

# The Encourager

August 2, 2020

## Welcome Guest

We are so glad you've come for worship today! Our prayer is you will be blessed by your time with us. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have concerning our worship.

## Church of Christ

140 West 15th Street  
Front Royal, VA, 22630  
540 635 2613

[FrontRoyalChurchofChrist.com](http://FrontRoyalChurchofChrist.com)  
[SimpleBibleLessons.com](http://SimpleBibleLessons.com)

### Sunday Service's

Bible Study 10:00 am  
Worship 11:00 am  
Afternoon 1:00 & 2:00 pm

### Personal Bible Study

[SimpleBibleLessons.com](http://SimpleBibleLessons.com)  
Online  
Correspondence  
In Home

### Food Pantry

By Appointment

### Minister

John Stephen Smith  
540-635-2613  
[ministerfrcoc@gmail.com](mailto:ministerfrcoc@gmail.com)

*"If you obey my voice and  
keep my covenant,*



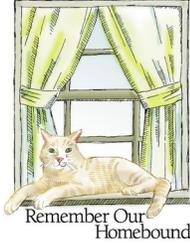
*you shall be my  
treasured possession  
out of all the peoples."*

*Exodus 19:5, NRSV*

# Remember In Prayer

Bob Baleskie  
 Jane McCool  
 Sharon /Danny  
 Derflinger  
 Joel Jones  
 Bobby Jo Henderson  
 Carol Ritenour  
 Darrell Derflinger  
 Barbara Swisher  
 Joan Atchinson  
 Pat Derflinger  
 Mildred Bean  
 Martha Wright  
 Ruth Martin  
 Kim Wines  
 Angela Hollins  
 Scott McCool  
 Ruth Brooks  
 Rick Steele  
 Michael Michelucci  
 Mary Steele  
 Linda York  
 Robert Robinson Jr.  
 Dolores Williams

Missionaries  
 Doris & Donald  
 Jones  
**Our Nation  
 For All Law-  
 Enforcement  
 Our Military  
 RSW Jail Ministry**



Hazel Clark  
 Nancy Barnes  
 Bill & Linda Adams,  
 requesting prayers  
 on getting a house

**Contact Tenia** with names to be added or names that need to be remove from prayer list.

## Those Battling Cancers,

Debra Lawson  
 Aiden Thompson/13  
 Micah Brue/ 17  
 Haywood Seal  
 Shelly Long  
 Valerie Tewart  
 Ann Derflinger  
 C.R. Newlin  
 Priscilla L.  
 Jeff Pingley  
 Wendy Willoughby  
 Robert Jenkins  
 Kathy Ludwick  
 Shirley Williams  
 Phylicia Smoot

## August

Terry Lichliter 8/10  
 Tim Tewart 8/11  
 Jacob Lichliter 8/13  
 Bill Adams 8/13  
 Mike Efaw 8/15



Tabitha & Chuck  
 Anderson 8/22

## News and Notes

### **“Defending Your Faith”**

Class study in 2 PM & 10 AM

Children classes Begin Today

**August the 12th**, Wednesday night class will start back @7:00 pm.

### August 16th

Fellowship Meal

Men’s Meeting @ 1:00

Ladies Meeting @ 1:00

## *His Life*

LESSER KNOWN PARABLES—Workers In the Vineyard

*Matthew 20:1-16*

**EVANGELISM IS NOT ABOUT STATUS  
 IN THE KINGDOM**

*James 5:19-20*

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

*James 4:10*

**GOD’S GENEROSITY IS AN EXTENSION OF HIS GRACE & COMPASSION TO ALL.**

*2 Peter 3:9*



## Teardrop

If you want fickle weather, try the Alaska Aleutian Islands. Rain, snow, high winds, & even sunshine go through the daily blender of some of the world's noted fits thrown by Mother Nature. I know. For the better part of a year in the 60s, I headed a team doing passive satellite photographic operations (SATTRACK). Since outside work required a clear night sky, we often had lots of time on our hands. I became very acquainted with the airmen barracked in the composite building housing the mess hall & recreational activities.

