Stepping Stones vs. Stumbling Blocks: Which One Are You?

http://www.justjesuschrist.com/how-to-know-jesus/

God places special people in the life of each one of us—grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends—who guide us and join us in our walk as believers. They are Holy Spirit inspired relationships that pave the way of our lives.

The relationships God wants us to build are probably already in our lives. We need to build on what’s already there. Let’s face it; we live in a time where feeling lonely and isolated is the new normal. Technology, stress, unpredictable economic times, demanding schedules, and families all feed isolation. We use the word busy like an elite calling card. How are you? Oh, I’m fine. Just busy! We’re all busy! But these issues, no matter how valid, block communication and discourage intimacy.

A stepping stone friend is mindful of God’s plans for life while a stumbling block considers only the world’s ways. Are you a stepping stone to Jesus . . . or a stumbling block? God will show you those friendships already in your life that He wants to become stepping stone friendships. Start planting seeds of goodness in those friendships already in your life. Some of these seeds are going to take root becoming lifelong friendships. The secret to preventing stepping stones from turning into stumbling blocks? Love Each Other.

In Matthew 16, Jesus asked Peter, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but by my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it…” Jesus is acknowledging that Peter is not only a stepping stone as a follower of Jesus but also a rock that Hell cannot prevail against it. Jesus then warned his disciples not to tell anyone He was the Christ. He knew He had to let God prepare the way. It is important to guard our friends and let God work out whatever is going on in their lives. We need to let God prepare the way. We need to trust God’s timing. Jesus wanted His disciples trusting His timing.

Continued on the back page
**Women's Ministry**

**B. Gilbert, S2S Ministry Leader**

Be an active part of the S2S Ministry!

Sisters, join our **Sister-to-Sister (S2S) Ministry** group on Facebook. Share your thoughts and encouragement. Get connected!

Also visit the S2S pages under Ministries on the SHCC Web Site (www.sheldonheights.com)

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Sheldon Heights Church of Christ

**Sisters Inspiration Day**

Saturday, May 7, 2016
8:30 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

**Conversations with My Sisters**

The Lord Will Make a Way

Somehow

Plan now to spend the morning with your sisters!

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**Ladies Day at 87th Street Church of Christ**

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Guest Speaker: Sis. Doris Thomas

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**Ladies Day at Monroe Street Church of Christ**

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Guest Speaker: Sis. Sandra Atwater
In-House Speaker: Sis. Minerva Jean Selvage

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P. Carter & A. Carter, Women’s Retreat Leaders

**Women’s Retreat**

Friday, June 24 — Sunday, June 26
Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva WI

Cost: $235 per sister

(includes transportation, a shared room, meals, and materials)

Jesus is a Girl’s Best Friend!

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**Youth**

W. Smith & E. Clay, Director

Don’t miss the YOUTH EASTER EGG HUNT after 9:00 a.m. Worship.

How many eggs can you find?

There are still a few spots left for the April 3rd Vision Board Experience led by Sis. Pilar Reed

Brothers & Sisters... REGISTER TODAY!
SAVE THE ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND DATES
Friday, May 20, 2016 — Member Appreciation Banquet
Saturday, May 21, 2016 — Musical Celebration (Concert)
Sunday, May 22, 2016 — Anniversary & Appreciation

Please encourage former members, family, and friends to be part of this celebration. The theme colors for the weekend are RED, GOLD & TAN.

Olga Hart, Anniversary Team Leader

BANQUET TICKETS ON SALE TODAY
$40 per Adult  $20 per Child (age 12 & under)

Stay connected to the 85th Anniversary Events & Information...
TWITTER: @theheights85
EMAIL: shccannicommunicati9n@gmail.com

INSTAGRAM: @shcc_communication
WEB: www.sheldonheights.com

Other CoC & Area Events

Upcoming Minister’s Appreciations

Sunday, April 3, 2016
Chicago Heights Church of Christ
31st Anniversary Appreciation
Bro. Fred Sr. & Sis. Lydia Merriweather
Dinner 1:00 p.m.  Program—3:00 p.m.
Guest Minister: Bro. Terry Atwater

Sunday, April 24, 2016
Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ
48th Anniversary Appreciation
Dr. Daniel & Sis. Frances Harrison
Program—2:30 p.m.
More details coming soon

