

DUTY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 16, 2018

Usher for This Week: David Bansemer

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Zach Webb

Scripture Reading:

Chevis Webb

Scripture:

2Corinthians 1:3-7

Prayer:

Andrew Durham

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Comfort and Courage in Hard Times

Closing Prayer:

Alex Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:

Chris Huffines

Scripture:

2Timothy 4:1-5

Prayer:

Al Cotten

Lord's Supper:

Kevin Hayes

Bill Duryea

Kirk Webb

Chevis Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Hananiah, the Lying Prophet

Announcements:

Doug Thweatt

Closing Prayer:

Ron Dixon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Song Leader: Andrew Durham

Invitation: Chevis Webb

Closing Prayer: TBD

Creekview church of Christ
930 Long Hollow Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
615-452-8212

Service Times:

Sundays 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship
Wednesdays 7:00 PM Bible Study

creekviewchurchofchrist.com

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION

December: Fix
January: Dixon

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

December:
January:

Elders: Ron Dixon, John Fix, Stacey Durham Deacons: David Bansemer, Kevin Hayes, Thom Steger, Doug Thweatt
Preacher and Editor: Stacey Durham

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

DECEMBER 16, 2018

Volume 33 Number 50

Do You Remember?

When Christ ordained the observance of the Lord's Supper with His apostles, He said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (Luke 22:19). Regarding the Lord's Supper, Paul wrote, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26). As we observe the Lord's Supper today, let us remember the Lord's life, death, and promised return, and let us do this every week until He comes again.

To Our Visitors:

We are delighted to see you in our midst today. Thank you for joining us on this blessed day to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to our Father in heaven. May God bless you and your family.

news and notes:

- Next Sunday, Gary Hunt will be preaching both sermons for us. We have supported Gary's work of preaching in New York for several years.
- Louis Long is recovering from eye surgery performed on Thursday.
- Signup sheets for the Lord's Supper preparation and changing the sign in 2019 are posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for these duties if you can.
- Please remember the following members in your prayers: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and baby Esther Hunt.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 50

Sunday - 2John
Monday - Deuteronomy 26-28
Tuesday - Nehemiah 10-13
Wednesday - Psalms 143-145
Thursday - Song of Sol. 3-4
Friday - Revelation 7-11
Saturday - Acts 23-24

Gospel Meetings:

Eastside (Bowling Green) - Dec. 21, song service

Stop the Bullying

A heart-breaking story came from Alabama last week. Nine-year-old McKenzie Adams hanged herself and died at her home after being bullied in school. Her mother explained that McKenzie, who was black, was ridiculed by classmates because she rode to school with white friends. Her mother said she was told, "Why you riding with white people? You're black, you're ugly. You should just die." Although the bullying was reported to teachers and the assistant principal several times, it continued until McKenzie could stand no more.

How could this happen? How could a nine-year-old girl be made to feel so miserable about herself that she preferred to end her own life rather than to live with the ridicule? How could it seem to her that no one would help her and the only way out was suicide? How could adults know about such abusive behavior and do nothing to stop it? How could children be allowed to act so cruelly and not receive correction?

This must stop, and it must be stopped. School boards and parents can debate policies and procedures to prevent bullying, but the problem is societal and personal. Each one of us must resolve to stop this wickedness within our sphere of influence, especially among children. With this in mind, here are some principles to apply.

- Never be a bully. Few things are as opposite to Christ as bullying. To be clear, bullying is unprovoked, undeserved cruelty and abuse focused upon an individual who is perceived as weak or defenseless. Everything about bullying is contrary to the behaviors that are fitting for Christians. Jesus taught sympathy, for He said, "In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). He taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39-40), not to make them feel worthless. He taught us to speak to others in ways that lift them up rather than tear them down. Notice Ephesians 4:29:

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

The antidote for any impulse to bully others is the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23). Indeed, there is no place in the life a Christian for bullying. Likewise, there is also no place for bullying in the lives of our children.

- Defend those who are bullied. Bullies get away with their cruel abuse because no one else stops them. Victims of bullying are chosen because they are too weak or timid to defend themselves, so someone else must rise to their defense. Rather than thinking it is none of our business or finding some other excuse, we must get involved and stop it. God teaches us to "rescue the weak and needy; deliver them out of the hand of the wicked" (Psalm 82:4). There is no more direct and immediate application of this responsibility than to defend a victim from a bully.
- Expose and punish bullies. Bullying needs to be exposed for what it really is. Those who do it should be made to feel ashamed as Psalm 25:3 says, "Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed." Rather than laughing at a victim while he is being bullied, a Christian is told in Ephesians 5:11, "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them." The bully should be exposed as a coward who seeks to overcome his own weaknesses by tearing down others. To teach this lesson to a child who is guilty of bullying, let his punishment be severe. Make sure he understands the evil he has done so that he never repeats it (Prov. 10:13; 22:15; 29:15). This lesson should be taught early in life so that the problem never gets out of hand.

To stop the trend of bullying, there must be teaching. Not only should bullies and potential bullies be taught to cease from their wicked behavior, but victims and potential victims should also be taught how to handle bullies. Tell them to stay away from bullies and not to associate with them. If they cannot stay away, then teach them to patiently endure persecution as long as necessary (Matt. 5:10-12, 38-42) and to respond with kindness rather than seeking revenge (Rom. 12:17-21). Make sure they know that a bully's actions are undeserved and his words are untrue. Remind them that nobody was bullied more than Jesus, who did nothing wrong but was tortured by cowardly, envious men (Matt. 27:18; John 18:23; 1Pet. 2:21-24). Tell them that the bully is never right and he never wins regardless of appearances. Teach them to rely on God, which includes resorting to the resources God has installed for the protection of those who are weak. Let them seek the help of parents and others who have authority. Require those authorities take the appropriate action, defend the victim, and punish the perpetrator rather than being concerned about themselves or political correctness.

Bullying must stop, and it must be stopped. There must not be another child that dies like McKenzie Adams.

Stacey E. Durham