

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	63
Contribution	\$ 2,054
Evening Assembly	27
Wednesday Class	—
<p><i>"In Search of the Lord's Way"</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, May 29	Next Sunday, June 5

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	J Fielder	J Fielder	E Hinton	E Hinton
Song Leader	R Grissom	M Glassmyer	R Grissom	B Bailey
Opening Prayer	E Hinton	D Wright	G Prior	D Wright
Closing Prayer	L Duester	K Lockling	C Fielder	K Lockling
Usher	B Jurrens		B Jurrens	
Greeters	Baileys		Munsells	
Preside Lord's Supper	D Witt		D Brennfoerder	
Serve	G Prior		D Witt	
Serve	J Morgan		J Morgan	
Serve	E Hinton		L Duester	
Coordinator	D Corman		D Corman	
Prepare Lord's Supper	S Hachtel		S Hachtel	
Children's Church	L Prior		Volunteer Needed	
Wee Worship	Maggie Sales		Volunteer Needed	
Wed Children's Class	Volunteer Needed		Volunteer Needed	
Change Message Sign	Brad Bailey Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	Jurrens		Bailey	

Family Focus

Number 22

May 29, 2016

Upcoming Events

- Fifth Sunday Singing—Grand Island—May 29
- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—June 12
- York College Bible Teachers Workshop—July 23
- VBS—July 25-27

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "Stephen on the Transformation of Worship: 'The Most High Does Not Dwell in Houses Made by Human Hands'." Tonight Russ plans a devotional on Jesus' attitude toward the Temple.
- **The Fifth Sunday Singing** this afternoon at the Stolley Park Church of Christ in Grand Island. Singing will begin at 3:30 PM, light supper at 5:00 PM, short devotional at 6:00 PM.
- **Greg and Jaci Smith** will be moving to Hastings on Saturday, June 11th, and will be with us on Sunday, June 12. We would like to welcome them at the June basket dinner with a "shower" of gifts cards for any amount from any of the local grocery stores, or non-perishable food items or paper goods they can use. We'll also be looking for a crew to unload their truck that Saturday afternoon. More information will be sent out by email. Questions can be directed to Russ and Felice.
- **Paula Witt** left for her medical mission trip to Ecuador on Friday. Please be praying for her and for Dick while she is gone.
- **Shirley Steen** fell on the sidewalk after our Church services last Sunday and broke her wrist; **Judy Melvin** has been dealing with an irritated shoulder; **Alice Wells**—dermatology health; **Robert & Susan Grissom's** daughter-in-law—broken ankle; **Marjean Hayes** (Danelle Hayes and Janelle Corman's mother) was recently hospitalized. Keep Shirley, Judy, Alice, Robert & Susan's daughter-in-law, and Marjean in your prayers.
- **Doris Reichert** is home from the hospital after undergoing surgery to treat gout in her shoulder. Doris is dealing with a reaction to her meds. The Reicherts need our prayers in Doris's recovery.
- **Special Speaker on Islam:** "Understanding Islam: Lectures on Islam as a Religion," at Stolley Park church in Grand Island on Saturday, June 4, 9 :00 AM to 1:30 PM. Speaker: Jim Mettenbrink, minister of the church of Christ in Brookings, SD.
- **An Invitation** to the 50th wedding celebration for Maurice and Arlene Pierce, to be held in Lincoln on Sunday, June 12, is posted on the bulletin board. Maurice preached for the church here for several years.
- **One Word, One Church** - Dates and chapters to read this week:

May 30 - Romans 11	June 2 — Romans 14
May 31 - Romans 12	June 3 — Romans 15
June 1 - Romans 13	
- **Wednesday Ladies Class** will be studying "Generosity" by Ann Hinton. **Men's Class** topic of study is "Life Lessons for Men."

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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Our Country, Veterans, and Elders; Elementary, High School, & College Students; High School & College Graduates; Brad Bailey's Brother, Mark—health; 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, Zachery Corman—recent baptism; Marie Riley—broken hip; Ashley's Duester's father—blood clot; Lance Duester's father; Walter Davis—health; Daniel Enfield—health; Donnis Genung—cancer treatment; Glassmyer Family, Katrina—hip surgery recovery & passing of Trinia's Uncle, Jackson—school; Rob—job safety & travel; Katrina's sister—bone cancer; Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Joel Grissom—health & family issues; Daughter-in-Law—broken leg; Danelle Hayes—health; Marjean Hayes—health; Jeffrey, Kelsey, & Leo Hergenreder—personal issues; Everett Hinton—health issues; Sheila Holliday—health; Jurrens & Mohlman Families—passing of Tina Mohlman; Ken Kucera—heart attack; Ken Lockling—health & concern for friend; Judy Melvin—health, her brother's wife's—health; Louise Nealeigh—health; Georgette Ockinga's Friend, Larry—health issues; Doris Reichert—gout/surgery recovery; Angie Riley's brother, Julian—stroke & Angie's Mother; Jamie Russo—recovering from surgery; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Maggie Sales's brother, Shirley Steen—broken wrist; Gavin Wallace—health & broken nose; Alice Wells—dermatology health; Elois Tate—leukemia treatment; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma's health; Matt & Hope Witt—teaching in China; Amy, Kamryn, and Kiley Wright—recent baptism; Jo Wright's son, Joe, stroke recovery; Jo's Sister, Mary, cataracts; those travelling.

