



Mark's Mark... Of Prayer and Fasting

One of the more misunderstood practices of godly people today is prayer and fasting. While fasting was required one day of the year (The Day of Atonement) in the Old Testament, there were many occasions where the people as a nation or as individuals fasted. These times of fasting were practiced in order to display a dependence on the Lord and to increase concentration on spiritual matters.

The New Testament scriptures do not command Christians to fast. At the same time, the bible presents fasting as something that is good, profitable, and beneficial. The Book of Acts presents Christians fasting before they made important decisions (Acts 13:2, 14:23). Fasting and prayer are often linked together (Luke 2:37, 5:33). Too often, the focus is on the lack of food. Instead, the purpose of fasting should be to remove our focus on the world in order to place it squarely on God. Fasting is a way to demonstrate to God, and to ourselves, that we are serious about our relationship with him. Fasting is designed to help us gain a new perspective and reliance on God.

Fasting does not always have to be about food. Anything given up temporarily in order to focus attention on prayer to God can be considered a fast, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5. Fasting should be set to a limited time, especially when fasting from food. Fasting is not intended to hurt the flesh or to lose weight, but to redirect attention towards God. Anyone can fast, but some may not be able to fast from food (diabetics, for example). Everyone can temporarily give up something in order to draw closer to God.

Fasting is not a way to get God to do what we want. Fasting is to change us, not God. Fasting is not a way to appear more spiritual than others. Fasting must be done in a spirit of humility and joyfulness, Matthew 6:16-18.

Our Vision: *Striving to be the Hands of Jesus*

Our Values: *Worship, Spiritual Growth, Edification, Christian Living, Outreach, Benevolence*

PRAYERS

Regarding the Sick

Dorothy Bean is in LakeWay Room 123 for rehabilitation.

Address for Ashley Lyles:

1030 North State Steet Apt. 43-J
Chicago, IL 60610

Continue to remember: **Gerald, Dorothy & Sandy Bean, Glen Burse, Shella Mae Collins, Sue Cope, Jeaneen Crocker, Elaine Corner, Wilma Darnell, Kevin Farley, Sharla Henson, Regina Hines, Pat Jarrett, April Jones, Flo Jones, Gerald Jones, David Knight, Cindy Lowe, Ashley Lyles, Sylvia McCarty, Fred Miller, Rowena Northcott, Florence Robertson, Joelette Ross, Pam Ross, and Betty Stevenson.**

Elders

Doug Lyles	703-9971
Sonny Rommelman	527-8956
Lonnie Woodruff	703-8161
Bob York	354-6891

Ministers

Mark Ray 270-703-1134
bentonspreacher@gmail.com

Travis Terrell 270-703-1332
sundropyouth@yahoo.com

DEACONS

Scott Chambers	906-5944	Brent Lents	205-7566	Matt Ross	527-8705
<i>Widows</i>		<i>Visitors, Welcome & Follow-up</i>		<i>Worship</i>	
Karon Crocker	527-7534	Aaron Lyles	559-4207	Byron Rudd	527-1533
<i>Office</i>		<i>5th Grade and Under</i>		<i>Sound</i>	
Kevin Farley	527-2409	Jared Morgan	577-8276	Phillip Rudd	527-3682
<i>Worship Assignments</i>		<i>Foreign Mission</i>		<i>WITB Radio</i>	
Chris Gunn	703-6112	Jason Perry	906-5354	Jerry Sells	527-1477
<i>Middle & High School</i>		<i>Prison Ministry</i>		<i>Library & Christian Scholarship</i>	
Randy Jackson	493-0220	Luke Phillips	703-7681	Paul Thurman	527-3773
<i>Widows</i>		<i>5th Grade and Under</i>		<i>Cemetery & Church Finance</i>	
Jason Jones	703-0751	Scott Phillips	703-2227	Dennis Tucker	527-3948
<i>Kids First</i>		<i>Technology</i>		<i>Kitchen Supplies & Furniture</i>	
Jeff Jones	527-3017	Gerald Rainey	703-0465	Don Walker	205-2096
<i>Children's Education</i>		<i>Outside Grounds</i>		<i>Special Events</i>	
Jim Kelley	703-1897			Cory Westerfield	437-3872
<i>Benevolent</i>				<i>After School</i>	

NEWS

We are in the process of electing new Elders for the Church. Considering the qualifications given by the Lord in Mark's sermon last Sunday, we are asking for your input. If you have someone you would like to recommend just give the man's name to one of the Elders.

We are going to be printing new directories but before we do, we would like our members to double check the information on file so that we print off and give out the correct information. There are three copies printed and placed on the table under the bulletin board in the foyer. If any information is incorrect please correct it on the booklet or write it down and place it in the secretary's folder in the office.

