

# Connections

Exchange Street Church of Christ, Inc.  
Union City, Tennessee

## Fruitful Friendship and Faith

There is no doubt concerning Paul's deep and dedicated love for the church. We see this trait in most of the letters he wrote to various congregations. Notice this in particular in 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3. The new believers were developing their FAITH and understanding of God's will. After a time of separation, Paul sent for Timothy to reconnect with the congregation so that he could strengthen and encourage them in the middle of their trials. It is interesting to consider how he went about doing this!

Living out a Christian faith in the sin-dominated culture of Thessalonica was not easy. Believers were openly persecuted for their faith in Jesus. The magnetic pull of their former lifestyle continued to tempt them. They, like many of us, were unsettled by the persistence of their trials. We see Timothy investing time and energy in his relationship with them to strengthen their faith and to encourage their faithfulness.

God never intended for us to live a Christian Life without His enablement. He has empowered us by the personification of the Holy Spirit living in us (cf. Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:22-25). We know even with the presence of the Holy Spirit, for us by ourselves, it is difficult (at best), to initiate and sustain a righteous life. Paul obviously understood this as we see his encouragement and instructions to Timothy.

We need Christian friends to live the life of God in our fallen (sinful) world. Don't fly solo! Don't try to accomplish God's will without the help of God's people. Remember, to have a friend, you need to be a friend. As you seek to serve others, pause and watch how God brings Godly friends into your life to encourage you along the way.

Because of Jesus, Jeff

## Sunday's Sermon

"Here is the Messiah"

Text > Matthew 24:23-35 (read Daniel 3-12)

## Men's Ministry

MEN'S CLASS >  
Wednesdays, 6pm,  
North Room

MEN'S DINNER >  
Tuesday, 8/28, 6:30pm,  
Snappy Tomato Pizza

ANYONE NEEDING HELP  
IN HOUSE OR YARD,  
contact Steve Bing  
or Bobby Williams

**DEACONS  
MEETING  
TUESDAY,  
AUGUST 14, 6:30PM  
NORTH ROOM**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

PROMOTION SUNDAY for Children's & Youth Classes	8/5
BIRTHDAY BASH, 11:30a; followed by DEVOTIONAL; No pm Good News Groups	8/5
ELDERS MTG., 2-5p, NR	8/5
LADIES BIBLE STUDY, 10a, Fireside Room	8/7
DEACONS MEETING, 6:30p, North Room	8/14
JEFF to South Africa	8/15-9/5
PREACHER: Glen Burse	8/19
KFC INDOOR YARD SALE to benefit Trudy's Kids Café, 7a-Noon, Gym	8/25
PREACHER: Ricky Burse	8/26
MEN'S DINNER, 6:30p, Snappy Tomato Pizza	8/28
KFC KID'S NIGHT OUT to New Pathways for Children; leave at 4p	8/31

**“THE STORY”  
COMING  
SEPTEMBER 9**

**SUNDAY MORNING  
BIBLE STUDY  
FOR ALL AGES**

**“The Bible as  
one continuing  
story of God  
and His people”**

## **THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 5**

**PROMOTION SUNDAY:** Our children’s & youth classes will promote to their next grade. Meet at 10:30am in Courtyard if weather is good (otherwise, in Youth Room).

**BIRTHDAY BASH** after morning classes. Please bring plenty of potluck dishes & desserts to share as we celebrate our August birthdays & anniversaries.

**DEVOTIONAL** following Birthday Bash. Evening Good News Groups will not meet.

**ELDERS MEETING**, 2-5pm, North Room. To meet with all the elders, please notify one in advance.



We live in a culture today that tries to tear us down, break our confidence, and make us lose faith. Even though the world sees this as a negative thing: to break us as people through depression, self-doubt, and destroying our safe havens of family, friends, and community with one another. I wonder if this culture of negativity and depression in some way cannot be made a blessing by God.

Just think, “One way to define ‘a spiritual life in Christ’ is that we get so tired of and fed up with our sin-filled selves that we go on to something better, a life following Jesus.” When you are at your lowest, most spiritually dry, and deepest, darkest place, God is with you. You are not alone! Just consider 2 Corinthians 12:9b-10: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”

We are never alone. God not only draws near us in our time of weakness and weariness, but his power is declared in our weakness. So, let us run to God when we are weary, let us give up our struggles, feelings, and fears to him. Let us be a congregation of people who acknowledge when we struggle with the difficulties in this life rather than pretend they are not there. Let us be completely reliant on God, lift-up each other, and rejoice as we develop a deeper and fuller life in Christ. ~ Jay

## **KidsForChrist** [age 2–5th grade]

**INDOOR YARD SALE TO BENEFIT TRUDY'S KIDS CAFÉ** > Saturday, August 25, 7am to Noon, in Gym: Our KFC will hold an indoor yard sale, with lemonade stand & baked goods. All money earned will be added to the \$200 from our VBS Penny War. **We need all our church members to help:** (1) by cleaning out your closets, attics, garages....& bringing sale-able items to the Blue Room until Friday, the 24th, when you can bring them to the Gym, AND (2) by providing home-made baked goods to sell.



**AUGUST PANTRY ITEM:**  
**macaroni & cheese**  
Please place in bin in Hall

**Our Sunday morning sermons are available online at our website, [www.exchangestchurch.org](http://www.exchangestchurch.org), or on Facebook with search for Exchange Street Church - Religious Organization.**

