- Eltonio (Tony) Brown
- Darrell Fariss
- Jay Fraley
- Tommy Hill
- Joe Jackson
- Charles Joachim
- Brent Killough
- Blake Phillips
- Kent Phillips
- Bryan Runions
- Justin Sammons
- Hank Sheppard
- Joel Smith
- Wes Smith
- Paul Tews
- Troy Thompson
- Billy Tippit
- James Wyatt

Ministers:

- Larry Keele (Pulpit)
- Alan Reed (Associate)
- John Qualls (Associate)
- Reid Stafford (Youth)

PRAYERS & NOTES

Prayer Requests:

The Tippit and McConathy Families

Barbara McClelland and the Blanchard and Guillory families
Jennifer Breithaupt is in Willowbrook Methodist Hospital, room 6410, with an injured leg.
Donna Nance is waiting on biopsy test for cancer.

Lynn Antwine is home continuing his recovering. Please call before you plan a visit.

James Birdow is home recovering from his recent health issues.

Wayne Hemingway is struggling with health issues.

Amy Freeman's is scheduling an appointment with a neurologist after receiving a preliminary diagnosis of early MS.

Gwen Crosby's surgeon is going to schedule a scan and biopsy in the next couple of weeks.

Landon White is scheduled to deploy on April 5th.

Hester Mills, Bill Hicks' aunt, is recovering from surgery for cancer.

Yamile Delgado is in Colombia with her aunt, Flor Reyes.

Jim Wyatt is recovering from his procedure.

Paul Elkins, nephew of Marvin and Sue Trice, is recovering from surgery to remove a mass on his small intestine.

Jackie Cuccerre's mom, Bernice Ponder, has been placed in hospice care at *Hannah's House*.

Susan Ellis as she continues to have tests to determine the type of surgery that will be necessary to repair her broken shoulder.

John Quinn family, Alaina Robinson's sister and brother in law. John has ALS, and her sister is caring for him; their teenage daughter, **Autumn**, attempted suicide last weekend.

Baby Halle, Garland and Janis Bluhm's baby granddaughter, is recovering from a heart Cath on Thursday.

Debbie Biron, Mil's daughter, for safety as she travels.

Sandra Murphy requests prayers for **Adam and Malyn Murphy** that God will bless their marriage and will give them guidance.

Gus Drozario, Byron and Annette Willis' grandson, biopsy results showed some cancer cells, but they will proceed with the transplant in the coming weeks.

Champions Members Ongoing

Concerns: Sharon DeCarlo, Ronald Blankenship, Jeff Bolin, Lois Boyd, Merri White, Richard Garza, Paulette Brown, Sue Trice, Sally Enders, Fay Stephens, Glenn Dixon, Jan Kelly, Keith and Linda Underwood, B.B. & Dorothy Snell

Hospice: Pap Papillon, Bernice Ponder

Families Who Have Lost Loved

Ones: Tippit, McClelland, McConathy, Enders, Guillory

Cancer Concerns:

Gregg Chappell, Sr., Caella Chappell, Karen Watson, Wayne Hemingway, Bea Augustin, Rocky Harrell, Lawrece Smith, Pat Morrison, Ted Poe, Frieda Ishee, Joyce Kidwell-Stearsman, Austin Keefer, Gus Drozario, Karen Hall

Missionaries:

Dale DuVerney, Peter Chin, Eddie Cloer, Roman Halamiczek, Eric Tan, Roland Moshen, Workers at Biblical Institute of Central America, Eastern European Mission, Jordan Arnold, Will Hanstein, Mario Saldana and Aaron Solis

Assisted Living/Rehab/ Nursing

Homes: James Birdow, John Qualls, Terri Bennett, Margurite Pennington, Juanita Cox, Julia Garcia, Nell McDonald, Marie McCall, Jean Simpson, Bernice Ponder, Mike Wright

Prayers for Military:

Landon White, Brent Tyler Bowles, Traveon Gaines, William E. Taylor IV, George Marcus Jones, Melanie Adams, Travis Long, Aaron Jean, Casey Bolin, Charles DuVerney, Ryan Bonham, Phillip Cuccerre, Jr., Eric McCall, Darion DuVerney

Employment Concerns: Ernest Harris, Jr., Marc Culpepper, Martyn Shuttleworth, Patricia Pennington, Bill Hicks, David Kuehl

Nursery Attendants

April 2: Martha Fassino & Cindy Asher

April 9: Martha Hick & Alaina Hill

If you cannot serve, please find a replacement by checking names posted on the wall outside the nursery classroom. Contact: Karen Casey

**FOR THE RECORD
3/26/2017**

Sunday Combined Services...385
Sunday Bible Class.....nc
Sunday Night155
Wednesday Night.....170
Contribution.....20,625.25
Weekly Budget.....20,057.69
YTD Contributions....305,389.44
YTD Budget 260,749.97
Over/(Under).....44,639.47

Service Times:

SUNDAY:
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Second Worship Service

SUNDAY NIGHT:
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
Ladies Bible Class (LBC) 9:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elder of the Month

April

Glenn Asher

Food Coordinator

Check with your Family Circle Leaders

Church Wi-Fi Password
churchguest

**Little Champs:
Mothers Day Out**

Contact: Lisa Killough
littlechamps@att.net
281-893-2062
Lisa Killough—Director