We had one clear day a month when we could go beach combing on Shemya Island. At water's edge you could find what looked like round gemstones. These were really pieces of Coca Cola & Clorox bottles left over from the WWII occupation of the island. The whole island was a treasure of junk & stuff left behind by the thousand of military & their dependents. A daily magnet was run over the island's roads to pick up nails. Flat tires were very common. You never carried a spare but had the motor pool come out & install a fresh tire.

One of the airman at our daily coffee table had picked up a Bering Sea polished piece of Clorox bottle. He called it his Australian teardrop; he thought it was washed up on that side of the island. It was very pretty with a tiny trapped bubble inside. He had taken it to the gem shop & mounted it in a necklace. His roomie wound up with it, never told of its ancient history. I remember the morning we were shown stateside pho-

tos of the roomie's fiancée'. She was posed in her best with the teardrop around her neck.

We kept the secret & knew the two airmen had never conversed about it & the seller was obviously not going to do any talking. His roomie was strong & when he came out to change a flat sometimes he stripped the wheel's lug nuts. He liked to tear out the last pages of your novel if he found it unattended. I suspect at an early age he was tearing wings off live butterflies. Of course we used every occasion to ask the perpetrator to get us more coffee & bring us a doughnut or two. Silence was golden.

I wonder today where the teardrop is. It may have become an heirloom or in an antique shop. If a jeweler has looked at it he would know instantly it was just a piece of glass. No one knows this once worthless stone has gone through 20 years plus, where it was polished by the world's worst turbulent weather.

Christ saw the multitudes follow Him like so many teardrops. This is seen in *Matthew 5:1-16*. He knew their hearts as He knows ours today. Life will polish us & if we are faithful to Him, we shall become polished stone having lasting beauty.

"Master, the tempest is raging! The billows are tossing high! The sky is o'er shadowed with blackness, No shelter or help is nigh; Carest Thou not that we perish? How canst Thou lie asleep, When each moment so madly is threat'ning A grave in the angry deep?" The winds & the waves shall obey Thy will, Peace be still! They all shall sweetly obey Thy will, Peace, Be still! Peace, peace, be still! (Sacred Slections) - *Mark 4:39*



**Introduction** – Review the Rules of Engagement

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Review – Pattern Theology

These questions need an understanding of pattern theology to be answered.

- 1. Why don't we use instruments of music in worship?**
- 2. Why are there no women leading public worship?**
- 3. Why do we take communion every Sunday?**

The Churches of Christ are different for two reasons:

A. What we believe \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

We believe that the Bible is inspired because:

1. The Bible claims \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Bible survived \_\_\_\_\_
3. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_ among books
4. The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Bible contains \_\_\_\_\_

Once a document has these qualities it can be considered \_\_\_\_\_

B. The way we \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- We use pattern theology \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Question #1 – Music in Worship

Three main reasons why we use acapella music.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - *Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 1:1-2*

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - *I Corinthians 14:15; Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16; James 5:13*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When you use instruments in worship you do so without the support of the New Testament.

### Question #2 – Women in Worship

Look at the “pattern” in the New Testament and you will find:

1. No \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - *Acts 2:42; Acts 13:1-3*
2. Specific \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ - *I Corinthians 14:34; I Timothy 2:11-12*

### Question #3 – Communion in Worship

\_\_\_\_\_ - *Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 11:23-ff; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:25*

## Summary

Two guidelines to help you use “pattern theology” accurately.

1. Obedience and discernment \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Culture and Eternity \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Why Pray

1 of 4  
Kevin Withem

August ??, 2020

Peter Kreeft, in his book, "Prayer for Beginners," wrote the following:

"Some say that prayer, and "the spiritual life," or "the inner life," or the soul's private love affair with God, is an unaffordable luxury today, or an irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor, hurting world. I say just the opposite: that nothing, nothing is more relevant and responsible...

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** - "pray without ceasing."

**James 4:2** <sup>NKJV</sup> *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask.*

**Why Pray? - Benefits of prayer:**

We gain spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 3:16** <sup>NKJV</sup> *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,*

**Colossians 1:11** <sup>NKJV</sup> *strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;*

In these two passages, Paul said God has "glorious \_\_\_\_\_" out of which he can strengthen you with "power."

