**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 1, 2019**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Darryl Griffing **Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Song Leader-** Buck Phillips **Song Leader-** Buck Phillips

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Andy Fuller **Comments –** Jason LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Lucian Griffing **Communion –** Darryl Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Roger German

**-- Scripture –** Dean Shacklock **Scripture –** Gary Goddard

**Closing Prayer-** David Johnson **Closing Prayer-** Dan Woodward

**Wednesday Night – December 4, 2019**

**First Prayer–** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader –** Bill McIlvain

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Cliff Davis

**December 29 Evening Prayer & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **1** | ??? | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **8** | ??? | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**Preaching Today --**

**While Bill is away, Jason LaChappelle and Richard Boone will be presenting lessons. Our goal is to edify. One of the best ways to build your bible knowledge is to preach and teach God’s Word. There are still opportunities to serve and stretch your spiritual muscles in 2020.**

**See one of the Elders or Deacons about presenting a lesson on a Sunday evening or teaching/assisting to teach a class. Family Bible Week is an excellent opportunity for everyone to serve.**

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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**Wi-Fi Password: church1234**

**This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.**

**Send any articles for the bulletin to** **Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davin, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**December 1, 2019**

***For The Ladies***

1. What woman was the Hittite wife of Esau?

2. Who is the only woman mentioned in Paul’s letter to Philemon?

3. What Egyptian woman was the wife of Joseph?

4. What two women of Philippi were asked by Paul to stop their quarreling?

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***Unread Letters***

**By Matt Henneke**

A childhood accident resulted in poet Elizabeth Barrett becoming an invalid and recluse. Despite her isolation her early poetry drew the attention of Robert Browning who began courting her. He eventually asked for her hand in marriage and Elizabeth and Robert were married in 1846. But there’s more to the story.

In her youth, Elizabeth had been watched closely by her tyrannical father. He was strict beyond reason and attempted to prevent suitors from courting her. In fact, he did not want any of his children to marry. As a result, Elizabeth and Robert eloped, their wedding held in secret because of her father’s disapproval.

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***Unread Letters***

**Continued**

After the wedding the Brownings sailed for Italy, where they lived for the rest of their lives--exiled from her parents. Even though her parents had disowned her, Elizabeth never gave up on the relationship. Almost weekly she wrote them letters. Some were fairly lengthy, others short and poetical in form. Not once did they reply.

After ten years, Elizabeth received a large box in the mail. Inside, she found all of her letters. Not a single one had been opened. Elizabeth’s years of writing, her letters pleading for reconciliation--were for naught.

Today those letters are among the most beautiful in classical English literature. Had her parents only read a few of them, their relationship with Elizabeth might have been restored. These events were reported in the Daily Walk in May 30, 1992.

What makes the story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning so compelling is that it is so similar to another story. A story that is repeated over and over again--generation after generation.

You see, I am aware of other letters which have been written but not read. Beautiful letters. Letters of reconciliation. Letters of hope. We know them better as epistles. These letters, written by men, but authored by God through the Holy Spirit have been written for our reconciliation, for our salvation. Sadly, they often go unnoticed, unread, unheeded. Indeed, the entire Bible, God’s Word, is a book pleading for reconciliation. What is amazing is that God is pleading with us for reconciliation but He has done nothing wrong. We are the ones who have gone astray (2 Peter 2:15), and yet God stoops to beg for our reconciliation.

***[Colossians 1:18-23] “it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross”*** Why? Why would God give His only begotten Son for all of us who have gone astray? The answer is in verse 22***: “in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.”*** This letter speaks of reconciliation and of hope. Are you listening? What a beautiful letter. It would be a shame if it were never read, or if read, ignored.

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***Understanding***

**By Jeff Hamilton**

One son noted that some whom he was trying to teach were rejecting what he said because he still lived at home.  "Clearly" he couldn't understand life because he wasn't up to his eyeballs in debt!  He didn't know what it was like to be a single parent.

Ah!  I remember those days.   Before I wedded my lovely wife, I didn't understand because I hadn't experienced marriage.   That was shortly followed by not understanding because we didn't have any children.  And just wait until you have teenagers, then you'll see!  But until then, we didn't know what it was like.  As life moved on and our boys became young men, we learned we still didn't understand because we were lucky to have good kids.

I'm now waiting for the next phase of life: "You're too old to understand!"

Actually, all along I did understand.  I knew the direction they were headed and why it wasn't good.  It has never been because I was so clever; it was because I leaned on my Maker.  My life isn't a fluke; it was designed by God and executed according to the Manufacturer's written instructions.

***“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold.  She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.  Length of days is in her right hand, in her left-hand riches and honor.  Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.  She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who retain her” (Proverbs 3:13-18).***

Life is good today because I'm standing under the best guide in the universe, letting Him show me the way. I'm blessed because God told me how to raise good children and I'm thrilled to be their dad.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Aholibama [Genesis 36:2-5]

2. Apphia, a Christian from Colossae [Philemon 2]

3. Asenath [Genesis 41:45]

4. Euodia and Syntyche [Philippians 4:2]

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