



Nixa Church of Christ

News and Notes

Meeting Times:

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sunday 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

Location: 313 N Main St

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1521

Nixa, MO 65714

On the web at:

www.nixachurchofchrist.org

E-mail:

nixachurchofchrist@gmail.com

1st Cor. 2:11

¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

NKJV

- We are sad to announce the passing of two of our brethren this last month. Larry Montiel passed away on February the 6th; and Wilbern Moore passed away on February the 11th. Please remember all of their families in your prayers, as they go through this time of sorrow.
- Congratulations to Brian Young and Rose Forster on their recent engagement.
- Mark your calendars in March, as Evangelist John Lee will be with us on the 25th, for morning services and for our 2:00 pm afternoon services.
- Our sick list has been especially long this year. Please remember all those that we know who have dealt with flu and other illnesses this winter. And please also remember those who are dealing with recurring medical issues at this time: Ron Martin, Eldon & Laura Cox, Paula Waldowski, Iva Meek, Mary Moore, Marilyn Allen and Maeve McGinnis.
- Please let us know, if you know someone that would like to receive our monthly bulletin. You can mail responses to:
 - Nixa Church of Christ, PO Box 1521, Nixa MO 65714
 - email us at: NixaChurchofChrist@gmail.comPlease make sure you give us a full address so that we can ensure prompt delivery; and thanks to those who have taken the time to send us updated address information. We truly appreciate it.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Luke the first chapter gives us two very similar stories, about two different people who were given good news from the Angel Gabriel; Zacharias and Mary. Zacharias was a priest working in the Holy Place of the Temple; no doubt very focused as he attended to this quiet, solitary work, when the Angel appeared next to him, to tell him that he and his wife are going to have a baby boy. This would have been a bit of unexpected news, seeing how he and his wife were apparently beyond the child-bearing years. Gabriel goes on to tell him that he would be special in the eyes of God, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and one who will make a significant impact among God's people. But even though Zacharias was a righteous man, he apparently was concerned about some of the details in how this was going to happen, and expressed those doubts directly to the Angel of God. Essentially, how do I know this is going to happen? And Gabriel's response was essentially, "Zacharias. You're speaking to an Angel inside of the Temple. God told me personally to bring this information to you. What more do you need?" In the end he was given a sign; that he would not be able to speak until the birth of his son, John the baptist.

The next story we have is very similar; as Mary was also visited by the Angel Gabriel and told that she too would be having a baby boy. But the Angel doesn't appear to her in the Temple; he visits Mary at her home town. And just as miraculous as it would have been for the older Zacharias and Elizabeth to be having a child; it was even more amazing for the young Mary to be expecting as well; since her marriage had not yet been consummated. In response to this, Mary asks a similar question, "How can this be?" or "How is this going to happen?" Gabriel then explains how things would transpire, ultimately resulting in the birth of Jesus.

What's interesting to me, are the similarities and differences that we have between these two stories. Both Zacharias and Mary appear to have been righteous in the eyes of God. Both were to bear children at a time when it would be unexpected by those around them. Both had the Angel Gabriel appear to them. Both were sent a message from God, that they would soon be blessed with a baby boy. Both were afraid when they saw the Angel; and both times Gabriel told them not to be afraid. Gabriel went on to tell both of them that their sons would be great men, and do many great things for God. And both asked questions about HOW this was going to happen. But that's where the similarities end; because Gabriel's response to their questions was almost at polar opposite. Zacharias receives almost a rebuke from the Angel for his question; while Mary is given a very patient answer. So why did they get different responses to their questions? Why was Gabriel's response to Zacharias so much more direct than the answer that he gave Mary? There may be several good answers for this question, but the point that I see in this deals the expectation of understanding between Zacharias and Mary; two people who were very much different. Zacharias was an older man who worked in the Temple as a priest. He faithfully kept the law, and was righteous in the eyes of God; and I think that the expectation for his reaction to this news was a lot higher than what might have happened with Mary. Mary would have been a very young lady at this time; possibly even mid-teens. She was from a small isolated town; and didn't have a lifetime of experiences to draw on in difficult situations. In the end, I think that they both believed and obeyed; but to me Zacharias was at a point in his life when more was expected of him than might have been for Mary, and that's the reason, I feel, that we see such different responses from the Angel; and Zacharias fell short of those expectations.

