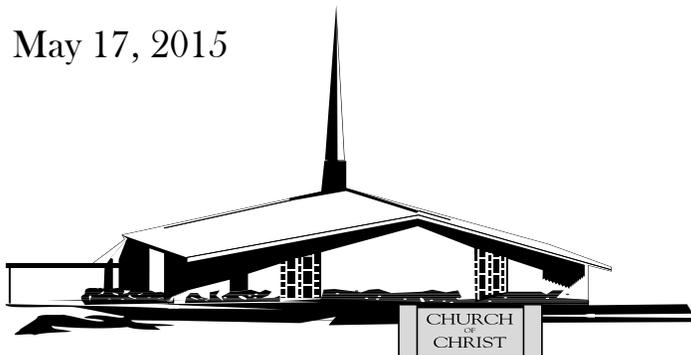


May 17, 2015



# DeGaulle Drive

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

4700 GENERAL DEGAULLE DRIVE

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70131

www.degaulledrivecoc.com

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY

Morning Bible Class	9:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:00 AM
Pew Packers	5:30 PM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM

#### MID-WEEK

Tuesday Ladies Class	10:00 AM
(September—May)	
Wednesday Bible Class	7:00 PM

#### ELDERS

Wes Arabie	504-858-2881
Bill Burchett	504-393-2409
Howard Goodale	504-272-0502

#### DEACONS

Steve Tucker	504-812-2617
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#### EVANGELISTS

Scott Cain	504-392-4110
Wes Arabie	504-858-2881

EMAIL: office@degaulledrivecoc.com

#### WORKS SUPPORTED:

##### Benevolence:

Childhaven of Cullman, Alabama

##### Media:

Gospel Broadcasting Network  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
The Old Landmarks  
The Truth in Love

##### MISSIONS:

*Budapest, Hungary:* Curry Montague,  
curry.monta@gmail.com

*India:* Ron & Karen Clayton  
RCIndia@sonet.net

*Padova, Italy:* Jeff & Tia Brauer Family,  
brauer@padovateam.org

*Marshall, Texas:* Azael & Dinora Alvarez

##### PREACHER TRAINING:

Memphis School of Preaching

## THE TRUTH ABOUT MODESTY

DON BLACKWELL

confused about how we should dress. The cartoon illustrates the point. The doorbell rings. One girl says, "Oh dear, that's the doorbell, & here I am in my underclothes." The other girl (who is wearing far less) says, "I'm dressed. I'll get it." Our society doesn't understand modesty.

People are no longer embarrassed about exposing their bodies. We are bombarded today with commercials about dieting, the theme of which is being able to display our bodies. One commercial depicts the tiny bikini hanging on the wall. It's the woman's motivation to lose weight. She's not embarrassed to display a nearly nude body: it's her goal! The prophet Jeremiah said the people of his day had lost the ability to blush: "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush" (Jeremiah 6:15). We live in a world just like that. Many people have lost the ability to blush over the exposure of their bodies. One preacher said, "I would like to find out what kind of fruit Adam & Eve ate that made them realize they were naked, because I'd like to pass it around again." The statement is tongue-in-cheek, but the preacher was right, because many people need to have their eyes opened to what is appropriate & what is inappropriate.

The world has it wrong with regard to how we should clothe ourselves, but a Christian is not like the world. A Christian cannot be like the world. We are different! We have been called out of the world. Hear the apostle John's words: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Paul told Christians, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good & acceptable & perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2).

Sadly, the problem of immodesty (lack of clothing) has affected many Christians & has crept into the church. In some congregations men do not want to serve at the Lord's table because of young ladies who are immodestly dressed in worship. Some wives do not want their husbands to teach teenagers because of the way some of the girls are dressed – or maybe not dressed.

If you've been to the mall recently, turned on the television, or even looked at a billboard while riding down the road, then you know that our country has a problem with the way we clothe ourselves. Sexually provocative is the way of the day. Less is considered better. It would be an understatement to say that the world is



## SPECIAL NOTE

### PANTRY USE:

The elders have instructed that all requests to receive items from the pantry are to go through the office. Please call if items are needed & they will be prepared for you prior to pickup.

Modesty is an unpleasant subject to discuss & sometimes embarrassing both to the teacher & to the audience. Sometimes those who like to dress immodestly get angry because they feel as if they are being insulted. Sometimes when people teach on this subject, others will accuse them of having dirty minds. Because of the anger it provokes, some would rather just avoid the issue altogether. They feel it is just not worth the grief. But if we are going to be pleasing to God, the matter must be discussed. We have to get this right!

Whether or not we want to admit it, when a woman goes into public in a modern swimming suit, mini-skirt, or shorts; with her midriff showing; or wearing clothing that is too tight, she is doing something sinful. She is corrupting (cheapening) the sexual impulses that God instilled in men to draw husbands & wives together. She may not even know she is doing it, but she is distorting sex as God designed it.

