Westhill Church of Christ, 3400 W. Hwy 22, Corsicana, TX 75110 • 903.695.0176 • westhillchurchofchrist.org • office@westhillchurchofchrist.org

Updates

Among the Ill: Don Bowen has received good news on some of his tests. Continue to Remember: Maxine Banke, Daisy Beggs, Ozzell Schmidt, and Sidney Moore

Remember in Prayer those serving in the military, especially those associated with Westhill: Zip Drain, John Jennings, Robert Johnson, Andy McDougald, Josh Moehring, Ryan Payne, Devin Peterson, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, David Tapia, Morgan Weaver, Payton Weaver, and Kye White.

Welcome, Friends!
We are so glad you have joined us today and hope that you will remain after our morning service for our covered dish luncheon served in the outreach center. We will remain there for our second service immediately following lunch. We hope you will feel welcome to stay for that as well. We are truly honored by your presence and would like to do anything we can to make you feel welcome.

Thank You
“Thank you so very much for the wonderful meal you served for our family after the loss of our dear mother.” The Stella Massey family

Movies for the Youth Group Today after the second service in the high school room. We plan to finish around 7:00 p.m.

Little Learner’s Teacher Meeting Wednesday, October 6, in the Family Room immediately following Bible class.

Men’s Breakfast this Friday morning at 7:00 in the outreach center. All men are invited to come.

Elders/Deacons Meeting will be Sunday October 10 at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel. All deacons are requested to attend to discuss upcoming events.

Attention, Ladies!! There are 6 available spots for the Ladies’ Retreat coming up October 22 and 23. See Vicki Ivy, Lee Owens or Julie Dilbeck if you are interested in going. Reminder: if any ladies plan on coming to the retreat just for Saturday, there is no charge, but please sign up at the back table.

Ladies’ Retreat coming up October 22 and 23. See Vicki Ivy, Martha Olsen, Diana Stewart, Debbie Wylie.

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Privileged to Serve

Welcome
Kyle Slaughter
Russell Haffner
James Horn
David Mahoney
Scott Barham

Song Leader AM
Song Leader PM
Opening Prayer

Communion Leader

Communion Servers
James Ainsworth
Cody Dickey
Joe Glass
Percey Milton
Darrell Olsen
Andy Parrish
Mike Wylie

Closing Prayer
Don Ivy

Elder for October
Darwin Thomas—903.695.0176
Vicki Ivy, Martha Olsen, Dianne Stewart, Debbie Wylie

Records for September 26, 2010
Bible Class ........................................ 184
AM Worship .................................. 263
PM Worship .................................. 162
Wednesday Night ............................ 187
Contribution ................................ 8,625.37

Birthdays This Week
October 3—Paula Gillen
October 7—Darwin Thomas, Joanne Newton
October 8—Robert Bess
October 9—Malvinee Jett

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears,” proclaimed the opportunistic Marcus Antony when eulogizing the fallen Caesar in William Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar. The message turned the fickle crowd to his side as he sought to rise from beneath the dying shadow of Caesar to become part of the Triumvirate. The call to “lend ears” was an urgent plea for the citizens of Rome to listen to his words.

The risen Jesus commanded the attention of his listeners, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). The Lord’s message sought to turn weakening churches from their backsliding ways. The churches had time; it was not too late. Through repentance and trust they could be saved.

Today, the need to give attention to Jesus’ message stands greater than ever. Sin plagues the human race. No country, race, socioeconomic level, or education status is immune to the icy grasp of sin. Every class of people has sinned and fallen short of God’s glory (Rom. 3:23). As sin reigns in our life, death abides in us too (Jas. 1:13-15; Rom. 6:25). Therefore, death comes to everyone of us because all have sinned (Rom. 5:12).

What a horrible plight!

However, God did not leave us in dire straits without offering us a way to escape the death of sin. In his loving kindness and tender mercy, God sent his son, Jesus, to die for the sins of mankind. His sacrifice made it possible for all generations to be saved—including ours. That message needs to be shouted from the forum to the market place to the street corner.

There’s a song that says, “I’m just an old chunk of coal, but I’m gonna be a diamond someday.” Our lives are like a diamond in the dirt and grime of sin, yet Jesus can turn us into the gem of salvation—the ultimate diamond in the rough scenario.

