

March Birthdays		March Anniversaries	
3	Kelly Beek	19	Linda & Kelly Beek
4	Paul Cunningham		
5	Judy Fulton		
7	Margo Greene		
25	Shaundra Moss		

April 6, 2025		
Greeters:	Len Gates	Terry Reader
Announcements:	Kelly Beek	
Song Leader:	Dan Greene	
Opening Prayer:	Ian Stewart	
Closing Prayer:	Kelly Beek	
Lord's Table:	Stacey Moss	Terry Reader
	Ken Davis	Jim Richards
Coordinator:	Dan Greene	



When you visit us... March 30, 2025

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes
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Sunday	Wednesday
10:00 amBible Class	7:00 pm.....Devotional
11:00 am.....Assembly	or Bible Class
Noon.....Fellowship Meal	
1:30 pm.....Devotional	

Mission Work Areas
Quito, Ecuador
Mazatlán, Mexico
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

Elders

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

Deacons

Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

New Prayer Requests

Ian Stewart – He had surgery for a detached retina on Friday the 14 th . He is still having some vision problems as he heals. Please keep him and Linda in your prayers.
Richard Pedrie – having heart issues. They were not able to perform a bypass surgery due to his weakness. They will plan to put in stents in early April. Please remember him in your prayers.
Jim & Judy Taylor – remember them in your prayers as there is unrest in Mexico with the cartels.

Long Term Prayer List

Stanten Sikes – TIA and testing	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Ron Hansen
Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Diane Spomer – Cancer	Crystal & JJ Autry and family
Kelly Mortensen (Toni G's dad) – kidney cancer	Lola Gates (Len's mom) – recovering from her fall – will likely have surgery
Dane Tate (Stanten's brother-in-law) – recovering from a fall	Jean Riffel (Marion's sister) – fall and other problems
Linda Beek – hip problems	Mike Cavasos – heart issues - testing
Mike Cavasos – new pacemaker	Teresa & John Grady

If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 tldr1960@yahoo.com
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 lntrader@q.com

I Cannot Go Down

Eric Hamilton

Nehemiah was the cupbearer to the king of Persia when he heard that the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem had yet to rebuild its walls and remained unprotected. This grieved Nehemiah so much that the king noticed and asked Nehemiah what was wrong. After explaining, the king gave Nehemiah a directive to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls.

This confluence of events in Nehemiah's life is a very good illustration of what is often referred to in religious circles as a "calling." Sometimes, people will shy away from that term, because it has been and is abused by people. They may say that God told them to do something, when in fact God did not. Sometimes, they may even justify ungodly behavior because they had a "calling." We should be careful not to take our own personal flights of fancy for the will of God. But, so to, we should not discount that perhaps we are put in a certain place, and our hearts pricked precisely because God wants to do something with us. "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" ([Esther 4:14b](#)) was what Mordecai told Esther when she similarly was placed in a unique situation to do something important. Nehemiah was moved in his spirit by the plight of Jerusalem, and he was placed in a situation where he had the opportunity and means by which to do something about it. And he did it.

But just because Nehemiah was "called" to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, this does not mean that the task would be easy. Nehemiah faced many challenges and setbacks in his undertaking. There were other leaders of other regions nearby Jerusalem in the Persian Empire who did not want to see a stronger and more powerful Jerusalem compete with them. So they did various things to thwart Nehemiah's efforts in rebuilding. They insulted the workers ([Nehemiah 4:1-3](#)), they threatened to attack the city and cause chaos (4:7-8), and eventually they even sent a letter to the king in an effort to turn him against Nehemiah (6:5-8). Another thing they tried to do was to invite Nehemiah to a conference under the pretext of talking and working things out (6:2). To this invitation to talk, Nehemiah responded:

"I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ([Nehemiah 6:3b](#))

