

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
 Jerry Casey
 Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
 Robby Stocksdale
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch

Missions

Panama Pablo & Myra Sanchez
 Panama Denicio & Carmen Miranda
 New Zealand Nick & Marisa Parker

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and

Free Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us

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Email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org

Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Greg Blanton
 Scripture Reading John Keaton
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper Message Irvin Williams
 Table Attendant Grover Blanton
 Table Attendant Brandon Montgomery
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Ethan Welch
 Bible Reading Leon Stocksdale
 Selection 38
 Opening Prayer Ryan Irwin
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Doug McArthur

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Clint Smith Jr
 Lord's Supper Prayer Robby Stocksdale
 Offering Prayer Harold Tincher
 Usher Joe Sweeney
 Count Offering Joe Sweeney
 Assist Count Harold Tincher

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

The Prophesied One – Deut. 18:15-19

Sunday Evening

The Triumphal Entry – Mark 11:1-10

Last Sunday

Offering: \$2,989

Attendance: 91

Isaiah, the Messianic Prophet

(continued from page one)

Second, God is constantly calling His children back to Himself for cleansing and renewal (Isa. 1). Sometimes that means hardships and difficulty (Isa. 1:25) but the end goal is always restoration and renewal. Like a refiner smelts the precious metals to remove the impurities, God allows hardships and He allows it for our good (Heb. 12:10; Rom. 8:28-30).

Isaiah teaches us about a God who loves so deeply and longs for fellowship with so intensely that He will send His own son to be our Savior (Isa. 53); to atone for sins and reconcile us to Himself.

If you haven't read Isaiah recently, let me encourage you to give a read. You'll be glad you did.

- Jeff Arnette preaches for the Central Haywood church of Christ, Clyde, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://centralhaywoodchurchofchrist.com>

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Isaiah, the Messianic Prophet

Jeff Arnette

The book of Isaiah is a favorite of many Christians for good reason. Therein, we learn so much about our God, His character, and His plans for the future. Isaiah is often called the Messianic prophet for good reason. He spoke more about Jesus and the future kingdom of God than anyone else in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Isaiah was a man completely given over to the idea that Israel's purpose was to be a Messianic nation to the world. A nation through whom one day a great and wonderful blessing would proceed from God and be for all peoples. He was continually dreaming of a day when that great and wonderful work would begin. In fact, John 12:41 says that Isaiah "... saw his glory and spoke of him." (ESV)

Did you know that forty-seven of the sixty-six chapters in Isaiah are quoted or directly referenced in the New Testament? He was so instrumental to the first-century mindset that he is literally called by name twenty-two times and is credited with over three hundred direct quotes in the New Testament. Isaiah was and always will be an important book for the faithful child of God to understand.

His name means "The Lord Saves" and speaks to the message he preached. He repeatedly preached a message that focused on a faith that trusts in God enough to let Him save you.

According to Scripture, it seems that Isaiah had two sons, one named "Shear-jashub" (Isa. 7:3) and another named "Maher-shalal-has-baz" (Isa. 8:3). He was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah at a time when the Northern Kingdom was being invaded and was eventually destroyed by the Assyrians. His life and work spanned the reigns of four different kings: Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:1), Jotham (2 Chron. 27:1), Ahaz (2 Chron. 28:1), and Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29:1). According to the Talmud and Jewish tradition, which was accepted by most of the early church fathers, Isaiah was killed by Manasseh (2 Chron. 33:1, 9) by nailing him to two pieces of wood and sawing him in half (Heb. 11:37).

The book of Isaiah, with its 66 chapters, contain more lessons and important ideas than we can cover in one short article. With that in mind, I wanted to point out just a few of these lessons to you.

First, God still loves a rebellious and unrepentant nation (Isa. 1) and intended to fix the problems that separated them from Himself. This teaches us all that God still loves us, despite our failures and stubbornness. No matter how many times we fail Him, and that's a lot, our great and glorious God still loves us and wants us to return to Him.

