

## TIME OF SERVICES

### Sunday:

Bible Classes 10:00 A.M.  
Worship Service 11:00 A.M.  
Worship Service 6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.

### Preacher & Editor

Dick Blackford

Office (870) 933-9134  
Home (870) 919-2266

### Elders3.

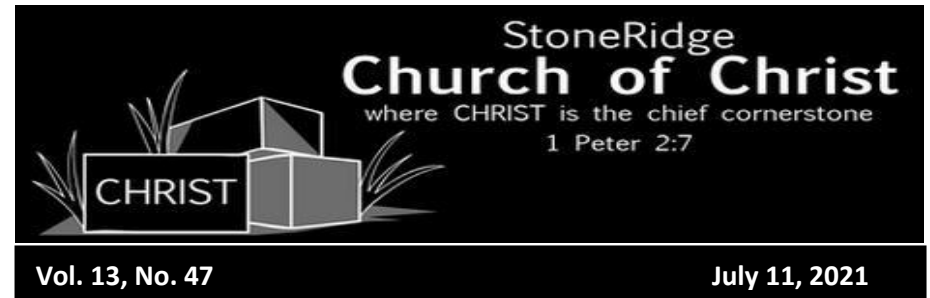
Kemuel Camp (870) 930-6970  
Leon Christenberry (870) 935-4909  
Scott Stubblefield (870) 934-8874

### Deacons

Phillip Cassidy (870) 623-2588  
Jeff Ladyman (479) 236-5365  
Steve Lands (870) 974-1976  
Travis Moody (870) 650-1649

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**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.**



## Set For The Defense

**Paul said** “*I am set for the defense of the gospel*” (Phil 1:16). Peter said we must “*be ready always to give an answer*” (make a defense, ESV, NASV, CSB, 1 Pet 3:15). The Greek word for “make a defense” is apologian, from the root word apologia. This is not related to the English word “apology” when one expresses regret or remorse. It means a justification or a reason. This is the source of the terms “apologist” and “apologetics.” Biblically, it refers to giving a rational defense of the Christian faith. Jude says we are to “*contend earnestly for the faith...*” (Jude 3). “Contend” and “defend” imply opposition and enemies of the faith.

Because of this Paul “*disputed daily*” in the synagogue and in the market place (Acts 17:17). We don’t have anything today that is an exact parallel to the market place where one could have an exchange of views on religious, biblical and moral topics. The closest avenue today is “Letters to the Editor” of the local newspaper. The exchange is very limited, but it is the last “market place” where differences can be discussed. Paul also disputed in the school of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9).

While I was still a college student I would endeavor to discuss and defend biblical views on controversial subjects in the local paper. This has continued for over 55 years. The first one was a response to a syndicated religious columnist who took the position that events in the book of Jonah didn’t really happen and that it was merely an allegory. A wide variety of subjects have been discussed

since then. Some that I recall were: atheism, creation and evolution, the use of intoxicating beverages, instrumental music in worship, the plan of salvation, religious holidays, authority of the pope, abortion, same sex relations, transgenderism, racism. In the neighborhood of four hundred letters were written and appeared in ten newspapers.

There were times when I thought the truth would suffer if no one responded. The responses haven't been perfect and were not always appreciated, even by brethren. Fortunately, I haven't been physically persecuted. A few unkind things have been said and a few middle-of-the-night, anonymous phone calls that were intended to intimidate were received, but nothing close to what Christ and the apostles received. Compared to what happened to them, it was nothing.

Letters to the editor may be a final opportunity to freely defend and proclaim the faith. Pray that more will take advantage of this door of opportunity that is gradually closing. Pray that we will speak and write "with all boldness" and with "great plainness of speech" (Acts 4:29-31; 2 Cor 3:12). -db

## *News/Notes/Quotes*

**THE SICK.** **Leon Christenberry** had surgery last week on his carotid artery and as of Friday was still in NEA Hospital. **Rick Mellow** spent some time in ICU last week but is much better after having getting his medicines regulated... **Rhea Vines** is still recuperating at home from her injuries.... **Linda Ladyman** is doing better from her foot injuries... **Herb Starr** remains at Encompass, Room 205... Continue to remember **Nelly Vanhooser** who is recovering from surgery. **Phjl Cullison** continues to improve after a spell in the hospital... **Gail Brooks** has been unable to assemble... **Shirley Coots** is now under hospice care but remains at the Walnut Ridge Nursing Home... **Elizabeth Keller** is at The Springs Nursing Home... **Beverly Allen** is confined at home... **Editha Kern** at Liberty Park Assisted Living... **Charles Bradsher** is at St.Elizabeth's Place.

**IDENTIFIED.** We welcome **Jim Eagan** as a new member at StoneRidge. He moved here from Rogers, AR and his contact info is: 1605 Whitney Cove, Jonesboro AR 72405-7897. Phone: 870-351-2390; email: [chieftan58@hotmail.com](mailto:chieftan58@hotmail.com); Birthday: August 30. Welcome Jim!

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

#### **JULY 11-15 - STONERIDGE - VBS!**

July 18-21 – McCrory (Citizenship) – Wayne Fancher

August 6-8 – Mountain Home (Hwy 5) – Kevin Gillins

OCT 3-8 – STONERIDGE – Wayne Fancher

Bear one another's  
burdens,  
and in this way  
you will fulfill  
the law  
of  
Christ.

Galatians 6:2



THE BIBLE, HOWEVER, WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE A BOOK FOR ONLY THE INTELLIGENT AND THE LEARNED. IT WAS WRITTEN TO BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE. IT IS MEANT TO BE THE SOURCE OF LIFE, WHERE ALL CAN ENJOY THE DEEP WATERS OF GOD'S HEART, AS WELL AS LEARN ABOUT HIS COMPLEX MYSTERIES AND PLANS. WHEN ANYONE RECEIVES HEAVENLY WISDOM FROM GOD, THAT WISDOM IS OF A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, ABOVE AND BEYOND

DAVID SLIKER

GREATSAVINGS.NET