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

Happy May Birthday:	Makayla Dinkler - 1	Susan Grissom - 1	Sandy Baker - 11
	Bryan Jurrens - 13	Matt Baker - 22	Jo Wright - 26
	Wade Wenske - 27		
Happy May Anniversary:	David & Donna Uden - 12	Richard & Angie Riley - 25	
Happy June Birthday:	Keaton Corman - 5	Mike Glassmyer - 13	Ellen Prior - 15
	Donna Uden - 18	Louise Nealeigh - 23	Rebecca Peshek - 24
	Lee Peshek - 29	Monica Fielder - 27	
Happy June Anniversary:	Everett & Ann Hinton - 26		

- **Nebraska Youth Camp** registration forms for the 2016 camping sessions are available on-line at www.nebraskayouthcamp.com. Hard copies are available on the youth bulletin board in the south hallway.
- **Ecuador Earthquake Relief:** Josh Marcum, Kent and Sharla Marcum's son, is heading up earthquake relief through Operation Ecuador and the Quito School of Biblical Studies. The earthquake has devastated several coastal cities in Ecuador where churches of Christ have been established. Many members of the church have suffered loss to their homes or businesses, though none were killed. Relief money can be sent through Josh Marcum's overseeing church, Faith Village Church of Christ, 4100 McNeil Ave., Wichita Falls, TX 76308, or it can be given to Russ to pass on to them. Mark checks "For Earthquake Relief."
- **Bulletin Announcements**—If you have an announcement(s) you would like included in the bulletin for June 5 and June 12th, please call Russ Dudrey (402) 834-0096, or email him at russdudrey@gmail.com. Bulletin announcements for June 19, June 26, July 3, and July 10, call Ann Hinton (402) 462-4745, or email Ann at hinton.everettann@gmail.com). I will return publishing the Church bulletin on July 17. —Sharon Hachtel

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE TEMPLE

There are five attempted on-the-spot killings in the New Testament. Three are attempts on Jesus, one on the woman taken in adultery, one on Paul. They're not lynchings, but religiously-motivated community self-purgings. In plain and clear cases of blasphemy, the people felt a sacred duty to purge out evil from the community by killing the offender, just as Phinehas did in Numbers 25 when an Israelite man brought a Midianite woman into the camp.

The episodes are in the Gospels and Acts: The Jews in Jerusalem try to stone Jesus, just as they do with the woman taken in adultery (Jn. 8:59, 10:31; 8:3-11); the synagogue in Nazareth turns into a mob that tries to take Jesus and throw him off a cliff (Lk. 4:16-30); the Passover crowd in the Temple hears that Paul has brought Gentiles into the Temple, and they try to drag him out and kill him forthwith (Acts 21:27-36). All these are what Jewish rabbis called "the rebels' beating," when the people of Israel would rise up in righteous wrath and purge evildoers out from among them.

The one successful rebels' beating in the New Testament is the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7. He is brought to trial before the Sanhedrin and charged with blasphemy against the Temple, but when the court hears his speech they are enraged, disband into a mob, and stone him to death summarily. I now think that Stephen probably knew from the beginning that they would kill him, which is why his speech is not a lawcourt-style self-defense, but an impassioned confrontation of their sin. Facing his death squarely, he delivers a prophetic oracle of denunciation in the manner of Jeremiah or Ezekiel or Amos.

Granted, the charge against him is partly true: "*This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us*" (Acts 6:13f). Stephen was quoting Jesus. Jesus had said that the Son of Man would come with his holy angels and destroy both Jerusalem and the Temple in an act of judgment against those who rejected the Messiah of Israel. The High Priests had charged Jesus himself with blaspheming the Temple (Mk. 14:58).

But the charge against both Stephen and Jesus hides a substructure of unspoken religious deception. All Israel knew that when the Babylonians destroyed Solomon's Temple in 587 BC, they carried off or killed the priests and the Levites, they pillaged the Temple and carried off or destroyed its furnishings, they carried off the cups and vessels used in the Temple service, they carried off the priestly vestments. All Israel knew that the High Priests were not legitimate descendants of Zadok. They knew that the golden circlet for the High Priest's forehead, inscribed "Holy to the Lord," was gone. His linen ephod was gone. His golden breastplate with the twelve precious stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel and with the urim and thummim for divining the will of the Lord was gone. The High Priests of Jesus' day did not even know how the urim and thummim had worked. The Ark of the Covenant, Aaron's rod that budded, the pot of manna, and the tables of the law—all were gone. The Holy of Holies was empty. Worst of all, the Shekinah—the glory of God enthroned above the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant—was gone. Long gone.

The people knew this, but they couldn't talk about it. Blasphemy against the Temple—which included raising questions about the legitimacy of the High Priests, the barrenness of the Holy of Holies, the loss of the meaning and substance of the Temple service, the departure of the glory of God from the Temple—was a third-rail topic: touch it and you were dead.

Stephen, having seen the death of Israel's Messiah and having a prevision of his own death, knew why the Shekinah had departed: because of unholiness in the Temple. He was willing to die for saying that the barren Temple could not contain the holy God of Israel. "*The Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands, as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?'*" (Acts 7:48ff). They heard his words as blasphemy against the Temple; he saw their unholiness as true blasphemy against the Temple.