The subject of salvation truly is like a diamond—a lovely gem with many faces, each as beautiful as the next. Individually, each face has a brilliance that captures the heart. However, when taken as a whole its exceeding splendor and fiery glory steal our breath.

Today we begin a series called A Diamond in the Rough: The many faces of Salvation. Over the next several weeks we will be looking at salvation in many terms—redemption, justification, sanctification, reconciliation, and glorification. Our desire is to instill a deeper appreciation for the work God has wrought in our lives.

Friends, Romans, and countrymen, lend God your ears. Come back each week of October to hear the rest of this vital series on salvation.
Stepping on the field, the tender grass submissively yields under your feet. Breathing deeply, the intoxicating scent of freshly cut grass works its way to you, in you...through you. It is forty minutes to game time and the bleachers sit quietly ready to witness your skills. They long to see your moves, hear your groans, and taste your victory. Finally, the opening whistle blows as the Friday night lights wake the monster within, enticing him to play one more game.

Game Day rewards a week’s worth of preparation. On a Saturday you lick the wounds suffered the night before. You spend Sunday afternoon with coaches and teammates reviewing the film—analyzing errors and praising successes. Monday brings drills and conditioning; Tuesday it’s offense and conditioning; Wednesday it’s defense and conditioning. Thursday is spent in live execution of the week’s game plan and conditioning. All the practice, mental focus, physical conditioning, and sacrifice converge on Friday, making it all worth the effort.

You wouldn’t think of playing the game without practice. From tee ball to the big leagues, practice is an integral part of preparation for the game day. Practice includes drills, focus, meditation, repetition, walk-throughs, and live action all as an effort to be ready for the game.

We know the importance of preparation for something as fleeting and temporary as baseball, basketball, and football. Why do we forget its importance when it comes to Christianity? Certainly Christ is more important than soccer and the church is more important than football. When we meet together on the Lord’s Day, the Christian’s “Game Day” begins. The lights come on and the feeling of awe permeates the room. A reverent hush falls over the assembly as we step into God’s spotlight. The spirit aches for eternity and heaven. Sadly, most of us prepare for this about as much as we prepare for a snake bite.

Preparing and practicing for worship includes daily engagement in spiritual activities such as prayer, singing, study, and meditation. Good worship comes from good preparation just like good game performance comes from good practice. Only fools show up for game day expecting to be better in the absence of practice. Likewise, Christians exhibit foolishness by showing up for worship having not done anything spiritual since the last meeting of the saints.

Football, basketball, tee ball, and soccer are fun, but in the big picture, they shrink to minimal importance when compared to worshiping the Almighty. However, these minor things offer a major lesson on the importance of preparation and practice. Let us see the need for daily preparation and practice when it comes to serving God.

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I’ve never felt much like eating during a crisis situation. That nauseous, sick feeling down deep in your gut can tie you up in knots when you are concerned about something or when you have to make a difficult decision. The apostle Paul once faced a crisis situation of his own. As a zealous Jew he was faced with the difficult decision about whether or not to become a Christian. Having been confronted by the risen Savior on the road to Damascus, everything he once believed and did was called into question. Had his zeal for God been misplaced? Could he come to grips with the reality of his having been responsible for the death of a preacher? Was he really responsible for destroying the true faith of God? His crisis caused him to refrain from eating or drinking for three days while he struggled with making a decision. To accept the reality of the Lord’s resurrection meant having to believe on Jesus, admit sin, be baptized, and begin serving God.

Elders
Don Bowen 903-874-3556
Don Ivy 903-875-1483
Paul Slaughter 903-872-1228
Paul Stewart 903-874-3464
Darwin Thomas 903-695-0176

Deacons
James Ainsworth 903-872-1390
Scott Barham 903-641-0133
David Baumgartner 903-695-4299
Bryan Bearden 903-874-0214
Melba Bower 903-874-5526
Kyle Calhoun 903-695-4369
Micah Fry 903-467-6358
Dan Gibson 903-641-9587
Micah Haden 903-673-1177
Eddie Moore 903-673-2803
Rusty Owens 903-695-0095
James Olsen 903-874-8918
Billy Roughston 903-872-9427
Dickie Russell 903-874-4457
Harrison Sloan 903-345-6061
Brent Stewart 903-641-0882

Ministers
Sam Dilbeck 903-229-8415
Russell Haffner 903-467-8895