

# WELCOME VISITORS

MESSENGER FOR CHRIST



BRUNSWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 10, 2016

## Sidewalks

Steve Higginbotham

The presence of Jesus in the gathering of His people is the sweetest blessing we enjoy when we meet. We pray that you will find peace, comfort, and power for living today.

A visitor's card is provided in the book rack, to give us a record of your visit.

SUNDAY		ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	
Bible Study	10:00 AM	Morning Worship	30
Worship	11:00 AM	Evening Worship	
Evening	6:00 PM	Wednesday	19
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM	Contribution	\$1275.00
Fellowship Meal	12:30 PM		
(Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)			
Men's Meeting	5:00 PM		
Last Sunday of every month)			

Visit our website at [www.brunswickcoc.com](http://www.brunswickcoc.com)

Rick Massey, Minister

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TO OUR FRIENDS:

A few weeks ago, a friend and brother, Jeff Smith, shared a devotional message with our church family. His message gave me the idea for this article. I grew up on Virginia Avenue in Chester, WV. On both sides of Virginia Avenue we had a six foot wide sidewalk made out of bricks. I memorized every inch of that sidewalk. I can still tell you where the tree roots caused the bricks to create a "bump" in the sidewalk, and where certain bricks were broken on the sidewalk. One of the last times I went home, I walked down the street and showed my children how you would navigate this sidewalk so you could receive the smoothest ride. At one time, Virginia Avenue, itself was brick with trolley tracks running down the middle. But as time passed, the bricks and tracks were covered with asphalt.

One of the ways I earned money as a child was that I removed the grass and moss that would grow in between the bricks in the sidewalk. I would take a narrow knife and sometimes a screwdriver and meticulously prise up the grass and green moss that grew between the bricks. But before the Summer was over, the grass and moss would grow back and I would do it all over again. (Btw, I didn't do this job often. I decided that the work and time invested just wasn't worth the 50 cents the neighbors would pay). But thinking back on this brick sidewalk brought a couple lessons to my mind that I would like for you to consider.

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**"...The Churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16**

Continued...

First, don't underestimate the power of a seed. God's "seed" or "word" (Luke 8:11) is powerful like the grass and moss that grew in the most unlikely places between the bricks in the sidewalk. This truth serves to remind me that it's not our job to be selective as to where we sow the seed. We're simply told to sow it. Don't write people off because you decide the seed would never take root in their hearts. Seeds are resilient! They can grow and thrive in some of the most unlikely areas. Get busy sowing seed and be amazed by its power.

Second, don't use your circumstances in life as an excuse for a lack of productivity in God's kingdom. The sidewalk on Virginia Avenue reminds me that you don't have to be "planted" in an ideal location to thrive. You may be "planted" among worldly co-workers, foul-mouthed neighbors, and unbelieving family members, but that's no excuse for you not to grow. The "seed" or "word of God" (Luke 8:11) is resilient. It can grow and thrive under some of the most extreme conditions. Don't use difficulty as an excuse not to grow.

Give is some thought!

MercEmail

**God's Plan for Man**  
**Hear God's Word**  
 Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17  
**Believe in Jesus**  
 Jn. 8:24  
**Repent of Sins**  
 Lk. 13:3; 2 Cor. 7:10  
**Confess Jesus' Name**  
 Mt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 16:15-16  
**Be Baptized**  
 Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-19; Acts 2:38, 41;  
 Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4  
**Live Faithful until Death**  
 Mt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10

The Bible study topic for Wednesday night:  
 A Study of the Book of Revelation  
 Bible study starts at 6:30 PM.



Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

—Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

Opportunities to Serve		
Welcome Song Leader Opening Prayer Communion  Scripture Reading Speaker Closing Prayer Evening Nursery	Today John Bowling Dick Phillips Albert Sturdivant *Willie Gore Jonathan Neuman Lynn Means Lynn Means Rick Massey John Bowling Jim Hobbs Sharon Means	01/17/16 Lynn Means Willie Gore Jim Hobbs *Albert Sturdivant Bill Bartlow Josiah Garner Jonathan Neuman Rick Massey Albert Sturdivant Jim Hobbs Iris Garner

Please remember to pray for the sick, lonely, and especially anyone outside Christ

No additions to the prayer list.

The complete prayer list is on the bulletin board.

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James 5:16 KJV

**Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**

Women's Bible Study

The ladies bible study will be held Tuesday, at 10:30 am in the fellowship room. We will be studying New Testament Commandments. Our time together will include prayer and songs of praise. You are welcome to join us.

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Just Some Humor

Atheist: "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"  
 Preacher: "I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him."  
 Atheist: "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"  
 Preacher: "Then you ask him."