Saturday, May 14, 2016 — Song Fest and
Sunday, May 15, 2016
Colonial Village Church of Christ
Minister’s Appreciation
Bro. Charles & Sis. Sandra Smith
Program—3:00 p.m.
More details coming soon

Sis. Frances Harrison and the Chatham Avalon CoC has chartered a bus to go to the Midwest Women’s Conference in Indianapolis IN this September. The cost is only $60 per sister. Call 773-723-8579 for more info about reserving your space.
ORDER OF SERVICE
Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016
6:00 a.m. AND 9:00 a.m.
Announcements
Invocation
Songs
Will Smith & Devotion Leaders
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Sermon — “The Grave Robber”
Leonardo D. Gilbert
Responses
Collection Appeal
Collection Prayer
Communion Reading
Communion Table
Benediction

PRAYER FOR
HEALING...
Comfort Aladesaiye
Booker Burns
Linda & Terry Carroll
Geneva Crowe
Kathleen Drayton
(mother of Angela Drayton-Moten)
Marguerite Falls
Ronald Finley
Betty Goss
Lionel Harden
Julia Hicks
Elaine Hunt
Lisa Jackson
Georgia McAdams
Mary McBride
Nikita Mayfield
Charlesetta Nash
Monica Olalusi’s Father
Helen Pace
Virginia Pamon
Elma Phillips
Helen Pryor
Rosemary Rouse
Bernice Taylor
Susie Wilder
Hoxie Wright
Tobitha Wright
Lyndon Young

You can give electronically with

Members and friends can access PushPay by one of 3 methods:
1. Select the PushPay logo on the PushPay Donation or Home Page at www.sheldonheights.com OR
2. Text sheldonheights to 77977 to give directly OR
3. Text pushpay to 77977 to download the PushPay App to your device.

Let’s look at what happened in the very next section of Matthew 16! Jesus began to explain that he must suffer many things, be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Far be it from you, Lord!" he said. "This will never be done to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, for you are not setting your mind the things of God, but the things of men." Peter was so sad he did not want to see Jesus suffer! Yet Jesus knew that suffering was the pathway to eternal life and all a part of God’s will for him.

Now, imagine what Mary and Elizabeth were to each other! They complemented each other, understood each other, and shared what is probably the most fascinating and phenomenal stepping stone friendship in the history of mankind. They clearly saw the significance of God in their friendship. Elizabeth would give birth to the prophet paving the way for the Son of God while Mary would give birth to the Son of God! Both received instructions from the Lord and in this defining moment said yes to his desire for their lives. Sharing this spiritual encounter together formed a forever friendship between these two women. They became stepping stones straight to the heart of God for each other.

Yet, they were different, with different backgrounds, and Elizabeth was older and long married. She was farther along in her pregnancy. She was able to share life experiences, feelings, and wisdom that helped make the load lighter for a lonely, young, vulnerable girl. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months before returning to her own home. Together they shared all those little things about life that would make the burden of pregnancy and what would follow bearable. They were together during this moment in time determining the destiny of mankind forever. They were stepping stones straight to the heart of Jesus by loving Him and loving each other. Let their example prevent your stepping stones from becoming stumbling blocks!

When we love each other with the unfailing love of Jesus putting all else aside, there is the feeling we can’t do enough for each other. Stepping stones listen to the sweet soft voice of the Holy Spirit. It is always for the good of others that He speaks and ultimately the good of your own soul.

Only through God can we do this! (Col 1:17 - He is before all things, and in him all things are held together.) He flows through Godly relationships that hold us together. This is ultimately why Godly friendships are so important. God uses it all to bring us to him.

Let’s strive to be stepping stones (not stumbling blocks) to God in our relationships with other.

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Georgia McAdams
Mary McBride
Nikita Mayfield
Charlesetta Nash
Monica Olalusi’s Father
Helen Pace
Virginia Pamon
Elma Phillips
Helen Pryor
Rosemary Rouse
Bernice Taylor
Susie Wilder
Hoxie Wright
Tobitha Wright
Lyndon Young

If you have not registered yet for the 2016 National Teachers Workshop, there is still time to do so. Register TODAY so you don’t miss one moment of this conference.

Youth (ages 14-18) and young adults (ages 19-24) who live in Chicago, are encouraged to apply for this One Summer Chicago program asap; you may get a chance to work with the Safe Haven Summer Program at Sheldon Heights. Questions?
Contact Sis. Rosalyn Reeves,
SHCC Safe Haven Director

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