

IN THE SERVICES

December 30, 2007

Lord's Supper—

L1Officiate: Jason Arbuckle
 L2Helper: Lonnie LaRue
 L3am(only): Brian Hopkins
 L4am(only): Paul Pappireddy
 R1Assistant: Billy Ellis
 R2am(only): Chris Robin
 R3am(only): Brian Little
 R4am(only): Jarrod Wolf

Morning Prayers—

Opening: Randy Robin
 Closing: Edgar Wolf

Evening Prayers—

Opening: Jeff Baker
 Closing: Cody Pastorella

January 6, 2008

Lord's Supper—

L1Officiate: Jody Bennett
 L2Helper: Troy Trahan
 L3am(only): Darwin Hodge
 L4am(only): Milton Chance
 R1Assistant: Mark Martin
 R2am(only): Randy Kimler
 R3am(only): Homer Ballard
 R4am(only): Andrew Kimler

Morning Prayers—

Opening: Greg Hamby
 Closing: Alex Wells

Evening Prayers—

Opening: David Garrett
 Closing: Steve Ary

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Announcements — Buddy Hamby
Greeters — Andrew Smith, Chris Robin,
 Ross Holt, Jeff Baker, Kenneth Barry
Lockup — **Jarren Garrett**/Garry Hamby
 Alex Wells/Doyle Osborne

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
Jeff DeLord	Stephen Savant
Jarren Garrett	Ricky Scogin
Jathen Garrett	Andrew Smith
Keith Gremillion	Jim Threadgill
Garry Hamby	Tony Vela
Greg Hamby	Edgar Wolf

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.



The Stonegate
Standard

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

3948 Highway 365 • Port Arthur, TX 77642 • (409) 727-1568

Volume XIV

December 30, 2007

Issue 52

Thanks, Brethren

Just now I feel somewhat akin to the subject of a famous Abraham Lincoln tale. It seems a certain scoundrel was to be tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail. Upon reflection the man stated that, "If it weren't for the honor of the thing, I would just as soon pass." Of course, I'm not being ridden out of town on a rail, but I do hate goodbyes. On the one hand, it seems there would be merit in slipping out of town quietly; but on the other hand, it wouldn't be right not to express my gratitude to this church family.

Lord willing, I will be making more personal comments in tonight's lesson. But I do want to say – in print and for the record – that I very much appreciate our elders. They are good men who, I believe, love the Lord and want to lead in the right direction. And I have enjoyed a good working relationship with them over the past three years. An eldership isn't obligated to include preachers in their meetings; in fact,

there are times when he is best left out! But they have included me when possible, not because I share in their authority, but because we have been a working team in need of common perspective and purpose. I think we've worked together quite well.

I mentioned in a sermon once that my family, on my mother's side, can trace its roots in Texas all the way back to 1840. That's just four years after independence from Mexico and five years before statehood. Yet despite my deep-in-the-heart-of-Texas lineage, I must confess that the pull of being close to children and grandbabies is stronger than my allegiance to the Lone Star State. But before we load up the truck for Birmingham, Alabama, this week, I want to thank you for your love and kindness to my family while we've been here. God bless you.

-Steve

This World Is Not My Home

During the glory days of the British Empire, one could walk the streets of London's fashionable neighborhoods and view the homes of some of the world's wealthiest people. Those who passed the mansion of Lord Rothschild noticed that the end of one of the cornices was never finished. Surely the richest man in the world could afford to have his house properly completed. But Lord Rothschild was an Orthodox Jew, and every pious Jew, according to tradition, should have some part of his house unfinished. Why? As a reminder that he is, as Abraham, but a stranger and sojourner on the earth.

When Abram was called by God to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees, he set forth with no assurance but the solemn word of God. He was to be the father of a great nation, through which all mankind would be blessed at last, and his descendants would possess a rich land (Gen. 12). Yet for all of God's promises of a future country, Abram and his family lived as nomads on land owned by others.

How many of us would have been content to live Abram's life?

We want our own homes and the security that we think accompanies such. We like to feel *in control* of our own destinies, and mistakenly believe that owning "things" equates to stability.



Abraham knew the truth; real stability lies only in the promises of God. Everything else can be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the blink of an eye. Only that which is *spiritual* will endure forever.

Man has always been materialistic, but never more so than today, perhaps because so many of us feel such a sense of entitlement. *"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses"* (Lk. 12:15). But we still feel entitled to possess plenty, don't we?

Lord Rothschild was the richest man in the world but his unfinished house testified to the fact that his trust lay not in mere money.

- Steve

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.

Responses—Please extend a warm welcome to the **Carrell** family, **Chris** and **Lauren**, **Grant** and **Brooke**. Their address is
11680 Ridgecrest
Beaumont, TX 77705
(409) 796-1831

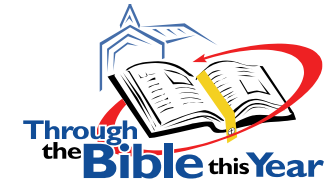
About Our Sick—**Louise Sanders** is now at home. Please continue in prayer for her.

In Sympathy—Our sympathy is extended to the **Richard** family in the loss of **Larry's** sister-in-law, **Della Mae Richard** of Port Arthur. Services were held Friday.

5th Sunday Singing—All are invited to join us this evening after services at the Port Neches Senior Citizen's Building for our 5th Sunday Singing and Farewell to Steve, Karen and Micah.

Personal Bulletin Board—Be sure to check the bulletin board by the water fountain for personal announcements and activities. The

Scogin family is planning a New Year's Eve get-together for the entire church family and the details are posted there.



The **2008 Five Day Bible Reading Schedule** is available on the desk in the Foyer. Be sure to pick one up!

Adult Class Schedule January 2nd–March 30—

Room 14

- Sunday *Becoming a Christian*
- Wednesday *Fruit of the Spirit*
- Steven Cuffle**
- Jimmy Moss**

Room 29

- Sunday *Zechariah*
- Wednesday *Getting Started Right*
- David Garrett**
- Kenneth Barry**

Room 31

- Sunday *Harmony of the Gospels, Part 2*
- Wednesday **Greg Hamby**