

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class 9:00 AM
 Sunday AM Worship10:00 AM
 Sunday PM Worship 6:00 PM
 Wednesday Bible Class 6:30 PM

Elders

Eugene Cardinal (602) 942-6373
 Sonny Janeway (623) 583-2726
 Chuck Kolinchak (602) 938-9429

Minister

James Dale (623) 882-6671
 nsminister@cox.net

Deacons

Ron Gallegos (Education)
 (623) 561-5674

Allan Davis (Youth)
 (602) 439-5953

Joshua Casselman (Worship)
 (602) 938-2800

Supported Mission Works

Dino Tzanetos;
 Athens, Greece

Josh Austin
 Navajo Reservation
 Keyenta, Arizona

Terry Laurence (Student)
 Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver

Dave Chamberlin (Instructor)
 Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver

Eddison Gruber
 Crownpoint New Mexico (Reservation)

P
L

Prayer List

- * Oleta fell and broke her hip. She is having partial hip replacement this morning at Banner Thunderbird.
- * Rocky, Maries' grandson, out of work, financial difficulties
- * Missy and Kathleen as they recover from hernia surgery.
- * Deborah Buford (Michele's sister) cancer has gone into remission
- * Charlotte, Jan Burkhardt's niece, has had 2 dialysis treatments, may need a Kidney transplant.
- * Kathy Peters, (Barbara Staten's mother), recovering from knee surgery.
- * Jim Weiers will be undergoing a Colonoscopy.
- * Barney Beierschmitt, having trouble walking after his fall.
- * John Reinhart, will be undergoing a bone marrow harvest and is going back on chemotherapy.
- * Stephanie Rogers, has lesions on her brain
- * Matt & Sasha, (Dora's son and daughter in law) struggles
- * Ken Reinhart has liver cancer.
- * June Iles is sick with Lupus
- * Joscelyn Iles as she cares for her daughter
- * Don Graef (friend of Gina's) improving after bypass surgery.
- * Rosie & Charlie Hilger (Roscoe's nieces), personal struggles
- * Tammy Avery struggles with health problems.
- * Renee' Ramos - (Jen's Cousin) congestive heart failure
- * Walt Garrison (Jim Weiers step brother) undergoing treatment for cancer.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK

Diana Davis	Dec. 14 (B)
Chuck Kolinchak,	Dec. 15 (B)
Ken & Frankie Phillips	Dec. 17 (B)
Greg Rice	Dec. 18 (B)
Karen Chance	Dec. 19 (B)
Gabriel Casselman	Dec. 20 (B)

THE GUARDIAN

"Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in Thee." Ps. 25:20

Northside, church of Christ

20222 North 32nd Dr., Phoenix Arizona 85027 (623) 780-9763

www.northsidechurchofchrist.org

Vol. 4

December 14th / 2008

No. 47

DON'T DROP THE BATON

Most of us, I am sure, enjoyed watching the athletes perform in the recent Olympic Games. We were thrilled when Americans were victorious. We were saddened when both American Men's and Ladies' relay teams "dropped the baton". Think of their pain and loss, having trained vigorously for months. Think of the embarrassment on the part of their teammates and families.

We have all on occasion "dropped the baton" with no eternal loss. We failed in some business venture, some athletic contest, some goal or task. Some have failed marriages, other personal relationships or life experiences.

Although disappointing, none of these things necessarily have eternal consequences. But to fail spiritually, to "drop the baton" with God is a very serious matter with eternal consequences.

God has called us to a life of faithfulness. God called the Galatians to a new spiritual life, but as Paul noted, "You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth"? (Gal. 5:7) It is possible to "fall away from grace" (Gal. 5:4).

Lest we "drop the baton," God encourages us to be "faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). let us all then "Run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus" (Heb. 12:1,2).

Don't "drop the baton" Jesus has passed to you en route to eternal life.

Clinton Storm

Welcome to the services of the Church! If you are visiting with us, we appreciate your presence and invite you to stay a few moments after the service so we may have an opportunity to meet you! Please feel free to pick up one of our Visitors Packets in the Foyer.

"The Wheelbarrow in the Garage?"

Traveling evangelist Billy Sunday (1862-1935) once said, "Going to church don't make anybody a Christian, any more than taking a wheelbarrow into a garage makes it an automobile." There is plenty of truth here. The land is filled with church-going people who are less than they should be. They claim to be Christians, but their lives don't show it. In *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne said "No man, for any considerable period, can wear one face to himself, and another to the multitude, without finally getting bewildered as to which may be the true." The hypocritical life eventually catches up with even the most skillful of hypocrites.

"Just" going to church will not make anyone a Christian, but neither does staying away from church make anyone any better. There are hypocrites at church each Sunday morning, but there are even bigger hypocrites staying home, pretending that what they are doing is more important than meeting with the saints for worship. Even if some of the saints seem to be "aints," why would anyone who claims to have any interest in the things of God not be in worship?

Hebrews 10:23-25 reminds us of our responsibilities in worship. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." When we assemble together, we must consider one another by provoking to love and good works, as well as exhorting one another. Power words like "provoking" and "exhorting" indicates that this is serious business.

There's more to the story, though. The verses immediately following in Hebrews 10 warn, "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (10:26-29). It is a serious thing to forsake the assembly of the saints!

-Bob Prichard

(1) **The Christmas** party will be Friday, Dec. 19th @ 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship building. There will be a gift exchange. If you would like to participate please bring a wrapped gift. The price limit is \$10.00 or it can be a "White Elephant."

(2) **Northside Bible Bowl** will be Jan 10th, more information to come.

(3) **Men's Retreat February 6th&7th**. (Janeway cabin) This is a Friday and Saturday event. Men wishing to present a lesson please see James Dale.

(4) The **new book for ladies class** is "Living Beyond Yourself" by Beth Moore. It is \$14.95 at www.Lifeway.com

(5) **CD's are available** for both morning and evening sermons. See Josh Casselman for more information. *If you requested CD's please be sure to pick your copies up.*

WORTH WATCHING

Search The Scriptures - KAZT Channel 13 - Sunday - 7:30 a.m.
On the Internet "Gospel Broadcasting Network" - www.gbntv.org

Northside Calendar

Ladies Quilting/Crafts: Jan. 4th, following morning services

Potluck: Today, Following Morning Services

Ladies Class: TBA. You need to order your book. See Special Announcements for information.

Ladies Prayer and Coffee: *Canceled for Dec. and Jan.*

Men's Business Meeting: Dec. 21st, 5:00 pm.

Elders/Deacons Meeting: Dec. 28th, 5:00 p.m.

Nursery: A.M. P.M.

In Touch, this week: Team 1

IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN WE PROVIDE AN ATTENDED NURSERY AND A TRAINING ROOM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.