

From the Preacher's Pen... One of the great lessons we learn in life is the fact that many things can be done in a right way or a wrong way. The same holds true with God and His lessons.

God commanded His people through Moses that, *You shall not follow a multitude to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude to pervert justice* (Exodus 23:2). Just because many people are doing it does not make it right.

At the same time, we are admonished to be active participants in God's family as we serve Him together. Paul looked forward to fellowship with the Christians at Rome so that *I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine* (Romans 1:12).

Let's consider a bit more of the lesson of working with...

The Christian Family

A popular book several years ago was the story of *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. It extolled the "virtues" of independence and individuality at any price.

The sea gull is a popular subject for photography, and many people who go to the beach end up with some kind of souvenir bearing the picture of a seagull. It is easy to see why people like this figure. A seagull exults in freedom. When flying alone, he thrusts his wings back with powerful strokes, climbs higher and higher, and then swoops down in majestic loops and circles.

In a flock, though, the seagull is a different bird. His majesty dissolves into infights and cruelty. The concepts of sharing and manners do not seem to exist among gulls. They are so fiercely competitive and jealous that if you tie a ribbon around the leg of a gull, making him stand out from the rest, you sentence him to death. The others in his flock will furiously attack him with claws and beaks, hammering through feathers and flesh to draw blood until he dies.

If we must have a bird as a model, there is certainly a better choice. Consider the wild goose. The V formation they use in flying enables them to fly with more ease and speed. The point position is the most difficult because of wind resistance, so the geese rotate this position every few minutes. The easiest flight is experienced in the two rear sections of the formation, and the stronger geese permit the young, weak, and older birds to occupy these positions. It is also thought that the constant honking is, at least in part, done as encouragement to the weaker geese.

The seagull teaches us to break loose and fly alone, but the wild goose teaches us to fly in a "family." We can fly further with our Christian family than we could ever fly alone and, as we fly, our efforts constantly help others in our family.

Hopefully we see and understand the lesson here. Paul seemed to have to deal frequently with both false teachers and those Christians that were all too willing to follow them rather than the truth of God's word. Read his highly insulting "compliment" of this attitude in 2 Corinthians 11:4.

The fact is, it is a sin to allow ourselves to be sucked into Satan's web. No matter how good the forbidden fruit looks, we must see through the false, good-looking false teachers and their false teachings and stand firm in the truth.

Of course, all this is also a frequent theme of Paul to congregations. How much more could we accomplish if we both stand firm in the faith and actually encourage each other in what is right in God's sight? Being united in sin is no honor. Being united in what is truly God's will and way is!

So, what is your choice? In nearly every congregation that we see in the New Testament there are those infamous for their firm stand for wrong. In most of those congregations there are also those that remain faithful and stand for the right.

Just as Joshua recommended long ago, it's time for you to choose your stand. Are you with the Lord or with some false god?

Hopefully, we will choose the family of God and stand firm with our Heavenly Father.

— Lester P. Bagley

Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10 AM

WORSHIP 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3rd Sunday
each month after morning worship
(except June, July & August)

Welcome to all!
We are glad you are here!

Enter to Worship...
Leave to Serve



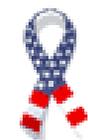
Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Nora McNeil, Matthew Odom, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim & Ann Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers, Cindy Turpin, Millie Cunningham, Michael Hill & family and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families.

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Mirlene Smith (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Sharon Laurita (Barbara Grubbs friend, cancer), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

Special Requests: WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father.



OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Robert Strickland (Cleo Wise's grand-nephew); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); Destanie Aragon; Nathan Bagley.

New: Jason: son of Carl Catozzi in need of prayers; Dr. Yanni: friend of John Hoover with cancer; Susan Fowler: friend of Bob & Sherry Harrison with MS; Michelle Harrison: daughter of Bob & Sherry, spiritual struggles; Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems; Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke; Derwin Jackson & family: with his job; Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives; Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues; Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Rhett Booher: Gary & Toni Pierce's grandson: Traumatic Brain Injury while in the Army; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan as he is in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from surgery for colon cancer; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Amy

Vestal: lupus and intestinal problems; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick & family: with multiple health problems; Marc Wiley: Kari Curo's father with health problems; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyen & Tatum with cancer; Relative of Rebecca Untersee: with cancer.