Why is it the case that the man is sexually impressed by the woman? It is not an accident. God made him that way. "Therefore shall a man leave his father & his mother, & shall cleave unto his wife: & they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). The reason man is sexually impressed by & attracted to woman is because of God's design. However, there is a big difference in the physical attraction of a husband & wife, & that of a man who is physically attracted to a stranger at the beach, at the pool, or at the mall.

First, consider at the husband/wife relationship.  
*Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer & a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love* (Proverbs 9:18-19).

Contrast this to the unmarried man/woman:  
*But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart* (Matthew 5:28).

Someone may try to rationalize & say, "Well, so long as nothing physical happens, there's nothing wrong with it." Another commonly stated expression is, "It's alright to look so long as you don't touch." But that is not right! The Bible teaches that God is concerned not only about our actions, but also with our hearts (Matthew 5:28). Job said, "I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman?" (Job 3:11). Job understood it would be wrong even to look at a woman in a lustful manner. This matter of properly clothing ourselves is certainly important, & the world is quite confused about it, so here are some considerations to help guide us in knowing how we should dress.

## I. GOD'S LAW

Sometimes people will say, "The Bible doesn't really tell us how to dress ourselves." That is not true; the Bible does tell us. Let's begin in Genesis 2:25 concerning Adam & Eve: "They were both naked, the man & his wife, & were not ashamed." Why were they not ashamed? Because they were not aware of the fact they were naked (3:7). After they ate of the forbidden fruit, their eyes were opened, & Adam & Eve were made aware of their condition. Then they sewed fig leaves together & made aprons or, as the

New King James Version says, "coverings." This word means "a girdle or a loin cloth." One version states they covered "themselves around the hips." What is very interesting is that the clothing they made was apparently not adequate according to God's standards, for consider what God did: "Also for Adam & his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, & clothed them" (3:21). The Hebrew word for tunic means "a long shirt-like garment." Strong's Concordance even defines the word as "a robe." It was a garment that began at the shoulders & flowed down like a long shirt. Adam & Even had made themselves "loin coverings," but the Lord made them "robes" & "clothed them." The implication seems to be that they were not sufficiently covered by the fig leaves alone. Notice also when God came into the garden, Adam said, "I was naked & hid myself." He had on fig leaves, but he still refers to himself as being naked, & God did not argue with him! God simply replied with, "Who told you that you were naked?" God affirms that Adam was naked while wearing the loin covering.

Second, consider Exodus 28, which tells about the making of the priests' garments under the Mosaic system:

*For Aaron's sons you shall make tunics, & you shall make sashes for them. And you shall make hats for them, for glory & beauty. So shall you put them on Aaron your brother & on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, & sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. – Exodus 28:40-42*

Notice especially the phrase, "they shall reach from the waist to the thighs." One version phrases it, "reaching from the hips to knees." What was the purpose of this garment? The text says, "to cover their nakedness." Thomas Eaves, in his tract on modesty, wrote, "In the Old Testament it was considered nakedness when one uncovered the thighs." Mr. Eaves cited Exodus 28:42 as proof for his statement. To summarize: *In order to be adequately covered, clothing started at the shoulders & went down to the knees.*

A third passage relates to who we should clothe ourselves: "In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety & moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works" (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

We need to notice three things in these verses. First, the word *modest*. This word means "orderly, well-arranged, or decent." The idea is that the woman is to adorn or beautify herself in a way that avoids drawing undue attention to herself. In the immediate context, the writer is discussing a woman who is overdoing it; someone who is wearing flashy clothes, too much makeup, & an excessive amount of jewelry.

But there is another way in which a woman could draw undue attention to herself: by underdoing it, by wearing too little. When she wears clothes that are too tight, too short, too thin, too little, or too revealing, a woman is violating this Christian principle.

The second word to consider is *propriety* (The King James

Version uses *shamefacedness*). The word *propriety* is actually closer to our modern word *modest*. The Greek word for shamefacedness means, “a sense of shame, modesty used regarding the demeanor of women in the church.” The third phrase is in verse 10: “but, which is proper for women professing godliness.” Additionally, notice that Titus 2 states that older women are to teach the younger women to be *chaste*. This word means “pure from carnality, modest, perfect, innocent” (Strong’s & Vine’s definitions combined). Now let’s pull it all together. A godly woman is to dress in such a way as to avoid drawing undue attention to herself. She should have a sense of shame or modesty about her. She would be innocent & pure from carnality, & she should dress as a woman whose most important object in life is to please God.

