



THE BEACON

Hardin church of Christ

156 Watkins Street, PO Box 54, Hardin, KY 42048

<http://www.hardincoc.com>



ELDERS: DENNIS REDDEN: 252-5734 (C), 437-4758 (H); DAVID SMITH: 559-5014 (C), 437-3026 (H)

DEACONS: RICKY COLLINS: 354-9362; TRICE DUNN: 753-9163; DANNY HIGGINS: 474-2728;

STEVE HIGGINS: 527-5752; JIMMY HOLLAND: 354-8616; HAROLD JONES: 437-4751; GREG NELSON: 527-5870;
DWAYNE OAKLEY: 437-4314; MARK REYNOLDS: 527-2986; TIM REYNOLDS: 703-4375; GARY SCHROADER: 437-4513

MINISTERS: DWAYNE OAKLEY: 437-4314 (H), 205-1382 (C); DANIEL WALKER: 767-7059 (H), 748-6746 (C)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

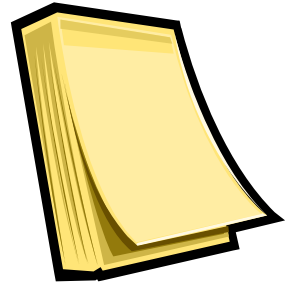
- ⇒ Sunday evening worship **tonight at 6pm!**
- ⇒ Bring a Friend Day will be coming up soon, April 25. Postcards are in the foyer, but that is just one of the ways you can invite...start telling your friends in person, on the phone, by email, or any way you can. This was a BIG day last year, let's do it again!

FOR YOUTH

- ⇒ Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for July 14-16. If you have not already agreed to help in some way and would like to see Trice Dunn or Tim Reynolds.



The leadership is making an effort to further involve every member of the congregation! If you have been wondering how you can serve, ideas are here! Every member is asked to fill out a *membership involvement survey*. This is to serve in several ways: it will help the elders and deacons know whom is willing to serve in certain ways when work needs done, it will help identify where growth is needed, it will give you ideas on where you can serve in the future, the address, phone, birthday, etc. information will be used to keep the directory up to date and more...and even more uses will be developed in the future. There should be several in the foyer today. Grab one and get it back to Dennis or David as soon as possible!



TAKE NOTE



PRAYERS REQUESTED

*Neil Vick • Deanna Friend • Maria Muniz • Marsha Harper • Gaye Johnston
W.C. English • Kenneth Starks • Katy Walker • Mildred Harmon • Doug Johnson
Nancy Britton • Tommy Vied • Terry Tyler • Mike Wyatt • Danny Higgins
Sympathy to the families of Ashley Gessler and Gary Taylor
PLEASE LET DANIEL KNOW WHEN SOMEONE
NEEDS ADDED OR MAY BE REMOVED*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

April 10—Danny Higgins
April 17—Terry Henderson
April 22—Wes Lindsey
April 25—Ron & Linda Owen

April 12—Olivia Reynolds
April 18—Sawyer Collins
April 23—Ricky & Lydia York
April 26—Dennis Redden

RECORD

	Act.	Goal	1Yr. Ago
Sun. School	95	125	105
Worship AM	160	150	132
Worship PM	107	125	89
Midweek	92	125	83
Offering	\$3039	\$3200	\$2784
Weekly Budget:		\$3000	

THIS WEEK'S BUS DRIVER IS GREG N., CALL 527-5870

THOSE TO SERVE

Announcements
Sun. AM Song Leader
Scripture Reading
Lord's Supper Devo.
Greeters
Sun.PM Song Leader
Wed.PM Song Leader
Wed.PM Devotional
Bus Driver

THIS WEEK (4/11)

Trice Dunn
 Mike Wyatt
 Jordan Holland
 Steve Higgins
 Trish & Erick Mackie
 Mike Wyatt
 Mike Wyatt
 Terry Henderson
 Greg N. (527-5870)

NEXT WEEK (4/18)

