



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

December 2019

The Good Shepherd

John 10:1-16

This time of year, many will hear the wonderful story of Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem, when Mary gave birth to her first-born Son.

On that night there were shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock. And to their great surprise an angel appeared unto them with “good tidings of great joy”.

Those shepherds took that angelic message they heard that night and were the first to proclaim that “a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born”.

It was an epic account of a shepherd’s voice second only to that of the babe in the manger they saw that night. That babe became the Great Shepherd also known as “the Good Shepherd.” And His voice would be heard around the world ‘til the end of time.

I recently listened to a talk given in 2014 by an elder who actually was a shepherd and led his flocks over a period of 50 years.

With that experience and knowledge he took the Word of God to give a lesson titled “*The Good Shepherd*”. And shared the many parallels he witnessed between his sheep and the souls of men.

On his farm they had about 150 ewes and after they lambled they had about 300 sheep on the farm in the early days. Not unexpectedly he was often asked, “How are we like sheep, as spoken of in Scripture?”

Let me share some of those observations he gave in the lesson. This lesson was given by Duane Proudfit, elder at the Martensdale congregation, and can be heard at the website referenced at the end of this article.

Elders serve The Good Shepherd

After some introductory thoughts, the talk opens with three scriptures as the premise:

- Christ is the Chief Shepherd. He is the head and none other. (1 Peter 5:1-4)
- He is the Great Shepherd of the Sheep. He has all authority given by God. (Heb 13:20)
- And He plainly testifies that “I am the Good Shepherd”. (John 10:11 & 14).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He is the one and He is the only! Those who serve under Him, serve by *His* will; and at *His* word and by *His* word. The Church is *His* flock, it is *His* fold, and *He* is the Door. (John 10:7)

Sheep know their shepherd

“If anyone tells you they know all there is to know about sheep, don’t believe them. Sheep are one of the most interesting animals and yet one of the most difficult to understand.”

The scriptures mention ‘a fold’, but today we know it as a ‘sheep pen’. Shepherds would bring their sheep to the sheep pen which pre-

vented predators from preying on the sheep in the night. In the morning, the shepherd would come and call his sheep. And only those sheep that know that shepherd's voice would come to the gate.

Duane's sheep knew his voice. Even if they did not see him, just hearing his voice, they would come. If the sheep came and saw someone was with Duane, the sheep would not immediately come. Because they did not know the stranger.

Human beings are all followers

The sheep bond with the voice of the shepherd. We are followers, but we like sheep, can choose who we follow. We can choose the Good Shepherd.

Joshua said to the Israelites, *"If it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in*

whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua did not give an option to follow no one. We all follow someone. Duane said, "I never saw a sheep unsure of who he was following . . . unless he was lost."

Psalms 23 proclaims, "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall never want." Are we sure who we are following? Will we hear the Shepherds voice? Will we recognize His voice?

There is only one Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Savior.



(Limited room here prohibits sharing many other good insights in the talk. To hear the entire lesson, go to the website below.)

The Good Shepherd by Duane Proudfit / Date: 2014-07-27
<http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/Sermons/4-14/shepherd.mp3>

Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- *We were saddened by the death of Mary Jo Riekens on Nov. 20. Funeral services were held on Nov. 25. We will dearly miss her.*
- Delores Van Egdome continues to have health problems. They are working on regulating them with medications.
- Carol Smead's husband, John, also continues to have health problems.

- Visitors this month were Chantelle, Aquila and Titus Jackson and Don and Cathy Mackey.

December Birthdays

- ★ 9 - Albert Schreck
- ★ 31 - Brian Schreck

December Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- *Our brother Glenn Meacham has passed away. Information regarding services is pending.*
- Neal Warren is having some bad days with the progression of Parkinson's disease. Please remember him and Peg.
- Visitors: Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy Evans, Aiden & Paxon Boozell, Betty Warren, Piper Thatcher, Parker Strable, Alonzo & Joyce Jones, Brita & Charlie Kelsey, Don & Wanda Burkman and Rick Sparks.

