

Acts 2:44 And all who believed were together and had **ALL THINGS IN COMMON.**

July 2019

Christian Fellowship

Newsletter

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The God who Speaks



Keep your eyes open this fall for this 8 week video series coming to an adult Sunday School class near you!

Biblical authority and reliability will be covered in a new and exciting way.

If God has blessed you with the gift of writing down your thoughts, stories, poems, or the ability to dig pearls out of scripture, we need and want to hear from you! Your story or testimony might speak to someone that no one else could reach. As you can see in this issue, just sharing your testimony can be a tremendous encouragement to the Saints here at Christian Fellowship. Please be generous and share with us how God has blessed you.

Who's New in the Pew?

Hi ... we are new in the pew and are blessed to be here. It's been difficult to find a solid, Bible-teaching church and if this wasn't the right one we were going to leave Ohio!

Growing up, I always thought I had to be perfect, but I was never "good enough". I was an extremely harsh task master on myself. After high school graduation, I had a serious injury that put me in a coma for 14 days. Literally, in one second my life was drastically changed. I had amnesia and couldn't even remember my friends. Almost everything I was able to do previously and all I had strived to be was gone. Now what? I started college and my religious search began. I started to take religious classes in and outside of school. I even lived in a commune. Nothing seemed to satisfy.

I was lost, isolated and full of shame. I met some people who told me I that I was a sinner and I got very upset (how was I supposed to know what a sinner was?) A couple friends kept telling me about Jesus. I prayed "Jesus, if you are God, please reveal yourself to me". And He did! I signed up for a New Believer's class right away... Then went to a School of Evangelism. All I wanted was to know about God, Jesus, and His Word. God and His Word started to change me. I was becoming a new person.

God's Word said not to be unequally yoked so I ended the relationship with my boyfriend who didn't know Jesus. That boyfriend, David, eventually came to know the Lord and here we are today, after 25 years of marriage, "new in the pew" together.

David and I lived in San Diego for eighteen years. Then, about three years ago we decided to drive across the country in our motorhome. My step daughter and grandkids live in Temperance, Michigan and it just so happens that our motorhome broke down close to Toledo. We eventually ended up renting in Oregon, Ohio, and we are still here! We now want to

move closer to "life", so if anyone has any real estate advice, please talk to us!

We knew it was necessary to leave our previous church and we trusted the Lord to show us where He wanted us. I met Becky Borck at Bible Study Fellowship and I told her we'd visit CF. With no intention of staying, CF is now our "home". The fellowship here is fabulous, people are biblically honest, women are close, it's easy to share with them, we pray for each other regularly, as does the church for all. The women's prayer group is filled with very special people too.

God is so faithful, loving, long-suffering. He has walked me through countless situations where I felt I had no hope. People see me as happy-go-lucky, smiling and laughing, but I still have those "not good enough" and "wish I was better" feelings hanging around. I know there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus, but I forget.

I make delicate pendants from pieces of broken glass. I lay them out, design them, and put them in a kiln at 1400 degrees. After the melting process, the broken glass pieces become beautiful works of art. AND, when you take the pieces into the sunlight – not artificial light – but the real light, they become iridescent, colorful, and brilliant. The Lord reminded me that this is my testimony ... how He took my fragile, broken, crushed spirit, and molded me in His hot kiln; and in Him – the Light – I am transformed and shine like these glass pieces do. Only in the True Light of Jesus Christ, my Savior!

My life verse for the last few years is Prov. 16:9 "A man plans his way but the Lord directs his steps."

By Joyce Bailly



Jesus Christ Holds It All Together

by Tim Taylor



“And He Himself existed and is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. [His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.]” – Col. 1:17 Amp

Here is a song that was quite familiar to me when I was growing up. You may recall it too:

He's got the whole world in His hands (4 x)
He's got my brothers and my sisters in His hands, (4 x)
He's got the sun and the rain in His hands,
He's got the moon and the stars in His hands,
He's got the wind and the clouds in His hands,
He's got the rivers and the mountains in His hands,
He's got the oceans and the seas in His hands,
He's got you and he's got me in His hands,
He's got everybody here (there, & everywhere) in His hands, (4 x)
He's got the whole world in His hands.