In regards to our spiritual growth, I think that we are measured to that same level of expectations today. We are expected to continually, spiritually grow by God. One verse that I like, that seems to bring everything together in regards to our spiritual growth is:

1st Corinthians 9:24 ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

As we run the race of our spiritual lives, growth in the Lord takes us closer to the finish line. With every step that we take, with every hurdle that we clear; the prize of eternal life gets closer and closer to us. I like the phrase that Paul uses here, "Run in such a way that you may obtain it." Running in the opposite direction won't take us to the finish line; stopping and sitting down in our lane won't take us there either; we can only get there by progressively moving forward. Sometimes we will be able to sprint; other times we may only manage to walk; but every effort; every stride that we make in growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord; gets us closer to the ultimate prize that we all hopefully are working toward.

Calendar Events

Birthdays in March:

- Mar 6 Barbara Rountree
- Mar 12 Michael Allen

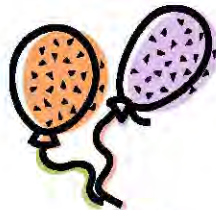


Mark your Calendar for March:

- Mar 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Mar 17 NIXPO
- Mar 20 First Day of Spring
- Mar 25 John Lee Speaks 10:00 / 2:00
- Mar 25 Carry in Dinner at Noon
- Mar 29 Bulletin Folding at 10:00 a.m.
- Mar 29 Ladies Lunch at 11:00 a.m.

1st Peter 2:1-3

¹ Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,
² as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.



Coming Soon in 2018:

- Apr 15 Tad Morris
- June 24-29 Doug Twaddell (VBS)
- July 15 John Lee
- Aug 18-19 Louis Garbi
- Sept 29-30 Wade Stanley
- Oct 14-19 Rick Sparks - Week Meeting

Program Schedule for March 2018

- Sunday Morning -

Date	Songs	Read	Speaker	Table	Announcements
4	J. Allen	D. Gooch	T. Allen	C. Payne	J. Allen
11	D. Young	A. Carter	J. Allen	T. Allen	D. Young
18	T. Allen	R. Martin	T. Dennis	J. Allen	T. Allen
25	Brownsberger	D. Carmichael	J. Lee	D. Young	D. Carmichael



Teacher for Adult Class in the Auditorium: M. Allen (*The Book of Revelation*)

- Sunday Evening -

Date	Songs	Read / Drill	Speaker / Class
4	Brownsberger	D. Young & B. Young (<i>2 Speakers</i>)	
11	T. Allen	T. Dennis (<i>Q & A Night</i>)	
18	Mutual Edification Night - D. Young		
25	J. Allen	J. Lee	

- Wednesday Evening

Date	Songs	Teacher
7	J. Allen	M. Allen (<i>Enoch</i>)
14	M. Allen	B. Lee (<i>Lot</i>)
21	D. Young	J. Allen (<i>Melchizedek</i>)
28	Mutual Edification Night - M. Allen	

Wednesday Evening Study: Character Studies - What 3 lessons can we learn for their lives?

Contact Information

Elders:

Michael Allen
Tom Allen
Tom Dennis

Deacons:

Jeff Allen
David Carmichael
Rex Farthing
David Young

Flowers for Ill or Bereaved:

Nadine Farthing & Connie Harp

Food for Ill or Bereaved:

Karen Carmichael

Lock up of Building in March:

Rex Farthing

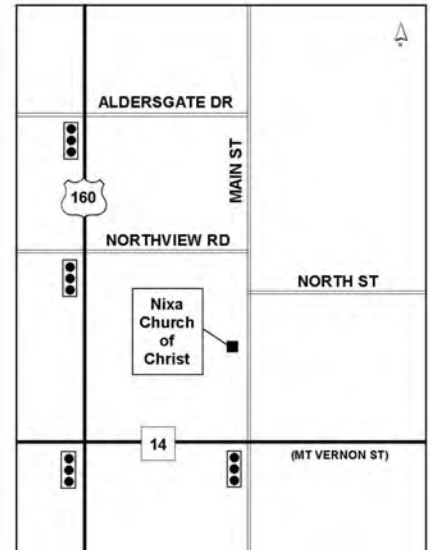
Bulletin Information:

Michael Allen

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Church of Christ

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