

# Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

Perry Heights church of Christ  
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“...let us consider how we may encourage one another”  
Heb. 10:24

January 8, 2023

## Personal Responsibility

David Osteen

This phrase is being tossed around like a hot potato on a child’s playground, but that’s the problem isn’t it; nobody knows the game “hot potato” anymore. The real problem, however, is that nobody even knows how to grow a potato anymore. The wisdom of God teaches us why not knowing how to grow a potato is one of the major reasons the Lord’s church is what some would say, “*In Trouble!*”

Everybody’s worried about the church dying off. Anywhere you go you are more likely to hear stories of how people “don’t want to listen to the gospel” then you will hear about stories of conversion. There’s a lot of complaining going on, but who is to blame? Are you going to blame God? Certainly you wouldn’t do that. Do we blame our preachers? Maybe. Do we blame Satan? Partially I’m sure. Really the people we blame though, is everyone who doesn’t walk in the door on Sunday. As if everyone would just magically wake up one day and realize they need the gospel, and which church is the true church of God’s divine instruction in which they should start attending. Yep, we blame all those people, because we can’t blame ourselves...right?!?!

Personal responsibility: what does that mean anyway? I’m pretty sure it means that an individual has an obligation to personally respond according their ability to fulfill their purpose, or a command from higher authority, or to the circumstances surrounding them that are in need of their attention. It means we have a duty to fulfill what we as an individual must fulfill. In regard to the

**“Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,  
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.” Psalm 36: 5**

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## Prayer List and Announcements

**Jeanette Aldridge** said she is feeling OK, but the cold, damp weather doesn’t agree with her.

**Janett King** continues to recover from her bout with pneumonia. She is still coughing some but overall feels better.

**Deborah Grigsby** has been in a lot of pain this week. She has been dealing with a lot of back pain, so she had some steroid shots this week. They left her feeling fatigued, and the damp weather isn’t helping her.

**Fred Duggin** had quite a scare this week. Last Saturday afternoon he suffered a major medical crisis, ending up unconscious in the ICU for over 36 hours. Fortunately he received excellent care and was released after a few days. He will be following up with the neurologist in a week to ten days, and will be having speech and swallowing therapy. He said the doctor is about 90% sure he has Myasthenia Gravis.

**Betty Travis** has had several good days this week, but her overall condition is about the same.

**Betty Dennis** reports that her eye remains clearer. She will see a retina specialist at the end January. Unfortunately she has been suffering from a bad case of the flu for the past several days, and dealing with serious bouts of coughing.

PLEASE NOTE: The last directory gave an incorrect email for Barry Cary. It should be **bcary@mycentennial.bank**. Please correct this in your directory.

### \*\*Let us continue to Remember in Prayer\*\*

Janett King, Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Keith Barclay (friend of Betty Copley), Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Dalton Gregory, and Esther Carrera, co-worker of Dwight Mullett.

### Birthdays:

9th: Dennis Blanton

11th: Carolyn Lowder

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

January 8, 2023

*Sunday Morning:*

### Call to Worship:

John. 10:7-10

Barry Cary

### Song Leader:

Larry Miller

### First Prayer:

Doug Driver

### Presentation/Lord’s Table

Barry Cary

### Servers:

Walter Culbreth \*\*\*Austin Miller

### Speaker:

Johnny Felker

### Prayer & Announcements:

Barry Cary

### Usher:

Dwight Mullett

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*Sunday Evening:*

### Call to Worship:

Jeremiah 23: 23-24

Austin Miller

### Song Leader:

Ralph Brown

### First Prayer:

Larry Miller

### Speaker:

Johnny Felker

### Lord’s Table:

Walter Culbreth

### Prayer and Announcements:

Barry Cary

### Usher:

Dwight Mullett

## Preacher's Pen points

## Make 2023 the Best Year of Your Life



Don't forget to meet the daily needs of your s \_\_\_\_\_ as well as your b \_\_\_\_\_.  
(1 Thes. 5:23; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; Eccl. 12:13-14).

Remember that all of us have a s \_\_\_\_\_ hole that can't be filled with m \_\_\_\_\_ things.

Take time for w \_\_\_\_\_, for p \_\_\_\_\_, for Bible r \_\_\_\_\_, and for m \_\_\_\_\_ on spiritual things.

Settle unfinished business with God, dealing with s \_\_\_\_\_ against His will, and start l \_\_\_\_\_ for Him.

Tap into the w \_\_\_\_\_ of God for life's important d \_\_\_\_\_.

Acknowledge God as creator of everything and the wise F \_\_\_\_\_ He is (Prov. 3:19).

Realize that God k \_\_\_\_\_ more than you and I! (Prov. 15:33).

Understand that God's wisdom is available to us in the s \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 2:6-7).

Let God have c \_\_\_\_\_ of the decision-making process. (Prov. 19:23).

Focus on the q \_\_\_\_\_ of your r \_\_\_\_\_.

The central commands of the Scripture focus on first our relationship with G \_\_\_\_\_ and then our relationship with e \_\_\_\_\_ around us. (Mt. 22:37-39).

Affirm the v \_\_\_\_\_ of the people in your life.

Agree to do something to e \_\_\_\_\_ the life of someone else each day

Live life a d \_\_\_\_\_ at a time remembering it could be your l \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough t \_\_\_\_\_ of its own. (Mt. 6:34; Jas. 4:13-14)*

Don't get so wrapped up in t \_\_\_\_\_ you can't live t \_\_\_\_\_.

Maintain a "no r \_\_\_\_\_" outlook.

End each day with spiritual e \_\_\_\_\_.

Most important thing you can do for your life is committing to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus said, *"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly. (Jn. 10:10)* We can have this abundant life through Jesus' sacrifice for us and through following His teachings.

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church of God, that means building it up. We (inclusive of all Christians) have not only been given the command to build the church, but we have also been given the ability. If God had not given us the ability, then we wouldn't have personal responsibility.

But consider the following passages. In Ephesians 4:12 the Holy Spirit talks about, "the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" While that may be specifically in reference to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers discussed in the previous verse, consider vs. 16 which tells us that what, "causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" comes from "the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part," You see, each part does a part. Christ is the head, but he has given each of us as members a responsibility... personal responsibility.

So what's the connection to the potato? We don't know how to grow a potato, so we don't know how to grow the church. We don't see growing potatoes as our personal responsibility, and so we blame the lack of potatoes on others like those people who don't miraculously wake up on Sundays and find their way to church. In coming weeks we'll learn more about potatoes; how to grow them, why it is important, and what has made us forget how. The most important thing to understand though, before we go any further, is that we have personal responsibility in growing potatoes.

It is true that God says He causes the growth, but who is supposed to be planting the seed? Look out your backyard window. Do you see any potatoes growing? If not, is it God's fault? Is it your preacher's or neighbor's fault? Is it the potato's fault? I know, nobody ever told you to plant potatoes, but think about it. If God did tell you to grow potatoes and you went about it the same way, and put the same effort into it, as you put in to growing His church, how many potatoes would you have? Personal responsibility... if you don't get it, souls will be lost.

( ~via O'Connor Road church of Christ; San Antonio, Texas/Market Street Messenger 1/16/22)