I remember people in my church back in the 1960's being upset about this song because they thought it was teaching “universalism” – that everyone in the world is or will be saved, just by the power of God to hold everyone “in His hands”. I didn't take it that way then and I don't take it that way now, either.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” That's Genesis 1:1,2 which shows the Father and the Spirit at creation. Christ made everything. He is the Creator along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

That the power of Christ was present at creation is shown in Colossians 1:16 which says, “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

John 1:2-3 states, “He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.” These verses clearly attest to the Divinity of Christ. Christ was and is God.

An aspect of Christ that's not often considered is that He also holds it all together – all that He created He sustains. In a poetic yet real sense, He surely does hold the whole world in His hands. The Amplified Bible uses the phrase “cohesive force”.

That term “hold together” in the Greek language of the Bible is [συνέστηκεν \(synestēken\)](#) [Strong's Greek 4921](#): To place together, To be composed of, cohere.

All matter, all atomic structures, everything that exists including you and me, are maintained in our present form and function by the active, ongoing, sustaining force of the “hand” of Jesus Christ!

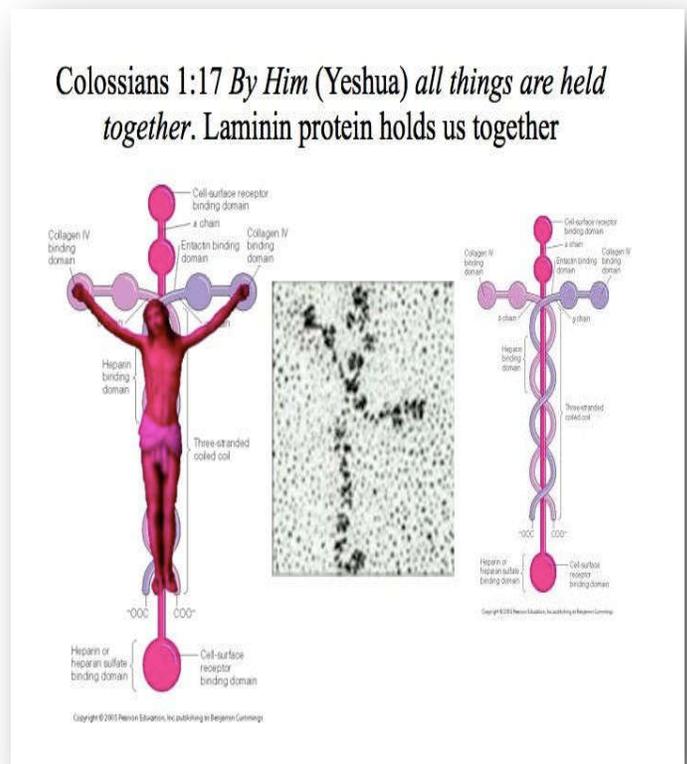
I do not think it is an exaggeration to say that were Jesus to release His Divine grip on this world – everything in it or on it – we would all explode. We would disintegrate into infinitesimal pieces! Whether or not a person believes in Jesus as their Savior, they still benefit from the common grace which God extends to all people.

Matthew 5:45 affirms: “...For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” In the same way, Jesus Christ is holding our world and all that is in it – together.

So when you think your world is coming apart...when you think you're coming undone from the stresses of life, let me remind you Jesus is consciously, actively, purposefully holding us all together.

I take a lot of comfort in knowing that fact!

(Here is a picture of the human protein that binds our cells together)



Quizzers take 11th place at the International Quiz Meet!



Thad Leinbach

Several CF youth participated in the CMA (Christian Missionary Alliance) Bible quizzing International competition from July 5-10 in Kissimmee, Florida. Our Great Lakes District (GLD) team included Thad Leinbach, Seth Parmelee, Toby Parmelee, Gracie Perrin and Elizabeth Rice. Previous CF quizzer, Josiah Leinbach, was one of the coaches for the GLD team.

