



Azalea City Church of Christ

Family News

"A Place for Families, A Place for You"

3550 Schillinger Rd N, Semmes, Alabama 36575
WWW.AZALEACITY.ORG, office @azaleacity.org
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Azalea City Christian School/ Mobile Christian School

Monthly Fish Fry

Saturday, March 7th

11:30-3:30

Azalea City Multi-Purpose Building

Plates: \$9.00 each

(fish, chicken, or combination)

Plates include: baked beans, cole slaw, french fries, hushpuppies

We will have this fish fry on the first Saturday of every month so please make plans to come out and support these two great schools!

Please keep the following people in your prayers this month.

Members

Trez Rudder	Bill Pierce	Gail Carr	Stan Holland
Don Andrews	Ray Kemp	Rainie McInvale	Myra Blizzard
Sue Andrews	Deborah Moody	Ruth Rush	Linda Lockler
Libby Phillips	James & Esther Bell		

Friends and Family

Mary-Kathryn Harrison	Vera Hill	Betty Lee	Joy Shelton
George Loden	Jack & Frances Zorn	Billy Sullivan	Elaine Davis
J.T. Harrison	Alex Watson	Jeri Nix	Ethan Stokes
Ann Weaver	Marion Logan	Lee Hankins	Charlie Peterson
Billy Jones	Jerrold Eubanks	Leroy Beech	Loretta Vaught
Michael Hornbuckle	Teddy Mears	Ms. Moss	Teresa Cleveland
Morgan Lee	Holly Crowell	Irene Whitehead	Alden Douglas
Sherry Guy	H.L. Moss	Paul Merrell	Barbara Gollotta
Caitlan Goode	Wendell Sawyer	Harry Lloyd	Ronin White
Pam Prine	Dan Maples	Marvin Fountain	Hixon Nobles
Marshall Eubanks	Pauline Russell	Patricia Jones	Greg Lewis
Dylan Gibbon	J.T. Harrison's mother		

Military

Kenneth Andrews (in Germany)	Keith Moss (Marines)
Aaron Allsup (in Italy)	Jacob Pierce (in Iraq)
Matt Geroux (in Arkansas)	Matthew Reitz (in Iraq)
Randy Pierce (Camp LeJeune)	Joshua Reynolds (Afghanistan)
Dewayne Nix (Corpus Christi, TX)	Manuel Baldwin (Iraq)
Michael L Burroughs (Navy, Iraq)	Layne Ortiz (Afghanistan)
Chris Campbell (Navy, basic training)	Ryan Ortiz (Iraq)

Expectant Mothers

Kaitlin Powell (March 2009)
Kimberly Holland Claunch (March 2009)

New Members and Invitation Responses

<u>Placed Membership</u>	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Prayer Requests</u>	<u>Restored</u>
Steve and Lisa Whatley (children Kayla & Ryan) Bill & Betty Nichols	Anna Powell	Pete Wheeler Lindsey Cameron	Roy Chaudron

Upcoming Events

Pioneer game night is scheduled for Friday, March 6th and Friday, March 20th. Please bring your favorite game and finger foods.

The February **men's prayer breakfast** will take place on Sunday, the 1st at 8:00. If you would be willing to cook for a future breakfast, please sign the sheet located at the information desk in the front foyer.

Steve May is planning **congregational singing** at 5:30 on Sunday, March 1st and Sunday, March 29th. We will practice new songs and prepare for the evening service. Please make plans to attend.

We will have **Family Day** on Sunday, March 15th. Please invite all your friends and family to this special service! Don't forget to bring your casseroles, desserts, drinks, etc....

The **Mobile Christian School chorus** will be performing here at Azalea City on Sunday evening, March 22nd. We will have our regular Sunday evening service and then the chorus will perform immediately following that service. We will probably also provide a meal for the chorus after their performance. More information soon!

Ladies' Day is scheduled for March 28th. Please mark that date on your calendar!

The first **Azalea City Christian School/Mobile Christian School fish fry** is planned for Saturday, March 7th from 11:30 until 3:30 in the multi purpose building. You can purchase your fish plate or chicken plate (or a combination of the two) for \$9.00. The plate includes french fries, hush puppies, baked beans, and coleslaw plus tea. We will have the fish fry monthly so please come out and support these two great schools!

