

The Ministry of Reconciliation

by Dave Rogers

“Ministry” is from the Greek word for SERVICE, so “ministering” means **servng!** The apostle Paul calls **Christians** “ministers” in 1 Corinthians 4:1, encompassing every genuine disciple as a minister of the grace of Christ, and as a steward of God’s grace.

Too often, what is CALLED “ministry” is some social activity that satisfies a whim rather than anything to do with honoring God through obedience to His word. As we strive to simply be Christians, let’s remember that we HAVE a “ministry;” our God committed to us **the ministry of reconciliation!**

Reconciliation is God’s ultimate gift

Each December, “christendom” focuses on Jesus’ birth: The gospel accounts of His birth are read (often dramatized) across the land. The angelic words of Luke 2:14 receive special emphasis; around the world, nativity scenes pop up on church lawns and in town squares. Much attention is given to the Baby in the manger.

Even as gratitude for the baby Jesus abounds, we should remember the reason He came into our world: The Babe in the feed-trough was necessary, for thus our Lord entered this world; but it is the Man on the cross who fulfilled the Father’s purpose! It is not so much His “entrance” into the world as His EXIT that should transfix our thoughts! It was of Jesus **the man** that John said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

What Jesus did AS a man cleanses us and makes us free, John 8:31-32. It’s good that people think about Him right now, as “doors” may be open now (in their minds) that are closed during the rest of the year. Let’s not ignore the obvious, but seize the opportunities it brings, to show others how to receive what our Father offers: **Salvation in Jesus Christ!**

Reconciliation makes REDEMPTION possible

God’s gift is described in the four points of 2 Corinthians 5:17-19: (1) “If any man be **in Christ** (2) he is a new creation (3) **old** things are passed away, (4) they are become new.” THIS is the great gift that is ours in Jesus Christ! We come “into” Christ through the waters of baptism, Galatians 3:27. Second Corinthians 5:11-16 emphasizes the love He demonstrated for us in His sacrifice. “Putting on the Lord” takes the place of providing for the lusts of the flesh (Romans 13:14)!

We truly become “new creations” because we **die to sin**, Romans 6:2. The “old man” (Ephesians 4:24) – a life lived apart from God – is discarded when we become Christians (Philippians 3:7-8). “Old” things (sins) have NO eternal value for us! The “new” person in Christ has a compassionate heart, is kind, humble, meek, patient, forbearing and forgiving (Colossians 3:12-17). The “new” person loves other Christians, seeks to have and maintain peace with all, and is guided in all things by the word of Christ.

Reconciliation is about saving our souls: This can only happen because GOD bridged the “gulf of sin” between us and Him. In Jesus Christ, we can be “brought back” (Ezekiel 28:15) to a right relationship with our Creator.

Reconciliation is THE ministry of the saints

HERE is the true focus of Christian living! We are “servants” of all because the gospel has been entrusted to **us**, to convey to others. This is our “commission” (Mark 16:15) and our privilege! We do not expose sin from spite or self-righteousness (remember Romans 3:23!), but to save souls, 1 Timothy 2:4. The Christian’s privilege is to show others the “way” to approach God with joy in place of terror!

Pride in Bible Study

Kevin Rhodes

Pride is one of those “attitude” sins that touch every area of life, and Bible study is no exception. The wise man said long ago, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18). Whenever a Bible student begins his study thinking that he already knows the answers, his motive is wrong. Bible study is about learning what God has to say – not seeing whether or not He agrees with you. It is pride that causes us to suppose that we must be right and that creates the desire within us to try to control right and wrong—at least in our own minds.

When Paul preached in Thessalonica, “the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people” (Acts 17:5). The Jews’ envy existed because of their arrogant presumption of spiritual superiority, which Paul had exposed by his preaching, and their jealousy at Paul’s success. Their pride not only caused them to reject the gospel themselves but to assault those who accepted it. Pride caused them to seek solace in their physical control over the house of Jason and other when they could not control the message. Sometimes, even today, people first become defensive, due to their pride, when their assumptions are challenged and then strike back offensively with verbal assaults and illogical arguments, once again from pride.

Earlier in Acts, when the apostles were preaching, the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem had shown the same disposition, “Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:2). Later, among themselves, they acknowledged a miracle that had been performed, but, due to pride, they refused to admit their mistake publicly, and even tried to suppress any knowledge of the event. Some people may privately admit that their ideas, beliefs and teaching do not match the Biblical record, but, at the same time, their pride keeps them from admitting this publicly or making the changes required. However, this problem generally stems from others. More common in personal Bible study is the belief that questioning previously held positions is a lack of faith or a sign of weakness. However, nothing is as strengthening and faith-building as the reassurance brought by an independent examination of the evidence. The only thing to lose by such an examination is an erroneous belief. However, in order to expose these, you must first be willing to lose your pride.

Pride convinces us that nothing is as important as our own position and blinds us to the value of truth. Pride makes us believe that we could not possibly be wrong. Pride keeps us from ever considering that we might have accepted an erroneous teaching. Therefore, as we approach Bible study, let us remember the apostle Paul’s words, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12).



