



Weekly Newsletter

December 19, 2010

OVERCOMING THE SCARCITY OF JOY

Joy is one of the characteristic concepts of the faith of Christ. The word appears in different settings in the New Testament, as if being viewed from the various perspectives by which it must become actual in life. Joy is an aspect of the fruit of the Spirit and not merely a product of human achievement (Gal. 5:22). But joy is also a command that goes along with standing firm in Christ, an action chosen rather than just a circumstance that happens (Phil. 4:1,4). And joy is an actual experience that has been known, instead of a wistful longing that is as yet unanswered (Acts 8:8). Along with righteousness and peace, joy is what the kingdom of God is all about (Rom. 14:17).

It is odd that a quality so identified with the faith of Christ is not more of a priority among people who are following Christ. It is easy to think that while we are working hard and bearing our burdens and hanging right in there, joy is more of a luxury than a necessity. When we finally recognize that we have been leaking joy, it is easy to think we can fix the problem with shallow substitutes: diversions that are fun, productions that are more impressive, or efforts at which we try harder. The fact is, though, that nothing can satisfy or sustain like joy.

The scarcity of joy must be overcome somewhat indirectly. That is, joy is not to be possessed as much by a fixation upon it as by a devotion to what makes for it. This is true in several ways.

Joy enters the picture in the New Testament through glad and humble respect for what God has done through Christ (Lk. 2:10,11). It is a matter of faith, not fun. It stems from the announcement that all is well because of what the power and love and wisdom of the eternal God has done. Where that news is heard and obeyed, there is much joy (Acts 8:5,8,39).

Joy exists in close connection with grace. In fact, even the New Testament word sounds like the one for grace and seems to have come from it. This implies that joy comes from realizing that we are given what we do not deserve. A child of God rejoices, not because he is performing flawlessly and producing perfectly under heavy pressure, but because of the surrender in which he lovingly trusts in forgiveness through Christ's work and gladly obeys his Lord's will.

Joy enriches life through the celebration of the fact that not everything is about me and not everything depends on me. In other words, joy increases as a person recognizes that the Giver is present in his life, celebrates even his smallest gifts with thanksgiving, and seeks to imitate his character by becoming a giver as well. By so doing, some have known much joy even in deep affliction (2 Cor. 8:2-5).

Consider the Almighty and Eternal God. Dwell on the grace and truth he has made ours through Christ. Live like you depend on that with your whole heart. Joy will take care of itself.

—Bill McFarland

Order of Worship

Welcome

Clay Joseph

Song Leader

Kerry Cole

#350

#782

Opening Prayer

Jackie Buck

#598 (1, 3, 4)

#742

The Lord's Supper

Jim Reaves

#90

Contribution

Jim Reaves

#532

Lesson

Bill McFarland

#85 (1, 3, 4)

Announcement

Clay Joseph

#599 (1, 4)

Closing Prayer

Brendan Carroll

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. (Matt. 5:14)

Today's Messages:

AM: Jesus, the Christ

PM: Convincing Them That Jesus is the Christ

Prayer List & News

Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children. Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

For The Record

December 12

Bible Study:	240
Morning:	303
Evening:	210
Wednesday (12/15):	207
Contribution:	\$ 9,638



Elder of the Month
Clay Joseph

- Marilyn Lanpher has moved into the Gardens for a couple of months; she is in Apartment 158, phone # 890-1368.
- Herman Harris continues to have health issues
- Irene Johnson remains at Quail Creek Nursing Home and would appreciate visitors
- Connie Westerman will have outpatient surgery on Thursday
- Don Tracy will have outpatient surgery on 12/27
- Continue to remember Dale Harp, Shirley Bartlett & John Mahon

Friends and Family:

- ◇ Tom Stipp's surgery went well and he is now home
- ◇ Dylan Markowski, Norman & Lucile's great grandson in Houston, TX is having tests
- ◇ Junior Sneed, 35-year old son of Jim (an elder at Union Hill) & Rhonda Sneed, is in ICU at Cox South
- ◇ Mary Jo's grandson, Matthew Patterson, is back home from Pakistan



A Note of Gratitude

To the Water Mill Church Family,
We want to express our deepest appreciation for all the words and acts of kindness for our mother Margaret Cobb as well as ourselves. We thank the ladies for the delicious meal following the funeral as well as the ladies who brought an abundance of delicious food to the Cobb home. Your visits, gifts, cards and notes during her stay in the nursing home brightened her days. The wonderful attention she received during her infrequent visits to worship services lifted her spirits. We will never forget these gestures of love. We also deeply appreciate the beautiful flowers you sent to the funeral. May the Lord bless you richly.
Steve & Beth Cobb (603 South Main St., Willard, MO 65781)
Jim & Lois Howard (103 Hallmark Place, Madison, MS 39110)
Leon & Marilyn Sanderson (10349 Altona Cove, Collierville, TN 38017)

Thank You

To our Christian family at Water Mill:
Thank you so much for the baby shower you held in honor of Dane. Adam & I truly appreciated the generosity and thoughtfulness of everyone who helped make our day so special. A special thank you to the hostesses for their creativity and the time they put into the shower decorations and food. We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation of God's people. [In Christian Love, Adam & Sara](#)

We will have regular Bible classes Wednesday evening the 22nd, but we will have a special year-end devotional in the auditorium on the 29th. Plan to be with us if you are in town!!

If you are looking for a good daily devotional book, we have copies available of "Strength for the Journey" by Bill McFarland and David Deffenbaugh and "In Our Fathers Hands" (family devo book) by Justin & Tyrel Hatfield. See Johnnie if you are interested.

BIBLE INSTITUTE OF MISSOURI

Evening School

New Classes begin January 10, 2011

(See flyer posted on bulletin board)

Long-Term

Joy & Alice Allen
Paul Bratcher
Doris Burch
Bonnie Cole
Thelma Fain
Lucille/Milton Ford
Donna Harcrow
Gerald Jean
Clay Joseph
Marilyn Lanpher
Carol Mahon
Jarita Nimmo
Betty Shaw
Doris Tobler
Pat Woods

Military:

Cody Newman
Jacob Gardner
Elaine Noe

Activities



GREETINGS AND GRATITUDE

Throughout the year you have given us the privilege of serving, the honor of hearing our names lifted up in prayer, the time to attend to our tasks, the encouragement of your cooperation, the support with which we live our lives, the patience and understanding our weaknesses require, and the goodwill which makes working with you in the Lord's cause enjoyable.

As the year is coming to its close, we have received from you more cards than we can answer, thoughtful and encouraging greetings, generous acts of your kindness that have blessed us, and many expressions of fellowship to strengthen us.

We are very grateful for all the ways in which you have blessed us, both in these days and throughout the year. We wish for you and your loved ones days filled with grace and peace, and a wonderful new year of fruitfulness in righteousness and in every good work.

-- Johnnie, Tim, Andrew, Dennis, and Bill



Christian Woman Magazine

Ladies, if you would like to renew your subscription to Christian Woman Magazine or subscribe for the first time, please notify the office by next Sunday.



Youth Caroling & Hot Coco

tonight after services

Thanks to the Tim Stockstill family for again opening their home to the Youth after caroling.

LTC Banner Kids

Our first meeting will be **Sunday, January 2nd, at 3 p.m.** If you signed up for this LTC event, please be present for this first meeting. Jennifer Carroll/Megan Jobes

Contribution Envelopes for 2011 are available for pickup. Be sure to pick up a packet of envelopes if you would like to have a receipt for your contributions at the end of the year for income tax purposes. Please include your name and your contribution amount on the envelope for the first month and thereafter only the amount.

Gifts for Shut-Ins

Ladies, as a reminder, if you are making gifts for the shut-ins, as you finish your items place them in the box provided in the foyer. We will deliver them January 8. Thanks for your help.

New Phone Numbers

Carrie Lines 827-5689 (c)
Paul Lines 830-7201 (c)
(No longer have home phone)



Make-up Day for Pictorial Directory Pictures is Wednesday, January 5 from 2 to 9 p.m. For Olan Mills to return for another day, we need at least 15 families to sign up. If you did not have your picture taken and would like to do so, please see Johnnie.

The Water Mill Book Club is reading Ann Thiesen's book The Warm Heart of Africa for our meeting on January 9 here at the building.



"IT WAS NOT DONE IN A CORNER"

By Dennis R. Smith

I always hate to write something which may seem negative. However, almost across the board in America people are saying, "**What has happened to our country?**" The answer in most cases varies from politics to politics, meaning blaming whatever political party may be in office. But like the Apostle Paul in his conversation with King Agrippa (Acts 26:26), I am persuaded that the cause of this situation "**was not done in a corner.**" If we will think back - starting in the late 30's - when the movie industry saw the tremendous response of allowing the male star to use a profane word, you will see that OPENNESS gained a foothold and by the mid 60's it roared in with a fury and has gained momentum ever since. This occurred not only in the movie industry, but in most all public means of communication and advertising. OPENNESS of language and dress shocked many who had been taught from childhood to maintain a degree of dignity and modesty. This OPENNESS has all but closed the door on the aforementioned. We live today (and are surrounded by) a major flood of immorality and still are not brave enough to see the real reason. We let down our guard! We let down our moral standards! We threw modesty and dignity out the door! We took God out of the picture! Even so, we still ask, "**What has happened to our country?**" Why can't we see the reason? - "**It was not done in a corner!**"

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study9:00 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship... ..5:00 PM
 Wednesday Night Bible Class....7:00 PM

OUR MISSION POINTS

Mark & Era Thiesen, Malawi, Africa

Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern Mariana Islands

Voice of Truth International

"The Living Word"
 7:30 A.M. Sundays
 KOLR TV 10

"In Search Of
 The Lord's Way"
 7:00 A.M. Sundays
 KOLR TV 10

"Know Your Bible"
 10:30 A.M. Sundays
 Springfield 33
 KSPR-TV



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 Website: watermillchurchofchrist.org
 Office Hours:
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday



Service Rosters

THIS MORNING

AM Nursery: Robin Meeks/Jan Bowling
Greeters: Chatty Timmons/Ruth Reaves
Van Driver: Kristy Sivils/793-1086
KYB Phone: Eddie & Linda Carrier
Serve Shannon Haddock/Sam Hansen
Communion: Terry Loveland/Kelley Epperly
 John Hulett/Dwayne Jackson
 Gaylen Jones/Matt Keener
 David Kern/Todd Kraus

THIS EVENING

Song Leader: Jeremy Thurlkill
Opening Prayer: John Dutton
Lesson: Bill McFarland
Closing Prayer: Tom Easterly
Communion: Daniel/Isaac Tovar
Nursery: Lee A. Donoho/K. Duncan

NEXT WEEK, December 26

	MORNING	EVENING
Song Leader:	Jon Ewing	Jeremy Thurlkill
Opening Prayer:	Kerry Cole	Jim Elliff
Communion:	Eddie Sanders	Daniel/Isaac Tovar
Closing Prayer:	Barney Crawford	Don Essex
AM Nursery:	Linda Currier/Leona Snider	
PM Nursery:	Glenda Thurlkill	
Greeters:	Eddie & Donna Sanders	
Van Driver:	James Simons/732-5641	

MONTH OF DECEMBER

Ushers: Matt Kelley/
 Scott Nichols
AV Room: Scott Barton/
 Jeremy Thurlkill
Secure Building: Paul Lines/
 Tim Buckner

Wednesday, December 22

Devotional: Eddie Currier
Song Leader: Tom Easterly
Opening Prayer: Scott Nichols
Closing Prayer: John Hulett
Van Driver: Tim Stockstill