Ministry Information

Monday Night for the Master is planned for all 5 Mondays in March. Dinner is at 6:00 and activities start at 6:25.

If you have not filled out an **involvement form** for the involvement ministry, please see Terry Cagle to get a form. We need to have every member fill out one of these!

The Benevolence Ministry is planning their next **grocery distribution** on March 5th from 9:00 until 11:00 in the multipurpose building. They gave out food to over 150 people last month! Your help with this endeavor is greatly needed! If you can come help, please plan to be at the church around 8:30. **Please continue to help us out by donating cereal for the food distribution. You can put it on the counter by the coffee maker in the fellowship hall.**

WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

The word "baptism" is in Greek "baptisma" while "to baptise" is in Greek "baptizo". In Greek "baptizo" means "to immerse, cause to be dipped, to submerge, to overwhelm". To baptise something in water means to put it under the water. Therefore in the Biblical sense, to baptise a person in water literally means to put that person wholly under the water.

Water baptism for the Christian symbolises and appropriates our death, burial and resurrection with Christ. It means identification with Christ. "Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4).

It is clear then that the tradition of sprinkling people or pouring water on them is true neither to the clearly understood meaning of the Greek Word, nor to the symbolism of burial. Only immersion in water shows a burial.

The practice of water baptism appears in the Bible first with the appearance of John the Baptist. "John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism for the remission of sins. And all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins." (Mark 1:4,5) Baptism in those days was understood to be a rite of initiation into something new. To be water baptised was a sign of adherence to the teachings of the respective teacher. John taught repentance for the remission of sins. Those who received his teaching had to repent (turn from sin), confess their sins (Mark 1:5) and "bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Luke 3:7,8). There had to be a change of heart before John would willingly baptise the people coming to him for baptism.

When individuals become disciples of Jesus, they will obey the Lord and be baptized (Matthew 28:19). When you are baptized you are simply obeying the Lord's will. In Christian baptism you must identify yourself with Jesus Christ. As He dedicated himself "thus to fulfil all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15) so must you when you are baptised in water. You make a covenant with God to submit yourself to obey the Spirit of God to the point of death, dying to the deeds and lusts of the body and all that is old, to let the past be buried and to rise up to live to fulfil all righteousness - not through your old life but in the new life given by God (Romans 6:3-6). In order to fulfil God's will, there first must exist real repentance in your heart (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30-31). You must also have confessed Christ (Matthew 10:32-33). When you are baptized into Christ, you commit yourself to a new life with Jesus to "bear fruits worthy of repentance".

FROM DAVID'S DESK

I Love to Tell the Story

In my sermon last Sunday evening, I mentioned that we all are **“telling a love story”** about our walk with Christ to others until the day we die. While on earth, we are God’s interpretation of what love is. Some years ago there was a movie called **“Up Close and Personal”** about a TV newsman who dies trying to get a story in one of the world’s trouble spots. After his death, he was remembered as saying, “I once thought reporting was about glory. But I’m here for only one reason - **to tell the story”**.”

A couple of Wednesday’s ago, Bob Williams, in his Bible class, gave reference to the Christians in **Acts 8**. The Christians in Jerusalem were scattered abroad to escape persecution. Everywhere they went, they preached the message of Christ (**verse 4**). You will remember that Saul, their persecutor, was later converted and became an effective preacher, teacher, and apostle in God’s kingdom. After a long hard ministry in the Lord’s church, Saul, also known as Paul, decided to go back to Jerusalem, where he knew he would be persecuted. But his new purpose and goal in life would not be deterred, declaring he would continue “to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” (**Acts 20:24**).

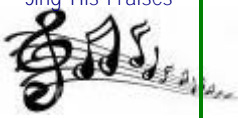
God through His word still calls us to tell the good news of Jesus to those who don’t **know Him** and **walk with Him**. We sing a wonderful song from time to time that should inspire us to tell others about our precious Lord and Savior.