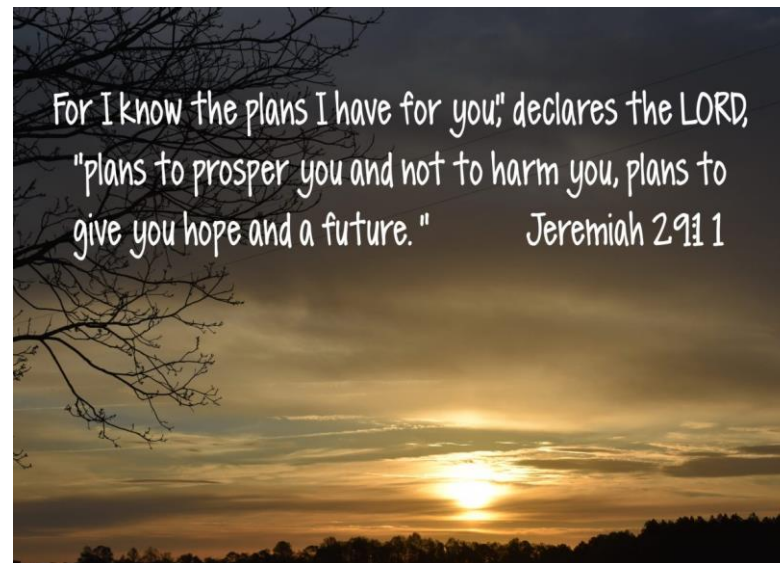
We might react to this response as rude. Why shouldn't Nehemiah be willing to just talk and work things out with these other men? Well, one thing was that Nehemiah knew that their intention was not to talk, but to get him away from Jerusalem to harm or kill him (6:2b). But even if they didn't have such extreme intentions, they're ultimate goal was to stop and delay Nehemiah from completing what he was called to do. Nehemiah was focused on his work and would not be thrown off course.

It is interesting to note that when Nehemiah tells his opponents that he cannot "come down" that he is speaking geographically. Jerusalem was a city on a hill, and to leave it would be to physically go down. But Nehemiah may also be intentionally speaking spiritually. Nehemiah knows his work

to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem is a "great work," one he prayed fervently to God about ([Nehemiah 1:4-11](#)), and one that he now had the opportunity to finish if he stayed to task. To do anything that did not work toward that final completion would be Nehemiah descending from the great, down to something less than great. He knew that in going down to the level of his adversaries, the work would stop.

Now, we might not be doing a great work like rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, but we all have good (or perhaps even great) works that we are "called" to do. In fact, the Preacher tells us there is nothing better in this life than to enjoy it and "whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" ([Ecclesiastes 9:10a](#)). Perhaps your work is your vocation, or perhaps it is raising your children in the Lord, or perhaps it is teaching, or perhaps it is something else good that God has given you a talent to do. Whatever that great thing is that you have to do, you have certainly experienced challenges to completing your work. People may try to stop you, belittle you, try to get you focused on things that ultimately don't matter. I find this happens a lot to me on social media. How often do I spend getting worked up about something I see posted on social media, and then how much of my time does it consume? Often much more than I'd care to admit. But there is something to remember in this respect. Every time you allow someone else, or some thought, or some event to distract you from the great work you are doing, you are stopping that work and condescending yourself down to a lower level.

So the next time you are tempted to be distracted from your work, be like Nehemiah. Realize that to be distracted is to stop the work that God has given you the opportunity and means to do. Do not allow yourself to be brought down from what you ought to be doing. Be like Nehemiah and complete the great work God has given you to do.



A few words...

Oftentimes, we find ourselves asking "God, what is it that you want from me?" As we travel through life, it may not always be clear – to us – what we are supposed to be doing. But, God certainly knows what we have for us to do ([Jeremiah 29:7](#)). I think the problem is that we often think that we must be doing something "extraordinary" in order to please God. In fact, God may have given us something to do that we consider to be quite ordinary or mundane. Yet, we must know that whatever God has given us the talents and abilities to do, is certainly of utmost importance, because it is His plan.

We must each look at our talents – what we are good at – and realize that is what God has planned for us. It doesn't have to be on a stage, speaking to hundreds (or even thousands) of people to be great. Just as Eric said in his article, it may be your job or teaching or raising your children in the ways of God, but whatever you are "called" to do, remember it is God's plan for you. The thing to remember about whatever we are doing, we must do it heartily, in the name of the Lord to please Him and not men ([Colossians 3:17 and 23](#)).
~Terry

Steve & Ruth Byrne

*** Today --- Sunday, March 30 ***

Visiting preacher and candidate for our open position.
Please stay and meet Steve and his wife, Ruth.



We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional!
We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
Steve Byrne	March 30
1 st Wednesday Singing	April 2, 2025 – 7:00 PM