

Seasons

The seasons continue to change. We have just witnessed another of these transitions. From the brilliance of color of a falling leaf to the pure white of a falling snow flake, we see the handiwork of God in the passing fall and approaching winter. Each of us has our own favorite time of year, ranging from the new and growing life of spring to the harvest of fall. For this, we thank God, who changes the times and seasons (Daniel 2:21). It is He who has set the borders of the earth and made summer and winter (Psalm 74:17), and appointed the moon for seasons (Psalm 104:19). We also draw comfort from God's promise to Noah that as long as the earth remains these seasons will not cease (Genesis 8:22).

These four seasons of the earth may also be compared to the seasons of our lives. We begin with the spring of new life. The vitality, color and bloom of youth bring promise for the future. Hope springs eternal. The early to mid-adult years compare to the summer of life. As the temperatures rise, so too do the responsibilities and labors of life. We gather in the summer of life as a wise sun to prepare for the harvest (Proverbs 10:5). From our mid-adult years to the verge of our later years is the fall of our life. We reap the harvest of our spring planting and summer labors. The last stage of life brings winter. The plants die in the cold air and frozen ground. However, there is hope. The cold of winter will again turn into the warmth of spring and death will again transition into life. In our comparison it is also true that the winter of life will finally end in death. The four seasons of the earth life will have concluded, but this is not the end. For the faithful Christian, the four seasons of this life will be exchanged for one eternal season prepared in the beauty of Heaven.

As you consider the seasons of your own life, what season are you in? While this may be an interesting and relevant question, what is even more important to realize is that all of these seasons are equally important. Both in our youth and old age and all stages in between. We have much to offer in our service to others and worship to God. May we learn to have a Christian joy in our circumstances and desire to serve Him to the best of our abilities.

These earthly seasons will continue as long as the earth remains. However, there is coming a day in which the earth will be destroyed (2nd Peter 3:10), and these seasons will likewise perish. On this day of judgment, the death of winter will be swallowed up in the victory of resurrection to eternal life. May our focus be on faith in Christ and living holy lives here to receive the eternal promise of Heaven. It will be worth it all to experience the blissful and eternal season of Heaven.

Kevin Ferguson

News and Notes

Our hearts go out to the family of brother Bill Rogers, who passed away on December the 7th. Bill and Dixie were living in northern Missouri as of late; but had been members at the church here in Nixa for several years prior to this; placing membership in the fall of 1971. Please remember Dixie and all of the family in your prayers. Please also remember Ruth Moore who is recovering from cancer surgery on December the 14th; and Danny Krasser who Lord willing will be having liver transplant surgery on December the 30th; and Danny and Debbie's daughter Victoria; who is donating a liver to her father and will also be having surgery on that day.

It is important that we all continually remember these people in our prayers, as well as our shut-ins; Jenna Lemons and Jane Gooch.

We were happy to have the Ozark congregation with us for Wednesday evening services on December the 2nd; but sorry that it was under difficult circumstances; due to a bad water leak in their building. But we were especially happy that they were back with us after services on Sunday the 6th, for the baptism of Lakyn Wools by Ben Morris. Let us pray that she continues to grow in the Lord, as a member of the church in Ozark.

As some of you may have noticed, there have been some changes to our Sunday evening schedule. Through feedback and suggestions from the group, we have tried to make minor changes to the format of the service. On some evenings, we will be reading before the evening speaker in the time that we normally have our Bible drill. Also, on two nights we will be having a book study; where we will do a summary of one book in the Bible; looking at how it fits into the scriptures, a summary of its' content, and what lessons that we can take from it. There have also been some calendar changes. There will be no Kross Kids in January, and the annual Care and Comfort Day has been moved to February the 20th.

Mark your Calendar for January:

January 3 Ladies Bible Study at 5:00
January 3 Leaders Meeting at 5:00
January 17 Carry in Dinner at Church

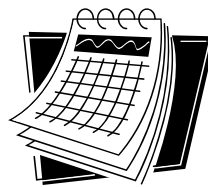
Birthdays in January:

January 3 Kevin Ferguson
January 5 Emily Little 2000
January 10 Rex Farthing
January 12 Deanna Maples
January 13 Chris Allen
January 15 Travis Little
January 16 Rhonda Little
January 17 Eric Neill
January 20 Aiden Farthing 1999
January 23 Connie Harp
January 24 Gale Maples
January 26 Madison Carmichael

Anniversaries in January:

January 1 Eric & Holly Neill 2001
January 9 Andrew & Victoria Nelson 2009
January 27 Barry and Marilyn Brownsberger

January 2010



Wednesday Evening Classes

Lessons we can take from significant Old Testament Chapters; looking at them historically, their Messianic prophesies, types and shadows, as well as their lessons and applications for us today.

Tom Allen (Numbers 19)

"The Red Heifer"

Jeff Allen (Isaiah 55)

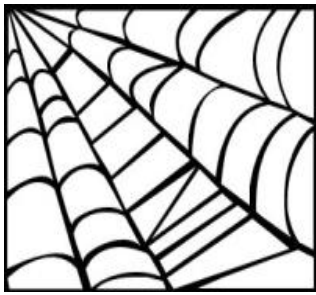
"Invitation to Abundant Life"

Charlie Payne (2nd Kings 5)

"The Healing of Naaman"

David Carmichael (Jonah 2)

"Jonah inside of the Fish"



We are happy to announce changes to our web site. It is still a work in progress, but those who have visited our site in the past should be able to see changes right away. One is the change in our building photo. The large trees in front of the building next to the street were beginning to become unsafe, and sadly had to be cut down. But what we have lost in shade, we have gained in traffic visibility; and with the addition of the new front sign, the property looks more open to passers by. Other additions to our website include the ability to add audio files for listening or downloading. We are still in the working stages on this. We have some files already available from our fall meeting, and hope to have more on there soon. Also, we have a few of our newsletters available as well; and hope to put more in the near future. As always, our address remains at: www.nixachurchofchrist.org.



Church of Christ

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