

**The Encouragement Group**  
meets on **Thursday's at 9 a.m.**  
in the fellowship hall.

**Sunday Bible Class 9:15 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.**  
**Wednesday Evening 6:00 p.m.**



**Melbourne**  
**Church of Christ**  
**A Place to Belong**

### **Elders**

Danny Brightwell  
291-3439

Shelby Qualls  
291-7424

### **Deacons**

David Brightwell     Alan Love  
307-5714                 243-4608

Joe Cooper  
291-4653

### **Minister**

Ryan Lloyd  
217-1109  
Melbourne CoC  
Box 267  
Melbourne, AR 72556

## *Family News*

- We are updating our sign digitally. If you would like to contribute to this expense, please contact Shelby or Danny.
- We will have a church family game night on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at the fellowship building, all are welcome and encouraged to come.
- Hadleigh Grigg will have kidney surgery on February 27. Please keep her, Harper, Jamie, and Dalton in your prayers.
- Ronnie Adkisson was not able to have a cardiac procedure in Little Rock last week. He is now at home. Please keep him and Sally in your prayers.
- Wayne Crosby's medical procedure went well last week and is now back at home. Please keep him and Melanie in your prayers.
- Harsie Gaston is at home and sick with a sore throat and sinus infection.
- Melba Bryant is waiting to be scheduled for sciatica nerve treatment. She is currently at home and trying not to move around too much.
- Sermons and bulletins available at [Melbournechurchofchrist.com](http://Melbournechurchofchrist.com)

# Melbourne Church of Christ

*"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually  
while sharing Jesus and serving others."*

## **A Religion of Relationships**

by Edd Sterchi

**Too many people claim or act like Christianity is simply a religion of beliefs. And while belief is a crucial part of Christianity, it is much more than that. I contend that Christianity, in reality, is a religion of relationships.**

**Take a look at John 15, for example. In verses 1-11 we can see that Jesus is the vine and individual Christians are the branches. To be productive, the branches must maintain a relationship with the vine where they draw nutrients and support.**

**This means we are to sustain a proper relationship with Christ to draw spiritual sustenance and produce fruit for Him. We must diligently read and learn from His word and stay close to Him by walking with Him and living the way He leads.**

**Now take a look at verses 12-17 in John 15. There we see that not only are we to have a relationship with Jesus, but we are to have a relationship with "one another." We are to love one another.**

**The word translated "love" in this passage is the verb form of "agape." This is an unselfish, giving type of love that always does what is best for the other. This type of love cannot be practiced without being involved in one another's lives. We are to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to develop closer relationships with them.**

**Yes, Christianity is about relationships – relationship with the Lord and with His people. It is then we will be joyful and productive. What is your Christianity a religion of?**

**OPENING PRAYER** Chip Master

**CLOSING PRAYER** Anthony Weston



**JANUARY**

**BRAD SIPE**

**DANNY BRIGHTWELL**

**CHIPPER LAMB**

**SHAWN WORTHAM**

**FEBRUARY**

**SHELBY QUALLS**

**CHIP MASTER**

**BRENT QUALLS**

**ROBERT LANGSTON**

**John 15:1-17, "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. <sup>9</sup> Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. <sup>12</sup> "This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. <sup>17</sup> This I command you, that you love one another."**

**Prayer List**

**Military:** Derek Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson **Nursing Home:** Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Troy Gaston, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Ann Lawrence

Ted Kidd	Wilma Cooper	Jim Fowler	Dorothy Teague
Bill Roland	Treva Voyles	Hayden Phillips	Debbie Crow
Cornelia Summers	Christie Haney	Joanna Smith	Wayne Crosby
Brooke Partin	Gary Brown	Sanyaia Austin	Charlotte Cooper
John Young	Regenia Gillihan	Robby Qualls	Regina Master
Shawna Teegarden	Jeanette Crosby Youngblood		John Ward
Boyde Martin	Gage Barns		

**January Birthdays**

Emma Marie Cooper 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Randy Zook 5 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Weston 7 <sup>th</sup>
Emmitt Weston 8 <sup>th</sup>	Julie Teague 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kimberly Hoskinds 12 <sup>th</sup>
Harper Cotter 13 <sup>th</sup>	Melissa Lamb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kiley Carter 14 <sup>th</sup>
Arlene Davidson 15 <sup>th</sup>	Luke Vest 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Kosmitis 17 <sup>th</sup>
Charles Everett 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Bone 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Crosby 20 <sup>th</sup>
Rusty Treat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Jean Cooper 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Iris Beebe 22 <sup>nd</sup>
David Hoskinds 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rhetha Lamb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeanette Everett 24 <sup>th</sup>
Trey Lamb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Daylee Brightwell 25 <sup>th</sup>	Zori Brightwell 25 <sup>th</sup>
Kyler McLaughlin 25 <sup>th</sup>	Eastyn Teegarden 25 <sup>th</sup>	Joe Paul Smith 28 <sup>th</sup>
Adam Hoskinds 31 <sup>st</sup>	Joe Ingram 31 <sup>st</sup>	

**January Anniversaries**

John & Marilyn Smith 18<sup>th</sup>  
Randy & Diane Zook 21<sup>st</sup>

**Dates to Remember**

Ladies meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month @ 6 p.m. bring a finger food.  
Men meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.  
Potluck every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

**1 Peter 4:8-10, "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint. As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."**