And he has "glorious \_\_\_\_\_" from which that power comes. He is not limited, as we are limited.

Question: What is God calling you to do or be, or what spiritually in your life is overwhelming you? \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 4:13** NIV - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



## ***Why Pray?***

#1 of 4 Why Pray

**Kevin Withem**

**Daily Devotionals or Bible Study**

August 05, 2020

1. How have the stressful and challenging times we're in impacted you spiritually? What would you recommend to someone as ways to use the present time to grow closer and more dependent on God?
2. If you someone asked you why prayer is critical to our lives, how would you answer them? If prayer has not been an integral part of your Christian life and someone asked, "why?", how would you respond?
3. Peter Kreeft, in his book, "Prayer for Beginners," wrote: "Some say that prayer, and "the spiritual life," or "the inner life...is an unaffordable luxury today, or an irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor, hurting world. I say just the opposite: that nothing, nothing is more relevant and responsible;..." (page 14). Why might someone suggest that prayer is an "unaffordable luxury" or irresponsible withdrawal from the pressing public problems of our poor hurting world?" What case would you make that it is "more relevant and a very "responsible" thing to do?
4. What are areas in your spiritual life where you want to be obedient to God, or be used by God, but you find yourself overwhelmed? Read Ephesians 3:16 and Colossians 3:11, and summarize or put in your own words the way Paul describes the power and strength available to each believer. What impacts you most in these verses?
5. How would your life be different if you became more committed to prayer than you presently are, starting today? QUESTIONS & EXERCISES For Daily Devotionals or Bible Study Group

# How Can We Be More Effective in Evangelism?

While not much has been announced as of yet, the elders have determined to emphasize the role of evangelism in the congregation, and to execute their plan, we will be having an evangelism class this summer to prepare for our “Fishers of Men” class this fall. Moreover, our lectureship begins this weekend, and because our theme centers on questions that non-Christian seekers are often asking, we can utilize this format to accommodate our need and joy to share the gospel with others.

Why do we often fail in evangelism? Reasons could include fear of embarrassment (as opposed to shame of Christ) and fear of resentment, rejection and controversy. In addition, we very often assume that people will not be interested before we even ask—by so doing, we overlook some who may be interested that we misjudge. Finally, we as Christians need to convince ourselves in the power of the gospel and the condition of lost souls. What are some practical ways of being more effective in evangelism? First, we need to find a method that suits our talent. According to Jesus, we

all have at least one talent (*Matt. 25:14-30*). I know that the word “talent” indicates a financial term, but the Bible is clear that God has given us all abilities (at least one ability) to carry out the mission of the church—to preach and teach the gospel to those who are lost (*Luke 19:10; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15*). Therefore, we must begin by searching inwardly to see what abilities we have that match well with evangelism. If we are outgoing individuals, then conducting Bible studies will not be difficult. If we are shy, then we may want to become involved in things such as distributing and grading Bible correspondence courses, distributing tracts and such like that involve less personal contact. If we love to be sociable, then we may use our abilities of hospitality to focus on evangelistic efforts. Whatever ability we may have, we need to get busy and use it for evangelistic causes!

Second, we need to revive our enthusiasm for Christianity. The psalmist declared it best: *“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors*

*thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee” (Ps. 51:12-13)*. We need to radiate with a joy of salvation! When people in the world who are facing problems of every nature see the true joy and contentment of the Christian life, they will want to know what makes the difference!

Finally, we need to demonstrate Christianity at its finest! The apostle Peter makes a powerful statement concerning the non-Christian husbands of Christian wives: *“... they may without the word be gained by the behavior of their wives” (1 Pet. 3:1 ASV)*. Evangelism can take place by simply demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit (*cf. Gal. 5:22-23*). This will take an exhibition of the change that God has made in our lives (*Rom. 12:1-2*). I hope that these practical points will help all of us to become more evangelistic, and may God bless our efforts to sow the seed of the kingdom!