



The Sentinel

of the

Southern Ridge Church of Christ

2237 SW 134TH OLAHOMA CITY, OK 73170 (405) 378-0701

November 19, 2017

Volume 17, Number 47

To Go Home Again

"And David said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" - 2 Samuel 23:15

The latter days of the year often turn to thoughts of home. Thanksgiving and even Christmas press the sense of nostalgia along with the time of year. Reflections of the past flood our thoughts, and bring to memory special times of warmth, family, joy, and contentment. We like those thoughts. We long for the sense they bring to our lives. There is a part of each of us that would like to be able to return to those times, at least as we perceive them.

David was a king, a leader of men, a warrior, and responsible for an entire nation. His carefree days of childhood were far behind him. From the time he had gone and faced the giant, he had travelled far from home. He may not have gone a great geographic distance, but it was all as if it was in a far away land. It was gone. It was behind him. Still, it pulled at him. His past, those beautiful days, were the makings of memories and dreams. A longing to have a drink from the well at Bethlehem was far more than some clear water to satisfy a dry mouth or a thirsting body. David was being drawn to the days of his youth and all that it conjured in his mind.

There is a complication. Thomas Wolfe famously wrote, "You can't go home again." Wolfe's words remind us that time brings changes. Our memories may be accurate within their time and context, but at a later date we are different. Taking my father and his brother to see their old school building, my father commented, "*It seemed a lot bigger back then.*" Towns change as people and businesses come and go. Experiences develop our thinking as time gives us the opportunity to see our past in a different light. So then, as we meet with tough challenges of later times, we tend to think fondly of previous days. David did. Still, when his faithful men tried to bring the past to him, David could see the impossibility of that fantasy. His act of pouring the well water on the ground was his recognition of the uncross-able line.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

There is also a way. In the most important ways you can embrace your memories and go home again. Even as he poured the water on the ground, David was returning home. He was fulfilling the character of that young shepherd boy, who used to drink the sweet water from the well in Bethlehem. You see, it is not about restoring the imagination of memory. It is about restoring the values of the remembered life. In those thoughts there is a clarity of right and wrong, good and evil, love and despise. Going home again is about regaining the beauty of a righteously valued life.

The more extreme illustration of the going home principle is found in Jesus' story of the lost son. When he returned home, he was not the same, and home was not as he had left it. Still, at home he found the character of life that he had left behind him.

You can go home again, and even drink the water from the well. Oh, maybe not in the most literal sense, but in the most important sense you can. Journeys in life may have taken you on a distant course; one that is far from what you know you should and could be. At such a time and place you too may long for your own water from the well at Bethlehem. So, note that you cannot go back to that "time" of your remembrance. What you can do is to return to a sense of that time by applying the right relationships with God and others. It is the relationships of your remembrance that provide the satisfaction you so long to have. So, in that way, you can go home again. — Russ

God is Good! - -

- - All the Time!

November - Daily Bible Reading

- 19. 1 Chronicles 25-27
- 20. 1 Chronicles 28-29; Luke 4
- 21. 2 Chronicles 1-3; Luke 5
- 22. 2 Chronicles 4-6
- 23. 2 Chronicles 7-9
- 24. 2 Chronicles 10-12; Luke 6
- 25. 2 Chronicles 13-14
- 26. 2 Chronicles 15-16; Luke 7

Happy Anniversary

No Wedding Anniversaries this Week

Happy Birthday

Bryan Ausmus - - -	11/20
Jennifer Fleming - - -	11/22
Sam Greenroyd - - -	11/25
Elleanor Dyer - - -	11/25
Roger Scott - - -	11/25
Sang Chung - - -	11/27
Keith Brink - - -	11/30

♦ **Who said:** - *"The Lord rebuke you!"* - **Answer next week**

♦ **Last Week:** Peter — 1 Peter 4:12

News That Is of Interest to You

The Annual Holiday Dinner, with its great food, fellowship, and display of amazing talents, will be on Friday evening, **December 1 at 6:30 PM.**

We have traditionally had a bit of a **“Talent Show”** as a part of this dinner. So, tune your voice, grab your kazoo, limber your spoons, or whatever, and take part.

There is an attendance list and a menu list posted on the bulletin board. Check it out and sign up. You won't want to miss this event!

Mission Support: We presently send monthly financial support to 9 works. We will list one of them each week in the bulletin. You may also check the mission board in the foyer and read the communication reports we receive from them.

This week's work to consider:

Christian Service Center: This benevolent work of the area churches is located on SW 24th Street in the Capitol Hill area. Jack Grimes is the director. This work coordinates the distribution of clothing, as well as some food and household good to people in need. Several of our members had volunteered as workers in past years. At the present time, we are sending \$1800.00 per year to support this work.

Keep In Prayer

- ◆ **Roger Scott** is recovering from a broken leg.
- ◆ **Andy Haynes**, son of **Wayne and Mary**, had eye surgery for a detached retina in his right eye, and had already lost most sight in the other eye. The doctor said it is about 50/50 in regaining good sight.
- ◆ **Wayne Haynes** - undergoing chemo treatment.
- ◆ Linda Suarez's brother, **Buzz Mitchell**, had stents implanted in Friday.
- ◆ **Riley Baldwin** - throat surgeries.
- ◆ **Norman Bagger** is at South Point Rehabilitation and Care.
- ◆ **Mattie Ruble**—has hospice working with the family.

Homebound or Limited:

**Aline McDaniel — Ella McKeel
Marguriete Shobert**

- **The Ladies' Coffee** meets on the 1st Friday of every month at the church building at 10 am, and is studying the book of Daniel.
- **The Next** (scheduled) **Men's Breakfast** will be on Saturday, January 27, 2018.



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Scheduled to Serve Next Week

(11/26/2017)

Announcements

Dwain Thacker

Greeters

Horace & Betty Phillips

Jerry & Joretta Doyle

Keith & Becky McDougal

Lord's Table (am)

Prayers: Mark Hamm

Donavan Huff Arless Murray

Fred Jones Max McDougal

Nathan Henderson Randy Vance

Richard Lowrance Roger Scott

Lord's Table (pm)

Layne Adams Bill Fleming

Prayers (am)

Roy Cowan Walter McFadden

Prayers (pm)

Dwight Andrews Dale Crews

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Order of Service

Announcements

Scripture:

Matthew 19 27-30

Prayer

Song - 9

A Wonderful Savior

Song - 394 (vs. 1 & 3)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Song - 384 (vs. 1 & 4)

Lead Me to Calvary

Comments

Lord's Supper

Collection

Song - 118

Count Your Blessings

Sermon

Blessed in All Things

Song — 103

Come to Jesus

Song — 970

Step by Step

Prayer

<i>Elders</i>	<i>Deacons</i>		<i>Minister</i>
Kevin Keenan Keith McDougal Horace Phillips Bill Sherman	Joe Downs Brian Jaworsky	Darrell MacDonald Dwain Thacker Randy Vance	Russell Dyer