Sue Wolfe; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Celeste Wallace: health problems; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ed Baum

Chuck Hedrick: recovering from knee surgery.

Bev Hedrick: recovering from hand surgery.

Ray Stephenson: recovering from surgery at Oasis.

Talon Boren & family: with problems (via Jeanne Martin)

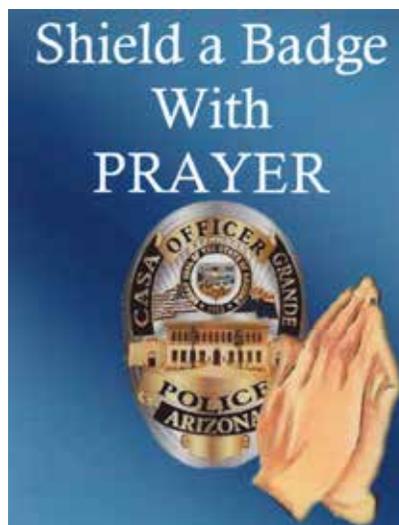
Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.

Jerry Odom: recovering at home from a stroke.

Ray Terpstra will have a hip replaced soon.

Those recovering from the recent storms.

Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.



Upcoming Events...

Monthly Singing: **TODAY** at 2:30 in Eloy

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: November 29.

Men's Business Meeting: December 3 after evening worship.

Potluck: December 17 — Group #1 [Tanya Haney's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

Monday with the Master

Ages 10 through college meet the first Monday of the month for dinner & Bible study.

NEXT MEETING IS ONE WEEK FROM TOMORROW - 6 pm in the fellowship hall

Parents & College Age please see Lou Bagley THIS MORNING to plan our meal!

FOOD PANTRY

ITEMS NEEDED:

- CANNED FRUITS
- SOUPS
- CEREAL
- FLOUR
- SUGAR
- CRACKERS

TODAY at 5 pm... Men's training

class for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

New Directory Update for 2018

We are updating our picture directory to add newer members, winter members and make corrections.

Please fill out a new Family Directory Update form from the table in the foyer and place it the "finished" stack. Do NOT take it home as we need these all finished as soon as possible.

Please go to the Cradle Roll classroom & see Julie Evans after worship this morning if you know you need a new or updated photo

SAVE your current directory binder and we will give you replacement pages when done.

If you do NOT have a current directory we will give you a full binder with all pages.

Last Week: 15+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ Checkup ✓ How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Class = 63

Sunday Morning Worship = 142

Sunday Evening Worship = 57

Wednesday Evening = 44

Giving

2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00

Contribution Last Week = \$2,904.00

Church of Christ
805 East Racine Place
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning November 26

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Bill Hall
Song Leader: Tom Haney
Prayer: Mike Evans
Serve Communion: Paul Ries, Bill Hall, Allen Farrow, Curt
Odom, Gary Pierce
Sermon: • *Galatians 5* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: TBA

Count Contribution: Tom Haney & TBA

Sunday Evening November 26

Song Leader: George Mora
Prayer: Michael Hill
Sermon: • *Tale of Two Flowers* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion: John Hoover
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Wednesday Evening August 30

*A Special Evening of Songs, Prayers
& Scripture Readings*

Anniversaries



November 28: *Allen & Angela Harrison*
December 2: *Mike & Julie Evans*
December 5: *William & Pamela Kimberlin*
January 1: *Lester & Lou Bagley*
January 15: *David & Joan Davis*
January 17: *L.Z. & Lynn Shirley*

Birthdays



November 27: *Gary Pierce*
December 1: *Jennifer Fain*
December 2: *Kim Myers*
December 5: *Howard Hagner*
December 6: *William Kimberlyn*
December 7: *Lily Reid*
December 11: *Gayle Weissenback*
December 12: *Anne Holder*