

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 74
Contribution \$ 1605
Evening Assembly —
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, July 12 Next Sunday, July 19

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	D Brennfrdr	D Brennfrdr	D Witt	D Witt
Song Leader	A Adams	B Sales	M Glassmyer	D Brennfrdr
Opening Prayer	E Hinton	B Jurrens	J Morgan	R Munsell
Closing Prayer	D Corman	K Lockling	G Prior	C Fielder
Usher	D Wright		D Hachtel	
Greeters	Corman/Hayes		Fielders	
Preside Lord's Supper	R Grissom		E Hinton	
Serve	M Fielder		D Wright	
Serve	C Fielder		B Bailey	
Serve	J Fielder		L Peshek	
Coordinator	G Prior		J Fielder	
Prepare Lord's Supper	Angie Riley		L Prior	
Children's Church	Resume in September		Resume in September	
Nursery	Erica Adams		Maggie Sales	
Wed Children's Class	Lisa Jurrens		Lorinda Bailey	
Change Message Sign	Brad Bailey Family		Brad Bailey Family	
Lawn Care	Brad Bailey		Brad Bailey	

Family Focus

Number 28

July 12, 2015

Upcoming Events

- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—July 12
- VBS—July 20-22
6:30—8:30 PM
Ages 4—5th Grade
- Nebraska Youth Camp Contribution—July 26

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "The Dishonest Steward and the Rich Man and Lazarus: Jesus' Words on the Uses of Our Wealth." Tonight Russ plans a discussion-style devotional on how Christians do our giving, both in and out of the collection plate.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** immediately following our morning worship service this morning in the fellowship hall. Committee members are Danelle Hayes and the Cormans. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Mountain States Children's Home.
- **Elder Selection:** We have conducted individual interviews with our nominees for eldership; next we will interview the candidates together in preparation for submitting their names for the congregation's consideration.
- **Building Renovations:** Today is the deadline to turn in your responses to the building renovations questionnaires. If you have not yet done so, please give your responses to Everett, Gaylin, or Russ. They will have more forms if you need them.
- **Wednesday Night Classes:** Instead of our regular classes this Wednesday, we will have a short devotional, after which Janelle and Danelle will lead us in further preparations for next week's Vacation Bible School.
- **Thank You** to everyone who helped with my recent move to the Good Samaritan Village. You all did wonderful job and is very much appreciated. —Judy Melvin
- **Wednesday Night Ladies Class**—There will be no ladies class for the next two weeks due to VBS preparation this week and VBS the following week.

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."

Our Church Sign:

- A Pretty Face Is Nothing If You Have An Ugly Heart.
- Be Someone That Makes You Happy.

Doers of the Word
By Alan Smith

Three men went deer hunting, and as they crossed the field going to the woods, a huge buck jumped up in their path. All three fired at the same time. The buck dropped, and as they came up on the buck, they realized they had a problem. Which one of them shot the deer? As they discussed the problem, a game warden came along to check for hunting licenses. He offered to sort out the problem, examined the deer, and said, "One of you guys is a preacher, right?" And sure enough, one of them was.

(con't on page 2)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Country; Our Veterans; Eldership Selection, Elementary, High School, & College Graduates; Foreign Exchange Students; Erica Adams' Grandmother, Linda—heart problems; Andy Adams's Brother; Andy Adams's Co-worker's husband, Randy, health; Bohne Family—personal issues; DudLee Brennförder's Father, Gary—cancer treatment & pain, recent hospitalization; Debbie Downey—blood clots; Daniel Enfield; Peggy Dill's great nephew, Joseph Hibler—health, Judy Schiltz; Ned & Neva Cooper—health; Donnis Genung—cancer treatment; Sue Ginn—health; Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Joel Grissom—health & family issues; Robert & Susan Grissom—Brazil Mission; Chase Hofferber—health; Cassidy Jurrens—health; Muriel Luke—autoimmune disease; Judy Melvin—health and her brother, Donald, and his wife—health; Johnny Meyers—health; Joe Morgan's brother, Delano—health; Seth Ostrander—brain tumor; Dwight Roth—health; Shirley Steen's grandson—Adam; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Maggie Sales's brother, Gavin Wallace—recovering from surgery; Mark Steen—health; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma's health; Matt & Hope Witt—Teaching in China; Tina Witt; Dick Witt's Father—health; Lisa Worley—hip replacement surgery recovery & her brother-in-law, Dan Barber—head injury; VBS; those travelling.

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

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Jeffery Hergenreder.

