

DUTY ROSTER FOR JANUARY 20, 2019

Usher for This Week: Doug Thweatt

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

John Fix

Scripture Reading:

David Bansemer

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-13

Prayer:

Chevis Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

The Events of Pentecost

Closing Prayer:

Alex Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:

Kevin Hayes

Scripture:

Acts 2:22-36

Prayer:

Bill Duryea

Lord's Supper:

David Bansemer

Alex Bansemer

Andrew Durham

Kirk Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

The Message of Pentecost

Announcements:

John Fix

Closing Prayer:

Wayne Baker

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

Song Leader: Alex Bansemer

Invitation: Ron Dixon

Closing Prayer: John Fix

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

January: Dixon
February: Durham

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

January: Hayes
February:

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

JANUARY 20, 2019

Volume 34 Number 3

Pray, Sing, Commit

Do you carefully listen to the words of the prayers led during the assemblies of the church? Do you say, "Amen"? Do you thoroughly invest your mind into the singing of the words of each hymn? The words of these prayers and songs should not be lightly offered, but rather they should be taken seriously as commitments to the Lord. When we pray and sing together in words that commit us to God's service, we are making a solemn pledge to God. Let us be sure that we are backing up our words with lives of devoted service.

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:

- There is nothing better you can do for those who are sick than to pray for them. Therefore, please pray for the following members: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Lana Richardson, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, Dot Long's sister Melissa, Gary Sells' mother-in-law Gladys Young, and Ron Hunt's father Robert.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 3

Sunday - Romans 5-6
Monday - Genesis 8-11
Tuesday - Joshua 11-15
Wednesday - Psalms 6-8
Thursday - Job 5-6
Friday - Isaiah 12-17
Saturday - Matthew 5-7

Gospel Meetings:

Skyview (White House) - Feb. 8, song service

Controversy Over a Sign

A church's sign has generated a great controversy this month in northern California. The church is the Trinity Bible Presbyterian Church in Lake Shastina, and the sign stated: "Bruce Jenner is still a man. Homosexuality is still sin. The culture may change. The Bible does not." For reference, Bruce Jenner is a former Olympic athlete who now identifies himself as a woman and goes by the name "Caitlyn." Some local progressives were offended by the sign and organized protests against the church. Some of them even vandalized the sign and broke it. The man responsible for the message on the sign was the church's "pastor" Justin Hoke. In the wake of the controversy, Hoke was informed by one of the elders of the church that nearly every member would leave the congregation if he continued as the "pastor." Therefore, he was removed from that role and his family has parted ways with the church.

There is so much significance to this story, but let's begin with the substance of the sign's message itself. It may be debatable whether an individual's name should be used on a public sign in a message of this nature, but then again Bruce Jenner is a public figure and has made himself a symbol of the transgender movement. As far as him being a man or woman, biology, anatomy, and genetics settle the issue of sex for everyone. X and Y chromosomes are what they are, and clothing, behavior, preferences, experiences, medication, surgery, and documentation cannot change anyone's DNA.

As far as whether homosexuality is still a sin, the message of the sign rightly asserted the standard by which the answer is determined. In the past and until only recently, homosexuality was widely recognized as a sin across Western and Eastern cultures. Now, Western society is moving away from this belief, and the culture is indeed changing. Nevertheless, the Bible does not change, just as the message stated. The Bible, specifically the New Testament, still identifies homosexuality as degrading, unnatural, and indecent (Rom. 1:26-27). It also says that this behavior is contrary to the sound teaching of "the glorious gospel of the blessed God" (1Tim. 1:10-11). Furthermore, it says that homosexuals shall not inherit the kingdom of God unless they repent and are sanctified in the name of Jesus (1Cor. 6:9-11). In summary, the Bible states that homosexuality is a sin regardless of a culture's disposition toward it. This is what matters, for the Bible is

the word of God (2Tim. 3:16), and it will be the standard by which every one of us will be judged (John 12:48; Heb. 4:12).

Concerning the backlash against the sign's message, it is to be expected in the current culture that progressives would react negatively and aggressively, especially in northern California. Surely Justin Hoke knew this and anticipated it before he posted the message. However, it is also reasonable to expect a church that wears the word "Bible" in its name to support a message that is demonstrably Biblical. The fact that the church parted ways with Hoke because of this message indicates the degree to which the culture has influenced the church's members. In truth, the Presbyterian denomination exists to uphold the unbiblical doctrine of Calvinism rather than the Bible. Even so, it and most denominations have generally believed in Biblical morality until the recent shifts in the culture. With these shifts, a time has come when many members within these churches will not endure sound doctrine and have turned away from the truth (2Tim. 4:3-4).

The controversy over homosexuality and all of its offshoots is not going away. Therefore, Christians should prepare themselves for whatever may come. Are we ready for the pressure and the influence of the culture on ourselves and our families? As a church, will we endure sound doctrine and not turn away from the truth even if the truth becomes widely unpopular? Are the leaders within the church ready to wisely guide the members through these troublesome times? Are the members ready to support the leaders as they do so? For certain, it may not be prudent to invite trouble on the church by posting a provocative message on the sign for the public to see. However, the greater concern is whether we will continue not only to tolerate but also to insist on nothing less than the teaching of the Bible within the congregation regardless of the issue. Members of the Lord's church cannot allow the culture to determine what they will accept as right, moral, and lawful. If we are not committed to "God and the word of His grace" (Acts 20:32), then we have lost our hope in Jesus.

Stacey E. Durham