

Jesus the Carpenter

By Wade Webster

On one occasion, some were amazed at Jesus' wisdom and miracles and asked, "Is not this the carpenter's son? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? (Matthew 13:55). Those who knew Jesus as a child couldn't believe how far He had come from His humble beginnings. They looked at Jesus as the carpenter's son rather than as God's Son. Although they needed to look at Jesus in a new way, it is profitable for us to consider Him as a carpenter.

Jesus the carpenter made the world. John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made" (John 1:1-3). The context makes clear that the Word was Christ (1:14). Paul wrote, ". . . God, who created all things by Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 3:8-9). It is easy to see the perfect design of the world. If the earth were any further from the sun, we would freeze to death. If it were any closer to the sun, we would burn up. The Psalmist correctly wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge" (Psalms 19:1-2).

Jesus the carpenter built the church. When Simon confessed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus responded by blessing Peter and promising to build His church. He said, ". . . thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build by church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus built His church on the first Pentecost following his resurrection (Acts 2:47). It is not hard to see the perfect construction of the church.

It is built on a foundation that will never crumble (1 Corinthians 3:11). It's walls are made of living stones which are perfectly ordered by the chief cornerstone (1 Peter 2:4-6) and cemented together with the mortar of love (John 15:12). It is adorned by a solid door which can only be opened by the owner (John 10:7, 9; Revelation 3:7). It has a window which fills the house with light (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalms 119:105).

As Christians, we must continually give thanks that we are part of the church that Jesus built.

Jesus the carpenter is building mansions in heaven. Shortly before His departure from the earth, Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).

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Directory Updates

Curtis Oakes

Contact Office—Removed per privacy policy

Madolia Rosette

Contact Office—Removed per privacy policy

Shannon VanRavestain

Contact Office—Removed per privacy policy

Please add these new addresses to your directory and send out a card when you can.

Happy Birthday this week to:

Charmaine Bush—5/2



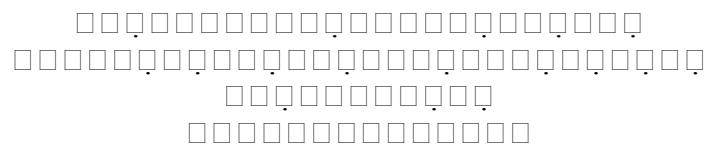
APRIL ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Kashi Go Lean Cereal, Cheerios, non microwave popcorn. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Jesus the Carpenter—continued

It is easy to see the perfect design of the place that Jesus is preparing for us. It is located in paradise (Revelation 2:7). Heaven's climate is perfect. The sun will not light on us nor any heat (Revelation 7:16). Heaven features the sparkling river of life and the beautiful tree of life (Revelation 22:1-2). That place is located on a golden street (Revelation 21:21) inside gates of pearl which never have to be shut (Revelation 21:25). finally, in that place we will have wonderful neighbors (Revelation 21:27). A more beautiful place has never been prepared by any carpenter.

The greatest things which have ever been built were built by Jesus the carpenter. When we consider the world, the church, and the home that Jesus is preparing for us, we must thank God for Jesus the carpenter as well as Jesus the savior.



Teens

May Events:

May 16—TBS

May 30—Grad Dinner

May 30—Young Men conduct evening worship

VCC (June 20-26) registration forms are located in the foyer—deadline is May 15. WS pays 1/2 of member registration fees.

Horizons (July 4-9) forms are also located in the foyer. Bus forms will be there in the next few weeks!

Send Ryan your ideas for Summer

Contact Office—Removed per privacy policy



Be sure to pick up your copy of the Discovery Club Newsletter located in the foyer if you didn't get one from your e-mail!



Upcoming Events:

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a Spring Get-Together at Tom & Melissa Rogers home

on May 2 after morning services. A sign up sheet is posted on the board in the hallway. The Rogers are providing pork BBQ.



WOW

The next regular meeting will be on May 11 at 10:30.



Senior Servants

For Your Information

GOSPEL MEETING

John Shannon will be here May 9-12. Address labels are available in the foyer to send him words of encouragement! And flyers are available in the foyer—make sure you grab some and pass them out to your friends and neighbors.

BOOK ORDER

Garland Elkins book "The Savior's Way" was first printed in 1968 and then again in 1995. There has recently been a third printing. **If you would like this book** the price is \$10 for paper back and \$15 for hard back. Make your check out to West Side and we will place one order. Give your check to Jerry Anderson and he will record who has ordered.

TURN, TURN, TURN

The next meeting of the T3 planners will be today at 4:30 in the teachers' workroom.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

Primary Teachers Meeting is May 2nd at 4:30. 4th/5th bring snacks. Teachers bring one or more charts that are old and needs to be updated or replaced. We will lay them out on the tables and have all teachers give input on how to update. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR! PLEASE MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND!

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly men's breakfast will be on May 8 at Famous Anthony's in Salem at 8 AM.

