

From the Preacher's Pen... It is, unfortunately, all too easy for us to forget that God really does know us and the struggles we face. That was, of course, a part of Jesus' coming to this earth to face those struggles, those temptations as one of us. That uniquely qualifies Him as both our ultimate High Priest and our Savior (cf. Hebrews 4:15).

In Jesus' life on this earth He spent most of His time between the region of Galilee and Jerusalem. He would experience the seasons that He had once promised Noah and his descendants would never end until this earth itself is finally destroyed in judgement (cf. Genesis 8:22).

As our winter approaches, let's consider a very special season in the life here on earth of our Savior.

Winter

Jesus knew of the Psalmists praise to Him as the one who had made both summer and winter (Psalm 74:17). Living in the land of Israel He would have known that the rains of winter would be vital not only to the Spring harvest but to the rivers and lakes that would lead to the lush produce of summer. He would have learned to both treasure and appreciate Solomon's comment about the winter being past and the rain over and gone (Song 2:11).

Travelling the mountain roads and spending so much time in and around Jerusalem Jesus would have felt the cold. He would have seen the fall of snow and known the warmth of a fire like Jeremiah described in the king's house one cold day (Jeremiah 36:22).

As Jesus prophesied of the coming destruction of Jerusalem He would counsel that God's people pray that their flight would not be in the cold of winter (cf. Mark 13:18). Much like His lament over Jerusalem (Luke 13:34), He would sorrow for the pain His people felt even for their sins.

But in so many ways perhaps the worst winter of His life here on earth (certainly the most poignant!) would have been His final one in Jerusalem.

Many years before Jesus had been born in Bethlehem, God's people had rededicated the Temple and rebuilt the Alter of God after a Greek king had desecrated it with offerings of pigs. Every winter they would celebrate God's blessing, His deliverance and that time of rededication to show their thanksgiving.

John would describe that day like this: *At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon* (John 10:22-23).

For centuries the Jews had looked forward to the promised one of God, the Messiah, the God-with-us fulfilment of prophecy to come and give true meaning, true direction to their lives. He would, among so many other things, tell them what to do with the pile of stones discarded from the defiled alter. Even if it had been profaned, they were afraid of completely removing from the Temple grounds what had once been holy. And so it happened that, in Jesus' last winter here on earth, He and a crowd converged at this moment in time and history.

Their question was bluntly stated, *The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly"* (John 10:24).

His answer was equally blunt, *I told you, and you do not believe* (verse 25). Even more blunt was His next statement, *But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep* (John 10:26). And the reason that He knew all about God's sheep was the simple fact that Jesus was God! (John 10:30)

It seems pathetic that today so many will argue that Jesus wasn't and never claimed to be God. Why? Because the very crowd gathered to demand that He reveal that He was the fulfilment of Scripture, would pick up the rocks from that pile of stone and seek to kill Him for claiming to be God (John 10:33).

For all the drama, for all the threats, for all the hatred of God, the winter was not to be the time of death for the Savior. His sacrifice, His death would have to wait until the season of new life.

Winter, with all its chill, all its threats, all its harbingers of death, is not the promise.

Another winter was approaching many later when an elderly preacher would write a final letter to his longtime friend and fellow preacher. Paul would urge Timothy to come soon

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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!

Visitors Last Week included: The Wilkinson family of Deming, NM; Albert & Fran Malaïto of Casa Grande; the DeWitts family of Eloy; John Daugherty of Maricopa; Bev Cavanaugh of Springfield, IL; Rhea Howard of San Antonio, TX; Joe & Lou Wrinkle of Pueblo, CO.

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), 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 in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from 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; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyn & Tatum 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.

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.

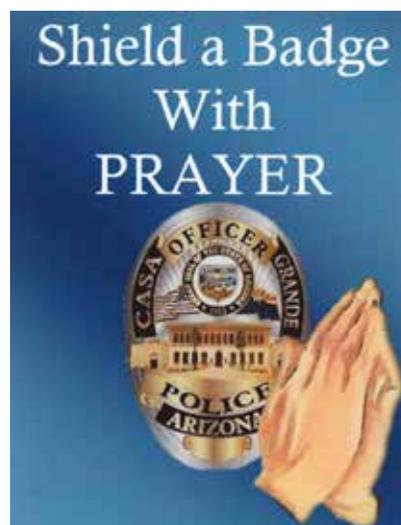
Ray Terpstra will have a hip replaced soon.

Jim Holder & family at the passing of Anne.

Dorothy Evans having cataract surgery tomorrow.

Those recovering from the recent storms.

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



Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: **TONIGHT** after evening worship.

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

Monthly Singing: December 31 at 2:30 here.

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: January 31.

(2 Timothy 4:9) bringing his coat left at Troas (verse 13) and do so before winter (verse 21). Paul would write these words all the while knowing that this winter, much like that earlier winter for Jesus His Savior, would be his last (verse 6).

Winter, once more, with all its chill, all its threats, all its harbingers of death would still not be the promise of God.

Just as night precedes the new day, so Winter, for all its harshness is but the reminder that Spring and Life are coming. You see, God designed it just that way.

Winter, with all its chill, all its threats, all its harbingers of death, is never the end, never the promise.

As our Winter descends may we remember and live for the promise of Spring, the promise of resurrection and new life in Christ! Are you ready for death or life?

— Lester P. Bagley



TODAY at 5 pm... Men's training class for leading prayers, doing talks & devotionals, & song-leading.

Monday with the Master
Ages 10 through college meet tomorrow at 6 pm for dinner & Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.
See Lou Bagley THIS MORNING if you don't already know what to bring!

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 = 68*
- Sunday Morning Worship = 132*
- Sunday Evening Worship = 64*
- Wednesday Evening = 65*

Giving

- 2017 Weekly Budget = \$3,180.00*
- Contribution Last Week = \$2,367.00*

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

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning December 3

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: TBA
Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:.....David Davis
Serve Communion:....Paul Ries, John Hoover, Tom Haney,
Bill Hall, Gary Pierce
Sermon: • *Galatians 6* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Count Contribution: Mike Evans & Bill Hall

Sunday Evening December 3

Song Leader:..... Curt Odom
Prayer:.....Al Bailey
Sermon: • *Why Be a Christian?*..... Lester Bagley
Serve Communion:..... Tom Haney
Closing Prayer: John Hoover

Wednesday Evening December 6

Song Leader:.....TBA
Prayer:..... Jim Holder
Devo:.....Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Curt Odom

Anniversaries



December 5: *William & Pamela Kimberlin*
January 1: *Lester & Lou Bagley*
January 15: *David & Joan Davis*
January 17: *L.Z. & Lynn Shirley*
January 20: *Will & Alexandra Beyer*
January 22: *Gary & Toni Pierce*

Birthdays



December 5: *Howard Hagner*
December 6: *William Kimberlyn*
December 7: *Lily Reid*
December 11: *Gayle Weissenback*
December 14: *Chastity Shirley*
December 15: *Rashuad Fain*
December 23: *Adrian Ramirez*
December 25: *Gay Jack*