

NEWS & UPDATES

☺ Welcome ☺

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

Visitors: You are our honored guests! Please fill out the card in your welcome bag & drop it in the collection plate as it passes. You may also scan the QR code on the front of this bulletin.

Andy Erwin is here this Sunday to speak & update us on his work with the McGarvey College of the Bible. Please reach out to Christy to update your directory photo. If you prefer, feel free to text or email your own photo to her as well.

HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed to make our annual Valentine's Dinner possible last Saturday! From the beautiful decorations, the delicious meal, our babysitter, & the emcees, it was a wonderful evening of fellowship!



Last Tuesday, members of our local first responders: **Summerdale Volunteer Fire Department & Summerdale Police Department** stopped by to pick up the handmade teddy bears created by our Ladies' Teddy Bear Ministry. The bears will be placed into sensory comfort bags & kept in every emergency vehicle. They are given to children involved in accidents or stressful situations to help calm, & comfort. Thank you to our ladies for their servant hearts, and thank you to our first responders for all you do to protect and care for our community!



IT'S A GIRL

JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER HONORING

Lindsey Phillips

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST, AT 12PM

SUMMERDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP HALL

REGISTERED AT TARGET & AMAZON

JOIN US FOR A WEDDING SHOWER HONORING:

HAYDEN & HALEY JOINER

SUMMERDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, MARCH 1ST

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 12PM SERVICE

REGISTERED AT AMAZON & TARGET

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesdays: 10AM:** Ladies Teddy Bear Class.
- **2/11-15:** Marriage Retreat.
- **2/15:** Elders Meeting.
- **2/15: 2PM:** Teen Devo w/ residents @ Country Place in Foley.
- **2/19: 6:15PM:** Devo w/ residents @ Robertsdale Rehab.
- **2/21: 12PM:** Baby shower for Lindsey Phillips. RSVP to Diane K.
- **2/22:** Devo @ the Reynolds after PM. Guys bring drinks, girls bring chips or dessert.
- **3/1:** Wedding shower for Hayden & Haley Joiner immediately following 12PM service.

WE NEED BIBLE CLASS TEACHERS! SEE ERIC OR ANDREA IF YOU CAN HELP!

SYG

Summerdale Youth Group

Growing in Faith, Hope and Love

LOVE FORGIVES

If love is going to look like Jesus, then it must include forgiveness. Not a shallow "it's fine" kind of forgiveness, but the kind that releases a debt. The kind that refuses to keep score. The kind that chooses grace when the flesh wants payback.

Colossians 3:13 says, "Bear with one another, and forgive one another if

anyone has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." That last line is the standard: **as the Lord forgave you.** Not "forgive if they deserve it." Not "forgive once they've proven themselves." Forgive the way Christ forgave—freely, fully, and with love.

That doesn't mean forgiveness is easy. Sometimes forgiving someone is one of the hardest things we ever do. It can feel unfair. It can feel like surrender. But forgiveness isn't saying what happened was okay. It's saying, "I'm not going to let this bitterness rule my heart." It's trusting that God is just, that God sees, and that God can heal what we cannot.

And again, our kids are watching. They're learning what we really believe about grace by how we handle conflict at home. How we speak after we're hurt. How we treat people who disappoint us. Whether we apologize. Whether we reconcile. Whether we hold grudges. **A forgiving home teaches the Gospel without ever preaching a sermon.**

The church needs this too. A congregation can't be strong if it's full of quiet resentment. Families can't thrive if people refuse to extend grace. Love forgives because love understands the cross. We have been forgiven much—so we forgive.

So here's the question for this week: is there someone you need to forgive? Or maybe someone you need to go to and ask forgiveness from? Don't wait for the perfect moment. Choose obedience. Choose freedom. Choose love.

Because love doesn't just talk about grace. **Love forgives.**

Always remember—you are loved. **Eric**

CRAFT & SNACK SUPPLIES OF THE MONTH:

ELMER'S GLUE STICKS

ROARING WATERS CAPRI SUNS



Sunshine Corner

PULPIT MINISTER - RAY REYNOLDS
 churchofchristsummerdale@gmail.com

**THE BLUEPRINT OF THE KING:
 UNDERSTANDING THE ONE TRUE CHURCH**

In a world where you can find a different church on every street corner—each with its own name, its own set of rules, and its own unique "flavor"—it is easy to become overwhelmed. Many people have concluded that the church is simply a "human club" where like-minded people gather. But if we look into the pages of the New Testament, we find something far more profound. We find that Jesus Christ did not come to start a collection of competing denominations; He came to build His church. I am a member of the church of Christ because I believe in the singular, spiritual body that Jesus promised to establish. Understanding the nature of the church is not about religious pride; it's about submitting to the Lordship of Christ and following the blueprint He left behind.

The story of the church begins with a promise. In Matthew 16, while in the region of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter responded with the confession that changed history: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (**Matthew 16:16**). Jesus then made a definitive statement: "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (**Matthew 16:18**). Notice three vital things in this verse: 1) The Owner: Jesus said, "My church." It belongs to Him. 2) The Number: He said "church" (singular), not "churches" (plural). AND 3) The Foundation: He built it on the "rock" of the truth that He is the Son of God. This church wasn't just a casual idea; it was bought at a staggering price. Paul told the elders at Ephesus to "shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (**Acts 20:28**). When something is bought with the blood of the Son of God, it is not a "choice" among many—it is the most precious institution on earth.

One of the most common metaphors for the church in the Bible is the human body. Just as a physical body has many parts but functions as one unit, the church is the spiritual body of Christ. Paul writes in **Ephesians 4:4-6**: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all..." If there is only "one body," and the Bible tells us that the "body" is the church (**Colossians 1:18**), then biblically speaking, there is only one church. This body is not led by a committee in a far-off city or a single earthly man. Its Head is in Heaven. Because Christ is the Head, He has all authority. We do not have the right to change the "DNA" of the body. We don't change its mission, message, or membership requirements to suit the culture. A body that does not follow the instructions of the head is paralyzed; the church must move only as Jesus directs through His Word.

The religious world today is fractured into thousands of denominations, but this was never God's intent. In fact, the New Testament strictly forbids division. To the church in Corinth, which was beginning to split into factions based on favorite preachers, Paul wrote: "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (**I Corinthians 1:10**). The church is simply the "called out" (the ekklesia)—the sum total of all those who have been saved by the blood of Christ through obedience to the Gospel. Let's keep striving to follow the same pattern of the New Testament church!

You Are Loved,
 Ray

FEBRUARY - ELDER OF THE MONTH: BEN COXWELL

If you have a concern that needs to be brought to the attention of the elders, please contact the Elder Of The Month, who will be listed in the newsletter each week.

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