Trice Dunn
 Mason Thomson
 Josh Reynolds
 Dwayne Oakley
 Moon & Patsy Redden
 SINGING
 Mark Reynolds
 Daniel Walker
 Mason T. (437-4265)

THREE WEEKS (4/25)

Trice Dunn
 Steve Higgins
 Harold Jones
 Tim Reynolds
 Greg & Amy Nelson
 Steve Higgins
 Steve Higgins
 Dennis Redden
 Mark R. (527-2986)

MISSION WORKS	
CHINA	\$300/month
AFRICA	\$300/month
T.R. WEBB (MSOP)	\$200/month
NEW PATHWAYS	\$150/month
GBN-TV	\$100/month

LAST WEEK YOU BROUGHT

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Britthaven: Nadine Peck (126B) Pauline Shepherd (100)
Spring Creek: Deloris Pritchard (113) Perry Cornwell (326) Margaret Grogan (314)
Stilley House: Emma Powell (201)
At Home: Sharon Brewer Terrell & Barbara Darnell Mary Alice Johnston

VISITORS TO SERVICES WITH YOU!

THANK YOU! BY INVITING AND BRINGING VISITORS YOU ARE MAKING THIS CHURCH GROW!

Better Felt than Told Religion?



Some claim that their faith-relationship with God is "better felt than told." This phrase is used to mean a variety of things. One potential connotation is that there is a component to a life-walk with God that cannot be adequately explained until one has personally experienced it. Certainly there is an "experiential knowledge" to our faith. The Scripture says, "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!" (Psalm 34:8). The Hebrew writer affirms that we must "taste the heavenly gift" and "the goodness of the word of God" (Hebrews 6:4-5). Evangelistically, we encourage people to "come and see what God has done" (Psalm 66:5; John 1:39). Peter specifically says that we must always be ready to give an "answer" (Greek-apologia, a defense or explanation) of the hope that lies within us. In context, Peter is discussing giving an answer to those who basically ask, "How can you have such confidence and hope in the midst of persecution?" We must be ready to give a personal explanation to anyone who asks about what God has done in our lives. Telling our personal story of how we came to faith and the difference Christ has made in our lives is an example of evangelism modeled for us in Scripture (John 9:25). Paul often gave

his "personal testimony" as a means of explaining his faith evangelistically (Acts 22:1-21; 24:10-21; 26:1-23). On these three occasions Paul gave his "defense" (apologia) by giving his personal faith story. Many who are seeking truth in our postmodern context today are more convinced by personal experiences than by logical reasoning. Subjective experience is not a full-proof approach to evangelism, but it is one that was used by Paul and is often very effective in our current environment.

Skeptics of the Christian worldview, however, will not be persuaded by "warm and fuzzy" stories of Jesus' impact upon your life. After all, personal experiences vary from person to person and don't really prove the truthfulness of anything. Jesus said that we can "know the truth" by being diligent students of God's revealed truth (John 8:31-32). God expects us to direct our analytical abilities toward the evidence of truth he has provided, reason correctly from that evidence, and arrive at God's absolute, unalterable truth (Romans 1:20-21; Psalm 119:89). Paul often used logical reasoning in an attempt to "persuade" people to believe the truth of God (Acts 9:22; 17:2-3; 18:4; 24:25). While "personal testimony" can be effectively used in personal evangelism, Christians must also be prepared to give a well-reasoned explanation of the truth-claims of Christianity. Objective truth must be "proved" from the evidence God has given from nature (Psalm 19:1-3) and from his word (John 8:31-32; Acts 17:2-3).

Truth has come under attack in our postmodern culture. By definition, "truth" is an established fact that shows the reality of something. Truth is objective meaning that it is not dependent upon individual experience, but instead is an absolute standard to which all people are accountable. God's word claims to be this objective, absolute truth (John 17:17). If we don't pursue truth and use our logical abilities to arrive at God's truth, we are "without excuse" and will find ourselves the recipients of God's wrath (Romans 1:18-23).

We must love God and seek him with both our hearts and our minds (Mark 12:30). Let's tell others of what God has done in our lives personally. But may we also be prepared to logically defend the truthfulness of God.