



February 26, 2023

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Snakes. Why’d it have to be snakes?”

As a kid, many of my heroes I admired came from the movies I loved to watch. These heroes changed often, but only a few were able to withstand the test of time. One of my favorite characters in cinematic history comes from the classic movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Indiana Jones was everything I wanted to be when I was younger. He was courageous, went on adventures around the world, and beat up Nazis. His look had everything a man could want: the whip, the jacket, and of course, the iconic hat. I thought I was the coolest kid when I dressed like him for Halloween. Not only was he a great adventurer, he was also a renowned scholar in the field of archeology. This was my inspiration for taking an archeology class my freshman year of college (it's not as exciting as the movies). The greatest thing about him was his ability to overcome any obstacle. No matter what came his way, he was always able to come out on top.

In my eyes, nobody was as tough as Indiana Jones. Despite being the world's toughest man, he was still afraid of one thing. It wasn't giant boulders, temples of doom, or an army of tanks. The only thing he feared was snakes. Like Indiana, I too have a fear of snakes. This is the only thing I actually have in common with him. His fear was so great, it almost kept him from the great prize he had been searching for. When he finally opened the resting place of the ark, he said the famous line: “Snakes. Why’d it have to be snakes?” This is probably what the Israelites were thinking in Numbers 21.

In Numbers 21: 4-9, the Israelites are wandering in the wilderness. Once again, we find them complaining about their circumstances. At this point, the people of Israel had fallen into a habit of sin, punishment, and repentance. They had already been denied entering the promised land due to their lack of faith. This time, God responds to their sin by sending fiery serpents. It's no surprise that God chose serpents. Snakes have been associated with evil since the fall of man. While describing evil men in Psalm 140:3, David says, “They make their tongue sharp as serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps.” Both John the Baptist and Jesus call evil men a brood of vipers (Matthew 3:7; 12:34). Even though evil deeds are constantly compared to a terrifying creature like snakes, we often find ourselves in the same cycle as the Israelites. We sin, we receive the consequences, and we repent. If we continue living in this cycle without real change, our fate will be similar to those who were bitten by the serpents. Thankfully, the story in the wilderness did not end with God sending snakes.

When the people called out for forgiveness, Moses was instructed to raise up a bronze serpent. Anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the serpent and live. We have also been given the gift of a new life. While speaking to Nicodemus, Jesus said “ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). We don't have to go searching for a holy grail like Indiana Jones in order to seek eternity. Jesus was lifted up on the cross, so we can have eternal life. If we want to break the cycle and avoid the fiery serpents, we must look to Him.

Michael Shifflet

Elders
Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons
Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister
Austin Johnson

Youth Minister
John Birdwell

Secretary
Sonya Cox

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 303 / On Line Views: 102
Sunday School: 244 / On Line Views: 73
Sunday PM: 197/ On Line Views: 112
Wednesday: 177 / On Line Views: 86
Budget: \$14,620
Contribution: \$ 13,681

FEBRUARY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Jean-Claubert Belton
Carrefour Michaud #46 Route Malpasse
Entrée Double Harvest
Croix des Bouquets
Haiti

BABY GIRL DIAPER POUNDING

TODAY is the last day for the Baby Girl Diaper Pounding for Taylor Aldridge. A basket is placed in the foyer.

Heritage Christian University will host the sixth annual Founders Ceremony on March 9, 2023, in the HCU auditorium. Ten unsung and under-appreciated heroes who have extended noble service to the church and our broader community will be honored. Each recipient will be awarded the gold Founders Medallion. Our own Evan Threet is one of the 10 that will receive this honor.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR MARCH -MAY

SUNDAY

49ERS- Mike Davidson and Brian McManus-Stories of the Bible
Adults Auditorium-Austin Johnson-Deuteronomy-Nehemiah-Comments and Questions
Young Professionals-March-Kyle Dickson-Prayer
April-May-A J Gooch-the Psalms of Ascent
Ladies Class-The Gospel of John-Gale Elrod
College Class-TBA

WEDNESDAY

Adults Auditorium-Caleb Sampson-Questions and Answers from the Current Reading of the Bible
Young Professionals-Austin Johnson-Deuteronomy-Nehemiah-Comments and Questions
College Class-TBA

NACCH BENEFIT/TRAIL RIDE

If you signed up ,to supply items, for the benefit/trail ride, please have items brought to the church building and put on the third serving table, up against the wall,in the Fellowship Hall, by Sunday ,March 5th.

Also-Buddy Smith will be driving the bus out to the Coats Farm on Friday, March 10th leaving at 9:30. This is for our widows and widowers to see what all is going on that day. Folks will be smashing potatoes, cutting up onions and potatoes, cutting up chicken to go into the chicken stew, and much more.. The yard sale in the barn will be in full swing. Come and enjoy the day. Please see Buddy to let him know if you are coming to ride the bus.

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

You will be going to see the Trash Pandas Baseball Game on Friday, June 23rd. Tickets are \$17.44 per person. A sign up sheet is located on the table, outside of the Sound Room . **Last day to sign up is March 29th and money is due by April 12th.** If you have any questions, please see Duane Alexander.

AREA EVENT

Ladies Day at Killen Church of Christ, Saturday, March 18th, with Lori Boyd. Topic: Complete in Christ. Registration: 8 am-9am; Includes coffee, pastries, lunch, and door prizes. Please RSVP to Connie Olive at 256-710-6379 by March 11th.