



# Carbondale Church of Christ

The Carbondale Church of Christ exists for the purpose of bringing honor to God the Father by imitating his Son, Jesus Christ, and spreading the gospel message. We are HIS.

January 3, 2008  
Carbondale, IL 62901  
(618) 457-5105

[www.carbondalecoc.com](http://www.carbondalecoc.com)

*Minister: Steve Shaffer Elders: Gerard Smith, Terry Taylor Youth Minister: Ryan Woods*

## In Our Prayers

- \*Mae Simpkins – health
- \*Brent Kington- Coming HOME Saturday
- \*Marcus father –upcoming tests
- \*Janell’s father- still in hospital
- \*Gwen’s mother - health
- \*The Howard family
- \*Elise’s father-in-law – cancer
- \*The house parents at New Pathways Home
- \*Kay’s coworker – cancer
- \*Debbie’s friends – health
- \*C. J. Garris health and family’s struggles
- \*Danny Simpson-Julie Suwana’s brother-spinal Condition
- \*Dee and family while Vince is gone
- \*Brienne, cousin of Matthew & Micah-health
- \*Joe and Elaine Clary-health
- \*Reema Prabhakar-health problems

## Answers

Brent and Di will be home Saturday! Brent is doing well and plans to be here Sunday.

## Serving Overseas

In Iraq Tina Harryman, Ryan’s Friend  
Dee Brown’s niece, Dorothy’s nephew

## Congregational Meeting

- January 13, 2008-01-03
- Time to be announced

## LTC Practice Begins

- January 13 @ 2PM

## Mark your calendars!

## Sunday January 6

Sermon	Steve Shaffer
Song Leader-	Terry Taylor
Opening Prayer	George Thomas
Closing Prayer	Marcus Odom, Jr
Communion	Michael Shelton
Nursery	
Children’s Church	Angie Woods

## Sunday Evening

5PM Life Group  
6PM Teen Life Group  
6PM Bible Hour (kids ages 2-6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
6PM Worship

## Wednesday Night Peak of the Week

5:30 Meal –we will have a meal this week  
6:30 Peak of the Week  
7:00 Friendspeak



Ladies Bible Class meets every Thursday @ 3PM here at the building.

## TEENS

- ❖ Ryan’s Blog  
[www.smackstudentministries.blogspot.com](http://www.smackstudentministries.blogspot.com)
- ❖ Interactive Website  
[www.youthglue.com/groups/cdalecofc](http://www.youthglue.com/groups/cdalecofc)
- ❖ Parent Resource Website  
[www.teenagetightrope.com](http://www.teenagetightrope.com)

- LTC March 21-23
- Mission trip/New Orleans June 1-6
- UPLIFT June 14-19

**Sunday School ( ) Sunday AM Worship (55) Wed Night(32) Contribution \$ 2096**

## **God's Value System**

This week we will continue to look at how to define a spiritually mature Christian. Growth is described in the Bible as transformation, changing the way we think and act. The basic change in thinking involves learning to think like God and orient our minds around God's value system. In the last two articles we explored some of the elements of God's value system by looking at Romans 12 and Eph 4. This week I want to explore God's value related to suffering. Christians take a unique perspective on suffering, viewing suffering as a necessary means of growth and refinement. James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Here we see that God values spiritual growth and maturity more than the absence of trials and difficulties. Trials and difficulties can have a good result. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he described his personal struggle against a "thorn" in his flesh, something that tormented Paul that Paul pleaded with God to remove. God didn't remove it, instead God said, "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul concludes from this, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor 12:6-10) God values growth more than ease of life, he values displaying his power in our weakness. God's power is displayed in our weakness when we approach our trails with patience, perseverance and an eternal perspective. God's power is displayed in our weakness when we seek growth from those trials instead of simply release. The world values strength, ease of life, freedom from pain, recognition from peers, and competence. God values the ability to demonstrate his power through our weakness.