



## BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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### *Time of Services:*

*Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship*

*Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class*

### *Preacher:*

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: [lblk@peoplescom.net](mailto:lblk@peoplescom.net)

### *Youth Leaders:*

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: [hhines@hotmail.com](mailto:hhines@hotmail.com)

Benevolence - Rick Toland: 903-220-9825

Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423

Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461

Building Maintenance - Mark Sharpin: 903-573-3993

Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945

Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Billy Max Collins



BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

PUTTING YOU ON THE RIGHT PATH

# BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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## Shining Red Marble

*One day as Jim Miller was bagging some early potatoes for me, I noticed a small boy. The boy was delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily studying a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller and the ragged boy next to me.*

*"Hello, Barry, how are you today?"*

*"H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. Sure look good."*

*"They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?"*

*"Fine. Gittin' stronger alia' time."*

*"Good. Anything I can help you with?"*

*"No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas."*

*"Would you like to take some home?"*

*"No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with."*

*"Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?"*

*"All I got's my prize marble here."*

*"Is that right? Let me see it."*

*"Here 'tis. She's a dandy."*

*"I can see that. Hmmmmm, only thing is this one is blue, and I sort of go for red.*

*Do you have a red one like this at home?"*

*"Not zackley, but almost."*

*"Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way you let me take a look at that red marble."*

*"Sure will. Thanks, Mr. Miller."*

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, "There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all, and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, perhaps."

I left the stand smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado but never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community, and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his viewing that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary, we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts ... all very professional-looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller, and I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size, they came to pay their debt. We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho." With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

**Moral: We will not be remembered by our words but by our kind deeds. (Matt. 7:20 KJV) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**

### **Family News**

- Saturday, June 1 **Bradon Wilkes** and **Marandy Burrow** are to be united in marriage. We wish the best for them as they make a life together.
- **Bill Money's** brother, Steve, and his dad, Bob, are having health problems,
- Next Sunday is our first of the month covered-dish luncheon.
- George Davis is recovering at home following recent surgery.
- There is a men's meeting of area congregations on Friday, June 14 at Herschel's in Mt. Pleasant at 9:00 AM.
- The HRR pantry item for May is Macaroni and Cheese.

Life isn't tied with a bow ...  
but it's still a gift.

### **FREEDOM**

This week our nation celebrates the lives of those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy the freedoms that we have in this country. Regarding freedom, Martin Luther King Jr. made many statements of inspiration, some of which are fitting for the Christian. The following are a few of those statements:

1. Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.
2. We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.
3. I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.
4. No one really knows why they are alive until they know what they'd die for.
5. Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.
6. Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
7. Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

The apostle Paul also gave us some inspiring words. In dealing with spiritual freedoms, Paul wrote: *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Galatians 5:1)*. Paul says that true freedom that sets us free is freedom in Christ. Jesus said true freedom from our sins can only be found in the gospel (truth) of Christ Jesus. *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32)*, and Jesus defined his word as being "truth."