

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	80
Contribution	\$1,659
Evening Assembly	19
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.

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, January 17 Next Sunday, January 24

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	D Witt	D Witt	G Prior	G Prior
Song Leader	B Sales	M Glassmyer	D Brennfrdr	D Witt
Opening Prayer	J Fielder	R Munsell	B Shearer	D Hachtel
Closing Prayer	G Prior	L Duester	R Riley	R Munsell
Usher	D Hachtel		D Wright	
Greeters	Fielders		Brennfoerders	
Preside Lord's Supper	E Hinton		J Fielder	
Serve	B Jurrens		C Fielder	
Serve	M Fielder		M Fielder	
Serve	B Bailey		M Glassmyer	
Coordinator	D Brennfoerder		B Bailey	
Prepare Lord's Supper	A Hinton		Felice Dudrey	
Children's Church	Andy & Erics Adams		Andy & Erica Adams	
Wee Worship	Janelle Corman		Maggie Sales	
Wed Children's Class	Monica Fielder		Monica Fielder	
Change Message Sign	Brad Bailey Family		Brad Bailey Family	
Lawn Care	---		---	

Family Focus

Number 3

January 17, 2016

Upcoming Events

- NYC Contribution—
January 24
- East Hill Church of Christ
Area-Wide Singing—
January 24—3:30- 5:30
PM; Concert—6:00 PM

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "From Judas and the Twelve to God's Creation of the Church." Tonight Russ plans a devotional discussing the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles in Acts 1-2.
- **Russ Has Begun A New Sunday Morning Class** on Romans in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone who would like to join us will find us still in the introduction.
- **Please Keep the Cormans** in your prayers as Janelle will be having surgery on January 19.
- **Continue to Pray** for Rick and Susan Johnson and the Randy Schliep families. Rick and Susan's children, Jake and Tayler, were killed and two of their cousins were injured in a car accident that happened on December 28th near Clay Center.
- **Prayers** are requested for **Angie Riley's oldest brother, Julian Jaime**, who suffered a stroke recently. **Evelyn Brown's mother, Marie Riley**, who fell and broke her hip. She is also Amy Wright's grandmother. **Trina Glassmyer's uncle** diagnosed with stage four lung cancer in both lungs; Gaylin Prior's brother's son's baby born premature; Janelle and Danelle's cousin's daughter—health.
- **One Word, One Church** - We're off to a great start to the new year as we read through the New Testament together. If you haven't started yet, now is a great time to commit. As you reflect on what we have read so far, consider Mark 10:45 and see if you can answer these two questions: 1) How did Jesus serve? and 2) How are you serving today?

January 18 - Mark 12	January 21—Mark 15
January 19 - Mark 13	January 22—Mark 16
January 20 - Mark 14	

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

- **East Hill Church of Christ** is planning to host an area-wide singing on January 24th. Singing will be held on the 4th Sunday rather than the 5th in order to coincide with a York College Choir concert on the 24th. Congregational singing will be from 3:30-5:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 5:00-5:30 PM, and the concert will be at 6:00 PM. The choir performance will be in the East Hill church of Christ auditorium.

Our Church Sign—

- Life Isn't Always Holding Good Cards. But Sometimes, Playing A Poor Hand Well.
- Life Is A One-Time Offer. Live It Well.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Country, Veterans, and Elders; Elementary, High School, & College Students; Bohne Family—personal issues; Danelle & Janelle’s Cousin’s Daughter—health; Evelyn Brown—stent surgery & mother, Marie Riley—broken hip ;Janelle Corman—forthcoming surgery; Daniel Enfield; Donnis Genung—cancer treatment; Rick & Susan Johnson & Randy Schliep Families—car accident near Clay Center; Glassmyer Family, Katrina—hip surgery recovery & Trinia’s Uncle— stage four lung cancer, Jackson—school; Rob—job safety & travel; Robert & Susan Grissom’s Son, Joel Grissom—health & family issues; Danelle Hayes—health; 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; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Maggie Sales’s brother, Gavin Wallace—health; 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 January Birthday:	Sarah Uden - 2	Charlie Towery - 5	Betty Munsell - 9
	Kaycie Wright - 9	Brett Peshek - 13	Brian Nauert - 14
	Paula Witt - 15	Dick Witt - 25	Rob Glassmyer - 28
Happy January Anniversary:	Bryan & Lisa Jurrens - 12	Robert & Susan Grissom - 14	

THE APOSTLES' COURAGE

We seldom notice how dangerous it was for the Twelve to follow Jesus. Almost from the first the enemies of Jesus were watching closely—not only the chief priests, the scribes, the Pharisees and the Herodians, but Herod himself, and the Romans. The Herods and the Romans both had histories of swooping down upon potential Messiahs and their followers and slaughtering them off. Messianic leaders like Judas the Galilean, Theudas, and “the Egyptian” who led Israel in revolt against Rome were ferociously destroyed, along with many of their followers (Acts 5:36f, 21:38).

