

## Quick and Easy

While I was glancing at the books in my library, I noticed a book by Dale Carnegie, *The Quick and Easy Way to Effective Speaking*. Why did I purchase such a book? It's because I am like most everyone else in our society. We all love shortcuts, we all crave "quick and easy" ways of doing things. Why do you think there are so many fast-food restaurants and so many choices in the frozen food sections at the grocery stores? Why do you think the bookstores are filled with "quick and easy" solutions to almost everything imaginable, from making money to woodworking, from losing weight to raising kids? Come on, be honest, you are drawn to the magazines in the check-out aisles that offer "quick and easy" solutions to getting in shape or building relationships or preparing dinner, aren't you? We all are. That's the American way. We want it "quick and easy", and are willing to spend millions of dollars to find out how!

So, it's not surprising that people want "quick and easy" solutions to their spiritual needs, too. We love to just say a quick prayer to get anything we want. We love to just repeat the "Sinner's Prayer" to be saved forever. We love to pay a little money to hire someone else to do our spiritual work for us. I hate to be the one to burst your bubble, but there's nothing "quick and easy" about being saved or growing to spiritual maturity.

We shouldn't be surprised. There was nothing "quick and easy" about God's plan for saving us. Once Adam and Eve sinned, God set in motion His plan for redeeming us, but it took thousands of years to develop the nation of Israel before Jesus became flesh. It took around 30 years for Jesus to get ready to begin His ministry. It took over three years for Him to teach His disciples and get ready for the cross. Even then it took the filling of the Holy Spirit to get the disciples to understand what Jesus was all about. Spiritual growth and understanding takes time, lots of time.

Just ask the Christians to whom the book of Hebrews was written. The writer wanted to discuss some things that were difficult to explain, but, because of their spiritual immaturity, he couldn't (*Hebrews 5:11*). What is not stated in the text is that many of these people had been Christians for as many as 30 years, and yet still needed to be fed with milk, not solid food (*Hebrews 5:12*). Just because they had been Christians a long time did not guarantee maturity. The writer concluded, "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil" (*Hebrews 5:14*). Note the words "constant" and "trained." Both words indicate an extended period of time.

If you want to become a spiritually mature Christian, you'll have to ditch any idea that this will be a "quick and easy" process. It will require constant study of the scriptures. It will require learning how to use what you learn with the spiritual wisdom that God gives (*Colossians 1:9*). But you can do it, because God has promised to help.

Joe Chesser  
Fruitland Church of Christ  
Jackson, MO  
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328 S. West End Blvd. Cape Girardeau, MO 63703



**Elders:** Mark McAllister - 573-866-2514 William Meyer – 573-334-3130

**Deacons:** Barney Hartline – 573-335-1180 Jerry Keele – 573-334-8600  
Rick Potter – 573-382-6471 Chris White – 573-579-9610

**Evangelist:** Ed Burrows Cell: 316-655-3530 Office – 573-335-7336

Church email: [churchoffice@capechurchofchrist.org](mailto:churchoffice@capechurchofchrist.org)

Website: [www.capechurchofchrist.org](http://www.capechurchofchrist.org)

## SPIRITUAL FOOD SOURCES

### TV Programs

"In Search of the Lord's Way" with Phil Sanders at 7:00 a.m. Sundays  
"Good News Today" at 7:30 a.m. Sundays - WDKA-TV 49, MyNetwork  
"A Bible Answer" at 8:00 a.m. Sundays – WQWQ-CW  
"Have a Bible Question" at 8:00 a.m. Sundays – WDKA-TV 49, MyNetwork

### Internet

Capechurchofchrist.org (<https://www.facebook.com/CapeChurchofChrist/>)  
Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

From Harding University: [Collegechurchofchrist.org](http://Collegechurchofchrist.org)  
(<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeChurchofChrist/>) Sundays at 8 a.m.

**DAY HIKE:**

All the young and young at heart are invited to a day hike to Panther Den Wilderness in southern Illinois this coming Saturday, March 27th. We will meet at the building at 9 a.m. and convoy from there. From the trail head to Panther Den is a 3/4-mile moderate hike. Bring snacks and drinks for lunch. April 3rd will be the backup date. Please sign up (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the back of the auditorium) if you are interested in going.

**BOOTHEEL YOUTH CAMP**

Camp sessions are planned! If your child is interested in attending, there are registration forms available (if none are left on the bulletin board, see Karen for a copy). The Pee Wee weekend, grades K-2, will be June 4-6. The regular week-long sessions are June 13-18, June 20-25, July 11-16, and July 18-23. Financial assistance is available if needed. Check out more information on what is posted on the bulletin board.

**PREACHER TRAINING PROGRAM**

The North Carolina School of Biblical Studies will be officially opening for on campus classes the first week of August 2021. We are recruiting students. If you know of young men or older men who would like to preach the gospel, we have a very good training program for them. Please invite them to contact me, Mike Glenn, at [ncsbs.wc@ncsbs.com](mailto:ncsbs.wc@ncsbs.com). Thanks for your help.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- March 27 – Work day at BYC
- April 19 - Children’s Home Pick-up. We need Chocolate Chips, Instant Potatoes, Canned Mushrooms, Powdered Sugar, Snack Crackers and Rotel.
- July 16-17 – Worship Leaders Conference, Abilene, TX
- July 18-23 – Texas Normal Singing School, Abilene TX
- August 28 – Fish Fry at BYC

**SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS**

<u>OUR MEMBERS</u>	<u>FAMILY &amp; FRIENDS</u>	<u>WEEKLY REPORT</u>
Jennis Benefield	Betty Allen (hospice)	Sunday a.m. Worship: 62
Helen Coburn	Donna Barnes (cancer)	Contributions: \$2,842.00
Joan England (Life Care Ctr)	Tom & Mary Bollman	Budget: \$3,059.12
David Mattingly (rm 308 Life Care Ctr)	Michele Campbell (back)	Family First: \$0
Mark McAllister (glioblastoma)	Angie Northern Fabing	
Pat Smart (stroke/fall)	Scott Hartline	
Betty Tanner (shut-in)	Karen Hubbs (brain cancer)	Please remember to leave
Richard & Jane Volkerding (shut-in)	Chris Hutson	your contribution in the tray
	Suzanne Meert (cancer)	on the table at the back of the
	Kevin Plemons (brain tumor)	auditorium.
	Barry Tate (stroke)	
	Scott Taylor (cancer)	
	Donna Thieman (cancer)	
	Tony Wells	

**REMEMBERING CARSON**

Children of God come from all over the world. They come from every nation, tribe, language and culture. They look different, speak differently and have different world views; however, they do have one thing in common. They have developed a love for God. Some of them were raised in difficult situations and became street wise but there was a place in their hearts that longed for peace and love. When they found the peace that only God can provide their faith grew as did their longing to know more about The Heavenly Father. Perhaps they continue to look different and act differently from other people but please let us never doubt their love, appreciation and devotion to God. They, more than anyone, can appreciate and look forward to eternity in heaven. Carson is now pain free and is resting in eternal peace. Well done brother.

Don Boyd

<u>Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries in March</u>	
Mar. 27 – Sam & Jan Jarrell anniv.	Mar. 31 – Dennis Catlow
Mar. 30 – Ilene Evans	Mar. 31 – Lynn O’Neal
Mar. 30 – Joyce Blechle	