

## TIME OF SERVICES

### Sunday:

Bible Classes	10:00 a.m.
Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Worship Service	6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.
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### Preachers

John Mundy	(870) 623 5339
Dick Blackford	(870) 919-2266
Office	(870) 933-9134

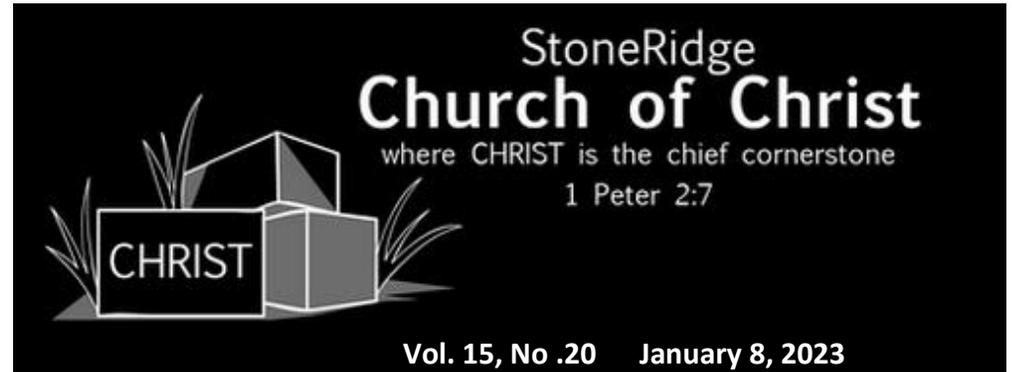
### Elders

Kemuel Camp	(870) 930-6970
Scott Stubblefield	(870) 934-8874

### Deacons

Phillip Cassidy	(870) 623-2588
Jeff Ladyman	(479) 236-5365
Steve Lands	(870) 974-1976
Travis Moody	(870) 650-1649

**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY,  
MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS  
ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS  
COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE  
NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.**



## Amazing Grace

250 years ago, on the first of January, a congregation in the market town of Olney in England first sang...

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.*

*The LORD has promised good to me; His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.*

*Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil, A life of joy and peace.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.*

*John Newton (1779)*

## Purely Personal

I didn't preach a "farewell" sermon, since we're not going anywhere. Most preachers don't retire at the traditional age of 65, but eventually age and health play a part and they were involved in the decision. Plus, didn't want to get all "emotional" and detract from some things that pertain to the future of the StoneRidge congregation. Our last three lessons were addressed to the church and can be identified with three words - **retain, maintain,** and **sustain**. **First**, we need to focus more on retaining our young people when they are going through some major changes in life. The one change they don't need to make is in drifting away from the Lord at a time when they really need Him. There is never a good time for that and this is especially true during youth.

**Second**, we should never take our eldership for granted. They are an extremely important part of the Lord's plan for congregations. Good elders are hard to come by and many churches are content to do without. Congregations rarely thrive without elders. The eldership needs to be maintained by teaching and training for the future. **Third**, congregations need to be sustained by growing through evangelism. Only as a church fulfills its evangelistic obligations does it justify its existence. Souls are a stake, souls that are precious...souls that are dying...into our hands the gospel is given..." We have a mission, and time is limited.

Prior to Covid, the congregation had more than tripled in size. During the time we were social distancing and struggling through a unique crisis which we had never encountered before, we were trying to make the best of a bad situation. We lost about 25% who have never come back after Covid was at its worst. The Lord wants us to be together. There are so many "together" and "one another" passages in the New Testament that they can't be ignored. God had congregations established because He wants us to congregate. It was an exceptional case when we had to remain at home, but we should never allow that exception to become the rule. When we "freelance" our Christianity we operate outside of God's plan. All **oversight** is on a local level. God wants elders in every church because we need someone to watch for

## News/Notes/Quotes.

**THE SICK.** **Nellie Vanhooser** is being treated for a broken wrist and possible surgery... Remember **Beth Cossey** is now in a long term care facility. She is feeling some better. Her address is on the bulletin board. **Virginia Bishop** still awaiting treatment for it....**Lynessa Davis** is still dealing with some ongoing health challenges...**Charles Wayne French** (Nola Christenberry's brother) continues to receive treatment.. **Leon Christenberry** has been dealing with a bad cold...**Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer...Remember our shut-ins: **Madonna Vines** is confined at home. **Bob** and **Jean Evans** are also confined at home...**Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** are both at St. Bernard Village...**Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... **Joyce Riley** is at St. Elizabeth's Place... Continue to remember all of these in your prayers.

**PODCAST!** Hear a lesson from God's word each morning from John Mundy on Facebook & YouTube, 8 am.

### *Purely... from previous page*

our souls (Heb 13:7,17). All **worship** is on the local level and is designed to be done together. We teach, admonish, encourage, and edify one another when we're together. There is no way to broadcast all the Bible classes. Yet, Bible classes is where the strength of a congregation lies. Are we going to allow the devil to score a major victory here??? We inquire about each other's wellbeing when we're together. There's not a better way to do that than...together!

It has been rewarding and pleasureable to work with the StoneRidge congregation these 15½ years. I am grateful for the invitation and opportunity. It has been encouraging to see the love grow among the members. Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (Jn 13:34,35). It is one of the best things we've had going for us. That too, has to be maintained, consciously and conscientiously. We're not perfect, but there's no reason to keep that from being our goal. Let's work together with the Mundy's in the Lord's work here. If we will meditate and act on these things, the future looks bright for generations to come! -**Dick Blackford**

**Note:** Our newspaper articles for the past 9 years (about 70) are being compiled and will be 3-hole punched for a notebook. They will be arranged topically instead of chronologically. If you would like to reserve a copy, please sign the list on the bulletin board. The list will stay up for a week.



