

SHARE HOPE BUILD FAITH SHOW LOVE



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Scott Carter has ministered with Cherry Avenue Christian Church for the past 13½ years. July 12 will be his last Sunday with this congregation as our minister. Scott is retiring and he and Pat are going to Florida for a few months. They may decide to stay in Florida or to maybe return to Virginia.

We wish them well in enjoying retirement. May God bless their lives as they continue to serve Him.



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Celebrate Recovery has resumed their meetings each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. They meet in the sanctuary.

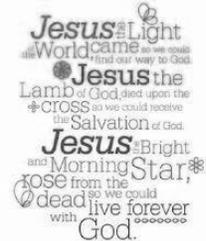
The Women's Step Study is now meeting at 6:00 p.m., on Thursdays.

If you have an interest or questions about Celebrate Recovery please contact Stan.

THELMA CARTER CIRCLE



Ladies, the Thelma Carter Circle will meet on July 6, at 6:00 p.m. This will be a planning meeting. Please meet in the fellowship hall.



Thanks to each of you for your corporation in helping open worship services since the Coronavirus restrictions. It is good to be able to worship as a congregation.

We will continue to have a combined worship service each Sunday at 10:00 a.m., with the social distancing guidelines in place. You are asked have your own mask to wear, Masks and gloves will be provided as long as they are available. The messages and Bible Study will continue to be posted online.

We will not provide childcare. Children are welcome in the service and they must sit with their parents.

Van pick-up will not be provided until further notice.



COMMUNION MEDITATION/PRAYER

- July 5 Stan Martin
- July 12 Richard Buckley
- July 19 Allen Bingler
- July 26 Boyd Knott

CLOSING PRAYER

- July 5 Billy Marsh
- July 12 Mike Lynn
- July 19 John Lane
- July 26 John Grady

GREETERS

- Bill and Thea Gibson
- Eddie and Carol Harlow
- Johnny Parks and Roscoe Faris



The ESP group met on Monday, the 29th. Their next meeting will be July 27, at 10:00 a.m. Their meetings are in the fellowship hall with the social distancing in place.





From The
CLUTTERED
DESK

I don't know about you, but I'd kind of like a "do-over" on 2020. It's only halfway through, but it already feels like we'd be better off if we could just scrap it and start again. But life doesn't work that way. The fear and uncertainty from the Coronavirus, followed by the unrest sparked by the killing of George Floyd, have made life incredibly tense in so many ways. We've become so divided that it can seem as if concepts such as brotherly love, unity, justice, peace, and community are beyond us. So how can we as Christians change that and even grow God's kingdom in the process? The book of James gives us some straightforward, practical instruction.

James 2 tells us, "*Believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism*" (v.1). We're to show everyone love and respect, not treating anyone differently because of a particular group identity. In James' day, the tendency was to discriminate against the poor in favor of the rich. In 2020, we're divided not only along socioeconomic lines, but racial, sexual, political, geographical, and ethnic lines as well. Heck, we're not even sure about that guy down the street who likes a different team than we do!

We all have some biases toward those like us and against those who are different. It doesn't mean we're all hopeless bigots, but it does mean we have to work to overcome those biases to make certain we're treating all people like the unique, valued creations of God that they are.

James 1:19 says, "*Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry....*" This short verse gives us a guide to how we're to interact with others, especially in times like we're going through now.

"Everyone." There are no exceptions. If you're a follower of Christ, you're expected to do this. As a kid I loved watching Juan Epstein on *Welcome Back Kotter* bring in notes from home, requesting that he be excused from whatever it was he didn't want to do, always signed, "Epstein's Mother." There are no notes excusing us from responsibility for what James is about to tell us. If you follow Christ, it applies to you.

"should be quick to listen...." We've all been in conversations where we know the other person isn't really listening; they're either distracted by something else or just waiting for their turn to talk. And we hate it. But too often we're guilty of it ourselves. Listening is where we learn—it's where we learn facts, as well as what makes the other person tick. God wants us to work to where listening becomes our first instinct—what we're quick to do. We can choose to develop the mindset that we actively listen to what others are saying. Here's a tip: If you find yourself in a conversation and you forget what you were going to say, you're making progress.