Georgia School of Preaching Class Schedule Fayetteville (South Metro)

Winter Classes:

Exodus

Monday, December 5, 2016 - Monday, March 13, 2017
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Instructor: Randy Kea

Preparation and Delivery of Sermons I

Monday, December 5, 2016 - Monday, March 13, 2017
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Instructor: Dave Rogers

Leadership in the Local Church

Thursday, December 8, 2016 - Monday, March 16, 2017
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Instructor: David Decker

Between the Testaments

Thursday, December 8, 2016 - Monday, March 16, 2017
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Instructor: David Decker

Family Matters

Hick Higginbotham – Has been moved to Southland Rehab in Peachtree City, room 520.

Butch Trawick – Is in Piedmont Hospital.

Wayne Nash – Is home recuperating at home following surgery last Monday.

Hugh Kelly – Will see a cardiologist for tests.

Ray Cozart – Will have outpatient surgery December 15 at Piedmont Fayette Hospital.

Linda Armstrong – Is sick at home.

Tina Russell – Hurt her back last week.

Jayden Russell – Has been sick for 3 weeks.

Samuel Kemp – Joan Poskevich's 17 year-old nephew will have heart surgery on December 15th.

Evelyn Shaw – Katherine Hopkins' 90 year-old grandmother has been diagnosed with cancer.

Loretta Russell – Is recuperating from hip surgery last week.

Pam Vice – Member at Forest Park COC is in Piedmont/Atlanta Hospital recovering from heart surgery.

Joyce Hickson & Whitnee Ricigliano – Friends of Decieta Lyons request prayers for healing

Deepest Sympathy

We offer our deepest sympathy to **Anthony and Linda Ravenell and their family** for the passing of her brother, Kenneth E. Bivins of Macon. Please keep this family in your prayers during this time.

Also to the family of **Jean Kidd**, a former member at Fayetteville, that passed away last week. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Members With Health Problems: Luke & Laura Quinn, Bernice Gillespie,

Sarah Beth Haney, Holly Dalman, Wayne & Betty Jo Nash, Jim Garner, Mattie Croix, Mary Lawrence, Decieta Lyons, RuPearl Sharpe, Brenda Mitchell, Equillar Butler, Lucille Amon, Marlene Etheridge, Mattie Williams, Maylon Swann, Una Fortson, Forrest & Burma Chapman

Shut-ins: Frances Elder, Ruby Fowler, Annette Benefield, Butch & Joann Trawick, David & Shirley Lee, Lillian Gray, David Nash, Jane Lankford & Joe Clark

Others With Health Problems: Betty Land (Jill Nash's sister), Doug Hinely, Ray & Keven Barton, Kresta Braswell & Kyla Barton, Rose Osborn (friend of Marlene Etheridge), Harold Holt (Shirley Lee's brother), Sybil Hedden, Caylee Williamson (Terri Durden's niece), Cole Gilman, David Fredricks (Jeannie Pyron's brother), Meg Wallace (Sharon O'Brien's cousin), Willard Mann, Bree Couch (Ginny's dau.-in-law), Gregory Crook (Lucille Amon's nephew), Tom Holcomb (Annette's Son-in-law), Joanne Daugherty (David & Wayne Nash's Sister), Carol Bomar (Charity Nash's aunt), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Xermonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's bro./S-i-L), Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's B-in-L) and Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother)

Prayer Requested – Scott Kelly's email address jpay.com (Web site) #1001380630 (Scott / Robert Kelly)

Prayer Requested – Jamie & Jason Campbell (Sylvester & Missy's sons).

Military Members Deployed: AM3 Candace Butts (Connie Elder's daughter), US Navy

FEMA Deployed: Sylvester & Missy Campbell are both deployed.

We are excited to welcome our new brother in Christ, **Brendon Kilgo**, to our church family. Brendon was baptized last Sunday morning. His address & phone number is:
316 Noel Way
Hampton, GA 30228
678 789-2740



Thank you to all the special young children and "adults" for the fruit basket and candy. You are all very special to me. Thanks especially to Jean Johnson and the other ladies who got this together. May God Bless you all. Love, Linda Howell



Christmas Cards Time!

Bundle your cards for members of our church family by December 14th and we will organize them and have them ready for pick up on December 16th.

I would like to thank the kids and adults that put my college box together. I enjoyed opening it and all the goodies. Thank you again, Eric Kelly

Dear Frogs,
Thank you so much for the fruit and cookie bag you fixed at Thanksgiving. Thanks to Ethan for delivering my bag. I love you all and am so proud of how hard you work!
Judy Beckwith

Deadline to sign up is Dec 30th.
Cost is \$100.00

Bible Bowl Snacks/Light Lunch Sign-Up
Dec
11 Needed someone - Snacks
18 Catherine Kelly - light lunch

Calendar

Dec 11 - Wedding reception for Josh Findley from 3-4:30pm. The couple would like gift cards from WalMart or Target.
Dec 11 - Ladies' Ornament Exchange hosted by Melanie Boelsterli
Dec 30 - **Changed Date** for our New Year's Eve Family Game Night will be Friday night starting at 6pm.

