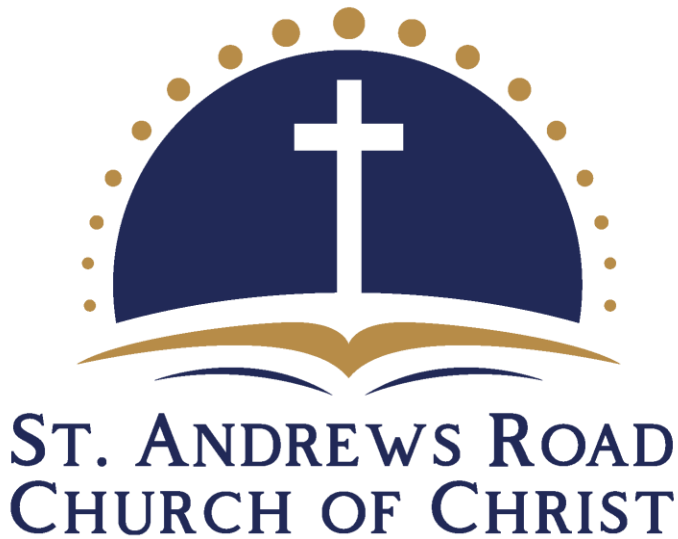


August 6, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 32



Worship Services & Bible Study

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM	Bible Class
SUNDAYS	11:00 AM	Worship
SUNDAYS	6:00 PM	Worship
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM	Bible Study

425 Saint Andrews Rd / Columbia, SC, 29210
803-772-0102

YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

Memories of Shepherds

I have a Bible that was given to me in 1991 upon my high school graduation by the elders of the congregation where I grew up. It was signed by all of them, and now, all but one has passed away. I cherish that Bible, in part, because of the memory of these good men. I remember their encouragement towards me as a young man to take part in the work of the church. I remember their seriousness toward the word of God, as well as their scriptural chastening of wayward members. They were kind and concerned about souls, and they were good role models.

As the years have gone by, it's been my joy to serve and work under godly elderships. They have welcomed me, confided in me, challenged me, helped me, encouraged me, and loved me. Come to think of it, that's what shepherds do. Note the encouragement that the apostle Peter gave to elders: **The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away (1 Peter 5:1-4, NKJV).** Jesus Christ is that Chief Shepherd, and elders who follow His example will receive an eternal reward from Him. A congregation that has elders/shepherds who serve in this way is truly blessed. Therefore, the rest of us should happily obey the command found in the next verse (v. 5) to submit to them.

We members, "the flock of God" (v. 2) have biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9) who "shepherd" our souls. The thought that they are helping us get to heaven ought to be comforting. The writer of the book of Hebrews states that elders "watch out" for our souls: **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you (Hebrews 13:17).** Ponder this question: When the elders think of you, do you think they experience an emotion of joy or grief based upon your conduct? I hope we can all say the former. But if not, please repent.

At the beginning of Peter's exhortation to elders, he says, **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you (1 Peter 5:2a).** That means elders do not shepherd souls at other congregations, but only the ones at the congregation in which they serve. If elders are to "shepherd" and "watch out" for the flock/souls among them, then they must know who is among them. This is why it is very important for folks who decide to attend a certain congregation to let the elders know that they desire those elders to shepherd them. Some go from congregation to congregation and never settle into one in which they can serve and grow. Remember, a shepherd's job is to know his sheep so that he can "watch out" for their souls. This may involve giving encouragement in areas in which the elders believe a member may be struggling. But this may also involve the elders chastening a member to bring him back into the fold if he has wandered away from the Lord. When one places his membership at a certain congregation, he is placing himself under the oversight of that eldership and submitting to their spiritual guidance. In this organized setting, we see the wisdom of God.

Thank God for our shepherds at St. Andrews Road! May we pray for them often and encourage them as they serve in this good work (cf. 1 Timothy 3:1). One day, we will look back and remember them and their service with grateful hearts.

Brotherly,
Jamie

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1-4

A Jot From John,

The Lord has the shepherd-heart: a heart that pulses with pure and generous love. He loves all. He grieves over the lost. He seeks the lost. He rejoices when the lost is found. (Luke 15:3-7; 19:10).

He has the shepherd-eye: His eyes “are upon the righteous.” He is ever watchful, not because he wishes to find fault, but because he loves us. When only one goes astray, he knows it.

He has the shepherd-ear: He hears the bleating of the sheep, the cry of distress. Unto the troubled soul, he inclines his ear—he draws near to listen. (Psalm 40:1; Heb. 4:15-16).

He has the shepherd-voice: “He calleth his own by name, and leadeth them out.” With his voice (the Word) he invites, he pleads, he guides, he warns, he assures. (Matt. 11:28-30).

He has the shepherd-hand: A symbol of his power. He is able to defend (2 Tim. 1:12), to direct, to supply (2 Cor. 9:8), to subdue (Phil. 3:21), to succor (Heb. 2:18), to preserve (John 10:27-29).

He has the shepherd-tenderness: (Isa. 40:11). The tenderness or the gentleness of the Shepherd is seen.

1. In the manner that he builds character: “*Thy gentleness hath made me great.*” (Psalm 18:25).
2. In the protection he gives: “*Under his wings*” his people take refuge. (Psalm 91:1-4).
3. In the manner he restores. Finding the lost sheep, he does not strike it or rebuke it, but “*layeth it on his shoulder*” and brings it home.

He has the shepherd-nearness: Never is he far removed! He is “at hand.” He is above us, around us, underneath us, (Deut. 33:27). “*Closer is he than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet.*” (Acts 7:54-56; 17:27-28). He is near us on the sunny hillside, near us in the dark valley. (Heb. 13:5-6).

Unto the person who loves us devotedly and sacrificially, we are brought under sacred obligation. This is a law of heaven. Because the Lord loves us, we are under obligation to him. We ought to love him, to hear him, to follow him, to trust him implicitly, to rejoice in the hope he gives. (1 John 4:19; Matt 16:24; John 14:15).

**Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister**

SUMMER SERIES

The FUNDAMENTALS of the Doctrine of Christ

Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

August 9

“The Church”

Keaton Pearce,
Gold Hill Road COC

Ladies Day

at St. Andrews Road Church of Christ

Saturday, August 26

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

“Unite Us Again”

Romans 12:10

Speakers:

Victoria Hughes & Michelle Bolen

Pick up postcards in the lobby and invite
your friends and neighbors.
Sign-up on the bulletin board to help us with
a lunch count.

GOSPEL MEETING

at St. Andrews Road Church of Christ

September 17 - 20

“How To Live

The Abundant Life—Here and Hereafter

Speaker: BJ Clarke

Director of the Memphis School of Preaching

Senior Bible Study

Tuesday, August 8

10:00 AM