



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 20, 2014

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Bobby Bear  
Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Kirby Hinds

**Secretary:**

Susan Chandler

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:30 pm

**Monday**

Ladies Class 10 am

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## IS YOUR MOOD HARMING THE CHURCH?

Do you know what will kill the vibrancy of a local congregation quicker than anything else? It may not be what you think.

Failing to have adequate church programs may be a contributor, but that's not the main thing.

A lack of passion in the pulpit may be a contributor, but that's not the main thing.

Having only a small youth program, or a lack of one entirely may be a contributor, but that's not the main thing.

I believe one of the biggest reasons why some churches go through a decline in mood and eventually numbers, is because of pessimistic and negative church members. Sometimes it exists in the leadership, and at times with the preacher, but more often than not it's within the body of the church itself.

You've heard things like, "Oh, that person will never obey the Gospel." Or, "'You'll never get them to do that job.'" Perhaps it's been said, "We'll never have that many people show up for the event." And you may even hear folks ask the foolish, "Why are we doing this, we've never done it this way before?"

This is nothing short of an attitude problem. It stifles growth, and is the exact opposite of the spirit Christ desires us to have, personally and congregationally.

I once read that if one crab tried to climb out of a bucket that was full of crabs, then the other crabs would pull him back down. Sometimes people are like that. Some people (though unintentionally) try to keep us in the bucket rather than encouraging us to shine our lights as brightly as Jesus wants us to.

Here are a couple of Bible passages that I think we'd do well to lay side by side: "*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*" (**Matthew 5:16**); and "*Do all things without murmurings and questionings*" (**Philippians 2:14, ASV**).

Church, let's be optimistic about our spiritual family, our Christian life, and our work for Jesus. Let's work together in harmony, building up the body with words of encouragement.

**Neil Richey**

## THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

In the text of **John 4:6-42**, we find a very interesting woman engaged in conversation with the Lord. By and by Jesus tells her to go get her husband and return, to which she replied, “*I have no husband.*” After Jesus tells her about her five previous marriages and subsequent living condition with a sixth man, she is astonished and goes to report these things to the townsfolk. We will not concern ourselves with the morals or lack thereof, of a woman who lived 2000 years ago. Our knowledge of her situation is at best limited and even careful discernment would not elevate us to a position whereby we might render judgment. Her judgment is not the point. To her credit, this woman was responsible for many people believing in Christ.

To be sure, God is quite capable of using both good and evil to bring His will to fruition and even the evil plans of men “somehow” will bring glory to His Son (**Philippians 1:12-18**). Here we have a sinful woman, **vs. 18**, of no great significance, who is manifesting a quality which saintly Christians try to maintain, sometimes with great difficulty, namely the zealous cry that “I have found the Christ.” Because of her zeal, which to her wouldn’t have seemed extraordinary, she brought many to the Lord. Because of her, Jesus didn’t just pass by.

I am told by many in meetings and literature and symposiums that the world doesn’t want conversion anymore. Perhaps. I am also told that the church is declining in numbers and effectiveness because of such change. If the church experiences declines it won’t be because Satan has overpowered God, it will be because good, decent, born-again Christians wouldn’t declare “I have found the Christ.” It is not a mathematical marvel that each member could take 12 full months, win one soul, and double the membership in one year. The marvel is why it doesn’t happen all the time. Let the church the world over contemplate the life and the response of the woman at the well.

**Tim Turpin**