

**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                      72  
Contribution                              \$1,884  
Evening Assembly                      25  
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, March 8                      Next Sunday, March 15

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	E Hinton	E Hinton	J Fielder	J Fielder
Song Leader	A Adams	D Brennfrdr	D Witt	E Hinton
Opening Prayer	D Witt	B Bailey	D Corman	R Grissom
Closing Prayer	R Riley	K Lockling	S Dinkler	K Lockling
Usher	D Wright		R Munsell	
Greeters	Corman/Hayes		Baileys	
Preside Lord's Supper	C Fielder		D Brennfrdr	
Serve	M Fielder		J Morgan	
Serve	J Fielder		R Riley	
Serve	D Corman		D Hachtel	
Coordinator	G Prior		D Wright	
Prepare Lord's Supper	S Hachtel		D Brennfoerder	
Children's Church	D Hayes/G Ockinga		Monica Fielder	
Nursery	Lisa Prior		Mariana	
Wed Children's Class	Lisa Jurrens		Lisa Jurrens	
Change Message Sign	Brad Bailey Family		Brad Bailey Family	
Lawn Care	-----		-----	

# Family Focus

**Number 10**

**March 8, 2015**

**Upcoming Events**

- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—March 8
- Nebraska Youth Camp Contribution—March 22
- Youth Rally—North Platte—April 24-26

**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 "Godly Leaders, Godly Men, Godly Women." For tonight's devotional time Russ plans to lead a discussion on how we should respond when gay marriage becomes the law of the land.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** immediately following our morning worship in the fellowship hall, Committee members are the Dudreys, Priors, and the Jurrens's. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Mountain States Children's Home.
- **Pray** for DudLee Brennfoerder's dad with health concerns, Joel Grissom, and elders selection.
- **Elder Selection:** During the month of March we will take nominations for men who can serve as elders. Please pray for God to raise up men for this service, and consider who you believe can serve. Next week we will hand out nomination forms.
- **Ride to Church:** We need to arrange rides to church for a man who lives in the south part of town, Clifford Painter. Please see Russ for more information.
- **We Would Like To Express** our gratitude for the cards, letters, thoughts, hugs, kind words and prayers following the loss of Grandma B. We appreciate all of you and are thankful for our Christian family. THANK YOU all! ----- the Brennfoerder family
- **Wednesday Evening Adult Class**—Read Chapter 9 in book, Living Jesus.
- **Youth Rally**— Relentless Youth Rally is scheduled for April 24–26th in North Platte. Registration begins at 6:00 PM; Worship at 7:00 PM. There is no fee to attend. Outside clothing and walking shoes for Saturday. Flyers are posted on the north wall bulletin board in the south hall for more information.

**Our Church Sign—**

- Words Are Like Nitroglycerine: They Can Blow Up Bridges or Heal Hearts.
- Life Doesn't Have Any Make-Up Tests.

**Are You Getting Ready?  
By Ron Bartanen**

You've probably read or heard the following story before. You may have even heard it from me, but it deserves repeating. Before the days of self-serve gas stations, a minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a busy holiday weekend. The young attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him in front of the service station. (con't on page 2)

**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; DudLee Brennförder's Father, Gary—cancer treatment & pain; 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; Chase Hofferber—health; Lisa & Cassidy Jurrens—health; Rayna Jurrens's Friend (Creighton)—health; Ken Lockling—pneumonia & cracked ribs; Muriel Luke—autoimmune disease; Judy Melvin—health and her brother, Donald, and his wife—health; Johnny Meyers—health; Donna Montemayor—recovering from foot surgery; 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—health & her brother-in-law, Dan Barber—head injury; Joe Wright—job search..

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

**PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY:** Jeffery Hergenreder.

<b>Happy March Birthday To:</b>	Judy Melvin	-	6	Andy Adams	-	7	Peggy Shearer	-	9
	Madison Fielder	-	22	Ann Hinton	-	22	Maggie Sales	-	23
	Robert Grissom	-	30	Zachery Corman	-	31	Muriel Luke	-	25

<b>Happy March Anniversary To:</b>	Russ & Felice Dudrey	-	8	Bob & Peggy Shearer	-	17
	Reed & Betty Munsell	-	21			

When the attendant finally motioned him toward a vacant pump, the young man apologized, saying, "Brother Jones, I'm sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, replying, "I know just what you mean. It's the same in my business."

