

Those Who Serve

	July 1	July 8
Opening Prayer	Joe Holloway	Paul Kuntz
Song Leader	Joe Burnsed	Joe Burnsed
Communion	Olan Bacon	Joe Burnsed
Assist	Evan Hall	Joe Holloway
Assist	Aaron Burnsed	Charles Hall
Dismiss Services	Joe Burnsed	Charles Hall



Prayer List
 Carol Hall -- continued treatments
 Bob Emsweller -- at home and feeling better
 Darlene Monreal -- Mike Powell's



daughter. health problems
 Gregory Dozier -- family problems
 Mike Powell -- Surgery -- home recuperating
 Lorianne Broussard -- Sister in law of Nick & Lisa Barratta; son Jacob Olivier has been missing for several months.
 Linda McDonald -- friend of the Holloways, at home battling cancer
 Randy Edenfield -- son of Steve and Tammy Hurst, personal problems
 Jessie Shuman -- Health Problems
 Jerry Emsweller -- recovering from surgery
 Cynthia Myers, Juanita Butler, Keela Myers -- Joe's cousins -- car wreck, recovering at home
 Family of Bobby Crapse -- One of our own Bryan Co Sherriff's Deputies killed in the line of duty -- EOW June 18, 2012
 Sandy Parker -- at home with her parents
 David Parker -- in nursing home

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendar for July -- on back pew
Social --today after worship services
Meetings -- tonight after evening services
Save --Labels, Food Pantry Items, Change Jar, Cans, Medicine Bottles, & OTC Medicines, sheets, pillow cases, peanut butter, Band-Aids, toilet paper
Bookmark our Facebook page. And add EllabellChurchofChrist@hotmail.com to your contact list. Brother Paul asks that you simply email him anything you want to appear on the Facebook page; pictures, announcements, etc.
Call List --There are forms on the back pew if you want to be added to our call list. If you want a call made, call me or text me and I will make the call and schedule it. 912-667-0519
Prayer List --There is a form on the back pew to add names to the prayer list.
Worship Services Online -- Go to our website and there is a link at the bottom. Join us from anywhere in the world online. <http://ellabellcofchome.webs.com/>

If you enjoyed reading our bulletin, please pass or forward it to others interested in the Cause of Christ

ELLABELL CHURCH OF CHRIST



SPEAKING WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS; SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT

July 1, 2012

The United States - An Experiment in Liberty

Over two hundred years ago, several men sat and discussed a new movement in a hot room in Philadelphia. They debated and argued, made speeches and compromises, and finally agreed to a document. The drafting of this document we celebrate this week. This was the beginning of an experiment in government called the United



States of America. I doubt any of them would look at this new experiment the way we look at it today. They were unsure of the outcome of the horrible war which would be the consequences of this piece of paper they had just drafted. They had no idea whether or not they would be on the winning side.

In the last few years, I have been the recipient of several emails critical of this institution. I have also received several which praised this institution. Some have made me angry, some have made me cry, some have made me proud, and some have made me ashamed. All the emails and all my responses are the same. They reflect the vision of a new nation from those men in that hot Philadelphia room. They conceived of a nation where what we can achieve, what we can believe, what can think, and what we can say



would be limited only by ourselves. Our Founding Fathers wanted not a nation of sheep, but a nation where one could be a free thinker and make up his or her own mind. It disturbs me greatly not when people have differing views than mine, but rather when people are content to follow the dictates of another

mortal man and submissively believe what he or she says...including me. Please do not put me in that place. I will refuse to stand there. That is not free thinking. That is not America.

As an educator, I try to teach children to make up their own minds about what I teach. Facts are facts, they can't be changed. How



we allow those facts to change our lives is our decision. As a preacher of the Gospel, I try even harder to make free thinkers in our brotherhood. I know many preachers would disagree and claim that it is easier just to tell people what to believe and everyone would be better off. I can't abide that. I

have found that there is little more dangerous on earth than a person who believes anything without knowing why they believe as they do. This is not the Church of Our Lord.

Personally, I am glad those who read this are free to disagree with part or all its content. I am also glad that I am free to express these ideas without fear of those who may disagree. I am also grief stricken for all our Brethren across the globe who cannot make those statements. I am fully aware of my brother preachers elsewhere who preach the Gospel, as I do, only at the peril of persecution even up to

the risking of their lives. Does this exist today? Yes, I regularly speak to these men. Many of their statements you have found in this very bulletin.

I close this article by making two statements I always make at this time of year. I probably should make them more often:

Of most importance - **May God bless the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ, wherever She may be found.**

Of only slightly less importance - **May God bless the United States of America.**

Joe Holloway
Ellabell, GA

The Two Who Never Gave Up
Joel Stephen Williams

A woman fell on the stone stairway of the police station in Boston and was severely injured. She was taken to the hospital and examined by a doctor who said to the nurse: "She will not live more than a day." After the nurse had attended to her for a few hours, the woman told her story.

"I have traveled from California, stopping at every city of importance between San Francisco and Boston, visiting two places always--the police station and the hospital. My boy went away from me and did not tell me where he was going, so I have sold all my property and made this journey to seek him out. Some day he may come into this hospital and if he does, tell him that there were two who never gave him up."

Evening came and the doctor told the nurse: "It is now but a question of minutes." The nurse bent over and said: "Tell me the names of the two and I will tell your son if I see him." With tears in her eyes she replied: "Tell him that the two were God and his mother." Moments later, she died.

Human analogies are limited in their usefulness to explain God. If we compare God to a father or a mother, those analogies may not work well for someone who had a bad father or mother. In other cases human analogies are highly useful. Imagine the great seeking love of that mother who traveled the length of the country to try to find her son. Think of the shepherd who goes out in search of the one lost sheep (Lk. 15:4-7). Think of the hen who gathers her brood under her wings (Mt. 23:37). Think of the father who watches daily for the return of a wayward son (Lk. 15:11-32). Think of the husband who takes his unfaithful wife back into his home (Hosea). Truly the seeking, searching love of God is beyond measure: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:39).