

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for April 7, 2013**

**Announcements for the Week** Jason LaChappelle  
**Morning Service** **Evening Service**  
**Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Prayer-** Andy Fuller  
**Song Leader-** Andy Dobbs **Song Leader-** Matt Fuller  
**Communion:**  
-- **Comments** – Doug Davidson **Comments** – Roger German  
-- **Assisting** – David Johnson **Serving** – Kevin Criswell  
-- **Assisting** – Alex Tucker  
-- **Assisting** – Jay Dobbs  
-- **Assisting** – Dean Shacklock  
**Scripture** – Darryl Griffing **Scripture** – Todd Hudson  
**Closing Prayer-** David Fuller **Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn

**Wednesday Night – April 10, 2013**

**First Prayer** – David Fuller  
**Song Leader** – Dan Buselmeier  
**Invitation** – Andy Dobbs  
**Closing Prayer** – Marshall Foxworthy  
**April 28 Sunday Night Sermon** – Andy Fuller

**Upcoming Assignments:**

April	Communion	Cleaning
14	Davidson	Foxworthy, German, McMullen, Jones, Stewart
21	Prater	McIlvain, Ferrell, Criswell, Tucker

**Notes:**

**The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be on April 15, at 7PM.**

**Service:**

“In the end, the number of prayers we say may contribute to our happiness, but the number of prayers we answer may be of even greater importance.” — Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.” — Albert Schweitzer



*Schedule of Services*

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.**

This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.  
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Visit us on the web: [www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com)

# Covington Church of Christ

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Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,  
Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

April 7, 2013

*More Exploits of Elijah & Elisha*

1. Who was healed of leprosy when he followed Elisha's instructions?
2. Who appeared with Jesus and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration?
3. What birds fed Elijah in the wilderness?
4. What river did Elijah part by striking it with his mantle?



*Paper Bait, Paper Mouse*

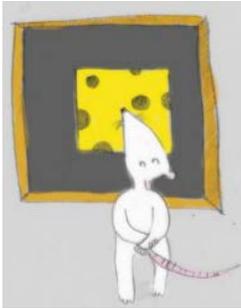
By Bob West

You have probably heard the story of the fellow who was out of cheese, so he baited the mouse trap with a picture of a piece of cheese. The next morning the trap was sprung, having captured a picture of a mouse!

This reminds me of the efforts made by religious teachers (including some of my brethren), who try to attract souls to Christ without the real gospel. Instead, they substitute recreation, entertainment, and other social events in the hope of drawing large numbers who can then be "trapped" into becoming Christians. At least two things are wrong with this practice.

## Paper Bait, Paper Mouse

Continued



First of all, reaching the lost is not some kind of trapping expedition where the quarry is the unsuspecting sinner, who must be "baited" or "suckered" into accepting the Gospel. While it is true that Jesus wants His disciples to be "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19), most of the fishing done in that area had to do with nets, not fancy and deceptive baits. Jesus said, "Go and preach." He did not authorize us to sneak up on or entrap sinners.

In the second place, the real, unadulterated gospel is the only means God has given us to attract sinners. It alone is the "*power of God unto salvation*" (Romans 1:16). The knowledge of God is, according to our Master, sufficient to draw sinners to Christ (John 6:44-45). The use of some phony, worldly "bait" will, like the story above, result in snaring phony, worldly converts. We still reap what we sow. Sowing carnality is not likely to bring forth spirituality.

If we are faithful and diligent in forthrightly proclaiming the gospel to the lost, those with good and honest hearts will receive the word with gladness and be saved. Those who reject it cannot be saved by worldly means. This is God's original, simple, and effective plan for reaching mankind. Who are we to suggest that we can improve upon the Divine plan by using the world's methods? We need to be satisfied with God's provisions which are more than adequate to accomplish His purposes.

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## Storm Damage

By Jim Jonas

High winds recently blew through leaving behind a big mess and some obvious spiritual analogies.

First, many of the trees blown down had rotten cores. Before the storm they appeared healthy and strong, but the hollow cores could not withstand the howling wind. Isn't this true of some people? They give an outward appearance of faith and spirituality, but when a crisis comes they collapse under the pressure. The Christian must be strengthened in the inner man (Ephesians 3:16) in order to withstand the storms of life.

Secondly, some trees were simply blown over because their root systems were shallow. The tree may have been otherwise healthy, but it was not firmly anchored in the ground. Jesus said there would be people like this (Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21). Their interest in God would last only as long as their lives were stable and secure.

Thirdly, the destructive winds seemed arbitrary and selective. A large tree was left standing in my yard, but one just like it a few feet away in the neighbor's yard was uprooted. Similarly, the trials of life can affect men arbitrarily. Surviving victims of tragic accidents often wrestle with the guilt of having lived when friends or loved ones have died. But there's often no rationale for such occurrences. We must be thankful for the opportunities we have been given and be good stewards of the lives we have been given.

Fourth, such storms are God's way of naturally pruning dead wood. Many yards were littered with limbs that were dead which needed to come down and make room for the new growth. The trials of our lives can have the same effect. We can acquire bad habits or attitudes which we find hard to dismiss, but the rough storms which we periodically endure can prune our character and help us focus upon what is truly important.

Finally, much costly damage was done indirectly by the storm as falling trees and limbs snapped power lines, smashed roofs and crumpled cars. This, too, occurs when faith fails under stress. If a man loses his faith, his entire family suffers. If a child goes astray, the parents are devastated. A congregation's morale suffers with every backslider's return to the world.

The storms will come. May we stand firm with deep roots, faithful cores, and strong limbs.

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### Answers from page 1

1. Naaman the Syrian [2 Kings 5:1-14]
2. Moses [Luke 9:26-36]
3. Ravens [1 Kings 17:2-7]
4. The Jordan [2 Kings 2:8]