Happy July Birthday To:	DudLee Brennförder - 5	Joan Glassmyer - 8	Floyd Baker - 10
	Ray Riley - 10	Richard Riley - 13	Roger Nealeigh - 16
	Kenneth Lockling - 24	Jeffrey Hergenreder - 25	Reed Munsell - 29
	Kara Voorhees - 29	Kelsey Hergenreder - 31	Amy Wenske - 29

Happy July Anniversary To:	Clayton & Rebecca Peshek - 4	Jeffrey & Kelsey Hergenreder - 7
	Brad & Lorinda Bailey - 15	Jim & Monica Fielder - 20
		Brett & Maggie Sales - 26

"Well, preacher, your shot is the one that got the buck."

Amazed, the guys asked how he knew one of them was a preacher and that the preacher's shot was the one that scored.

"Simple," the game warden said, "It went in one ear and out the other."

As a preacher, it does feel that way sometimes. But it's difficult to be too harsh on those who listen to my sermons because I know that sometimes, as a reader of God's Word, I tend to do the same thing. I read what God says. I even understand what God says (though I wish sometimes that I didn't!). It's just that I don't allow what I'm reading to make any real difference in my life. It goes in one ear and out the other.

James wrote, "*Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a mirror, studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's teachings say.*" (James 1:22-25, GOD'S WORD)

May God's Word go in one ear, stay there, and then demonstrate itself in how you live this day.

Have a great day!

- Alan Smith, author of the popular "*Thought For Today*," and minister for the Fayetteville Church of Christ in Fayetteville, NC, may be contacted at alansmith.servant@gmail.com

GIVING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE COLLECTION PLATE

Money and giving are among the most uncomfortable topics I preach on—but did you know that Jesus preached on them all the time? Apparently he thought his ancient audience needed to think hard about them. No doubt he thinks his modern audience does too.

But Jesus was not doing as many churches and many preachers do. The megachurches and the televangelists preach on money and giving often, because they're after large amounts of it. They're big businesses. They can be money rackets, justifying their materialism in the name of religion. Recently a televangelist asked his followers to buy him a \$64 million jet so he could evangelize better. Every year we hear news exposés of one evangelist or another, or one mega-ministry or another, caught in some terrible scandal, bringing dishonor to the name of God and giving fuel to those who mock and reject Christ. True followers of Christ must live above the criticisms.

Jesus was not an institution-builder; he did not preach on giving in order to build the church into a big business. He had seen firsthand how that corrupted and subverted the religion of God and allowed the bad guys to take over. Jesus had to drive the buyers and the sellers out of the Temple. Jesus preached on giving so that his people would not succumb to materialism: "*No servant can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve both God and Mammon*" (Lk. 16:13). We have to distance ourselves from materialism, both individually and institutionally.

Now let me say four things about giving, both in and out of the collection plate.

First, God doesn't need your offerings (read Psalm 50!). Neither do we. God isn't after your money; neither are we. We're doing all we can to keep our church from ever becoming a money racket. Look how the apostle Paul insists that God's people must practice utter integrity and careful financial accountability in handling the church's funds. In carrying a large collection from the Greek churches for famine relief of the Jewish church in Jerusalem, Paul says "*We carry the offering, which we administer in order to honor the Lord himself and to show our eagerness to help. We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men*" (II Cor. 8:19-21).

Second, yes, of course we want our members to participate in our collection-plate giving. However, 1) This is a family matter, so we try to make sure that our guests do not feel obligated to participate. 2) This is not intended to be all the giving we do. Over the years Felice and I have done probably less than half of our giving through the collection plate; the rest we did to mission needs, disaster relief, spot needs, individual needs, etc. Many of you do large amounts of behind-the-scenes giving outside the collection plate. Good: Jesus says that the Father who sees in secret knows what you're doing and will reward you (Mt. 6:1-4).

Third, why do we give? Because it's the nature of our God. God is the supreme Giver, so the people of God are givers too. The nature of the Father becomes the nature also of his children. We give, we forgive, we love, we serve, because all these things come from the heart of God: "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich*" (II Cor. 8:9).

Finally, consider what Jesus says about the widow's two mites (Lk. 21:1-4). In God's sight, her gift of two little pennies is huge and beautiful. God sees it as far greater than all the rich gifts of the wealthy. The Father owns the wealth of all the universes, so he needs nothing from us; he is much less interested in the amount of dollars in our giving than he is in the amount of love and gratitude in our giving. Let's give out of hearts of love and gratitude.

— ©Russ Dudley, 7/12/15