

Of Roses and Thorns—author unknown

A certain man planted a rose and watered it faithfully.

Before it blossomed, he examined it.

He saw a bud that would soon blossom.

He also saw the thorns, and he thought,

"How can any beautiful flower come from a plant,
burdened with so many sharp thorns?"

Saddened by this thought, he neglected to water the rose,
and before it was ready to bloom, it died.

So it is with many people ...

Within every soul ... there is a Rose.

The "God-like" qualities planted in us at birth,
growing amidst the thorns of our faults.

Many of us look at ourselves and see only the thorns, the defects.

We despair, thinking nothing good can possibly come from us.

We neglect to water the good within us,
and eventually it dies.

We never realize our potential.

Some don't see the rose within themselves ...

It takes someone else to show it to them.

One of the greatest gifts a person can possess ...

is to be able to reach past the thorns and find the rose within others.

This is the truest, most innocent, and gracious characteristic of love -
to know another person,

including their faults, recognize the nobility in their soul,
and yet still help another to realize they can overcome their faults.

If we show them the rose, they will conquer the thorns.

Only then will they blossom,

and most likely, blooming thirty, sixty, a hundred-fold,
as it is given to them.

Our duty in this world is to help others,

by showing them their roses and not their thorns.

It is then that we achieve the love we should feel for each other.

Only then can we bloom in our own garden.

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

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For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan
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WELCOME

to the

Church of Christ
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:

What does Jesus say to do while we wait
for the end?

1 Thessalonians 4:4-22



Congregational Meeting Times:

Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

April:

Sun. 29th - Friends service, am services. Members are encouraged to invite friends. A short question/answer period will follow the services.

Sun. 29th - Last Sunday of the month song service, pm services

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun. 29th - **Group 2** meets following evening services

Sun April 5 - Mt Mikes Pizza

April: 6-11th local missionary work planned, see Mike for details



Ladies House to House Fellowship

We are starting a new book, it is from the Life Principles Study Series
Lesson Book: *"Developing Inner Strength, Living in the Joy of God's Love"*

Next class: April 19th at Jennifer Stiltz's home.

Please prepare lesson 2. Lunch will be provided.

MEMBER'S CORNER

Classes

Growing Kids God's Way: Tuesdays at 6:45pm at the Stiltz home.

New Converts Class: 2nd and 4th Sundays at 5:00 at the building.

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's (Steve Sarff's) home. See Caleb for details.

Psalm 150

Shout praises to the LORD!

Praise God in his temple.

Praise him in heaven,

his mighty fortress.

Praise our God!

His deeds are wonderful,
too marvelous to describe.

Praise God with trumpets
and all kinds of harps.

Praise him with tambourines
and dancing,

with stringed instruments
and woodwinds.

Praise God with cymbals,
with clashing cymbals.

Let every living creature
praise the LORD.

Shout praises to the LORD!

Birthdays this week:

Ruth Martin

April 1