(continued on the back page)

Love One Another

Eric Welch

First John is an inspired epistle devoted to the refutation of the first century teaching that Jesus was not the Christ in the flesh (3:23; 4:3). The letter was also devoted to encouraging Christians to "love one another" (2:7-11; 3:11-24; 4:20-31). Practically speaking, the first casualty of false teaching is love for each other.

Yet even in a healthy congregation, loving others can still be a challenge. We are not always loveable. We get on people's nerves. We do not give each other benefit of the doubt. We jump to wrong conclusions. We impugn motives. We do not trust each other and can be rude to each other.

It is natural to love the people in our families, our spouse, children and parents and the people we see every day. Perhaps John highlights the need for love in the church because it does not come as easily as with family. For that reason, we need to understand what love is.

The Greeks had four words for love: a love for family, for friends, for pleasure, but the one they favored least is the one that God favors most. John writes about "agape" love because it is how He loves. After all, God IS love (1 John 4:16). Genuine love, "agape," is action first, and affection second. "Agape" is a choice, an act of the will, a determined commitment, a faithful resolve to seek the welfare of others, including our enemies', above our own and even at great cost. This sacrificial love was demonstrated greatest at the cross (1 John 3:16; Romans 5:8).

Because we bear God's image, we too have the capacity for "agape." It is often displayed heroically in times of crisis. Think Hurricane Florence. But "agape" must be displayed in the small things in the home, at work and school and in the church. Love for God is best displayed through our love for each other (1 John 4:21).

The Way to Heaven

David Bragg

In October 1707 the British Royal Navy's 90-gun warship, the HMS Association, was leading a string of 21 ships home from the Mediterranean Sea. On the night of October 22, the ships entered the English Channel. Suddenly the Association struck rocks off the Isles of Scilly and, along with three other ships, sank. Observers reported that the Association sank in less than four minutes. All 800 men on board the Association were lost. Those perishing on the other vessels brought the death toll to nearly 2,000 souls making the incident "the greatest maritime disaster of the age" (Wikipedia; six-degrees.com).

Investigation revealed that the accident was the result of mistakes in the navigation tables. Although the Association's commander, Captain Edmund Loades, thought he was taking a safe path through the English Channel, he was in fact on a collision course with disaster.

From ancient sea voyages to modern space navigation, the danger of miscalculation and human error is ever-present. No such danger is attached to the Christian's journey to Heaven. Jesus reassured His disciples, and us, that He knows the way (John 14:1-4). And why not? He came from there. For Him it is home. He alone is uniquely qualified to blaze a trail from earth to Heaven. And His is the only trail that can be trusted to bring us to God (John 14:6).

- David Bragg serves as one of the ministers at the Northwest Church of Christ in Greensboro, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://www.nwchurchofchrist.com/>

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday September 24th at 6:30 p.m. the meal theme is pizza.

The ladies' Bible class will meet Saturday September 29th 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship room. All ladies are invited to attend and bring a friend!

On Sunday evening September 30th we will have an abbreviated worship service during which the Building Committee will provide an update on our auditorium expansion plans.

Why Did Jesus Have to Take on Flesh and Humanity?

Why did Jesus have to take on flesh and humanity? This question was always on my mind growing up in the church. Why did Jesus have to come in the flesh? Since He is God, why couldn't He just say this is the way we are going to do things now for you to be saved from your sins. I found it hard to understand why God had to come in the flesh. The Hebrew writer gives us some answers in this area. Read Hebrews 2:9-18.

- He became flesh so that He could die. Vs 9
- He became flesh so He could render powerless the one who had the power of death. Vs 14
- He became flesh to release people from the fear of death. Vs 15
- He became flesh to become a faithful high priest as a result of his suffering. Vs 17a, 18
- He became flesh to make propitiation for the sins of mankind. Vs 17b

Jesus has done all of this for us, so that we might be reconciled to God. If that isn't love I don't know what is. Jesus left His home in Heaven to save us, to appease God's wrath because of our sins. Let's not waste His sacrifice. Let's press forward knowing what He has done for us so that we can help others also.

- Travis Robertson preaches for the Lake Norman Church of Christ in Huntersville, NC. He may be contacted through the congregation's website at <http://lakenormancoc.org/>