Two other CF quizzers also competed at the International meet. Maddie Priestap and Amelia Rice were invited to quiz with the Ohio Valley District (OVD) team to make up their team of five members.



Elizabeth Rice

The quizzers experienced a full week of intense competition with 85 quizzers from all over the US and Canada. Our GLD team took 11th place out of seventeen teams and the OVD team placed 13th.



Toby Parmelee

The International competition is a unique quizzing experience and Maddie Priestap expressed what she enjoyed the most about it. "Quizzing at Internats was an experience I never thought I'd be able to have. I got to meet so many people. It was so cool to see everyone quizzing God's Word and knowing it so well." All of our quizzers were pushed beyond their comfort zone and each one was able to answer several questions throughout the week.



Seth Parmelee

This may not sound impressive, but if you saw how fast Internats quizzers jump, with very little of the question even asked, you would understand the extent of their accomplishments. We are very proud of our quizzers.

The quizzers and coaches want to thank their CF family for the contri-

butions they gave specifically for the Internats competition this year. The expenses were much greater than other years, so it was a tremendous help. Thank you for your support!



Amelia Rice and Maddie Priestap

ELDERS' CORNER

(excerpt from FAQ on an explanation of scripture-driven ministry by Ken Kutz)

What can I do to help implement Eph. 6:18 and Heb. 3:12-13?

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV) "*praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,*" – Do you have someone, perhaps in your own family, you would want to pray for every day? Let us know so we can support you. We would like to know who is not being prayed for so we can get to our Biblical goal of "all" as seen in this verse.

Hebrews 3:12-13 (ESV) "*Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitful-*

Name that Elder?

ness of sin." – Do you have someone to whom you would want to give some daily encouragement? This can be people in your own family as well. The type of encouragement described in this verse is a form of grace specifically aimed at preventing unbelief and replacing it with faith in the Lord. This person can be the same person you are praying for every day, particularly because requests naturally lend themselves to situationally-specific encouragement.



Gracie Perrin

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**We're on the web
 at cftoledo.org**

August

Sofia Pannenberg	1
Mark Stanik	6
Cora Hoen	11
Barb Miller	11
Annette Moan	12
Adam Black	13
Lydia Pannenberg	14
Evan Ramsey	14
Norman Shepherd	14
James Stanbery	14
Judy Baker	16
Isabella Wilder	16
Katherine Lay-Dejarnette	18
Charlotte Nolan	18
Meredith Priestap	18
Jackson Hoen	19

BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Hoenig	19	Georgene Noss	6
Renee Keller	23	Ellen Lemke	7
Abraham Melendez	23	Jackson Priestap	9
Isaac Black	28	Josiah Leinbach	10
Steven Cieply	28	Sarah Cieply	12
Christie DeLamater	29	Peg Bickford	19
Colleen DeProspero	30	Elaine Vasaturo	23
Vonda McMullian	30	Christa Fisher	23
Tracey Wilder	30	Roman Hoen	25
Mark Priestap	31		

September

Dion Dejarnette	3
Barbara Lane	4
Ashlyn Stanbery	4
Tammy Tucker	4
Patrick Ramsey	5
Chris Dudley	6

Anniversaries

Altman, Dick & Carol	8-2
Scott, Garrett & Becki	8-11
Pannenberg, Bryan & Dawn	8-14
Hoenig, Bob & Cindy	8-25
Wilder, John & Tracey	8-27
DeLamater, Paul & Christie	9-1
Goodman, Brian & Penny	9-1
Baker, Joel & Judy	9-5

The East Side Small Group ventured to the west side for a picnic at Strawberry Acres where they encountered food, fellowship, and fun! If you don't have a small group connection, please come and join us!



Whatever happened to Woody the Red-headed Woodpecker? Keith Good spotted him recently out on a date.

