

Greetings from the **Charlotte Heights Church of Christ** elders.
The following is a summary of the Celebration Youth Rally that one of our elders was able to attend.
Thanks to our youth minister, Kory Crow, for organizing.



Friday, November 2, 2018

The elders blog is back, this time coming from Kentucky and the annual Celebration youth weekend. I am so excited to get to attend and worship with our youth and see them grow spiritually. The evening started with a two-hour van ride into Kentucky with a stop for dinner at Zaxby's. Nothing real exciting except Kory tried to spill his drink in my lap. Luckily, I am quick as a cat and got out of the way. We arrived at the lodge and got our room assignments, but Kory had to drive back to the Kentucky line to pick up Korie Anne and Walker. So, we were left to walk from the lodge to the center which was a terrifying two mile walk through the dark and dangerous Kentucky night, next to a lake, in the rain and cold and up-hill the whole way. (This is all at least how it seemed at the time). Shepherd Steve definitely got his exercise in for the day. After this treacherous adventure, we arrived for the Friday night devotional period. After a period of singing praises, we heard a lesson from Phil Brookman from Oklahoma City. The theme for the weekend is **BELONG**, and the lesson centered around a table. We learned that tables can unite or divide but it is within our ability to determine which way. The question was asked "*How are your table manners?*". Are we welcoming people to our table or pushing them away? Do we make people feel happy to join us or feel like they don't belong because they are a little bit different? We heard a story of a woman who came to know Jesus later in life and became a welcoming person and that being welcoming is contagious and makes us courageous. After the event, we had a short talk with the youth and each of them shared thoughts on the lesson. We discussed the opportunity to welcome visitors to our congregation. It was great hearing them share what they learned and awesome to know they take it seriously. I love spending time with them and love each one just as my own.



Elders Mid-day Blog November 3, 2018

At the request of Mr. B, here is an abbreviated update on Saturday. We got up, had donuts and cereal for breakfast, went to a great singing session which was followed by the morning lesson. We often Misinterpret people or judge them. We see what is wrong with other people rather than what is right. Read Luke 7:37-39. We want to move up the ladder, and people or things are going to move us up or down. We need to look at people through lens of the cross. Change tension to attention. Read Matthew 5:47. If you only greet people you like, what are you doing more than others? Who you talk to is a sign of who you belong to. Reaching out is a sign of growing up. These were all good points and, again, fit so well into our lessons on building up.

Elders LNB (Late Night Blog) November 3, 2018

The afternoon and evening were filled with incredible lessons, memorable moments, and great fellowship. We had lunch at the center and sat by a beautiful lake admiring God's creation in the fall colors. The afternoon session was different than the others and led by a man that had spent 21 years in prison after making some bad decisions and hanging out with the wrong friends. He shared that we all have a table within us to share with others and that for many years he had been sleep-living (just going through the motions). He said the devil is out to get us by distracting us to deceive us, by deceiving us to divide us, by dividing us to discourage us, by discouraging us to defeat us, and by defeating us to destroy us. The evening entertainment was a magician which was very good. After another excellent singing session, the last lesson of the day focused on John 21:15–19, where Jesus said, "Follow Me". It was noted that we often follow Jesus from a distance or when it's convenient for us. We need to give ourselves fully to following Him. The night ended with a LNFR (Late Night Food Run) at Waffle House. They were very excited to have us, and for some reason, Walker decided to follow in his dad's footsteps and tried to spill his water in my lap. But once again, even in a delirious, weakened and exhausted state, my cat like reflexes kicked in, and I was able to avoid a complete disaster. And once again, these kids amaze me with their positive attitudes, love for God and love for each other. We had a group prayer where each one stepped out and joined. It was a very moving and emotional experience and makes me love and appreciate them even more.

Elders Blog November 4, 2018

A great weekend came to a close with a morning worship before heading home.

Here are some comments from the lesson.

We often focus on what not to do instead of doing what we should do. God has a bigger mission than escaping hell and avoiding sin. We need to be doers. What is God doing around me? What does God want me to do? How can we join Him? We are called to be a blessing.

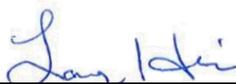
Each youth group was able to bring a chair home, as you see in the picture, to help us remember to invite others to our table. Come join us anytime and sit at our table where you are welcome and can find a place where you belong. We would love to get to meet you and share God's message



The elders invite you to keep up to date by visiting our website at www.charlotteheights.org or through Facebook and Twitter, as noted in the bulletin. There are a lot of good works happening at Charlotte Heights, and we hope you will continue praying for our congregation, the elders, deacons, ministers, and members to be true to the Word and to spread the good news to the community. Thank you for joining us in worship and come back as often as possible. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to meet with you and provide more details of our congregation.

In Christian Love,



Steve Bishop

Larry Hime

Davis Webb

Elders of Charlotte Heights Church of Christ