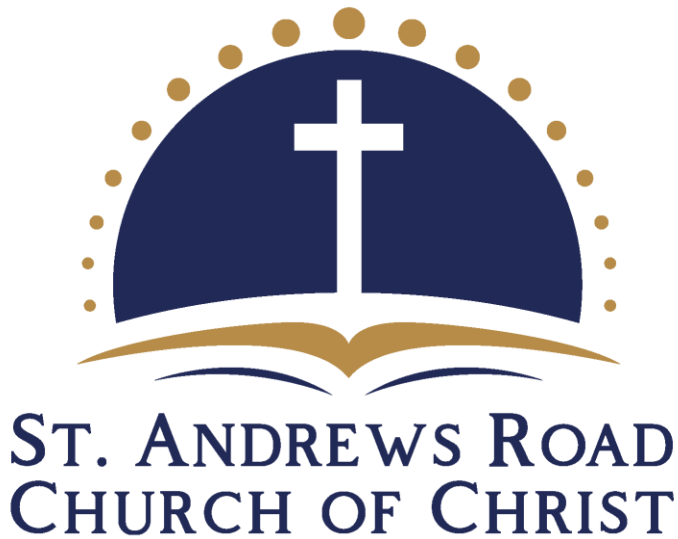


March 26, 2023

Volume 57 Issue 13



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

An Invitation

Are you part of an organization, club, or even the Lord's church because of an invitation from a friend? I've known people who became active members of a civic club because someone invited them to come to a meeting. If it wasn't for that invitation, I don't believe they would have ever come to know much about the club, much less become a contributing member of it. Many people come to know Jesus because of an invitation. With that in mind, let us ask ourselves a sobering question: How many people did we invite to worship services last year?

We know the Lord wants us extending invitations to those outside of his body because he did so himself. **Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV).** The words of our Lord acknowledge that people are weighed down and need rest. Sin is a heavy burden to bear. David wrote, **For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness (Psalm 38:4-5).** Jesus offers to take the burden of guilt away and issues this invitation to all men. Aren't you glad you accepted his invitation?

In Acts 2, the Bible says that people were being added daily to the church (Acts 2:47). I have to think that some of those folks came to know Jesus through an invitation from one of the 3,000 obedient souls on the day of Pentecost. The church grew and Scripture tells us the members had favor with all the people (2:46). The members lived among non-Christians and the church was growing in membership. Looking at their example, we ought to be inviting our friends, neighbors, and coworkers to worship services. A good way to start your Monday would be to ask, "Who am I going to invite to the worship assembly this week?" Because of an invitation, someone may hear the gospel and respond in obedience, having now the hope of eternal life.

A zealous Samaritan women invited a whole town, saying, "**Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?**" (John 4:29). Her invitation was powerful, for the text says, **And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did."** (v. 39). Knowing what occurred in this Samaritan town, we should invite others more often than we do. Could we not issue a similar invitation as this unnamed woman? "Come, and hear about Jesus who saved my life."

**Who will
you invite?**

Brotherly,
Jamie

REPENTANCE

(part #1)

Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God has been calling upon mankind to repent. Brother H. Leo Boles once commented, "**When God shut the gate of paradise to Adam, He opened the door to repentance.**"

The Bible is filled with the command to repent. The basic task of the prophets, God's spokesmen in times past, was to get the people to repent. Over and over again in their writings is found the command to "**repent.**" The message of Jesus while He was on the earth was one of repentance. "*I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish*" (Luke 13:3, 5).

Repentance was part of the fundamental message which after the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus was to be sounded out to Jews and Gentiles in every nation. "*Then He said to them, 'These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, 'Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem'"* (Luke 24:44-47). The apostle Paul, while standing on Mars Hill and preaching to the Athenians, said, "*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 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 from the dead*" (Acts 17:30-31). The apostle Peter, writing in 2 Peter 3:9, said, "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*"

Jesus emphasized the necessity of repentance when He said that if your hand caused you to sin it would be better to cut it off and have life than to continue to possess it and be lost eternally (Matt. 18:8-9). He was not advocating mutilation of the physical body in this text. Rather, He meant for His hearers to understand that they needed to cut off worldly things from their lives, repenting of them and then abstaining from them. Repentance is "**the change of mind of those who have begun to abhor their errors and misdeeds, and have determined to enter upon a better course of life, so that it embraces both a recognition of sin and sorrow for it and hearty amendment, the tokens and effects of which are good deeds...**" (J.H. Thayer, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 406). W.E. Vine defines it by stating that, "**In the New Testament the subject chiefly has reference to repentance from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God**" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p. 963).

Onward Rejoicing,
John B. Daniels, Associate Minister

"Night Out with Friends" Widows/Widowers Dinner

Saturday, April 1
5:00 PM

Please sign up or call the office.

EGG HUNT

Ages 5th grade and under

Sunday, April 2
12:00 – 2:00 PM

Lunch provided.
Just bring a basket.



Baby Shower for Lacey Parks

Sunday, April 16, 2023
3:30 PM

Lacey is registered online (link below). You can purchase an item online or go to the store listed.

<https://www.babylist.com/list/baby-registry-lacey-parks>

Senior Bible Study

Tuesday, April 11
10:00 AM

Men's & Preachers Meeting

Tuesday, April 18
10:00 AM