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Submit Bulletin Entry to: Vith Gass on or before Wednesday @ 12NN office@hvlcoc.org 828-692-0306 youtube.com/user/HVLCOC facebook.com/hvlcoc *HvlCoC Connect* www.hvlcocnc.churchtrac.com







Welcome to our time of worship!

Attended Nursery for ages 0-3years available down the hallway. Attendants: **Nikki and Makenna Grasso**

Order of Service

Song Leader • Tim Godley

I Will Call Upon the Lord - 63 Jesus, Let Us Come to Know You - 768

Opening Prayer - Jackie Gass

Bind Us Together - 704 How Deep the Father's Love - *42

Lord's Supper - Gary Stephenson

Lord's Supper Attendants:
Fred Gore
Gage Grooms
Logan Grooms
Alex Carpenter

How Sweet, How Heavenly - 709

The Prayer of the Christ III • Ethan Brown

Just As I Am - 924

Closing Prayer • Glenn Elliott

Thank you for throwing away trash in cans in the lobby and recycling papers in table basket.

Weekly Bible Classes In-Person for All Ages 9:30 AM Sundays 6:30 PM Wednesdays

Today

Teen Tubing Trip August 25 - Sunday After Today's Service Green River Cove Tubing

Tomorrow

Forward for Freedom 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall

Next Week

Labor Day Cookout September 2, 2024 2:00 PM Annex—Pavilion

Women's Bible Class September 5, 2024 10:00 AM Upstairs—Annex Bldg.

Mark Your Calendar

Praise and Prayer Service September 8, 2024 10:30 AM Auditorium

Join HvlCoC Connect!

lcocnc.churchtrac.com or use the QR code for full calendar & more!



Not long ago this congregation studied a book called *At the Blue Hole*. That book is a history of the Churches of Christ told by Dr. Jack Reese. I know Jack, though not very well. Jack and my father were friends when my dad taught at the University of Iowa and Jack was a PhD student there. While we aren't close friends, I know this about him: he deeply loves the Churches of Christ, draws his identity from them, and wants our fellowship to do well.

As Jack tells the story of our fellowship, a profound irony becomes apparent. On the one hand, the Restoration Movement in America (of which the Churches of Christ are a part) was essentially an attempt to find Christian unity. The goal was to bring the movements of Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone together into one movement. Christians should be unified, and these folks wanted to achieve that. What united them was a desire to take the Bible seriously and simply to be Christians.

On the other hand, that effort to produce unity has generated one of the most internally fractured and fractious Christian fellowships ever. We have a sad history of dividing over things like these: the number of cups to use in the Lord's Supper; multiple congregations supporting a children's home; a kitchen in a church building; having Sunday School classes; requiring worship to be in a room on a second story; Christians attending movies; the proper role of men and women in the facilitation of worship; men wearing their hair long; and so on and so on. Strong opinions about what the Bible says about things like these have resulted in brothers and sisters parting company and denying one another's Christianity.

What our movement has discovered by trial and error is that unity by human effort is rarely (if ever) achieved. It is our heart's desire to be unified. It is our fallen, sinful habits that divide us. As Jesus once said to his disciples when he found them sleeping in the garden: the spirit, indeed, is willing, but the flesh is week.

But what if human effort was never meant to be the foundation of Christian unity? It's clear that human effort has a part to play, or else there would not be so many calls and commandments in Scripture that we should be unified. As Paul said, we have a responsibility to preserve the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3). But what if laying the foundation for Christian unity is simply beyond us? What if our efforts alone cannot produce it?

On the night when Jesus was betrayed into the hands of his killers, Christ prayed for his people to be unified. He did not merely teach unity, he prayed for it. If it were possible for human beings to unite by human will and the power of our efforts alone, why did Jesus seek the help of his Father for us? The fact that Jesus prayed that we would be one has to tell us that we need help if it is going to be true of us. If we want to *be* one - and Jesus clearly wants that for us - we need the help of *the* One. We'll never have it until we become humble enough to receive it.

Ethan Brown



Pray and Care for Our Shut-Ins:

Pete Hunter Jeannie Grindstaff Reba Haynes Pat Jarvis Carolyn Holland Eva Watkins Esperanza Harrington Sam Ruth

Prayer Updates are listed on the back. Long-term prayer lists are on the Prayer Board in the lobby.

How to send prayer requests and praise reports

- Use the "Prayer Request" and "Praise Report" forms on HvlCoC Connect at hvlcocnc.churchtrac.com.
- Fill out a paper card and put on the board, give to an elder, or give to a member of the Prayer Ministry Team.
- Email the Prayer Ministry Team at prayerhylcoc@gmail.com.

Coupons for Troops sends product coupons to military families. Please put coupons in the box in the lobby or give to the Farleys'.

Domestic

Palmetto Bible Camp (SC) Southeastern Children's Home (SC)



Foreign

Eastern European Missions—EEM Nekemte (Ethiopia) Samrit Kammanee (Thailand) Steve & Dianna Teel (Baxter Institute, Honduras)

Recent Sunday Attendance			
Date	9:30AM Bible Class	10:30AM Service	
08/18	62	100	
08/11	77	119	

Contribution Numbers

August Contribution	\$ 18,008	Place contributions
August Budget	\$ 25,720	in the boxes near the auditorium entrance, mail to the church office, or give online through HvlCoC Connect.
Contribution YTD	\$ 181,846	
Budget YTD	\$ 212,183	

CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Vith Gass Office: 828-692-0306 office@hvlcoc.org

Our Mission Statement

As forgiven people who have been rescued by Jesus Christ, our calling is to:

- * Proclaim the good news of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
- ★ Praise and honor our Father by seeking to live as Jesus did and taught
- **★** Teach and equip one another for works of loving service
- * Reach out and share the love and saving grace of Jesus with all people

ELDERS

Bill Fitzpatrick: 828-779-0749 Tim Godley: 828-329-3397 Fred Gore: 828-606-8752 Evan McGee: 336-260-5216 Bill McKelvey: 828-891-4787 Sam Williams: 828-748-3263

MINISTER

Dr. Ethan Brown: 806-789-3606

DEACONS

Blain Bice: Communication and Technology Jeremy Cochran: Education Josh Propst: Missions Jim Scott & Rod Price: Facilities, Bus, and Trailer

MINISTRY LEADERS

Bill Fitzpatrick: Benevolence & Fellowship Supplies Ministry

Karen Fitzpatrick: Stephen & Care Ministry Jackie Gass: Forward for Freedom Ministry

Evan & Karen McGee: Prayer Ministry Nancy McKelvey: Children's Worship &

Ladies Ministry

Gary Stephenson: Hospitality Ministry David Yelton: Disaster Relief Ministry