EVENING AT WESTSIDE HOSTESSES

There will be a meeting of all hostesses on May 16 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. All hostesses need to attend!

EVENING AT WEST SIDE

Our Annual Evening at West Side Dinner will be held on May 22 at 6 PM. Ladies should be receiving invitations soon if you haven't already. Please respond to your hostess as soon as possible!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The May LNO will be held on May 27 at 6:30 at Jeanny Gilpin's home. More details to follow!

GRADUATION DINNER

We will be honoring our graduates on Sunday, May 30, with a fellowship dinner after morning services. Our grads this year include: Caroline Doss, Garrett Durham, and Ethan Rogers.

*Lynn Anderson
Norma Biller
Betty Buckner
Marguerite Charles
Jim Dorsett
Al Furrow
Collin Gregory
Walter & Betty Jenkins
Martha Keith
Margaret Kratz
Miriam Majors
Jo Musgrove
Elsie Smith
Ruth Stanton
Evelyn White
EV Wimmer
WJ Wood*



- **Grace Myers** is home after her procedure last week.
- **Annette Shrader** will be going to UVA next week for her returning cancer.
- **Kathleen Soliday**, Sandy Garby's mother, is undergoing new rounds of tests.

Remember in prayer:

Yvette Mays, Madolia Rosette, Jim Wheat, Luther Bush, Linda Burnette, Cecelia Alami, Elizabeth Dauer-Fett, Dale Janosik, Shannon VanRavestein

Announcements	Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM)	Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)	
5/2	Barry White
5/9	Danny Guard
5/16	Tom Richardson
5/23	Charlie Gwaltney
5/30	Jim Harrington
Preside at Communion	Paul Mays
Serve Table	
	Ethan Rogers, Jim Cooke
	Marc Laplante, Jack Cook
Closing Prayer	
5/2	Bob Garby
5/9	Jeff Durham
5/16	Ron White
5/23	Herman Lowe
5/30	Bob Martin
Song Leader (PM)	Sam Valentine
Opening Prayer (PM)	
5/2	Herb Baker
5/9	Glenn Hartman
5/16	Jeremy White
5/23	Josh Whitlow
5/30	Roger Mays
Scripture Reader	Nathan Pelfrey
Closing Prayer (PM)	
5/2	Wayne Dixon
5/9	David McFalls
5/16	Don Pettit
5/23	Ethan Rogers
5/30	Gene Benefield
Serve Table (PM)	
	Jeff Guilliams, Bradford Durham
Song Leader (Wed)	Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)	
5/5	Fred Altizer
5/12	Collin Gregory
5/19	Garrett Durham
5/26	Jimmy Harrington
Open/Close Bldg	Tom Rogers
Greeters	Anderson, Guilliams
Nursery Attend	Dee House (AM) Jo Hartman (PM)
Ushers	David Brown, Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Ron White, Claude Crowe Herb Baker, Mark Brooks
Prepare communion	Judy Durham, Michelle Earnhart

Last weeks attendance 4/18&21/10

Bible Class— 162 Worship Service—188
 Sunday Eve.— 127 Wednesday Eve.—125
 Contribution—\$5609

In my formative years my mother kept children in our home in order to provide extra income for our family. There are several things I remember about those times and about some of those children. Once, she kept a family of three children. One was a “biter.” His reaction to just about everything that didn’t go his way was to bite whoever was getting theirs. He became such a problem that my mother finally had to stop keeping them. One day he bit his own brother. My mother disciplined him (as she was instructed to do by the child’s mother, and as you could in those days) and said, “Don’t bite your brother!”

My mother did not originate this saying. Long ago the apostle Paul informed the Galatian church, “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another” (Gal. 5:15). In essence, Paul was saying, “Don’t bite your brother!” Through inspiration, he says the same thing to the church today. However, it remains a problem. There are far too many “biters” in the church.

Don’t bite your brother...with your words. The Bible says a great deal about the tongue. James perhaps says more than any other New Testament writer. He stated, “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell” (Jas. 3:5, 6). One doesn’t have to use his teeth in order to “bite” another. The tongue is just as effective at accomplishing the dastardly deed.

Don’t bite your brother...with your ways. Actions, as the saying goes, speak louder than words. By our actions we can devour others. When we act in an un-Christian manner we bring reproach upon all who claim the name of Christ. We can be guilty of “devouring one another” by destroying any influence other members of the body might have. Let us take heed with our actions, for they define our lives.

Don’t bite your brother...with your will. Paul speaks of imposing one’s will on another to his detriment (Rom. 14). Our Lord grew in favor with God and man (Lk. 2:52), as long as such was possible (cf. Rom. 12:18). Within the body of Christ especially, we should be willing to yield to others when matters of opinion are being considered. Doctrine, never, of course; but, when matters of indifference are being entertained, let’s treat others as we would want to be treated (Mt. 7:12). In other words, “don’t bite your brother!”

-Eddy

Congratulations to Kirk Gilpin
who will graduate from the
University of Alabama on May 8.

Vice -Steve