

HASTINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST
"A PLACE TO CALL HOME"
1131 N LAIRD AVE, HASTINGS NE 68901-3566 **PHONE: 402-462-8469**
WEB SITE: WWW.HASTINGSCHURCH.ORG

Our Record

Sunday Bible Study
Morning Assembly 87
Contribution \$1,544
Evening Assembly 23
Wednesday Class

In Search of the Lord's Way is shown on Charter Cable Channel 181 at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, and at 6:00 PM Sunday, and on Direct TV Channel 307 at 6:00 AM Sundays.

Ministry Leaders: Everett Hinton—Worship Ministry
Brad Bailey—Missions
Brett Sales —Youth
Bryan Jurrens—Buildings/Grounds
Gaylin Prior—Music/Treasurer
Dick Witt—Education/Benevolence

Minister: Russ Dudrey e-mail: r u s s d u d r e y @ g m a i l . c o m
phone: 402-834-0096 (home)

Bulletin: Sharon Hachtel—463-4997
e-mail: sh95736@windstream.net

Deadline for bulletin announcements is 9:00 PM Friday evening

THOSE TO SERVE

This Sunday, April 12 Next Sunday, April 19

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	J Fielder	J Fielder	D Witt	D Witt
Song Leader	D Witt	E Hinton	G Prior	R Dudrey
Opening Prayer	D Corman	R Grissom	J Morgan	R Munsell
Closing Prayer	S Dinkler	K Lockling	E Hinton	D Wright
Usher	R Munsell		D Hachtel	
Greeters	Corman/Hayes		Fielders	
Preside Lord's Supper	D Brennfoerder		B Sales	
Serve	J Morgan		B Jurrens	
Serve	R Riley		M Fielder	
Serve	D Hachtel		L Peshek	
Coordinator	D Wright		D Brennfoerder	
Prepare Lord's Supper	F Dudrey		F Dudrey	
Children's Church	Danelle Hayes		Monica Fielder	
Nursery	Maggie Sales		Mariana	
Wed Children's Class	Erica Adams		Janelle Corman	
Change Message Sign	Jim Fielder Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	-----		-----	

Family Focus

Number 15

April 12, 2015

Upcoming Events

- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—April 12
- Russell Bell—April 19
- Youth Rally—North Platte—April 24-26
- Ladies' Day - Grand Island—May 2
- Doors of Opportunity—York College—May 15-16

Enrichment

Opportunities

Sunday Bible Study	9:30
College Class	9:30
Sunday Assembly	10:30
Sunday Evening	6:00
Wednesday Class	7:00
Ladies Class Thursday	9:30

"Visitors and Parents of Small Children: We have a staffed nursery available in the northeast corner of the church building for your convenience. If you would like more information, please see the greeters at the front of the building."

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "'Appoint Elders in Every City': Paul's Plan for Strengthening the Churches." Tonight Russ plans a devotional on spiritual leadership and spiritual growth.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** today following our morning worship. Committee members are the Witts, Pesheks, and Danelle Hayes. Reminder to bring a non-perishable food item for the Mountain States Children's Home.
- **Continue to Pray** Sue Ginn as she underwent tests at Mayo Clinic last week, Mike Reeves (Church of Christ Minister in Grand Island)—triple bypass surgery last week, Ned Cooper of North Platte, recovering from heart surgery, and Adam & Shelly Prior's baby, Andi—health concerns. Adam is Gaylin's brother's son.
- **Elder Nominations** are now in process. The Elder Selection Committee has gone over the nomination forms and is making plans to interview our candidates for elder.
- **Russell Bell** is planning on speaking at our evening service next Sunday, April 19th about his latest mission trip to India. The plan is to have soup and sandwiches after services.
- **Evelyn Brown** asks our prayers for her sister, Debbie Downey, who is in intensive care in Indiana hospital. She has blood clots in both carotid arteries. They are inoperable and are dangerously near her brain. Debbie is the mother of Rhonda Burgard, who attends church here. Evelyn also has a new phone number as follows: 402-460-8786.
- **Thank You**—We received a note of thanks and a generous check from the Special Olympics group that has used the Fellowship Hall for basketball practice. Thank you note reads as follows: Dear Church of Christ, I wish you could have seen the smiles on our athletes' faces at our state competition in March. One team got 1st & one got 2nd & the medals were well -deserved. Special Olympics is so important to our athletes & brings physical fitness, recreation, & self esteem into their lives. This would not be possible without help from your church. Thank you so much for sharing your wonderful facility so willingly with us. We really appreciate it. Debbie Bartels, Coach & Treasurer
- **Thanks** to all those who contributed grocery items to the Mountain States Children's Home the past few weeks, and thanks to Everett and Ann for taking these items to York, where they will be picked up for the home.
- **Wednesday Classes**—This Wednesday, April 15th, separate men's and women's Bible classes will begin. The ladies class will use Kara Tippetts's The Hardest Peace as one of the bases for its study.

