



## 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  
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YouTube: Church of Christ St Andrews Rd

## Superstitious Much?

Are you superstitious? Did you give heed to a groundhog's behavior this past Thursday? Do you watch out for black cats crossing the street? Never step on a crack? Knock on wood? Leery of Friday the 13th? Carry a rabbit's foot? The American Heritage Dictionary defines superstition as *an irrational belief that an object, action, or circumstance not logically related to a course of events influences its outcome*. All of the above fit that definition. While these acts may seem innocent and harmless, if we allow them to influence our behavior, are we not elevating them to God's level, who indeed controls the future?

The Athenians in the first century were a superstitious people, and the apostle Paul told them so: **Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious (Acts 17:22, KJV)**. Paul's rebuke was brought about when **his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols (17:16, NKJV)**. It seems they were so afraid of offending any so-called god, and bringing calamity upon themselves, that they even made an alter **to the unknown god (v. 23)**. Someone once said, "It is easier to find a god in Athens than a man." They had so many superstitions that it would be amazing if anyone was able to keep from offending all of their so-called gods.

When it gets down to it, the root of having superstitions is the desire to be in control of all situations in order to have inner peace and happiness. But the child of God ought to remember that it is God who is in control, as Paul told the Athenians: **God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things (Acts 17:24-25)**. We live in a God-controlled world not a superstition-controlled one. Therefore, we ought to rather focus on not offending him. God is the only one who can fill us with true joy and peace, as is written in the prophet Isaiah: **I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things (Isaiah 45:5-7)**. God said this in Isaiah's day with reference to a man named Cyrus, who would become the Persian king about 200 years later. God knows the future and he is able to bring about his will even in the midst of ungodly world leaders and those influenced by them. Superstitions and idols have no power at all, except perhaps to deceive people into thinking they do. Paul called adherence to superstitions **ignorance (Acts 17:30)**, and that the Athenians should change their minds about the power of such (repent), and **seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us (Acts 17:27)**. We should do the same today by submitting to his revealed will (Matthew 7:21).

So do not concern yourself with the groundhog - his behavior does not control the future. Do not concern yourself about Friday the 13th - its place on the calendar does not affect events. Do not knock on wood - today's wood is still as dumb as the wooden idols found in the Old Testament. It is before God that we stand or fall, not some superstition: **Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him for the dead (Acts 17:31)**.

Brotherly,  
Jamie

**“TAKE A LITTLE HONEY WITH YOU”**  
(GENESIS 43:11)

A JOT FROM JOHN,

These are words that Jacob used when he called his sons and prepared them for a trip to Egypt to buy corn. After all, Canaan was a “land of milk and honey.”

So honey was used as a medium of exchange. Honey has been called the perfect food. It has been likened to milk in this respect. Take the two together and you have quite a potent combination. It has been said that honey was the only thing known that actually goes into the heart itself and heals the arteries and muscles. All told, there’s no long-term human study available on honey and heart health. More research is needed to better understand honey’s effects on heart health. Otherwise there are many helpful and much needed nutrients of which the human body benefits from.

With this in mind, I would like to introduce to you a “honey” that is of even more importance. It is the honey of KINDNESS. Just as honey out of a jar is sweet, healing, soothing, strengthening, and gentle, so is KINDNESS to those whom we contact and even to ourselves. This is the kind of honey that is needed in every relationship of life. The clouds have never been darker than they are now. Every crime imaginable is on the increase. Juvenile delinquency as well as adult delinquency continues to threaten our very civilization. Civil disobedience is completely out of control. There has never been as much hatred, avarice, strife, ungodliness, immorality, and a whole catalogue of other sins such as we are experiencing now. People have very little regard for each other. Lying and deceiving are the order of the day. Graft in high circles and low circles is accepted almost without an apology. Families are broken, children are disturbed, the psychiatrists are having to work overtime - the picture is not good. This is why we need this healing balm – KINDNESS! Is balm to the soul, the body, to the very life. This world needs it about as much as anything we can think of at this time. You may be asking in your mind, “If kindness is so important just where shall we take it?” Although there are several places we could and should take it, let us consider this one.

We need to take honey with us into all the religious relationships of life. In trying to win our friends who are not Christians; into our homes and most of all, when we come together to worship God and bringing KINDNESS to our brothers and sisters in Christ! It just might provide for us all the healing balm so much needed in our lives!

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

**Senior Bible  
Study**

**February 14  
10:00 AM**

**Men’s &  
Preachers Mtg**

**February 21  
10:00 AM**

**Ladies Bible Class Resumes**

**TODAY – February 5  
10:00 AM Room 237  
Teacher: Jackie Winston**

**Double the Valentine Fun  
for 5 grade & under**

**TODAY ~ 12:15 – 2 PM**  
Lunch & Cookie Decorating  
Service Project

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**February 10 ~ 6 – 9 PM**  
Kid’s Night Out  
Games – Crafts – Project - Singing

**SERVICE PROJECTS**

**Joy Basket collections** is a service project for the Ladies Bible Class to bring joy to friends and family who are sick or had surgery.

**Homeless Outreach bags** will be an ongoing service project through the year. We will collect items to fit into a gallon size bag and supply the bags to the congregation. You can pick up one or two each week and as you drive around town, pass the bag to someone in need. Of course, this is only if you feel safe. In the bag will be day-to-day supplies and a church brochure. Please help us get started by bringing in supplies. A list is available below. If you have any questions, please see Samantha Batten.

Bottled water Mints Socks  
Gloves Toothbrush Toothpaste  
Snack crackers Hand sanitizer

**BASKETS are located in the main  
lobby!**