

**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                      75  
Contribution                              \$1,969  
Evening Assembly                      —  
Wednesday Class

***In Search of the Lord's Way*** is shown on Charter Cable Channel 12 at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, and at 6:00 PM Sunday, and on Dish Network Channel 259 and Charter Cable Channel 60.1 at 6:30 AM Sundays. Both Charter Cable & Dish Network now provide the "Inspirational Channel."

**Ministry Leaders:** Everett Hinton—Worship Ministry  
Brad Bailey—Missions  
Jim Fielder —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 6                      Next Sunday, April 13

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	J Fielder	J Fielder	G Prior	G Prior
Song Leader	D Witt	D Brennfrdr	M Glassmyer	D Witt
Opening Prayer	N Towell	C Fielder	J Meyers	R Grissom
Closing Prayer	B Sales	C Fielder	S Dinkler	B Bailey
Usher	E Hinton		R Munsell	
Greeters	Wrights		Baileys	
Preside Lord's Supper	R Grissom		J Fielder	
Serve	B Jurrens		B Sales	
Serve	K Lockling		D Brennfoerder	
Serve	M Glassmyer		D Hachtel	
Coordinator	G Prior		D Wright	
Prepare Lord's Supper	D Brennfoerder		D Brennfoerder	
Children's Church	Meeting Today		Meeting Today	
Wednesday LTC	Volunteer Needed		Volunteer Needed	
Change Message Sign	Jim Fielder Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	---		---	

# Family Focus

**Number 14**

**April 6, 2014**

**Upcoming Events**

- Russel Bell—April 6
- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—April 13
- Nebraska Youth Camp Contribution—April 27
- York College Bible Teachers Workshop—July 26

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "Why Should I Be a Christian When Christianity Discourages Art, Beauty, and Creativity?" The sermon lends itself to a "less talk, more worship" format, so it will consist in a series of Scripture readings and songs, with the Lord's Supper in the middle and the offering at the end, so be ready for it not to follow the usual format.
- **Russel Bell** will be here this evening at 6:00 PM to give us a report on his work in India. Following the service we'll share a meal together in the fellowship hall. Please plan to bring soup, sandwiches, chips, or a dessert and stay for the fellowship.
- **"REMINDER:** Quick informational meeting immediately following worship service today in the fellowship hall classroom for Sunday School teachers, Children's Church teachers, Wednesday night children's teachers and anyone interested in helping with this ministry."  

—Andy & Erica Adams
- **We Extend Our Sympathy to Andy and Erica Adams** in the death of Andy's grandmother, Marjorie L. Adams, who passed away Wednesday. The memorial service will be Monday, 10:30 AM, at Butler-Volland Funeral Home. Please keep Andy's family in your prayers.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** next Sunday, April 13th. Committee members are Betty & Reed Munsell, Joan Glassmyer, Mike Glassmyer, Donna Montemayor. Reminder to bring a non-perishable item for the Mountain States Children's Home.
- **Food 4 Thought** lunch & silent auction today from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. See flyer posted on south hallway bulletin board for more information.
- **Thanks** to everyone who contributed to the grocery supplies for Mountain States Children's Home this time. Also thanks to Paul Munsell for transporting the items to the Grand Island church to be taken to York by one of their members. Perhaps we need to try to do better in the future for this good work.

**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

**Our Church Sign—**

- Every problem has a gift for you in its hands.
- ASAP—Always say a prayer

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Our Country; High School & College Students; Our Veterans; Erica Adams' Grandmother—health; Bohne Family—personal issues; DudLee Brennfoerder's Father, Gary—cancer treatment & pain; Tom & Peggy Dill—health; Ned & Neva Cooper—health; Debra Davis (Jo Wright's relative); cyst on spine; Scott Dinkler's Grandfather, John Schiefelbein & John's two brothers—cancer treatment; Dinkler Family—Passing of Scott's Grandmother, Geraldine Dinkler; Felice Dudrey's mother's health & care; Shelley Geman—cancer treatment; Susan Grissom—heart surgery recovery; Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Jaime, spiritual concerns; Robert & Susan Grissom's Daughter, Melody Gosch—family concerns; Joel Grissom—transitioning from military to private sector & personal issues; Susan Grissom—friend in Brazil—meningitis; Mike Halsted—Hospice Care; Ileen Lenhart's sisters—health; Ken Lockling—health, broken wrist; Ann Luke—recovering from back surgery; Muriel Luke—skin problems; Bill & Judy Melvin—health; Joseph Morrow's Brother—lupus; Johnny Meyers—health; Louise Nealeigh—fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue; Seth Ostrander—brain tumor; Lisa Prior's friend, Cheryl Sildo—head injury; Alvin & Doris Reichert' Son, Tim—car accident injuries; Clark Roush—cancer surgery recovery; Shirley Steen's grandson, Adam & son Mark—health; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Kamryn Towell's Father—Cancer treatment; Kamryn Towell's Grandfather—Injury & surgery; Jo Wright's son (Joe)—heart condition & family; friend's niece, Kaitlyn, cancer treatment; Joe Wright's child—lung infection; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma's health; Dick Witt's Mother—eye issues; Tina Witt; Lisa Worley—respiratory treatment.