December Birthdays

- ★ 18 Yvonne Coe
- ★ 18 Travis Head
- ★ 28 Risa Schamel

December Anniversaries

- None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- *We are very saddened with the death of Tadd Madden the son of Judy Madden this past week.*
- We had a number of visitors this month coming especially for the memorial of Jean Negley.
 - Paul & Dasha Negley & family of Urbandale, IA
 - Van & Barb Negley of Colorado Springs, Co
 - John, Deb & Maddy Negley of Coralville, IA
 - Darrel & Linda Lou Barnes of Springfield, MO

- We enjoyed having Rick Sparks with us November 9th & 10th. We enjoyed pizza on Saturday evening plus a potluck on Sunday plus many good Bible lessons.



December Birthdays

- None

December Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

- Meeting Times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
- December thru March:** Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
- Location:** 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
- Website:** Martensdalechurchofchrist.org
- For information call:** Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

The Spring Meeting 2020

Formerly hosted by the Dean Avenue Church of Christ, will be hosted by the Martensdale Church of Christ on March 28 & 29, 2020. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

<http://martensdalechurchofchrist.org/index.php/about-us/spring-meeting-2020>

- Duane and Mary Proudfit with their daughter and son-in-law Christy and Dave Henderson, traveled to the Kansas City area where their son/brother was inducted as a deacon at the Murray Road Church of Christ in Lee's Summit, MO.
- Zach & Jenna Wheeler are expecting their third child in mid-June.

Visitors

- Nick & Kayley Hermon
- Jordan Bown and Evan Haas
- Mike George
- Kirk and Bethany Ford
- Ciera and Adam Marshall (Tom & Dianne Collier's daughter and son-in-law).



December Birthdays

- ★ 10 Mary Proudfit
- ★ 12 Terea Bown
- ★ 29 Drew Tightmeyer
- ★ 30 Hannah Hounson

December Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

- Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
- December thru March:** Potluck after morning service, meeting back at 1 p.m.
- Location:** 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
- Website:** pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
- Contacts:** Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- Rick Sparks joined us on November 10 for installation of our new officers. In addition to Elder Mike Warner, we now have Marty Williamson and Marc Hermon. Congratulations to these godly men and their families. Continue to pray for all our elders as they guide our congregation. A big thank you to Rick Sparks also for a job well done in all his research and guidance down this path.

- Miles and Kelsey Wood announced they will be expecting a new addition to their family in April next year. Congratulations!
- Tom and Fred Brady as well as the Kelly George family spent a few weeks vacationing and enjoying the sun in Florida.

- Randy and Theresa Ingle hosted a tailgate party at their home for the Iowa Hawkeyes vs. Minnesota game. As always, lots of good food and a fun time was had by all!
- Nora Lee Ingle attended visitation for her nephew Doug Shivvers last week in Knoxville.
- The Alex Needham family were in Topeka, Kansas to attend the funeral of Alex's grandfather. Jason and Theresa Brady also attended.
- Several of our congregation attended the funeral service for Mary Jo Riekens, a former Pleasant Hill member. Nora Lee and Joyce Ingle attended the funeral; then Nora Lee went home with her daughter Cindy Morris to spend Thanksgiving with her family in Missouri.
- Please continue to keep the following in your prayers:
 - Kelsey Wood (for healthy pregnancy and safe delivery)
 - Ryan Zinnel (torn meniscus)

- Tom Brad (a-fib)
- and Betty Warren.

- We have had several visitors this month: Joe and Melanie Castro of Marshalltown (have continued to visit several times); Steve Thompson (Mike & Shirley Warner's son) attends on a regular basis; Megan and Ethan Schreck.



December Birthdays

- ★ 3 Jedidiah Wood
- ★ 7 Gabriel Hermon
- ★ 18 Jason Brady
- ★ 18 Paul Zinnel
- ★ 23 Dominique Blackman
- ★ 29 William Conner

Anniversaries

- ★ Susan & Nick Conner

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

Website: vandaliacoc.com

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- We were informed of the death of Linda Christianson in Houston, Texas. She was a member here at Vandalia, and moved to Texas several years ago.
- Justin and Brittany Dowdy and children have spent several weeks in Indiana helping care for Brittany's mother during her illness and passing. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family.
- Lynnette Dowdy visited family in Missouri.
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin and Trent and Leah Fiorentin and Eva visited family in Indiana.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children visited family in Missouri.
- Greg and Margaret Ingle spent a week in Orlando, Florida. Greg was attending a conference on pain.

December Birthdays

- ★ 2 Bonnie Harkins
- ★ 3 Kelsey Fiorentin
- ★ 3 Carson Dowdy
- ★ 8 Leah Fiorentin
- ★ 27 Melody Burkman
- ★ 27 Jason Henle
- ★ 29 Staci Miller

December Anniversaries

- ★ Robert & Sharon Cummings

If you would like a current or past copy of the *Lighthouse of Iowa*, they can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ

<https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ

<http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

GEOGRAPHY CROSSWORD QUIZ

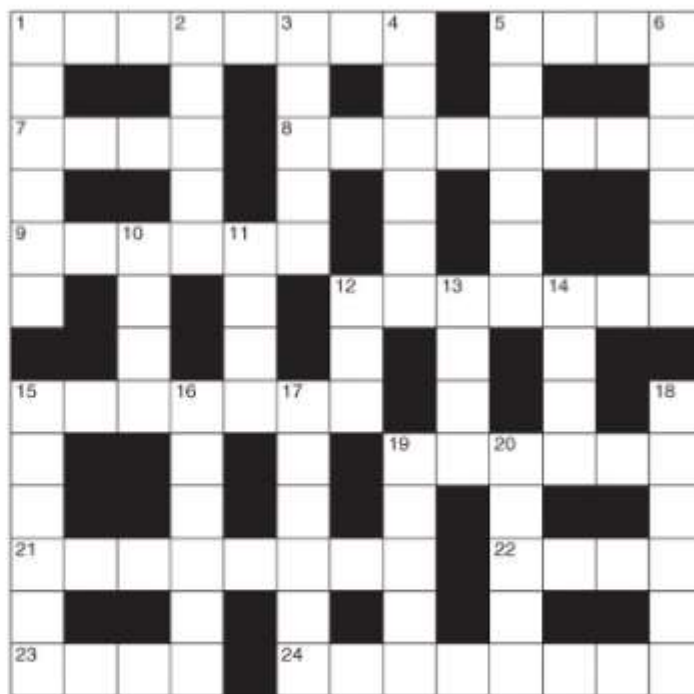
Around The World

ACROSS

1. US volcano, Mount ... (2,6)
5. Supersonic planes
7. Taj Mahal city
8. Cambridge & Oxford universities
9. Treeless Arctic zone
12. Coniferous tree found in Europe
15. Vienna is there
19. Croatian capital
21. Peninsula in southwest England
22. Manchurian river
23. Central attraction of Piccadilly Circus
24. Region that includes Japan, China and Korea (4,4)

DOWN

1. Roughly built settlements, ... towns
2. Large African antelope
3. Nasty disease named after a river in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ... virus
4. Underground train system
5. City of northwest India
6. People from Stockholm
10. Scotland's monster lake, Loch ...
11. German industrial region
12. Washington-based spy group (1,1,1)
13. Italy's Leaning Tower of ...
14. Kuwaiti ruler



15. Native American tribe
16. Sport played at Wimbledon
17. Earth's glacial period (3,3)
18. Portugal and Spain
19. Bantu peoples of Natal
20. West African nation