

**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**

<b>Our Record</b>	
Sunday Bible Study	
Morning Assembly	80
Contribution	\$1,978
Evening Assembly	—
Wednesday Class	—
<p><i><b>In Search of the Lord's Way</b></i> 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.</p>	

**Elders:** Russ Dudrey, Everett Hinton, Robert Grissom, Gaylin Prior

**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: russdudrey@gmail.com  
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, February 14	Next Sunday, February 21
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	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	J Fielder	J Fielder	D Witt	D Witt
Song Leader	D Witt	E Hinton	B Sales	M Glassmyer
Opening Prayer	D Corman	K Lockling	J Fielder	R Munsell
Closing Prayer	S Dinkler	B Bailey	G Prior	D Wright
Usher	R Munsell		D Hachtel	
Greeters	Wrights		Fielders	
Preside Lord's Supper	B Sales		E Hinton	
Serve	J Morgan		B Jurrens	
Serve	R Riley		L Duester	
Serve	D Hachtel		B Bailey	
Coordinator	G Prior		D Brennfoerder	
Prepare Lord's Supper	A Riley		L Prior	
Children's Church	Monica Fielder		Monica Fielder	
Wee Worship	Brooke Bailey		Maggie Sales	
Wed Children's Class	Monica Fielder		Monica Fielder	
Change Message Sign	Jim Fielder Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	---		---	

# Family Focus

**Number 7**

**February 14, 2016**

**Upcoming Events**

- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—February 14
- Annual February Dinner—February 27
- Nebraska Youth Camp Contribution— February 28
- Doors of Opportunity: Gaining & Reclaiming Souls—York College—May 21
- York College Bible Teachers Workshop—July 23

**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

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "The church Before There Were Denominations." Tonight Russ plans a devotional on the topic "Our Citizenship is in Heaven."
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** immediately following our morning worship today in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Mountain States Children's Home. Committee Members are the Fielders, Witt's, and Jamie Pavey.
- **Thank You** to my dear church family for the prayers, flowers, cards, and food after my surgery. Thank you for being a blessing to our family during this long recovery time! ---Janelle Corman
- **February 27th Dinner**— All couples and singles are welcome to attend our annual February dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Teachers will be honored, but non-teachers are invited too. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP to Paula Witt by February 24th.
- **Coming Soon:** We will be starting a new adult class when Everett Hinton finishes teaching his Old Testament class. The topic will be Michael Shank's book Muscle and Shovel, which explains why he chose to become a member of the churches of Christ. Brad Bailey and DudLee Brennfoerder will lead the class, which will meet in the fellowship hall classroom. Russ's class on Romans will move to the auditorium. Watch for an announcement of the exact start date. Let DudLee or Brad know if you plan to attend this class in order to know how many books to order.
- **One Word, One Church** - Below are the dates and chapters to read this week:

February 15 - Acts 16	February 18—Acts 19
February 16 - Acts 17	February 19—Acts 20
February 17 - Acts 18	
- **Firewood: We thank Bryan Jurrens** for cutting our fallen and broken cedar trees into firewood. They are aromatic cedar and would be good for some uses, though not for indoor fireplaces. The firewood-sized pieces are piled next to the 12th Street driveway, and the lesser branches are still under the cedar trees pending a thaw. Anyone who has a use for them is welcome to them. We are thankful that the damage to the siding is hardly noticeable.

**Our Church Sign—**

- Adjust Your Antenna—Tune Into God.
- Why Worry When We Can Pray.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** **Our Country, Veterans, and Elders; Elementary, High School, & College Students; Bohne Family**—personal issues; **LaVonne Boles** (Lisa Jurrens's friend)—Stage 3 colon cancer; **Danelle & Janelle's Cousin's Daughter**—health; **Evelyn Brown**—stent surgery & mother, **Marie Riley**—broken hip; **Janelle Corman**—recovering from surgery; **Daniel Enfield; Donniss Genung**—cancer treatment; **Rick & Susan Johnson & Randy Schliep Families**—car accident near Clay Center; **Glassmyer Family, Katrina**—hip surgery recovery & passing of **Trinia's Uncle, Jackson**—school; **Rob**—job safety & travel; **Katrina's sister**—bone cancer; **Joan Glassmyer's Friend, Jean Gilbert**—Diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; **Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Joel Grissom**—health & family issues; **Danelle Hayes**—health; **Ken Kucera**—heart attack; **Danelle Hayes**—follow-up tests; **Ileen Lenhart**—recovering from foot surgery; **Ken Lockling**—health; **Judy Melvin**—health, her brother's wife's—health; **Louise Nealeigh**—health; **Gaylin Prior's Brother's Son's baby**—born premature; **Angie Riley's brother, Julian**—stroke; **Shirley Steen's grandson—Adam** and passing of her son **Mark**; friends—**Wayne Moorhead & his wife** (Wayne suffered a stroke); **Sudanese Brethren**—persecution; **Maggie Sales's brother, Gavin Wallace**—health & her mother, **Julie Wallace**, recovering from appendectomy & bronchitis; **Elois Tate**—leukemia treatment; **Gary & Norma Werner**—Norma's health; **Matt & Hope Witt**—teaching in China; **Dick Wright**—back discomfort & knee replacement surgery recovery; **Jo Wright's niece, Debra**, frozen shoulder; **Jo Wright's friend, Jackie Davis** diagnosed with cancer; **Jo Wright**—rotator cuff surgery recovery; **Jo Wright's son, Joe**, stroke; **those travelling; Darra Wright's daughter—Holly**—wrist injury; **James Hovie**—accident injuries.

**PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:** **Russel Bell:** mission work in India & Romania.  
**Jeff Zanarison:** Bible project in Madagascar

**Happy February Birthday:** Cassidy Jurrens - 18 Allyson Peshek - 19 Alice Wells - 20  
Rayna Jurrens - 24 Brett Sales - 25 Chandler Fielder - 26

**Happy February Anniversary:** DudLee & Debbie Brennforder - 22 Lee & Allyson Peshek - 25

## UNDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIANITY: THE IDEAL VERSUS THE REALITY

The second-best book I know on undenominational Christianity is Thomas Campbell's *Declaration and Address*, written in 1809 at the beginning of the Restoration Movement in America. I first read it around 1970 for a college course. I was thrilled: here was the ideal of restoring pure Christianity as in the New Testament. I've read it several times since then and still see it as a noble document that gave our movement a great start.

The slogans “Back to the Bible!” “Speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent,” and “No creed but the Bible” captured the essential method of Restorationism: to use the Bible alone as the only test of faith and the only ground for Christian fellowship. The method was earthshaking in its day: the churches all had add-ons of creeds, traditions, confessions of faith, and doctrinal and denominational superstructures marking them off from one another. These boundary-markers not only separated groups of people claiming to be Christians from each other, but in the Old World often resulted in deplorable behavior, slaughter included—just read *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*. The New World offered a chance to purify, reform, and rebuild Christianity. (con't next page)

The slogan “In matters of faith, unity; in matters of opinion, liberty; in all things, charity” captured the great goal of Restorationism: to reunite the scattered people of God. The *Declaration and Address* points out how terribly a divided and warring Christendom mars its witness. The night before his death Jesus prayed for his disciples, “*That they may all be one, just as you are in me, and I am in thee, that they also may be in us, in order that the world may believe that you have sent me . . . that they may be one, just as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be made perfect in one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them just as you have loved me*” (Jn. 17:21ff). Wolves have scattered God's sheep; the goal of Restoration is to bring the sheep back into the Shepherd's one fold, reunited in one flock.

The best book I know on undenominational Christianity is Ephesians. Look at the picture of the church there! “*The church . . . is his body, the Fullness of him who fills all in all*” (1:22f). Amazing! The church embodies the Fullness of Christ. The united church of Jews and Gentiles “*is being built up together for a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit*” (2:22). God's revealed mystery is his eternal purpose, “*that through the church the manifold wisdom of God will be made known to the powers and principalities in the heavenly places*” (3:10). The church must “*Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,*” because “*there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all*” (4:3-6).

Both the *Declaration and Address* and Ephesians talk about the ideal church. “*Husbands, love your wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, so that he could cleanse her, having purified her by the washing of water with the Word, so that he could present to himself a glorious church, not having a stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish*” (Eph. 5:25ff). The ideal New Testament church is pure and undefiled.

We, on the other hand, live in the real world, the fallen world, and the reality is that we fall short of the ideal. We know all about spots and blemishes and defilements.

I won't give up the ideal: I intend to strive for it until the day I die. But I won't claim to have reached it—none of us can claim to have reached it—on this side of heaven. “*Not that I have already attained or have already been made perfect . . . Brothers, I do not consider myself already to have attained, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what lies ahead, I press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. As many of us as are mature, let us see it this way*” (Phil. 3:12-15). I believe in the Restoration ideal: let's strive to be a pure and spotless church. Let's not be satisfied with anything less.