

**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.

Office (870) 933-9134

**Elders**

Kemuel Camp (870) 930-6970  
Scott Stubblefield (870) 351-8420

**Deacons**

Phillip Cassidy (870) 623-2588  
Steve Lands (870) 974-1976  
Travis Moody (870) 650-1649


**Preacher**

John Mundy 870-623-5339

**Editor**

Dick Blackford 870-919-2266

**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.**



StoneRidge  
**Church of Christ**  
where CHRIST is the chief cornerstone  
1 Peter 2:7

**Vol. 16, No . 43 April 28, 2024**

**An Invitation**

**One night I dreamed I died and went to heaven.** I heard singing and was invited to join the multitude. There were 1000 sopranos, 1000 altos, 1000 tenors, and one bass.—me. We reached a crescendo, which called for as much volume as we could muster. Right in the middle of it the conductor stopped and said, “Brother Blackford, pu-leeze, a little softer on the bass.”

Well, that didn’t really happen. But sometimes I sing too loud. Sometimes I sing the wrong verse when everybody else is singing the right one. No, they don’t do that on purpose to make me look bad. I can do that on my own., but I hate when that happens. And those times when I sing too loud seem to always happen when I’m singing the wrong verse! I enjoy singing, but I’ve got to stay in my place and sing with the group.

When I was younger and much of a dreamer, I imagined what it would be like to be the conductor of a huge orchestra and chorus. It never happened, but I have done something that far exceeded those dreams. There is scarcely anything more rewarding than directing the hearts and voices of children in vacation Bible school! Their bright eyes, smiling faces, enthusiasm and volume do more for me than being an orchestra conductor could ever do. Children who are eager to learn and unashamed to sing of their faith are worth more than gold.

Another opportunity a few years ago reminded me of some of our heavenly →

*from front page*

benefits. I returned home to direct 17 grandchildren as they sang at their grandmother's funeral. It hadn't been long since we had done the same at their grandfather's funeral. Surely, the angels couldn't have sung any sweeter.

One of the most touching and memorable occasions was when I spoke at the funeral of a little girl. It was difficult to keep my composure as children sang the cherished children's hymn, "Jesus loves me, this I know."

Singing fits many occasions. We sing when we are happy and when we're sad. Paul and Silas sang after being beaten and imprisoned unfairly (Acts 16). "Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise" (Js 5:13). In John's heavenly vision he saw victorious saints singing the song of Moses and he Lamb (Rev 15:3). Some were depicted as singing "a new song" (Rev 5:9; 14:3).

Those who miss heaven will miss one of the greatest joys for having chosen the sound of wailing and gnashing of teeth over the song of victory.

One of the reasons we sing today is to encourage people to obey the gospel. It is difficult to understand why anyone would reject the invitation. It is the strange mercy of our God that he continues to longer while "sweetly the tones are falling." We sing a number of hymns that express in words better than we could the need and urgency to obey the gospel. I often wonder how anyone could resist. But ever so often there is a breakthrough. And perhaps at the next worship service, as we sing, there will be a tender heart that is touched by the message of a suffering Savior who died for a world that has largely turn their backs on their only hope. May there be one who will break out of the bonds of sin and declare their faith in Jesus Christ. Will it be you? -*dick blackford, TRUTH MAGAZINE, Dec. 21, 2000*

***Today, our children are becoming roadkill on the information superhighway.***

## *News/Notes/Quotes.*

**THE SICK.** Carol Caldwell had an 85% blockage in an artery so a stent was installed. She is recuperating at home...**Freddie Horton** was still unable to be out last week. He is seeing a rheumatologist ....**Pat Spencer** has been move to the Phil and Flo Jones Hospice House. Pray for her and her family... **Mike McFarland** has been diagnosed with Covid. He has been experiencing fever and chills...**Easton Blackford** had tube put in his ears and surgery to remove his adenoids on Friday. He was not a happy camper, but hopefully he will feel better soon... **Lynissa Davis** is undergoing more testing... **Karen Livesay** still has no relief from migraines ...Remember to pray for **Chloe Humblet** who is away from home for extended treatment ....Several times we have mentioned friends and relatives of the members here as needing our prayers. Let's remember all those who continue to undergo health challenges...**Shut-ins:** **Rhea Vines** (at Roger's house)...**Gail Brooks** 423 Lawrence Hall, Walnut Ridge... **Rita Kieffer**, St. Bernard Village, ...**Shirley Coots**, Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... **Karen Livesay** at home...**Joyce Riley** at St. Elizabeth's Place... **Jean Evans** at home...**Betty Shrable** at Ridgecrest, room 304...Pray for these!

**BEREAVED.** We extend our sincere sympathy to Beverly, the family and loved ones of **Gail Brooks**, our sister in Christ who passed away last Monday at St. Bernard Hospital. Kathy and I have known Gail about 56 years and we are sorry to see her go, but she was looking for a better home. Her funeral was conducted here on Saturday. - - I don't believe we've ever had two funerals on the same day. Last Tuesday, **Pat Spencer** passed from this life at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice house. We grieve with Jerry and Debbie and her grandchildren. She also looked for a better home. Her funeral was also conducted here Saturday.

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

**June 22 – Ladies' Bible Study (three speakers) – 9a.m. -12 noon**

**July 21-25 – StoneRidge – VBS!**

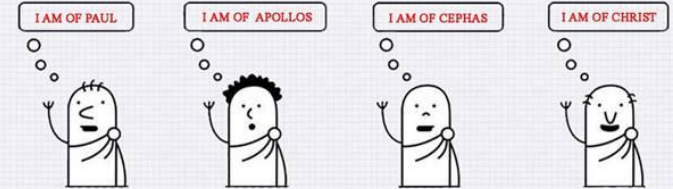
**MAY BIRTHDAYS.** 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mallory Lands; 4<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Riley; 6<sup>th</sup> – Heath Ladyman; 11<sup>th</sup> – Rita Cassidy; 12<sup>th</sup> – Thomas Morgan; 14<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Martin; 15<sup>th</sup> – Sean Cassidy, Jenna Malone; 19<sup>th</sup> – Matt Cossey; 22<sup>nd</sup> – Amy Cooper, DeAnne Mundy, Nellie Vanhoozer; 23<sup>rd</sup> – Collins Camp; 24<sup>th</sup> – Jordan Martin; 27<sup>th</sup> – Gavin Ellis, Shirley Stokes; 28<sup>th</sup> – Mike Weaver; 30<sup>th</sup> – Terri Jo Cureton

**PODCAST** John Mundy – Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. On Facebook & YouTube.

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### Division in the 1st Century

1CORINTHIANS 1:10-13



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### Division in the 21st Century



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THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST SALUTE YOU - ROMANS 16:16

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