

# Those Who Serve

Opening Prayer	July 3 Kwesi Garvin	July 10 Charles Hall
Song Leader	Kwesi Garvin	Joe Burnsed
Communion	John Story	Olan Bacon
Assist	Charles Hall	Joe Holloway
Assist	Olan Bacon	Joe Burnsed
Dismiss Services	Olan Bacon	Kwesi Garvin



*According to most people who have been there, we have the hottest attic in the world. I believed them. This may well be the reason we have to sweat in the summer while the a/c runs as hard as it can. This little hole in our building you may never have noticed now pumps out massive amounts of heat from our attic making the a/c run more efficiently thanks to a fan installed by Nick Barratta. If you are a little more comfortable in the building, thank Nick. It is great to have someone who will take charge of a project*

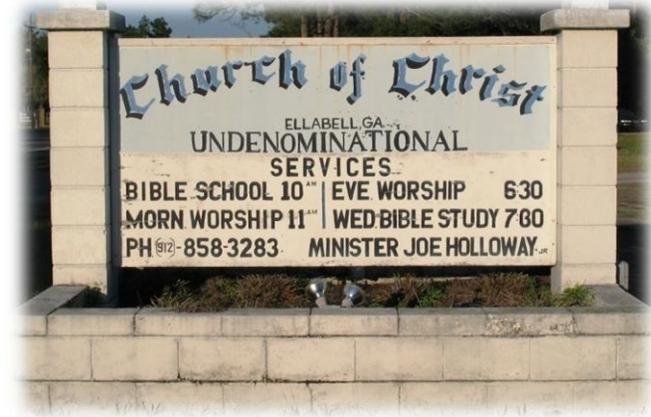
If you enjoyed reading our bulletin, please pass or forward it to others interested in the Cause of Christ

<http://ellabellcofchome.webs.com/>

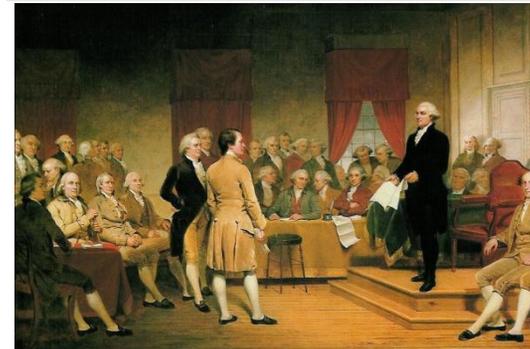
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Ellabell Church of Christ  
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# ELLABELL CHURCH OF CHRIST



Speaking Where The Bible Speaks; Silent Where The Bible Is Silent  
July 3, 2011



Tomorrow is a holiday. It would be tough to realize it if there weren't fireworks tents at local stores and a few more instances of the flag in a few places. It has become more of a "get out of work" day rather than a day of remembrance.

When I think of this holiday, I look back to a group of men who were meeting and discussing a new idea. The idea of a republic had been discussed throughout history but had never been given much of a chance. These men were discussing breaking away from their mother country and going on their own as a world power.

We know of the outcome so we may be making light of their decisions. They were discussing doing something which would be fraught with danger and new challenges. They had no idea that in a few years the USA would be a superpower,

respected by all nations of the world. What we know of the USA is much different than our Founding Fathers saw. It was small and militarily weak.

Is the nation they envisioned perfect? No, they made no claims to perfection. In 2011, our Nation is faced with problems. I predict that we will answer some well and some not so well. That is what we have done in the past. Are we perfect? No, we make no claims to perfection either. Are our leaders perfect? No. Do all our ideas make the world a better place? No. Are the answers to all the world's problems found on our shores? No. Do we have problems? Yes. But, does all this imperfection make the US a place to be dreaded? No, even people describing themselves as enemies want to live here.

However, much has been said recently about the problems of the USA. We may find it easy to forget the wonderful advantages we have in the US. People still will go to great lengths to come to our Country. It's easy to listen to many who would criticize and we should. Seeing problems is the first step to solving them. But also realize how much we are blessed by living in the USA. Our children are exposed to great ideas and skills each day in the best educational system in the world. Our religious institutions are free to practice. Each of our citizens can by dedication achieve. The citizens of our country can change things openly and freely. The free exchange of ideas is not only granted but encouraged.



We should pause and breathe a prayer of Thanksgiving for those men many years ago who solemnly and probably fearfully signed their names to our Declaration of Independence. And, instead of whining about

what is wrong, work to help our Nation to achieve a higher level of greatness. You have freedom, what will you do with it?

-Joe

## Why Study God's Word

*By Ron Boatwright*

Just as we eat 3 meals a day to sustain our physical bodies, we must also feast on God's word daily to sustain our souls. If we don't we are in danger of losing our souls. God says in Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." People will be lost because they did not care enough to read and study God's instruction book on how to go to Heaven.

Paul says in 2 Thessalonians 2:10 that people will be lost "because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." Satan wants to distract us with the cares and deceits of this world. He does not want us to read and study our Bibles every day. He knows that we become weak and vulnerable when we fail to study. Our strongest defense is a shield of faith. How do we obtain that shield of faith to protect us? Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." The more we study the word of God the stronger our faith will be. If we want to protect ourselves against Satan we must have a strong faith.

In years past we in the churches of Christ were known as "walking Bibles" because brethren then studied their Bibles. But sad to say, this is no longer true because we have failed to study God's word, as we should. But what happens when we fail to study God's word and become spiritually starved? 2 Peter 3:16 says that those who are "untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the scriptures." We cannot understand God's word unless we study it. And because of this Jesus says in Matthew 15:14, "They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

To keep from wandering around in spiritual darkness, let's study God's word so that "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalms 119:105). Let's not endanger our souls by a lack of study of God's word. Let's take time to study it daily.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Save –Labels, Food Pantry Items, Change Jar, Cans, Medicine Bottles, & OTC Medicines**

**Calendar for July– on back pew**

**SOCIAL – Wednesday the 13th**