

October 28, 2018



**IN THE  
Spotlight**

**Hard Working Church Members:**

- A big thank you to **Sister Cindy Collier** for cleaning the pews and organizing visitors cards and song books on the back of each pew every Friday.
- A big thank you to **Sister Martha Morales** for cleaning the main building and vacuuming the auditorium every week.

**Our Youth in Action**



**Erin Fortson** competing in Track and Field for Woodbridge M.S. while maintaining an A+ average in school. She will have a two week break before starting basketball practice.

**Go Erin!**

- **Thanksgiving Food Basket:** Dale City Christ of Christ Food Basket event is scheduled for November 17, 2018. We are soliciting **cash donations** for the purchasing of turkeys for the food baskets. If you wish to donate, please see Sister Diane Johnson or any Elder.
- **The Disaster Assistance program** of the Lake Jackson, TX Church of Christ is receiving donations to help the Churches of Christ in North and South Carolina as a result of the flooding from Hurricane Florence. If you wish to donate online, go to; [www.disasterassistanccecoc.com](http://www.disasterassistanccecoc.com) or mail check to; Disaster Assistance CoC, C/O Lake Jackson Church of Christ, 402 Center Way St., Lake Jackson, TX 77566.
- **Stu King:** Free Seasoned Fire Wood in the woods behind the church auditorium. Just cut, split, and carry to your fireplace to add warmth and a cozy atmosphere to your home this Fall and Winter.
- **Puppet Practice:** Starting Sunday, October 21, 2018, there will be ERLTC puppet practice after chorus. This will be the schedule until we attend ERLTC in April 2019. Sister Kachia Wright.
- **East Capital Street Church of Christ:** 45th Annual Ladies Spring Luncheon, March 23, 2019. Come join us as we celebrate the past and look forward to the future!

• **Westside Church of Christ:**

**Polishing the Pulpit (PTP): SPARK  
Classes for the strengthening of the Church**

**November 3-7, 2018**

1705 Starview Drive, Salem, VA. 24153

You must register to attend; [www.westsidecofc-salem.com](http://www.westsidecofc-salem.com)



# From the Shepherd's Desk

Brothers and Sisters,

In the reading of the *Christian Chronicle*, Brother Rob Wilson read the article below and wanted to share it with you. It supports the scriptures on the freedom we have in Christ and the benefits of Christian fellowship.

## **Freedom of association demands godly wisdom**

“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.”— Proverbs 22:24-25, KJV

Freedom is that God-given power we have to make choices — to choose where we go, what we do and with whom we will associate. But the people we allow into our lives can have a profound impact on who we become. We must use our freedom wisely. If you want to succeed in life, find a group of dedicated individuals who practice the moral standards they preach.

I remember the words of a brother in Christ who use to say on this subject. If your goal in life is to be an alcoholic, you can do three things to accomplish this goal: Find a group of people engaged in the practice of abusing alcohol, go associate with that group, and imitate their behavior. If you do these things, you will achieve your goal — and likely destroy your life and the lives of those around you.

Fortunately, this pattern also can be true for good behavior. If you want to succeed in life, find a group of dedicated individuals who practice the moral standards they preach. Associate with them, and model their positive behaviors. Chances are that you, too, will be known as a person of character, a success story in all the ways that matter.

All of us, from high school students and up, have seen examples of what happens when freedom is used to make bad choices. We know people who showed promise in athletics, in academics or in the arts who exercised their freedom in such a way that these gifts were wasted and never fully developed. Let's use our freedom to maximize the abilities God has given each of us. And let's always be mindful of the liberating freedom we have in Christ. It is liberating to know that Jesus has freed us from the bonds of sin. It is also liberating to know that, in order to obtain and enjoy this freedom, all we have to do is be obedient to the commands of Jesus we find in the Bible.

We must grow and nurture our faith in God, using wisely the freedoms he has bestowed on all of us. “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” The apostle Paul shares that truth in 2 Corinthians 3:17. The spirit of the Lord works in each of us. Allow that spirit to work.

MICHAEL E. FLOWERS is a deacon of the Genessee Avenue Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio.