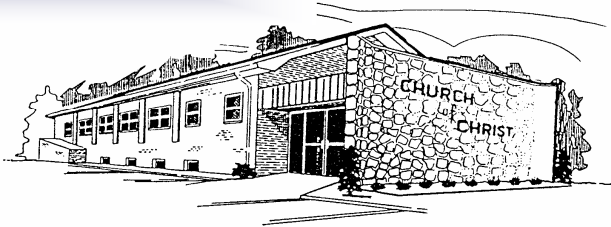


Teaching them to observe  
all things...Matt. 28:20



# The St. Joseph Observer

May 2, 2010

## The St. Joseph Church of Christ

Charlie McGee, Minister  
Russell Hicks, Berrien Gen

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St. Joseph, MI 49085  
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Stjoechurchofchrist.com

Email  
stjoeofc@att.net

### Schedule of Services

Sunday School  
9:45

Sunday Worship  
10:45

Sunday PM  
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class  
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study  
6:00

### Elders

Leo Conkin 925-7688  
Clyde Daniel 428-2322  
Charlie McGee 861-5811  
Steve Parsons 465-7901

### Deacons

Dave Hipskind 468-4735  
Eric Ramso 465-5965

### Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson 428-7281  
Barb Conkin 925-7688  
Gayle Daniel 428-2322  
Jan Mundy 473-1505

## Worship: The Barrier of Pride

by Rick Warren

*It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. 2 Corinthians 3:5 (NLT)*

Life is a struggle, but what most people don't realize is that our struggle, like Jacob's in Genesis 32:22-32, is really with God! We want to be God, and there's no way we're going to win that struggle, but we try anyway.

A.W. Tozer said, "The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us."

We aren't God, and we never will be. We're humans, and the times when we try to be God are the times we end up most like Satan, who tried to be equal with God, too.

We accept our humanity intellectually, but not emotionally. We give mental assent to the idea, but when faced with our own limitations, we react with irritation, anger, and resentment. We want to be taller (or shorter), smarter, stronger, more talented, beautiful, and wealthy.

We want to have it all and do it all, and become upset when it doesn't happen. Then, when we notice God gave others characteristics we don't have, we respond with envy, jealousy, and self-pity.

**What it means to surrender.** Surrendering to God is not passive resignation, fatalism, or an excuse for laziness. It is not accepting the status quo. It may mean the exact opposite: sacrificing your life in resistance to evil and injustice, or suffering in order to change what needs to be changed. God often calls surrendered people to do battle on his behalf. It's not for cowards or doormats.

Surrendering is not putting your brain in neutral and giving up rational thinking. God would not waste the mind he gave you! God does not want robots to serve him. Surrendering is not repressing your personality. God wants to use your unique personality. Rather than being diminished, surrendering enhances your uniqueness.

C. S. Lewis observed, "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because he made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."

**Please remember in prayer...**

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

**Announcements**

**Ladies' Fellowship—  
Thursday, May 13 at 6:30  
At Kim Batson's  
Menu: Appetizers & Desserts**

*5th Sunday Potluck & Fellowship  
May 30*

**VBS  
July 25-29 6-8 PM  
Invite your friends & family now!**

**2010 Giving**

Weekly Budget:




\$1500

Contribution Last Week:

\$1501

**Congregational Calendar**

**May**

2   Alex Kubvaruno	3	4  <i>Ladies' Class</i>	5	6  Eric Ramso	7	8
9	10	11  Trevor Kubvaruno  <i>Ladies' Class</i>	12	13  Sheila Waldrop	14  Parsons	15  Jack Salmon