

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

## 8 June 2014

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2*

### Topics

#### A.M. Bible Class:

To Be Like Jesus (Romans 6:10 f)

#### A.M. Lesson:

Sin Separates Us From God (Isaiah 59:1-2)

#### P.M. Lesson:

God's Chosen People (1 Peter 2:4-12)

#### Wednesday:

King Amaziah's Horrible Pride (2 Kings 14)

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

## Community and effective

## prayer

<http://umcworship.blogspot.com/>  
excerpt

*"So I desire that the men pray in every place, raising holy hands without anger and bickering" (1 Timothy 2:8).*

From the beginning, followers of Jesus have drawn an intimate connection between how we pray

and how we live in community with others.

Jesus himself taught that if you are at prayer, even ready to present a gift on the altar of the temple in Jerusalem, and there remember you have offended someone or someone has offended you, the very next step is to leave the altar and go to the other person to start working at reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24).



In the verse from 1 Timothy cited above, Paul reminds Timothy of the same linkage between prayer and community. Praying in worship

has to be offered by persons lifting holy hands "without anger and bickering." Any matters that have led to anger or bickering in the community need to be attended to before worship begins.

Three different Syrian Christian documents over four centuries describe a similar expectation and practice. Persons within the Christian community who were at conflict either could not be present for worship at all (Didache, ca. 65-115) or would be dismissed prior to the prayers of the people and Holy Communion (Didascalia and Apostolic Constitutions, 230 and 380) until they worked out their conflict and were restored to more amicable relationships first.

Our praying is hindered if our fellowship is hindered. Or, as Jesus also reminded, if we do not forgive others, neither will our Father in heaven forgive us (Matthew 6:15).

Community is that important to our capacity to pray.

Even when we pray "in secret," we still pray in community with others. While others may not be physically present with us at the time, they are

always with us in our minds. This means if we have spoken words of forgiveness directly to another but find ourselves holding on to past hurts, we still have more personal forgiveness work to do with the "community in our minds." Community may be restored outwardly. But for community and so our praying to be fully restored, forgiveness may need to be enacted continually until our minds truly forgive the other.

## We should not get too comfortable

Two Canadian provinces voted in April to not allow graduates from Canada's first Christian law school to join their bars. Trinity Western University (TWU), Canada's largest Christian university, will matriculate its first class of law students in 2016. It has a lifestyle policy that bans sexual intimacy outside of male-female marriage. The law society in Ontario, where Canada's capital sits, said TWU graduates would not be allowed to practice in the province. Nova Scotia's society issued a similar ban. But the society in TWU's home province of British Columbia approved the school by a wide margin. (Five other provinces and territories have done likewise.) Meanwhile, a national agreement conditionally allows lawyers licensed in a home province to practice for up to 100 days per year in another province.

*Christianity Today*. June 2014.

2 Kings 13:23

But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion on them; he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them; nor has he banished them from his presence until now.

2 Timothy 2:11-13

The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

## Sometimes, look back

Leaders are visionaries. They tend to look forward, aspiring to what is next, not lingering on the past. Sometimes we are forward-looking to our own peril. Wise leaders discover the wealth of wisdom from the past. They stop, make a 180 degree turn, and slowly observe where they have been and where the church has been. They learn from, even celebrate, the past. Harney, Kevin. *Leadership from the Inside Out*. Zondervan, 2007. p. 85.

## News

---

Please continue to pray for Joy Gibson's recovery from a shoulder injury.

Please continue to pray for Billy Martin who is struggling to recover from a foot injury and is experiencing secondary complications.

Mike and Sandy Cavasos are new grandparents.

Their daughter Jennifer gave birth to

Adaleigh Reagan on Wednesday, June 4.

Esther, Nysha and Sara Atchley are in Colorado.

Greg and Louella Briggs are in Montana.

An **ice cream** social is scheduled for Friday, June 13 at 6:30 P.M. In the Annex. Bring your favorite flavor and/or something that goes well *with* ice cream.

## Prayer List:

*Bill Eisenberg, Hattie Hedrick, Della Phillips, H.L. Boling, Jerry Robinson's mother Norma, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*

*Isaiah 62:6*

*Jerusalem, on your walls I have posted watchmen,*

*who day and night without ceasing will cry:*

*'You that invoke the LORD's name,*

*take no rest...'* (REB).