ATTENTION ..YOUNG at HEART SENIORS.

All senior adults are invited to attend a Valentine Luncheon here at the building on Thursday, February 18th. from 11:00 - 1:00 pm. hosted by the Christian Reaching Out Team. Sign up sheet in foyer. Questions? See Sherry Woodruff or Jane Hines

Luke Janiec and **Zach Martin** will be going on a Mission trip to Guyana, South America this coming summer. In order to raise funds for this trip, the men would greatly appreciate helping with any odd jobs or yard work. Please contact Luke or Zack if you are interested in helping out.

Travis asked that we remember our new member **Estel Taylor** and to send him cards of encouragement.

Estel Taylor
54 Judicial Drive
Benton, KY 42025

On March 5th there will be a Mens Breakfast at 7:30am in the gym. If you are interested in attending, please see Mark Ray.

The Area Wide Gospel Meeting will be held April 17th-20th with Orpheus Heyward to speak! Invite your friends!

On the Calendar

Sunday, February 14:

9:00 Morning Worship
10:15 Bible Class
5:00 Evening Worship

Wednesday, February 17:

6:30 Mid-Week Services

Thursday, February 18:

11:00 Y.A.H. Valentines Luncheon

Birthdays

February 14: Betty Darnall
Cambelle Lyles
February 15: Monty Moss
February 17: Matt Burkeen
February 18: Laurie Rudd
February 19: Steve Fulks
February 20: Kara Kelley
Olivia Miller

Anniversary

February 18: Doug & Chelsea Smitley
Tim & Hope Vaughn

Care Crew - Feb. 22nd:

Mac & Cheese and Jelly
Please remember your pledge!

Bible Classes

Sunday 10:00

Aud Gospel of John Mark Ray
Rm 51 Modern Parenting Doug Lyles
Rm 52 Colossians Bob York
Rm 35 New Converts Sonny Rommelman

Wednesday 6:45

Aud Genesis Mark Ray
Rm 51 The Christian & Violence Jared Morgan & Jeff Jones
Rm 52 The Life of David Sandra Stevenson

Our Record

February 7, 2016

Sunday AM	269
Bible Study	243
Sunday PM	223
Contribution	\$11,477
YTD Actual	\$ N / A
YTD Budget	\$ N / A

Our Theme For This Year Is
Into the Word...Unto the World

1. Pick up a copy of the "Go & Grow" list in the foyer and hang it somewhere you will always see it and be reminded of it. This is a way to encourage us to do good works.
2. As you do your bible reading this year, place a penny in the jar in the foyer for each chapter you read. This will help us see our progress in bible reading as a congregation.

AM Service

Welcome:	Scott Chambers
Song Leader:	Matt Ross
Opening Prayer:	Jason Jones
Lord's Supper & Offering:	Matt Burkeen
Lord's Supper:	
	Chris Edwards Chandler Bohannon
	Ryan Bohannon Aaron Lyles
	Don Frick Don Walker
	Travis Ross Tim Ross
Scripture Reading:	Paul Thurman
	<i>Matthew 6:16-18</i>
Sermon:	Mark Ray
	<i>Prayer & Fasting</i>
Shepherd's Benediction:	Bob York
Greeters:	(North) Betty Henson & Pat Record
	(Center) Jeff LeVan & Matt Ross
	(South) Ed & Judy Jones
Nursery Attendants:	Jessica Phillips & Kelly Jones
Unable to Serve Call:	Mitch Lovett 270-293-1134

PM Service

Shepherd's Welcome:	Bob York
Song Leader:	Jim Kelley
Opening Prayer:	Scott Chambers
Scripture Reading:	Jeff LeVan
	<i>Dealing With Conflict</i>
Sermon:	Mark Ray
	<i>Ephesians 4:1-7</i>
Lord's Supper:	Bob Hines
Closing Prayer:	Dan Jones
Unable to Serve Call:	Randy Jackson 270-493-0220

Wednesday 02/17

Welcome:	Scott Chambers
Song Leader:	Mike Darnall
Speaker:	Mike Darnall
Unable to Serve Call:	Mike Darnall 270-703-5244

Lord's Supper to Shut-Ins:	Gene Phillips & Eddie Phillips
Bus:	Bob Hines 994-4765
Sound:	Jeff Smith
Security:	Scott Brown

CONTACT US:

3091 Main Street. Benton, KY 42025
 Phone: 270-527-3585 Serve Line: 270-527-3783
 email: office@bentonchurchofchrist.com
 Find us on Facebook under Benton church of Christ

Elder in Charge: Lonnie Woodruff**Deacon in Charge:** Jason Jones