So it required immense courage to be one of the Twelve. The Apostles cherished no delusions—they knew that as the Messiah's chosen lieutenants they would live or die with the success or failure of Jesus' mission.

There were no safe places in Israel. Galilee under Herod was less unsafe than Judea under Pontius Pilate, so Jesus concentrated his years of ministry in Galilee. He went up to Jerusalem for the festivals, when the crowds of pilgrims afforded him some safety; after the festivals he would go back to Galilee. Most of his ministry is called “the Galilean ministry.” His “Jerusalem ministry” was Final Week, from the Triumphal Entry to the crucifixion, resurrection, and resurrection appearances.

(con’t on next page)

The prelude to Final Week is raising Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus dies, Jesus insists on going to Bethany, less than two miles outside Jerusalem. “*Let us go back to Judea,*” he says. The Twelve try to talk him out of it: at the Feast of Lights only weeks before, the Jews in Jerusalem tried to stone him to death; doesn't he know the danger? Jesus says “*Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light.*” He knows what he is doing; he's going back despite the danger, because his friend is dead. So Thomas says, “*Let us also go, that we may die with him*” (Jn 11:1-16). The Twelve know the danger too.

Final Week comes soon after Jesus raised Lazarus. When he is ready to die Jesus leaves Galilee and sets his face for Jerusalem to die there: God's prophets must die in Jerusalem (Lk 12:33).

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed him were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him, saying “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise” (Mk 10:32ff).

His actions confuse and frighten the Twelve; he does nothing according to their expectations. They are “astonished, amazed”; other followers are terrified. Jesus is walking straight into the heart of the hatred against him—walking boldly, forcing a dangerous public confrontation with his enemies. In Jericho when Blind Bartimaeus hears that it's Jesus passing by, he shouts out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”—and Jesus' followers try to silence him, but he just shouts out all the more (Mk 10:46ff). Why silence him? Because these are very dangerous words as they near Jerusalem. People who claim to be the Son of David get slaughtered, with their followers. The Twelve want Jesus to be proclaimed as Messiah—but not when they're only a few miles from Jerusalem with no army of messianic revolutionaries in their company.

Then Jesus publicly proclaims himself Messiah: he rides into Jerusalem on an ass's colt, in what is called the Triumphal Entry. But he does not gather a militia from the Passover pilgrims who acclaim their Messiah; instead he cleanses the Court of the Gentiles so the Temple can be used as a house of prayer for all the nations. He talks constantly of the death he expects to die as the Suffering Servant, the Sacrificial Lamb of the New Covenant. He predicts that “One of you will betray me.” All claim they're ready to die for him if they must, but it becomes clear (at least to Judas) that he is intent upon dying, not upon reestablishing the throne of David in Jerusalem.

This suggests an explanation for the betrayal: if Judas is a would-be Jewish freedom-fighter, then he loses his courage and turns against Jesus when he sees him doing and saying things that will bring his enemies down upon them all, defenseless and unprepared. “Jesus is talking crazy! He's acting crazy! He'll get us all killed!” This puts an ugly face on Judas. To save his own skin, Judas is willing to sacrifice both Jesus and the rest of the Apostles: “Let them die if they must; I'll just take the money and run.” This also puts a tragic face on Judas: He carries out the betrayal but doesn't run far before his conscience betrays him and he destroys himself.

Judas is not the only Apostle whose courage fails him: in the end all fail and all flee. Peter's huge physical courage takes him further than the others; he follows the mob that has arrested Jesus to the courtyard of Caiaphas, but there he denies his Lord and flees into the night. It takes more than physical courage to follow Jesus: it takes the power of the Spirit of God. That's why the risen Jesus tells them to wait for the promise of his Spirit: “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

—Russ Dudrey, 1/17/16