

**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

**Hebrews 13:16**

***That's what friends are for; to carry each other's burden and to help each other out.***

### *Food Pantry*

The pantry is located in the room left of the library. There are sacks in the pantry room if you or someone you know is in need of any of these items. Feel free to take what you need. If you have a donation for the pantry please put it on the table in the pantry room.

### *Mountain States Children's Home*

Remember to stock up on non-perishable supplies to bring for the children's home collection which takes place in August and March each year. Keep this work in your prayers.

### *Peru Ministry*

Support Oscar and Anna Maria in their outreach in Peru.

**Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all his wondrous works! (Psalm 105:1, 2)**

## **Kennewick Church of Christ**

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336  
509-783-4013

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ  
Church Email: kencoc@gmail.com

### **Meeting times:**

#### Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

#### Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

### **Elders:**

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; ccbotts@hotmail.com  
LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; vern.engelke@gmail.com

### **Minister:**

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome.

Attendance 12/17: 70

Budget \$2000.00

Contribution 12/17: \$1888.50

December 24, 2017

## **Welcome to the Kennewick Church of Christ**

### **Complete in Christ**

Anyone who has ever worked a jigsaw puzzle only to find one piece is missing knows how much we care about completeness. It doesn't matter if 499 pieces of a 500-piece puzzle are there and in place. It doesn't matter that one can tell exactly the picture the puzzle makes and can admire its beauty. If one piece is missing, its incompleteness is what matters most.

People need completing too. Although our physical bodies are an incredible collection of various systems and processes, proclaimed by the Psalmist to be wonderful (Ps 139:14). There is more to us than just our physical being. Man has always searched outside of himself for something bigger and more important than himself. His search is for completeness. Even in philosophical and educated Athens, Paul witnessed this desire as it manifested itself in the misguided attempt to worship unknown gods (Ac 17). Man's completion, though, can only be found in Jesus Christ. "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority" (Cl 2:9-10).

Only Jesus can make us complete, because only in Jesus is all the fullness of Deity found. Reach the beautiful and incredible description of just who and what Jesus is that is found in Colossians 1:15-19. There simply is no one who can compare. Certainly, many of man's feeble efforts cannot provide for man the completeness only found in Christ – not philosophies, traditions, worship of angels, visions or self-made religion (Cl 2:8, 18, 23). Instead, completeness is found in the salvation provided in Christ. Descriptions of that salvation serve as bookends to the glorious picture of Christ in Colossians 1:15-19 (see 1:13-14; 1:20-23). It is also found in one's continued spiritual development.

Paul's prayer for Christians is for them to be "filled" with knowledge of God's will so they may "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects" (Cl 1:9). He continued to explain how this can happen by bearing fruit, increasing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with power and giving thanks to the Father (Cl 1:10-12).

Completeness is unquestionably important and only genuinely available in Christ.

~David Deffenbaugh

***The whole point of being alive is to evolve into the complete person  
you were intended to be***

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, <sup>20</sup> and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of the cross. (Colossians 1:15-20)

*Birthdays and Anniversaries  
for January*

Bill & Linda Lafferty 12/24  
 Hannah Minor 1/5  
 Linda Lafferty 1/8  
 Gayle Caldwell 1/12  
 Holden Minor 1/15  
 Henry Walker 1/18  
 Larry Moore 1/19  
 Mary Beth Walker 1/22  
 Shirley Childers 1/24  
 Eddie & Eunice Petross 1/24  
 Loretta Slettene 1/26  
 Hannah Mendoza 1/29  
 Nadine Mohr 1/19

*Keep these Dates in Mind:*

12/03 First Sunday Potluck (Cancelled)  
 12/09 Men's breakfast and Fellowship  
 12/10 Holiday Potluck  
 12/10 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p  
 12/24 Scheduled Open Cong Meeting 5:00p  
 (subject to reschedule due to Christmas)  
 01/07 First Sunday Potluck  
 01/13 Men's breakfast and Fellowship  
 01/14 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p  
 01/28 Open Congregational Meeting 5:00p

*Bible Studies:* Youth Classes -  
 Adult Class - Classroom Wing  
 Fellowship Hall Ladies Class -  
 (S) - Epistles of Peter Fellowship Hall  
 (W) - Romans Thursday 10:00a - 11:30a

**The Essence of Living is Giving**

The above title may surprise some, but the evidence is overwhelming. God himself revealed this truth about Himself in three ways: (1) In regard to His past gifts; (2) His present gifts; (3) His promised gifts.

