

PRAYERS

Butch and Chris – They continue to recuperate.

Chanice – She is dealing with the effects of dialysis.

Anita - Traveling back from Arizona

Congregation News

We are saddened to learn that Steve and Caylin Scheff will be moving to the Fargo area within the month. We wish them all the best.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Have you heard about the hypochondriac? He has an annual checkup-- every week!

Those Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning Service:

4/15/18

4/29/18

Bible Class	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Announcements	Tom Bright	Paul Darling
Song Leader	Colby Crawford	Tom Bright
Opening Prayer	Paul Darling	Paul Darling
Lord's Supper	Colby Crawford	Paul Darling
Scripture Reading	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford
Sermon	Tom Bright	Colby Crawford

Bible Classes

Sunday Morning

Wednesday Evening

Adult	Paul Darling	Tom Bright
Children	Colby Crawford	Linda McBrayer
Toddlers	Cindy Bright	
Babies	Anissa Crawford	

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Building Cleanup
Crawford

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Bulletin Submissions

If you would like anything added to the bulletin such as prayer requests, news, or events, please make submissions by Friday night to: tlbj@sbcglobal.net

Aberdeen church of Christ

April 22, 2018

New Birth

I've always been delighted seeing a newly born child. The beginning of a new life that is pure and without a single evil thought or motive brings joy to family, friends, and even casual acquaintances. While the birth of a child is cause for rejoicing, there is another birth that brings even more joy. That is the "birth" of a Christian.

Jesus said, *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* This New birth takes place only in baptism because it is in baptism that we become a "new creature." We must be in Jesus Christ to be a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). The only way we can be in Jesus Christ is through baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27). Since that is where we become a new creature that is where we are born again.

There is one birth, but two elements in this one birth. The first element is that in which we are baptized, "water." Since Jesus in the great commission told His apostles, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," we understand that baptism is necessary for salvation. Water baptism is the only baptism preached in the New Testament and each of us may choose whether or not we will submit (Eph. 4:4-6). We also know this is the baptism people obeyed in the New Testament (Acts 8:38; Acts 10:47-48). We can then rightly conclude that the element of water in the new birth is the water of baptism.

The other element in the new birth is the "Spirit." How does the Holy Spirit enter into the new birth? Is it a Holy Spirit baptism in which the Spirit in some way overwhelms us as it did the apostles and Cornelius?

Is it the Holy Spirit somehow enlightening the mind of the individual so that he might better understand the Scriptures or perhaps withstand temptation? Of course not. It is the Spirit working through the Word to bring about our obedience in baptism.

The Word is the sword of the Spirit, and the Spirit uses the Word to cut to the heart (Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). In doing so it has the power to bring about obedience in baptism. The fact the Spirit uses the Word of God cannot be missed. Peter wrote: *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the*

brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Pet. 1:22-23).

We are born by the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit. This is the part the Spirit plays in the new birth.

If we are to be part of the Kingdom of God and be saved from our past sins, we must be born again. Will you begin a new life that, like a newborn babe, is pure and innocent? Then you must be baptized in water in obedience to the words of the Holy Spirit as proclaimed in the New Testament.

The Ugly Wife of Jesus

I was floored. One of my Christian buddies had just posted a status about how ugly another man’s wife was. He said she was annoying, talkative, unfriendly, boring, and frankly, just really ugly overall. I was astonished. After some time, some of his buddies commented on the status and joined in talking about how old, hypocritical and ugly this man’s wife was.

It hurt me to see this kind of talk posted for all to see. Being a married man myself, I know I’d hate it if I saw someone posting about my wife that way. I was angry to see it, but I can’t say I was surprised. I see this kind of talk all the time after all. In fact, you probably see or hear someone do this every week.

The comments you hear probably sound a little more like this:

“Man, the preacher was a little long winded today huh?”

“Our church is filled with old people; wish we had a little more life!”

“Did you hear about Scott? I heard he went to a party last week. What a hypocrite!”

“I heard Olivia was going to be at the devotional tonight. I don’t think I’m gonna go. She’s just so weird.”

Heard any of these comments before? Maybe you’ve been the one who said them. They may seem harmless, but they are actually quite damaging! The church is the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33), and anytime we say something bad about the church we are essentially telling Christ “your wife is ugly.”

Christ died for his bride, the church. He wants her to be sanctified. He nourishes and cherishes her! He does everything he can to cleanse her from her blemishes, but week after week, we tell those around us how ugly

It’s time for us to change our way of talking about the church. It’s time for us to focus on the good in Christ’s bride. Here are some thoughts:

Instead of talking about how long the preacher’s sermon went, talk about how appreciative you are that he used the Bible and kept his opinion out.

Instead of complaining about older members in your congregation, go and talk to them and learn from them.

Instead of spreading rumors about a fellow member’s sin, go and talk to them to see if it’s true and if they need help.

Instead of talking about how weird someone is, go and talk to them. Christ died for them too, after all.

Does the church have its faults? Yes. Those faults are called “people.” We’re imperfect, annoying, impatient, talkative, ugly hypocrites and Christ died for us anyway so that we don’t have to remain that way. Let’s change our thinking. Let’s start talking about how **beautiful** Christ’s bride is. Let’s make the church a strong one.

Who Am I

He was a prophet during the reign of King Ahab.

During a severe drought he lived with a widow and her son.

He ran away from Jezebel, Ahab’s wife.

He went to heaven in a chariot of fire.

Answer: **Next Week**

Welcome to our Assembly. . .

Whether you are a first time visitor or a long time member of this congregation, we are happy to have you with us this morning. For those visiting, please make yourself comfortable. A good deal of information about this church and its activities can be found on this sheet. We encourage and invite anyone interested to participate in the activities offered throughout the week. If you have any questions about the facilities, our worship service, or want more information about the church, feel free to ask anyone present. Someone will be glad to help you!