I love to tell the story
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God’s own Holy Word

When we do share Christ with others this month, may it be with humility - motivated by a desire for His glory, not our own. **Just tell the story!**

Youth Calendar

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Back from CYC around 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Andrew Williams</p>	<p>2 Jason Gone to Faulkner Lectureships through the 5th</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Tween Putt Putt 4:30-6:30</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Teens take communion to shut-ins</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 FAMILY DAY</p> <p>Area Wide at Central</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Sarah Catherine Deck</p>	<p>18 Kyle Butt speaking at Mobile Christian</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Teen Fun Friday Fellowship 7-10</p>	<p>21 Jacob Durham</p>
<p>22 Mobile Christian Chorus Performing after PM Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Dylan Davidson</p>	<p>25 Sing His Praises </p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Tween Devotional</p>	<p>28 Daniel Jayroe</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30 William Busby</p>	<p>31</p>			<p>Teens Tweens</p>	

WHO IS WATER BAPTISM FOR?

Baptism is for those who have now come to a place where they have believed with their heart, repented of their sins, and confessed with all their heart in the Lord Jesus Christ. We see this clearly both from the teaching and the example of the New Testament. "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptised?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." (Acts 8:36,37).

Baptism is not for those who believe half-heartedly the gospel. To believe with all the heart implies firstly sincerity. To be baptised simply to please a preacher is not what God wants. God only wants baptised those who have a sincere trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, who really want to die to sin, the flesh and the devil and live for God. Before baptising people, we must be confident that this is their desire.

Water baptism is for those who believe. "He who believes and is baptised shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). No promise is made to those who are baptised without believing. Many people are "baptised" as babies, by immersion or by sprinkling. There is no example in the New Testament of babies being baptised. A baby, as yet without understanding, cannot believe the gospel, cannot repent, cannot confess Christ. They are not yet responsible for their actions, and God, who is infinitely just, does not condemn to damnation babies who die. "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 19:14). Innocent babies and very small children belong to God. "Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 18:10).

In the first and most significant day of the church, Peter, having preached the gospel to the people, was asked, "What must be do?" And the response? "Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of the Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). Repentance had to precede baptism. And clearly, faith in Jesus also preceded this baptism, since no-one would have allowed himself to be baptised in the controversial name of Jesus if he did not indeed believe the message of Peter that called for him to put his trust in Jesus for salvation. Once again we see that faith and repentance preceded baptism. The same thing can be seen in all the following passages from the book of Acts:

Acts 8:12,13: The conversion of the Samaritans

Acts 8:37 The Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 9, Acts 22:8,16 The conversion of Saul (Paul)

Acts 10:44-48: The conversion of Cornelius, his relatives and close friends

Acts 16:31-34 The conversion of the Philippian jailor and his household

DEACONS AND MINISTRY LEADERS

ADMINISTRATION:

David Myers 645-0454
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BENEVOLENCE:

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BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

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EVANGELISM/VISITATION:

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Monthly Records

Weekly Budget 2008: \$8,607.80

	Jan 4th	Jan 11th	Jan 18th	Jan 25th	Average
Weekly Contributions	\$7,884.21	\$7,040.62	\$7,624.29	\$6,767.76	\$7,329.22
Sunday Bible Class	157	145	138	146	147
Sunday AM Worship	220	270	246	239	244
Sunday PM Worship	139	No Service	130	137	135
	Jan 7th	Jan 14th	Jan 21st	Jan 28th	
Wednesday Bible Study	138	135	155	145	143

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:30
Sunday Evening Worship.....6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:00

ELDERS

Kevin Crowell 660-1888
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SECRETARY

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Bulletin Submissions: bulletin@azaleacity.org

Church Office: office@azaleacity.org

MISSIONS

Ukraine

Vlad & Oksana Pazyi
Vitaly Rodichev
Valentina Petrussenko

Jos, Nigeria

Steve Worley
Bala Turgong

Television To Watch

"Preaching The Gospel" with James Watkins
Sundays 7:30am, channel 44, Comcast channel 4

"In Search of The Lord's Way" with Mack Lyon
Sundays 7:30am, channel 33, Comcast channel 7
Direct TV channel 321

"Know Your Bible" with Billy Lambert
Sundays 6:30pm Direct TV channel 321
Sundays 8:00pm channel 33
Wednesdays 8:00pm Direct TV channel 377

The Gospel Broadcasting Network
www.gbntv.org on the internet 24/7

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