

Blue River Church of Christ

July 5, 2015

BLUE RIVER

Church of Christ

Order of Worship

Contact Information 221 NE Woods Chapel Rd Lee's Summit, MO 64064 816-373-7448 office@bluerivercofc.org www.bluerivercofc.org	Worship Times Sunday Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 8:30, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
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Elders	Earl Fultz Russ Simmons Jan Sullivan
Deacons	Jim Bassford David Blankenship David Foster Darren Herrmann Jack Hudkins John Owen Mike Peerson
Pulpit Minister	Darin Kennedy

Statistics for June 28, 2015 Attendance	97 + 111 = 208
Contribution	\$4,029.50
Weekly Average Contribution Needed to Meet Budget	\$5,250
Average Actual Year to Date Weekly Giving	\$5,217

Downtown Church of Christ Food for Life

They have need for: Ramen noodles, pasta meals, peanut butter, kool-aid, canned or packaged tuna, canned chicken, jello, cornbread mix, snack bars, applesauce or fruit cups, green beans, corn, mixed vegetables, bar soap, women's body wash, and tooth paste. Please leave all donations in the office.

Prayer Warriors are waiting to hear from you. This group of caring people will pray for you and your request. Place a note in the "Prayer Warrior" box, or go to the BRCC website and leave a message. You may remain anonymous. Don't carry that burden alone. Let the power of prayer work in your life.

8:30

#121 "Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing"	
<i>Scripture</i>	Steve Etter Deuteronomy 6:1-9
"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"	
<i>Prayer</i>	Sean Turner
#705 "A Common Love"	
<i>Lord's Supper</i>	Bruce Sewell, presiding
<i>The Bread</i>	
<i>The Cup</i>	
<i>Giving</i>	
#781 "Thank You, Lord"	
<i>Power Kids</i>	Honor Your Mother & Father
<i>Lesson</i>	Darin Kennedy "Bad Questions"
#446 "Hear, O Israel"	
<i>Shepherd's Prayer</i>	Russ Simmons
#448 "The Greatest Commands"	
<i>Final Command</i>	John 13:34
<i>Songs led by</i>	Roger Cook

10:45

#121 "Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing"	
<i>Scripture</i>	Gary Hasty Deuteronomy 6:1-9
"From Greenland's Icy Mountains"	
<i>Prayer</i>	Jerry John
#705 "A Common Love"	
<i>Lord's Supper</i>	Shane Hall, presiding
<i>The Bread</i>	
<i>The Cup</i>	
<i>Giving</i>	
#781 "Thank You, Lord"	
<i>Power Kids</i>	Honor Your Mother & Father
<i>Lesson</i>	Darin Kennedy "Bad Questions"
#446 "Hear, O Israel"	
<i>Shepherd's Prayer</i>	Earl Fultz
#448 "The Greatest Commands"	
<i>Final Command</i>	John 13:34
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The Preacher's Post – Darin Kennedy

In Need of Prayers

Donna Kerns continues to recover and rehab at home. Continue to pray for Brittany Johnston, Robert Hicks, and Grover Renick.

Adult Classes

We are offering new classes:

Auditorium – **Darin Kennedy** is teaching “Hard-Working Bible Readers.”

New Classroom – **Larry Sullivan** is teaching on Ecclesiastes.

Library – **Dave Blankenship** and **Ron McCleary** are studying with Young Adults (ages 18-30) on “Jesus the _____,” looking at Jesus from various perspectives.

For the Kids This Summer

Angelia Hudkins and Jennifer Hall are organizing service projects this summer, including fundraising jobs for kids. Let them know if you have some work the children could do in order to raise money to help those in need.

Birthdays – July 5-11

Mike Newbury – July 5

Keith Bench – July 6

Stacy Glisson – July 7

Gavin Reis – July 8

Jurbee Bench, Gene Clark, & Bella Thomas – July 10

Lisa Bassford – July 11

Sunday Morning Nursery Attendants

July 5	1 st Service	Arline Bradshaw & Emma Bassford
	2 nd Service	Kimberly & Michael Kennedy
July 12	1 st Service	Kelly Sullivan & Carolyn Endicott
	2 nd Service	Jessica Herrington & Kimberly Sterne

Another July 4 has past, and freedom rings out across the land. “Freedom” is a powerful word to Christians, and, as with all our language, words must be defined by God’s Word and not society’s expectation of what “freedom” means. Freedom is not leading one’s own life without constraint or expectations. Freedom is not the absence of authority or rules. Freedom is not allowing everyone to do his or her own thing. To live like that is to eventually live in slavery to depression and chaos.

Christian teaching often sounds oppressive to those living under selfish concepts of personal freedom. “God is King,” “Obey his commandments,” and “Give your life to Christ” may not sound very appealing. We Christians must understand what real freedom is and to demonstrate the incredible joy that comes from living free.

Paul describes personal freedom best in 2 Corinthians 3:12-18. Under the leadership of Moses and the Mosaic Law, a “veil” covers the glory of God, a barrier exists between God and people. That barrier did provide some knowledge of God: His holiness, His power, and His grace. However, those who worshipped had to work through the mediation of the law and the prophetic leaders. Now, no barrier exists at all between God and people. He comes into direct contact with humankind through Christ. Even more than that, He comes inside of us by His Spirit, which draws us continually closer to Him and the kind of life He wants us to lead. No barriers to knowing God means freedom. That freedom needs to be explored much as Lewis and Clark set off across a free land, celebrating independence by moving westward.

Paul also describes freedom in Romans 6. We have freedom from the control of sin: “For sin will have no dominion over you” (verse 14). In several places, Paul describes our condition under the influence of sin with terms like “powerless,” “weak,” and “slavery.” In the same way, a soldier gives his life on the battlefield, so Christ gave His life to secure our victory. In Him, we are free and empowered to pursue righteousness.

Paul also describes freedom in terms of what he is able to accomplish for the Kingdom of God. Paul sees his work in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 as a mark of freedom. He works freely in Christ to cross every barrier—racial, economic, and spiritual—in order to win as many as possible for the cause of Christ. In the same way, a farmer celebrates his freedom to own land and to make his own living by taking on the grueling task of planting and harvesting. Hard work and sweat are marks of freedom, not bondage.

As Christians, we need to demonstrate more joy in knowing God, in following His commandments, and in carrying out His mission. When we take on freedom in Christ, we will shine like stars in the night sky...or I guess I should say, like fireworks in the night sky.