Our Church Sign—

- Spring Brings New Life. So Does God. Get Yours Today. Details Inside.
- God's Glory Shines Through His Creation.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Country; Our Veterans; Eldership Selection, Elementary, High School, & College Students; Foreign Exchange Students; Erica Adams' Grandmother—health; Andy Adams's Brother; Andy Adams's Co-worker's husband, Randy, health; Bohne Family—personal issues; Bud Bohrer's Family—Bud's passing; DudLee Brennforder's Father, Gary—cancer treatment & pain; Ned Cooper—recovering from surgery; Evelyn Brown—personal issues & health; Daniel Enfield; Peggy Dill's great nephew, Joseph Hibler—health; Judy Schiltz; Ned & Neva Cooper—health; Rob & Katrina Glassmyer—health; Donnis Genung—cancer treatment; Sue Ginn—health; Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Joel Grissom—health & family issues; their granddaughter, Amilia; Chase Hofferber—health; Lisa & Cassidy Jurrens—health; Ken Lockling—health; Muriel Luke—autoimmune disease; Judy Melvin—health and her brother, Donald, and his wife—health; Johnny Meyers—health; Donna Montemayor—recovering from foot surgery; Joe Morgan's brother, Delano—health; Brian & Karla Nauert's Daughter, Kara Voorhees—recovering from back surgery; Seth Ostrander—brain tumor; Kay Strong—Stroke recovery; Shirley Steen's grandson—Adam; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Towell Family; Maggie Sales's brother, Gavin Wallace—recovering from surgery; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma's health; Matt & Hope Witt—Teaching in China; Tina Witt; Lisa Worley—hip replacement surgery & her brother-in-law, Dick Wright—recovering from surgery; Dan Barber—head injury.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES: Russel Bell (mission work in India & Romania).

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Jeffery Hergenreder.

Happy April Birthday To:	Morgan Dinkler	-	5	Lisa Prior	-	7	Aden Riley	-	12
	Lisa Jurrens	-	12	Darra Wright	-	16	Ileen Lenhart	-	22
	Donna Montemayor	-	28	Abigail Fielder	-	29	Andrew Genung	-	25

Happy April Anniversary To:	Roger & Louise Nealeigh	-	4	Brian & Karla Nauert	-	26
	Kevin & Amy Wenske	-	29			

- **Lawn Mowing:** We have placed a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer for volunteers to mow the lawn this year.
- **Address & Telephone Lists**—New updated address and telephone lists in the foyer.

Jumping to conclusions usually means jumping over the facts.

- via The Encourager, the weekly bulletin for the Dongola church of Christ, Dongola, IL. Gerald Cowan serves the congregation as minister. He may be contacted at Geraldcowan1931@aol.com

The Bible stored on the shelf needs to be stored in the mind if you expect it to do you any good (Psalm 119:11).

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CAN OUR CONGREGATION GET ALONG WITHOUT ELDERS?

Can we get along without elders? We've done so for six years now.

There's an absolute and unequivocal answer: Yes and No. It depends. It depends whether or not we're content with the *status quo*.

It also depends how serious we are about being like the church we see in the New Testament. Paul told Titus to ordain elders in every city for the churches in Crete (Titus 1:5-9); he had told Timothy to do the same for the churches in and around Ephesus (I Tim. 3:1-13). Paul and Barnabas did this on the homeward-bound leg of their first missionary journey: they revisited the congregations they had established short months before on the outward-bound leg of their trip. "*Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith . . . Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church, and with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord in whom they had put their trust*" (Acts 14:22-23). Establishing elderships was a central part of Paul's plan for strengthening and stabilizing the newborn churches.

I'm amazed that Paul could find men capable of being elders in the newly-established churches of the Gentile mission in the late AD 40s. Some of these men might have been Jewish converts from the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, which happened 15-20 years before, but many of them must have been Gentile converts—and if so, they were recent converts. Imagine being a Christian a year or two, and being appointed an elder of your congregation! The church at Thessalonica had about three weeks of Christian instruction from Paul before he was driven out of the city and the congregation was left to run itself (Acts 17:1-9). Imagine being in Christ for only a few months before being named an elder of your church!

So no, I don't think that Paul would be content with our *status quo*.

And no, I don't think that we should be, either, for several reasons. There's the simple and most obvious one: the New Testament consistently describes churches as under the leadership of elders. We want to restore church leadership as seen in the Scriptures, and we believe that obeying the will of God in this area will give our congregation life and health.

What is healthiest and best about church leadership as seen in the New Testament? The fact that it is done "among you," by men raised up from within the congregation. They are not leaders imposed upon the church by an outside governing hierarchy, but are men well-known, well-loved, and well-respected by their own families, their own congregations, and their own communities as models of godliness. They are not professional clergy, but are men whose lives the church has watched; they are blameless men the church has seen growing up in Christian stature. Men such as these can say "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

The Bible says that all believers are priests and ministers of God (I Pet. 2:4-10), so I love to see God raise up spiritual leaders from men who do not have professional training in ministry. I want God to raise up an eldership here so we can de-centralize the leadership and de-professionalize the church's ministry away from me. If we stay stuck in the *status quo* with the preacher as the central leader, we will remain in congregational adolescence and could become permanently and terminally mired in the pastor system and the hiring ministry. Let's keep praying for God to raise up godly men from among us as spiritual leaders for his church.

— ©Russ Dudley, 4/12/15