

SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

Sunday morning worship (Bible study).....	9:30 AM
Sunday morning worship (Preaching).....	10:30 AM
Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....	4:00 PM
Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study).....	7:00 PM

NEWS AND NOTES

SCHEDULE: The schedule for February is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for next month.

SICK AND SHUT-INS: Charles Weatherbee is now in rehab after heart issues complicated by pneumonia. Dottie Henderson continues to slowly improve. She is still receiving physical therapy at home. Zola Basham's sister Sula Maxey is doing well following shoulder surgery. Brenda Elliott is dealing with a pulled hamstring muscle. Donna Criswell's aunt, Nell Barrett is not doing well, and neither is her brother-in-law. Donna provides most of her care. Remember brother Butz's sister who has a mass in her chest that may be cancer. Remember Telford Hamm's brothers and brother-in-law. Remember Jack Elliott's niece. Nancy Summerford's mother is in last stages of Alzheimer's. Virgie Waddle's sister-in-law, Jean Malone is in the nursing home in Golden.

TEACHING EFFORTS: Our teaching bulletin, the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was in the **Red Bay News** the first week in January. It will be in the paper again the first week of April and have an advertisement for our upcoming meeting on the front page. There are copies of the January issue on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. There is also an ad in the local paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. The men decided to discontinue our TV/Radio program on local Cable TV channels 12 and 97 at 6:30 AM and 4:30 PM on Sunday and various times through the week and on radio stations 1430 AM and 97.9 FM. Next Sunday (23) will be the last broadcast. There are DVD copies of the TV program available. The radio program on 95.5 FM about 10 AM each Sunday will continue. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS: Eastside Russellville with Wes Brown (Special Teen Study) Feb 21 & 22 (check bulletin board for times). Kelly Spring Road (Harvest, AL) with Jarred McCrary Feb 21 – 23 Fri & Sat 7pm. Jordan Park – Singing Feb 21 7 pm. Danville Road (Decatur) with Steve Klein Feb 23 – 26 Mon - Wed 7 pm. Market Street (Athens) Singing Feb 28 (time unknown) If you know of other meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

POINTS TO PONDER

- He that will not command his thoughts will soon lose the command of his actions.
- "It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up." (Vince Lombardi)

THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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DO YOU PRAY DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICES?

By Bill Hall

The worshipper who would pray in the assembly must do more than bow his head and close his eyes. He must pray. *"Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uniformed say 'Amen' at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say?"* (1Corinthians 14:16). This verse suggests four requirements if one is to enter into a prayer.

First, he must listen to the prayer. One cannot legitimately say "Amen" at the conclusion of a prayer if he has not listened to the prayer. "Mind-wandering" is an ever-present problem. We sing, but we don't observe the words of the song. We bow our heads, but we don't listen to the prayer. We sit through the sermon, but our minds wander to things of an earthly nature. Consequently, we attend worship periods, but we don't worship as we ought. If one is to pray, with the congregation, he must listen to the prayer.

Second, he must understand the prayer. When a man in the first century led a prayer in an unknown tongue, the worshipper could not say "Amen," for he could not understand the language in which the prayer was spoken. Neither could the worshipper say "Amen" today if the leader has not spoken loudly enough to be heard or if he has used words or phrases which the worshipper does not understand. Those who lead prayers in the assembly should be conscious of the needs of

the whole congregation, speaking up where all can hear and using words which all can understand.

Third, he must agree with the prayer. A number of years ago, while sitting beside an older preacher, I observed his saying “Yes” or “Yes, Lord” at the conclusion of each separate phrase of the prayer as it was being led. He spoke the words softly enough that I was probably the only one in the assembly who could hear them, but I was impressed. Obviously, this brother was listening to every phrase, determining whether or not he agreed with the phrase, and was then softly speaking his agreement. He was not just sitting through a prayer; he was praying. Occasionally, we hear sentiments expressed in prayer with which we do not agree. To these sentiments we cannot say “Amen.”

Fourth, he must say “Amen.” The word “Amen” means “so let it be.” We long to hear the strong, resounding “Amen” at the close of prayers which we used to hear. We fear that the move away from this practice is another step toward cold, lifeless formality in our worship. We are not contending, however, that one must say the word “Amen” audibly; but we are suggesting that at least in his mind he should say “Amen,” thus making the prayer his own prayer. He has listened to the prayer; he has understood the prayer; he has agreed with the prayer: now he speaks to God his “Amen” or approval of the prayer as his prayer. In this manner, he unites with other worshipers in common prayer unto God.

MUSIC SETS THE MOOD

By Wilson Adams

“And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear, and will trust in the Lord.” Psalm 40:3. I cringe every time I hear it. You know the comment. You get to discussing music in the church with someone and they fire off the comment, “Oh, you all (in the church of Christ) are the ones who do not have music!” Wrong, wrong, wrong! And shame on you if you have ever said that! Please tell me what we are doing when a leader pitches a song, people hold up books with notes on a page and together we sing words of harmonious melody in praise to our God. Is this not music? You bet!

The scriptures are clear as to the type of music God wants from His church. He even specifies the instrument He wishes to hear (the human heart) as well as the kinds of songs that please Him. Ephesians 5:19 says, “Speaking to one another

in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.” God asks that we lift up our hearts and blend our voices in song together. The melody we make comes from the heart and the cords we play are our own vocal cords. That is music!

Denominational churches now believe that in order to attract people, they must bring in all these “contemporary” groups which use instrumental music. In their minds, “traditional” music just does not cut it anymore. To suggest that a cappella music is not music simply because there is not a man-made box of strings sounding out a tune is ridiculous. Yes, we have music in the church of Jesus Christ! This is music that is “in tune” with the desires of the One toward whom the music is directed (Colossians 3:16).

Nevertheless, if there is one area of worship where churches tend to be weak, it is in the area of music. We put a great deal of effort into our preaching and teaching, and sometimes very little into our music. We want quality lessons that instruct, encourage, and motivate, but we rarely think about the quality and enthusiasm of our singing or how it could be better. As a result, the entire mood of the worship assembly is brought down by the poor quality of the singing.

In Psalm 40:3, the psalmist suggests a clear connection between music and evangelism. Our singing should serve as an inspiration to our visitors. It should be uplifting and inspiring as they observe us blend our voices in praise to the One who has given us everything. Psalm 100:2 says, “Serve the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.” The truth is that some worship assemblies sound more like funerals than periods of joyful worship.

Someone has well said, “Funeral dirge anthems and stiff-collared song leaders will kill a church faster than anything else in the world!” A hearty “AMEN” to that! It is true that different people and age groups prefer different songs. Older folks enjoy the slower “old favorites” learned from childhood while younger people like newer songs with a faster tempo and with different parts. Nevertheless, the important point to remember is that there is room for both. It is crucial that we realize how important our music is to our worship. Is there anything more beautiful than a congregation of God’s people lifting up their voices in melodious praise through song? Likewise, who knows what impact for good our singing will have on our visitors. So, let’s open our books and our mouths and SING! You will see that it is a little taste of heaven here on earth.