**The Past** - The Bible is replete with examples of God making a promise and then fulfilling it for needy man. He gave Adam and Eve and their descendants sustenance and life.

He delivered Noah from the terrible flood by giving him the design and ability to build an ark. He made the rainbow for Noah and all subsequent generations. We have all benefited from this past, present, and future gift until the world ends.

God gave manna to Israel daily (except for the Sabbath) for 40 years. He promised and gave Jericho into the hands of Joshua and Israel.

The Old Testament has many varied promises about the coming Messiah, the greatest gift of God. He came and blessed mankind with salvation. He has enriched the lives of all who allowed His teaching to transform them from getting to giving.

**The Present** - In our day, God continues to give so many blessings we can't count them. The first one is new life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. He also gives the cleansing power of Jesus' blood to purge from their sins all who walk in the light (1 Jn 1:7).

God gives answers of what is best to all who pray in genuine faith, trusting in His love and wisdom. He continues to give us the air we breathe, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the rich blessings of fellowship with all the saints. Paul said in a rhetorical way, "If God did not spare His only son, but gave him up for us all, will He not give us all things with Him?" (Ro 8:32). The obvious answer is YES. If he gave the most precious gift of heaven, even the Lord Himself, certainly He will give all lesser gifts because of His eternal love.

**The Future** - God cannot and has not lied during all the past time. It is impossible for Him to be against Himself, according to Hebrews 6:17-19; "Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..." Therefore, we can rely with absolute certainty on each promise of what He will give in the future.

God is a living God who will give eternal life to all His children in His realm, heaven itself, at the second coming of His Son (1 Jn 3:1-3). He will give us a spiritual body like the glorious body of Jesus (1 Co 15:42; Ph 3:20, 21). To the overcomers listed in Revelation 2 and 3, He will give the promises written there. He will give the redeemed complete, everlasting, perfect fellowship with Himself. He will give us the privilege of praising and honoring Him forever. What a blessed gift!

**Application** - Christian, give and give as God has given, is giving, and has promised to give. Your ability to give is a result of "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (Ja 1:17).

Give of your strength, and energy. Give of your best - physically, emotionally, spiritually and monetarily - to your Master. Give him first place in your heart. Remember, He gives all.

Endeavor to imitate Him, Amen!

~Stephen D. Eckstein, Jr.



**Health Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Amanda McCrickard, Kaleb McCrickard, Savannah and Christian Johnson (friends of the McCrickards, daughter suffering from mitochondrial disease), Christy Hickman, Joshua Hickman, Vern Mast, Sue Aldrich

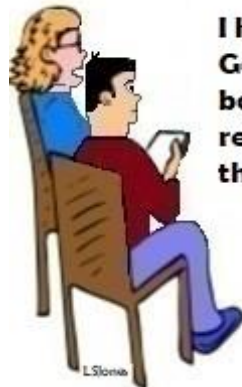
**Kaleb McCrickard** did well during surgery, but did suffer a seizure during recovery and had some issues waking up. He has recovered and is home with a sore throat and all the ice cream he can eat. Unfortunately, he doesn't like ice cream.

**Shirley Childers' Nephew** is suffering from congestive heart failure. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Karen Mcburney** is in rehab after having a rod inserted in her foot. See Dustin for visiting details and where to send cards.

**All those** who are traveling during the holidays

**All those** affected by the fires in California



**I hope that when  
God transforms my  
body he will  
remove some of  
the excess weight**

Komedy Korner

**Give  
without remembering  
And  
Receive  
without forgetting**

**20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things in himself. (Philippians 3:20, 21)**