Wedding reception for Josh & Destiny Findley
December 11th from 3-4:30.

Youth Events

LTL Paperwork is due NOW.
Dec 9 – Frog Holiday Party/Movie
Dec 18 – Area Wide Youth Devo - Tara
Feb 4, 2017 – Providers/Keepers Class

	12/11	12/18	12/25
Call To Worship	Jim Pelfrey	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Scripture Reading	Morris Jones	Brad Hopkins	Zeke Poskevich
Song Leader	Jimmy Garner	Stan Mitchell	Jimmy Garner
Prayer	Wayne Nash	Jack Sorrell	Tommy Chapman
Preside Lord's Supper	Brad Hopkins	Larry Rose	James Walker
Server	Morris Jones	Ben Rogers	Morris Jones
Server	Jim O'Brien	Andy Johnson	Jim O'Brien
Server	Hugh Kelly	Ray Russell	Hugh Kelly
Server	Anthony Stinson	Thomas Quinn	Anthony Stinson
Server	Jerry Kendrix	Anthony Ravenell	Jerry Kendrix
Server	Keith Killingsworth	Bill Ruffer	Keith Killingsworth
Server	Dennis Ethridge	Paul Lyons	Dennis Ethridge
Server	Ken Fincher	Coney Johnson	Ken Fincher
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Jim Garner	Jim Garner	Jim Garner
Announcements	Jim Pelfrey	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Shepherd's Prayer	Tom Durden	Jim Pelfrey	Greg Nash
Evening Worship			
Announcements	Jim Pelfrey	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Song Leader	Rory Bell	Stan Mitchell	Coney Johnson
Prayer	Luke Quinn	Steve Hopkins	Larry Fields
Sermon	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Song Service
Lord's Supper	Jim O'Brien	Thomas Quinn	Keith Killingsworth
Lord's Supper	Hugh Kelly	Bill Ruffer	Ken Fincher
Prayer	Paul Lyons	Anthony Ravenell	Brad Hopkins

Communion Preparation

Linda Howell

Nursery

11 Jessa Quinn
18 Susie Graham
25 Meggi Quinn

Care of Building

1-15 Shirley Allender/
Tommy Chapman
16-31 David Hopkins/
Dennis Etheridge

Ushers

11 Rory Bell/Jim Lindsey
18 Michael Madison/Larry Rose
25 Jack Sorrell/Anthony Ravenell

Media Center Helpers

Dec 11 & 18 Gayle Pelfrey
Dec 25 & Jan 1 Jordan Madison

Open Arms

11 Martha Vickery, Sally Wallace,
Connie Kelly,
Linda Armstrong,
Tommy & Gail Chapman
18 Jo Hurt, Linda Johnson,
Jessa Quinn,
Theresa Green,
Tom & Terri Durden

Wednesday Evening

Devotional

14 Larry Rose
21 Tom Durden
28 James Walker

Ministers:

Dave Rogers

(361) 649-6638

Dave.rogers@fcoc.com

Greg Nash,

(404) 455-1546 (cell)

gnash999@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Susie Graham

celiagraham@bellsouth.net

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

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www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc

Elders:

Tom Durden

(770) 652-7389

Jim Garner

(770) 461-3197

Greg Nash

(404) 455-1546

Jim Pelfrey

(770) 629-2061

Deacons:

Dennis Graham

David Hopkins

Hugh Kelly

Jerry Kendrix

Andy Johnson

Paul Lyons

Stan Mitchell

David Poskevich

Anthony Ravenell

Jack Sorrell

Assembly Schedule:

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Worship Service

10:00 am Tuesday Morning

Bible Class

(September 11—May 14)

7:00 pm Wednesday Night

Bible Study

Pantry Items Needed

Ready-to-Eat Items,

Apple/Orange Juice, Baby Cereal,
Food, Fruits, Baby Formula,
Diapers, Lotion, Power, Wipes
Dry Beans, Cereal, Can Chicken/
Tuna, Grits/Oat Meal, Jello, Mac &
Cheese, Macaroni/Noodles/Pasta
Mash Potatoes, Mayo, Mustard
Can/Dry/Instant Milk, Pancake
Mix /Syrup, Pasta Sauce, Rice, Rice
-A-Roni, Salad Dressing, Pepper/
Salt,Soup, Stove Top Stuffing
Paper Towels/Toilet Paper

Our Missionaries



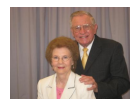
Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,
Bethany & Elijah McDonald
Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,
Westfield, Cumbernauld,
North Lanarkshire, G68 9DB
Email: graham@gmcd.net
Skype: gmcd105 or www.gmcd.net



Scott, Rebecca & Violet Shanahan
Pohnpel
scottshanahan@hotmail.com



Kenloy & Ivell Walker
Mandeville, Jamaica
Old Harbour Church of Christ,
876-569-2039



Forrest & Burma Chapman,
State of Georgia
email: ftc1952@alltel.com



Response Elder - Jim Garner

December 2016

Evangelism

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Nov 2016</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Jan 2017</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1	2 HS	3 Holiday Dinner Jim & Alene Scoma Peyton Nash Sally Wallace
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