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

**PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY:** Jeffery Hergenreder & Robb Glassmyer.

<b>Happy April Birthday To:</b>	Tristyn Strong	- 1	Morgan Dinkler	- 5	Lisa Prior	- 5
	Lisa Jurrens	- 12	Joseph Morrow	- 17	Ileen Lenhart	- 22
	Andrew Genung	- 25	Donna Montemayor	- 28	Abigail Fielder	- 29

<b>Happy April Anniversary To:</b>	Roger & Louise Nealeigh	- 4	David & Shanawn Strong	- 22
	Brian & Karla Nauert	- 26	Kevin & Amy Wenske	- 29

- **Nebraska Youth Camp 2014 Registration Forms & Health & Permission Forms** are posted on the south hallway bulletin board. Registrations with deposit postmarked before May 15th receive a discount.
- **Lorinda Bailey's** younger sister Rachel McCaslin and her husband Josh have a new baby boy, born Friday morning: Eli Gage McCaslin, 7 lbs. 14 oz., 20-3/4". Rachel, Josh, and Eli--and Auntie Lorinda--are all doing well. We thank God for the safe delivery of this little boy, and for his mother's good health during the pregnancy. Lorinda will be away helping her sister for a few days.
- **New Great Grandson for Reed and Betty Munsell**, Luke Paul Nicas, third son of Jennifer (Munsell) and Ian Nicas, born March 31st at Katy, Texas, weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 ozs. The Lord has blessed us again.
- **High School & College Graduates**—If you would like your graduation announcement, picture, and future plans announced in the bulletin, please have that information to me by April 20th. —Sharon
- **Wednesday Evening Ladies Class** is studying wisdom from Proverbs. Erica Adams will lead us on the discussion of respect taken from Proverbs 1:29-32.

## “LET THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD OUR GOD BE UPON US”

The King James translation of the prayer that ends Psalm 90 is “Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.” The psalmist asks God to balance out the heavy sufferings of the people: grant us to see as much prosperity and joy in the future as we have seen affliction and evil in the past (Psalm 90:13-17). But notice how he asks it: he asks to see not just God's favor, but God's beauty. He asks for more than something from God: he asks for God himself.

One of the most sophisticated criticisms of Christianity is, Doesn't Christianity stifle art and creativity? Aren't Christians supposed to be suspicious of Pleasure like St. Augustine was, who saw it as an entryway for fleshly Desire? Aren't they supposed to be stern and uncompromising against human enjoyment in the Flesh, like the ancient desert hermits or the New England Puritans?

In his *Confessions* Augustine says that his fleshly lusts, which he calls Concupiscence, are so powerful that he cannot allow himself even to enjoy music or poetry, so greatly do they stimulate evil Desire in him. Such is the power of Depravity in him, says Augustine—but he believes the same power of Depravity has held sway over all of Adam's descendants from the Fall onward. Don't we have to seek heavenly rather than earthly pleasures?

Well, mostly no. We do agree with Augustine that Sin easily takes pleasures that God intended for our good over for the service of evil. But on the other hand we believe not only that God is beautiful—“beautiful beyond description, too marvellous for words”—but also that being created in his image means that even fallen humans who do not know God can take delight in Beauty. God has given us this capacity for Art and Love and Loveliness and Joy and Delight. Augustine and the others are right that our Sin can twist and distort, pervert and defile these capacities, but it is not our capacities, but our Sin, that leads us away from God. The capacities point us toward him.

The Scriptures have a very pronounced theology of the beauty of God. The Bible tells the people of God not only to praise him for his beauty and majesty, but also to take delight in them.

The apostle Paul tells us to seek the things that are highest and best: “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Phil 4:8). The word *whatever* covers a lot of ground—way more than just going to church or having times of religious devotion. Art and Beauty and Joy should lead us not away from God, but toward him. He is their one great and truly beautiful Source. The *Westminster Confession of Faith* got it right: “Man's chief end upon the earth is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

What are the highest and best things in my life? Where do I come nearest to seeing the Beauty of God and to being delighted with the experience of his glory and majesty? What things most feed my soul? I take delight in the Creation, especially the waters and the mountains and the shining heavens that proclaim the glory of their Creator; in the Scriptures, of course—but also in great literature like the Greek plays, or Tennyson or Tolkien; in music, above all in choral music in praise to God, like Tallis or Byrd or Bach. I delight in my vocation, in doing the work I was made to do. I delight in good food, especially a good steak; I delight in growing heirloom tomatoes that taste better than anything in the stores. I delight in the love of Felice and the love of our family. I delight in having puppies and having grandbabies. I delight in play, when I get to act like a big (well, little/big) kid and don't have to use a lot of big words or try to act smart. I delight in worship.

Things like these are foretastes of the Joy for which we were made. The hunger of our souls and our capacity for Beauty are in us because we need the God who created us in his image: “One thing have I asked of the Lord; that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple” (Psalm 27:4).

Yes: “Let the Beauty of the Lord our God be upon us.”

—© Russ Dudrey, 4/6/14