As people prepare for a trip, they may, as the time for departure draws nearer and nearer, fully intend to fill the tank well ahead of time. However, in the heat of more immediate concerns, good intentions soon evaporate. There seems to always be something else to do that, for some reason, seems more pressing. The application is often made that all should prepare to die, but preparation is often neglected—not only to be taken care of at the last of one's life, but even more frequently to never be made. However, references in the Bible to preparation for death are few.

The more frequent admonition in the New Testament is to prepare for the return of Jesus Christ. Even though this event would not take place in the lifetime of His disciples, Jesus did not admonish them to "get ready to die." Instead, He urged them, "Watch, therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:42, 44). When one knows of no life-threatening illness, one feels no compelling need to "get right with God," feeling one still has plenty of time. With the coming of the Lord, however, there is the need for constant readiness.

The true disciple of Jesus will be watching and waiting—not for the undertaker, but for the upper-taker. We are not to be caught unprepared. Death is not something most look forward to with any degree of eagerness, but if you have been cleansed through the blood of Christ, surrendered to His will for your life, and "love His appearing," you can look forward with anticipation to "the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give (us) in that day" (2 Timothy 4:8). With such faith and hope you will be able to say with the apostle John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20). Are you getting ready?

## OUR GOOD NEWS ON GENDER AND MARRIAGE

Friday a reporter interviewed me about gay marriage, which was a major news item last week. He asked, "What is your church's official stance?"

Our church doesn't have an official stance, I explained—not one handed down from a church hierarchy above us. We have no such hierarchy; each congregation runs itself. The nearest we come to having an official view is our consensus from what we see in the Bible. As followers of Christ we try to believe and obey its teachings. That's how we define our views on questions like gender, marriage, and sexual behavior.

The Bible says, "*God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*" It says God created Eve as Adam's helper, because "*It is not good for man to be alone.*" It says when God brought Eve to Adam, he blessed and sanctified their union as the archetype of all marriage. It says Adam was delighted: "*This is now bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh . . . For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*" (Gen. 1:26ff, 2:18-24).

We see here a picture God's created order for gender, marriage, and sexuality. We believe that God hard-wired Adam for maleness and Eve for femaleness; we believe that he planned for them to flourish within the "one flesh" union of marriage. We believe that he gave them the capacity for sexual love as part of the well-being of the union of husband and wife in marriage. We believe that he created the genders to be a complementarian fit with one another.

So we see these things as built into the hard-wiring of human personhood: the Creator designed us to find life and health, joy and peace and well-being, within this framework. We see attempts to reprogram the hard-wiring of our personalities and live outside of God's created order as self-destructive. This is our kindest response to questions, not just about gay marriage, but also about sexual relationships outside of marriage (whether same-sex or opposite-sex): These are not arguments we have to win, but a set of living truths built into God's created order. Those who live contrary to these truths will not flourish. And especially, the children of those who live contrary to these truths will not flourish. How many children do you and I know who live without the presence of a father in their home?

The good news is that Christians have a basis, a solid foundation for knowing what we believe about gender, marriage, and sexuality. Secularized American culture around us does not. Assume for a moment the atheistic world-view that there is no God or the agnostic world-view that nobody can know whether or not there is a God. In that case, everything is up for grabs—morals, values, good and evil themselves. In that case, gender and marriage and sexual mores are all social constructs: that is, they are all ideas made up by society. Who is to say what is right and what is wrong? Answer: Without God, everything is relative. We agree: they're right to say that if there is no God, our culture can indeed rewrite the rules.

Not only do we know that there is a God, but we know who he is: he is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is both our Creator and our Redeemer. Therefore we also know what gender is, and what marriage and sexual love are designed to be. In a culture where all these are in confusion and disarray, this is good news.