"slow to speak...." How often do we cause problems in our relationships or general ill will because we're too quick to speak? Today "speak" would include sending a text or posting

(Continued in column 2)

BIBLE
SCHOOL



As we celebrate the birth of our great nation this July it seems that chaos, violence and injustice is all around us. I would like you to read Habakkuk chapter 1, verses 1-4. It seems just like today. Remember that true saying, "If you do not know your history, you are doomed to repeat it!" So yes, from Habakkuk's day until today and throughout time there has been chaos, evil, and injustice abounding.

But as believers in Jesus Christ, we know He has won the victory, Calvary's cross! And we know that no matter what happens "HE" is in control. The writer of Hebrews tells us this, "So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:6)

Habakkuk himself also knew for he gave us these inspired words from chapter 3 verse 18, "yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

Hope to see you all soon!

In Christ,

Johnny Parks

(Continued From The Cluttered Desk)

tweets and comments online. The things we say can't be unsaid. And in this digital world, they last forever. James goes on in v.26 and says, "Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless."

"and slow to become angry." There's so much anger and vitriol in our world today. We used to be able to disagree with someone and still remain friends. Now the battle lines are drawn and if someone disagrees, he's the enemy: Hateful, violent, and evil. Problems are never solved when we're governed by our emotions—especially anger. Jesus said, "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*" (Matthew 5:44). You find yourself a lot less angry with someone if you're genuinely praying for them.

I heard Andy Stanley say, "Pain without gain is a terrible shame." Our country is going through some pain right now. It's our response to it that will determine whether we come out the other side better for it or worse. The choice is up to us. We can't change the world, but we can change our little corner of it. And if enough of those little corners get changed, the next thing you know, the world is different too.

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Your Elders:

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**MINISTER'S
 MOMENTS**

The Last Word

A sales manager and two of his sales reps are walking to lunch one day when they come across an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie appears, saying, "I'll give each of you just one wish." One rep is quick to speak up first. He says, "I want to be in Aruba, relaxing on the beach, without a care in the world" Poof! He's gone.

The next rep speaks up. "I want to be fishing in a stream in the Colorado Rockies." Poof! He's gone. The genie turns to the sales manager and says, "Your turn." The manager says, "I want those two back in the office after lunch." I guess the sales manager got the last word didn't he.

Lately I have been doing a lot of things for the last time. Today I am writing my last newsletter article. So, I thought a lot about what I wanted to say in this last article. And one thing I want to say how much I have appreciated the support and love that so many of you have given to us. I cannot say that the thirteen and a half

years here have all been easy but the support that I have received from so many really helped through those times. Cherry Avenue Christian Church is a very loving church and your generosity has always amazed me. I hope that you will continue to be the great people that you are and give the new minister the same kind of love and support. Whatever has been done here in the past decade plus is due to the church body and not me.

In his book, *Becoming a Person of Influence*, John Maxwell tells the story about a famous 19th century organist who traveled from town to town giving concerts. In each town he hired a boy to pump the organ during the concert. After one performance, the hired boy said to the organist, "We sure had a great concert tonight, didn't we?" "What do you mean -- 'we'?" the organist said. "I had a great concert. Now run on home." The next night when the organist was halfway through a magnificent piece, the organ suddenly quit. The organist continued to pound the keys, but no sound came out. The audience became restless. At this point, the little boy stuck his head around the corner of the organ and said, "We're not having a great concert tonight, are we?"

I am thankful for being here and I may have been the one that many people saw but I want you to understand that the music from this church comes not from the pulpit but from the congregation. Thank you all for a wonderful concert.

The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. (1 Corinthians 3:8)



July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 6:00 pm CR Women's Step Study	3	4 
5 10:00 am Morning Worship Service	6 6:00 pm Thelma Carter Circle Meeting 6:00 pm Elders Meeting	7 8:00 am Men's Bible Study Sr. Bible Study –Online 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	8 	9 6:00 pm CR Women's Step Study	10 	11
12 10:00 am Morning Worship Service	13 	14 8:00 am Men's Bible Study Sr. Bible Study –Online 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	15	16 6:00 pm CR Women's Step Study	17	18 
19 10:00 am Morning Worship Service	20 6:00 pm Board Meeting	21 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	22 	23 6:00 pm CR Women's Step Study	24	25 
26 10:00 am Morning Worship Service	27 10:00 am ESP Meeting	28 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery	29 	30 6:00 pm CR Women's Step Study	31 	