

WELCOME

VISITORS

The presence of Jesus in the gathering of His people is the sweetest blessing we enjoy when we meet. We pray that you will find peace, comfort, and power for living today.

A visitor's card is provided in the book rack, to give us a record of your visit.

SUNDAY

Bible Study	10:00 AM
Worship	11:00 AM
Evening	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM
Fellowship Meal (Every 1 st Sunday)	12:30 PM
Men's Meeting Last Sunday of every month)	5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Morning Worship	39
Evening Worship	8
Wednesday	14
Contribution	\$1769.00

Visit our website at www.brunswickcoc.com

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TO OUR FRIENDS:

MESSENGER FOR CHRIST



BRUNSWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST

June 09, 2013

Was It 'Just God's Will'?
by Rubel Shelly

To begin, I don't know where so many Christian people picked up the awful habit of using "just" as a modifier to everything. "Lord, we just thank you for this and that." "God, we just praise your name for..." "Jesus, we just pray for the sick and hurting folk among us." Just give up a few of those "justs" already! It's as aggravating to people who are reasonably comfortable with English as the myriad "you knows" a professional athlete weaves into a 30-second interview.

Ax-grinding and pet peeve aside for now, the lady on camera from Oklahoma shook her head and looked into the interviewer's eyes. "It was just God's will that I was spared when the tornado hit," she said. "The Bible says 'everything happens for a reason,' and I believe that. I believe it now more than ever."

For starters, the Bible most assuredly does not say that everything happens for a reason. To the contrary, the Bible says there is a great deal of randomness in human experience. For example, these words from Jesus:

"He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45 NIV).

Not everything that happens in this world is God's will by any means. If there was a one-to-one relationship between good people and good outcomes on the one hand and bad people and bad experiences on the other, we would be hard pressed to explain the stories of Job, Jesus, and Christian martyrs. That good people don't get a pass on pain is as it must be. Otherwise, we would all be Christians just to avoid bankruptcy, cancer, or tornadoes.

And what of the two dozen who died? Especially the children? Or the dead and wounded from the Boston bombing? Or the British soldier murdered on the street? Were those events and their outcomes "just God's will" too? Small comfort that! To believe these things were God's will would motivate most of us either to atheism or to faith in a God who is more to be dreaded than loved.

Continued...

“...The Churches of Christ salute you.” Romans 16:16

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I don't think people such as the lady on TV mean harm. In fact, I am quite sure they mean to be saying something pious and affirming. They are trying to lean into their faith to deal with unimaginable shock. They are attempting to express gratitude for being alive and to acknowledge their faith in God.

Perhaps it is better simply to say we don't know why certain horrible (or wonderful!) things happen in our world... to confess our fears and confusion... to accept good fortune with a view toward using it to help others as well as self.

Not everything that happens in this world is God's will by any means. But, in everything that happens, we can seek God's will by continuing to trust, being faithful to what we know is right, and encouraging others to do the same. And we can do this because of this promise:

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

Via Heartlight.Org

**God's Plan for Man
Hear God's Word
Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17
Believe in Jesus
Jn. 8:24
Repent of Sins
Lk. 13:3; 2 Cor. 7:10
Confess Jesus' Name
Mt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 16:15-16
Be Baptized
Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-19; Acts 2:38, 41;
Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4
Live Faithful until Death**

The Bible study topic for Wednesday night: A Chronological Study of the Life of Jesus
Bible study starts at 6:30 PM.



Food for thought

We're not getting older, just getting closer to home!

Hebrews 11:13
These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

Opportunities to Serve		
Welcome	Today	06/16/13
Song Leader	Leslie Bell	John Bowling
Opening Prayer	John Bowling	Willie Gore
Communion	Willie Gore	Leslie Bell
	*Albert Sturdivant	*Ed Williams
	Leslie Bell	Bill Bartlow
	Ed Williams	Lynn Means
Scripture Reading	John Lloyd	Leslie Bell
Speaker	Rick Massey	Rick Massey
Closing Prayer	Willie Gore	Charlie Gamble
Nursery	Betty Bell	Lelia Gore
Evening	John Bowling	John Lloyd

Please remember to pray for the sick, lonely, and especially anyone outside Christ.

HEALTH
Nancy Spencer

GENERAL
Dwayne & Mary White
June Beauregard

TRAVELING
Williams Family

DEATHS
Zenola White

The complete prayer list is on the bulletin board.



The ladies bible study will be held Tuesday, at 10:00 am in the fellowship room. Our study is about "God's Promises". Our time together will include prayer and songs of praise. You are welcome to join us.

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Graduation Celebration
This Saturday, June 15, we will honor Abi Garner at her graduation party. The event will take place in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm.