

IN THE SERVICES

November 18, 2007

Lord's Supper—

- L1Officiate: Keith Gremillion
- L2Helper: Travis Gremillion
- L3am(only): Paul Smith
- L4am(only): Spencer Scogin
- R1Assistant: Stephen Savant
- R2am(only): Charlie Carr
- R3am(only): Eastwood Almazan
- R4am(only): David Landrum

Morning Prayers—

- Opening: Jimmy Moss
- Closing: Brian English

Evening Prayers—

- Opening: Buddy Hamby
- Closing: Ricky Scogin

November 25, 2007

Lord's Supper—

- L1Officiate: Jim Threadgill
- L2Helper: Trey Crandall
- L3am(only): Aaron Crandall
- L4am(only): Brett Hopkins
- R1Assistant: Doyle Osborne
- R2am(only): Stanton Hodge
- R3am(only): Mike Hebert
- R4am(only): Freddy Moak

Morning Prayers—

- Opening: Kenneth Barry
- Closing: Les Pastorella

Evening Prayers—

- Opening: Tony Vela
- Closing: Billy Guidry

EVANGELISTS

Steve Dewhirst 727-1568
 Home 722-1188 Cell 718-7708
 Email: sdewhirst@juno.com

Steven Cuffle 727-1568
 Home 767-8776 Cell 543-2589
 Email: stevencuffle@gmail.com
 Church Website: www.stonegatechurch.com

ELDERS

Blake Bergman
 Jerry Covington
 Andy Crandall
 H. G. "Buddy" Hamby
 Sam Holt
 Randy Robin

DEACONS

Jeff Baker	Jimmy Moss
Ken Barry	Doyle Osborne
Lee Dean	Stephen Savant
Jeff DeLord	Ricky Scogin
Jarren Garrett	Andrew Smith
Jathen Garrett	Jim Threadgill
Keith Gremillion	Tony Vela
Garry Hamby	Edgar Wolf
Greg Hamby	

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Family Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Family Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Announcements — Andy Crandall
Greeters — Andrew Smith, Don Mouton, Cody Pastorella, Larry Richard, Steve Savant
Lockup — Jeff Baker, Kenneth Barry, Trey and Andy Crandall, Rob Mullins



The Stonegate Standard

“Lift up a standard for the people...” (Isaiah 62:10)

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“It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart.”
Ecclesiastes 7:2 NASB

I love it when the Bible comes to life. I love it when I find myself in situations where the words of the Bible play out in my life exactly as God has said. It refreshes my spirit and awakens my mind again to the wisdom and power of the creator of the universe who knows his creation better than we know ourselves.

Over the past two weeks, some interesting things have happened. My sister finally married the man that she has been dating for the past three years. He was preapproved by our father, so there was much rejoicing when he finally proposed, and much more rejoicing at the reception following the wedding. Five days after the wedding, a very good, very close friend of our family passed away. It was expected, but that still doesn't make it easy. Friends and family flew in from out of state, we shared memories, and at

the funeral there were many sorrowful people because of the loss.

Death and marriage are interesting things. They are both occasions when people will travel great distances to be with one another, and they are both occasions for deep reflection on our own lives and a contemplation of our previously made choices. However, one of them is better suited for reflection than the other.

At the end of the wedding ceremony, there is typically a reception. Those in attendance wish to celebrate the marriage of the newlyweds and wish them a long and happy future together. It reminds some people of their own wedding day and others of the special day they look forward to. Vows are recalled, affections are rekindled, and devotion is recommitted. All of that contemplation and consideration, however, usually ends

shortly after the meal is served, that is, once the party starts. This was the case with my sister's wedding, and it has been the case with nearly every wedding reception that I have ever been to. This is the house of feasting.

Notice that, In Ecclesiastes 7, it is not bad to go to the house of feasting. There is nothing inherently wrong with celebrating something worth being happy about. There is no commandment in the Scriptures which states that Christians are not allowed to have fun. Jesus went to a wedding feast (reception) in Cana. The house of feasting is not bad, but there is something *better*.

At the funeral, there was a stark contrast to the gaiety of the wedding. There was no eating, no drinking, no singing, and no dancing. There were attempts at consolation, but grief takes time to run its course; we are helpless against the forward march of time, and everyone at the funeral literally comes face to face with the end of all men. There is no moment at which the somber reflection of the funeral service is interrupted by frivolity and merriment. Instead, there is a three day period when you are forced to think about death and all of its ramifications.

The house of mourning is better than the house of feasting because it forces us to contemplate our own mortality. It presses the concept of death and its inevitability deeply into our mind; for several days we are not able to think about other things. The house of mourning is better than the house of feasting because there are promises, re-dedications and renewed affections that are *not* forgotten before the night is over.

My relatives were largely uninterested in studying the Bible before, during or after the wedding of my sister. They were interested in what the Bible said about marriage, but they were not very inter-

ested in anything else it had to say. I invited them to study the Scriptures, to worship God with us on Sunday morning, and asked several spiritual questions; I couldn't pay them to be interested.

A week later, it was a different story. At the funeral, everyone paid very close attention to the Bible's teachings on mankind, sin, grace and salvation. At the funeral they were more interested in spiritual things than physical things – there was no party to get in the way of contemplation. My brother, in particular, paid very close attention to the things the Baptist preacher was saying and afterward asked me several good questions: "How can there be a 'rapture' if people are already in heaven with God?" "Does God send people out of heaven for the resurrection of the dead?" "What really happens to us when we die? Do we go to heaven or some place else?" We are still studying these questions together. Please pray for us.

It is amazing how well God knows His creation. It is amazing how true the words of Solomon still ring today. It is incredible how interested people become in spiritual things when all of the things that normally distract them are removed, even if only temporarily.

The house of feasting is not bad, but the house of mourning is better. We do not take the feasting to heart, but the mourning lays hold of us. In feasting, much wisdom is forgotten, but mourning corrects misconceptions about our own strength, wisdom and mortality. In feasting we forget, in mourning we remember.

It is not until we see this world and this life in all its brutality, bleakness and brevity that we will look to a better life, a better country, a better end. It is not until we truly sorrow that our hearts may be made glad (Ecclesiastes 7:3).

—Steven Cuffle

Family Talk

We extend a sincere welcome to all of our visitors. It is an honor to have you with us today and you are welcome every time our doors are open. Please stay a few minutes after worship so that we can get to know you.

About Our Sick—

Andy Crandall and **Samantha Hodge** are both doing well after surgery.

Both **Wanda Pruitt** and **Charlie Fleniken** are now at Health South Rehab in Beaumont. Wanda is in Room 128B and Charlie is in Room 120B. Visiting hours begin at 4 p.m.

Remember In Prayer—

-Those Serving Our Country:

James Smith
Wesley Threadgill

-Our Shut-ins:

W. T. Allen
Betty Barclay
Marie Steed



-Those on our Prayer Request Board: **David McNeese, Richard Furby, Beth Ann Eckman, Delores Norment, David Arcineaux, Bobby Jackson, Jodi Esquivel, Jaidearia Davis, Joyce Trahan, Paytlee Picou, Anjelkia Hall, J. B. Hall, Joni LeJeune, Cora Dupar & Onasha, Scott Sparks, Peggy Davis & Jaidearia & Rodney, Ashley Mouton, Mike Manos, and Becca Scott.**

Devotional Schedule—High School and College this evening after services at **Doyle** and **Angela Osborne's** home.

New In The Library—There are several new books in the Library donated in memory of **Cathy Beasley Holland** and **Charcie Glenn**. Be sure to take a look!

Our Next 5th Sunday Singing—Be sure to mark your calendars: Sunday evening after services on December 30th at the Port Neches Senior Citizen's Building (across from Port Neches Park).

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The following names may be removed from the membership roll. They have chosen not to fellowship with the church any longer and have not given us any indication they are in fellowship anywhere else.

**Bobbie Crochet**  
**Rhonda Woods**  
**Ginger Dean**

You may also remove **Judy Badon** who has decided to worship elsewhere.

### Today's Sermons:

**AM: Being Acceptable to God**  
**PM: Triumphal Procession**  
**Steven Cuffle**