Sadly, modern-day swimwear does not fit this description. A person who wants to please the Lord has no business being out in public in swimwear. (That would include both bikinis & one-piece bathing suits.) Cut-off shirts that expose the midriff do not mesh with God’s standards. Most modern-day cheerleading uniforms don’t even come remotely close to fitting the description of a woman professing godliness. And Modesty is not determined by the environment. Participating in a sporting event, attending a wedding, or being near water does not change immodest into modest. Even hot weather does not transform immodest into modest. On one occasion, a woman came to speak to President Woodrow Wilson about some matter. When the woman had left, another man in the office mentioned something to the President about her being an attractive & intelligent woman. President Wilson replied, “She was a well-dressed woman.” The other man said, “I didn’t notice what she was wearing.” President Wilson answered, “That’s how I know she was well dressed.”

Some people may say, “You’re talking a lot about the woman, but isn’t modesty applicable to the man as well?” Indeed, it is. When you read the Bible, it’s interesting though that principles of modesty are applied to women, & passaged prohibiting lust are applied to men. Is that because women never lust, or because modesty doesn’t apply to men? No. It’s because of the way human beings are designed. Lust is generally a bigger problem for the man than for the woman, but the principles of modesty also apply to men. If a man goes into public with his shirt unbuttoned halfway down his chest, or wearing no shirt at all, or in skin-tight jeans, he is doing something sinful & can, no doubt, be a stumbling block for women.

That leads us to our next point. Our first consideration with regard to our clothing must be God. Our second consideration should be other people.

## V. OTHER PEOPLE

A second principle to guide us in determining how we should dress is what effect our clothing (or lack thereof) has on other people. If a Christian is living so as to please the Lord, he or she doesn’t want to do anything that would cause someone else to sin. He or she doesn’t want to be a stumbling block in other people’s paths. As it is, the way one clothes oneself or does not clothe oneself can be a stumbling block for others which may lead them into sin. Hear Jesus’ words: “Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart”

(Matthew 5:28). Did you know that you can commit a sin in your mind that can cause you to lose your soul? That is exactly what the Lord teaches us in this verse.

With this in mind, when a person is purchasing clothing, he or she needs to think about other people & what effect it may have on them. One author wrote, “The leading fashion designers admit that the reason behind the short skirts & bare skin is to seduce the men.” But a faithful Christian would not & should not want to do that. Consider Jesus’ words in Luke 17:1, “It is impossible that no offense should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!” One translation says, “How terrible to him for whom they come.” We do not want to be the cause of other people’s stumbling.

A survey was done among high school boys in which they were asked the following questions:

- Can a girl tempt a boy by the way she dresses?  
**98% of the boys answered “Yes.”**
- Does fashion use sex appeal?  
**96% said “Yes.”**
- Do you believe that boys are stimulated by sight more than girls?  
**92% said “Yes.”**
- Do you believe the passions of boys are: (A) More easily aroused than girls? (B) Less easily aroused? (C) Same?  
**87% answered “(A) – More easily aroused.”**
- Do you feel that girls really understand the problem of modest apparel?  
**50% said “No.”**
- Which part of the female body as seen in public most quickly arouses your emotions?  
**60% said “Legs.”**
- If you were married, would you want other men & boys to lust after your wife?  
**96% said “No.”**
- If she dressed like most girls do today, would most boys be tempted to lust after her?  
**77% said “Yes.”**

What does this survey tell us? The way we dress can & does affect those around us!

Sometimes people say, “Well, it doesn’t matter how I dress or don’t dress, people are going to sin or they’re not going to sin.” Consider for a moment 2 Samuel 11. King David is walking on the roof of the king’s house, & he sees Bathsheba washing herself, evidently unclothed to some degree. The Bible says, “She was very beautiful to look upon.” David sent for her & committed adultery with her. If Bathsheba had been completely covered in a godly manner, would she have had the same effect on David? The answer is obviously no. It is a fact that the way we dress can tempt individuals in ways they would not otherwise be tempted.

Some people will argue, “It’s the person lusting who is sinning, not me,” or “Evil is in the eye of the beholder.” First, this is not true, & second, if it were true, it shows a very low regard for the souls of others. Third, it is not even a logical argument. If “evil is in the eye of the beholder,” as people say, then it would be fine for a person to go out in public completely nude, & the only ones doing wrong would be those looking.

If a female (or male) has concern for the spiritual well-being of others, she should be careful how she dresses. The following is an excerpt from a church bulletin:

*Dear sisters, on behalf of & for the benefit of men who seek to live in accordance with the will of God & to keep themselves pure & holy, to the end that you do not encourage them to lust, & for your own eternal welfare, please do not call undue attention to yourself or expose yourself by wearing immodest apparel. Godly men do not want to see your thighs (or more) in clothing that is too short, your cleavage in tops that are too low, your navels in tops that are too short, your undergarments in clothing that is too thin, nor the curves & characteristics of your bodies in clothing that is too tight. Please look in the mirror at yourself (front & back) & ask yourself if your attire is becoming one professing godliness. You may need to make some changes.*

Remember the Lord said, "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." In light of this, we need to consider other people when we are choosing our clothing.

## VI. THE CHURCH

For people who are members of the church, this is especially important, because people who wear the name Christian are representatives of the Lord's body. The way a Christian conducts himself reflects on the precious church of the Lord. The apostles Paul made an interesting statement to the Corinthians: "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known & read by all men" (2 Corinthians 3:2). Christians are to be walking Bibles, living examples of Christ's teachings. When a Christian dresses immodestly he sends a corrupted message to the world.

Christians need to realize we are a holy people (1 Peter 1:15-16). As children of God we are to "set our mind on the things above, not on things on the earth." We must guard ourselves & not be "conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2).

When people know a member of the church of Christ, & they hear him stand for & defend the plan of salvation, what the Bible has to say about baptism, & the proper type of worship, but then see him in public dressed inappropriately, how will they view the church? When they hear him dogmatically defend doctrine, but then see him engage in practices that even much of the world views as sensual, how will they feel toward the body of Christ?

As we ponder how our clothing reflects on the church, consider the description of what Christ thinks about His church.

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church & gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify & cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy & without blemish. – Ephesians 5:25-27*

## VII. FALSE IDEAS ABOUT IMMODEST CLOTHING

Some apparently hold to the idea that immodest clothing is acceptable is one is involved in a sporting event. The Bible

does not, however, lay aside principles of modesty so that someone can win a swim meet, compete in gymnastics, or even be a cheerleader. If you have ever watched the Summer Olympics, you know that in some of the sports the clothing is nearly nonexistent. For some strange reason, even people who would normally oppose 95 percent nudity don't have a problem with it at a sporting event! This is a false idea, & God does not make that exception. In the marriage relationship, it is appropriate to see each other so scantily clad: "The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does" (1 Corinthians 7:4). There is on verse that makes an exception for sporting events.

Sometimes it is argued that "people see so much nakedness these days that they just don't really pay any attention to it anymore." This argument is simply not true. A man might eat his favorite food until he becomes sick of it & loses his appetite for it, but God has not made us that way with reference to sexual desires. Besides, if that were the case, why to cheerleaders continue to wear skimpy uniforms in the dead of winter? It's not about team spirit!

Another false idea relates to our children. A parent might think, "But my daughter is just a child! Certainly she isn't the object of lust." Well, she may not be to the parent, but what about a boy her age? Parents, it happens very quickly that our little girls turn into little women, & that's when Daddy needs to step up to the spiritual headship that God gave him.

One preacher wrote, "There's not an ordinary man who can look at a woman clad in nothing but a bathing suit for a long time without entertaining evil thoughts." But some will say, "It does not bother me." One who says that may be so young that his passions have not arise, or he may be so old that they have subsided, or he may be so ignorant that he doesn't know what is going on, or he may not be normal, or he may be lying. He fits into one of these five categories, or he is a spiritual giant; but spiritual giants don't spend their time at mixed swimming parties where people are immodestly adorned.

Some people have the idea that when a girl dresses immodestly, she is intentionally dressing to entice men. While that may be true of some women, it is not true for all of them. God has made us different. Men & women are wired differently with regard to sexual desires & many times, especially with young girls, they do not truly understand the effect their clothing has on those of the opposite sex. This is why a husband or father must take the spiritual lead with reference to what is worn by his wife & daughters.

## CONCLUSION:

How we clothe ourselves can have eternal implications both for us & for those around us. It can glorify God, or it can bring reproach on His church. The factors in choosing what to wear cannot hinge on, "Is this in style?" or "Is this comfortable?" or "Is this cool?" Our number one consideration must be, "Is this godly?" Eternally speaking, none of those other reasons are ever going to matter.

- Slightly Adapted

# NEWS & NOTES

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. **VBS REGISTRATION** began on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Parents, please register your children now! VBS will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 11AM for ages 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. **FELLOWSHIP MEAL:** May 17<sup>th</sup> after AM Worship. Last names M-Z have setup & cleanup.
3. **GOSPEL MEETING:** Crowder Blvd. May 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Guest speaker is Brother Shelton Gibbs III.

**NEWS N' NOTES:** Please see the board for new graduation announcements & a Thank You from Jim & Janice Dearman.

**MEMORIAL SERVICE:** A memorial service in honor of our brother Dick Grantham will be held Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM. Dick specified that any memorial event was to be a celebration of his life. AS SUCH, ANYONE WITH CHERISHED MEMORIES OR HUMOROUS STORIES OF DICK CAN EMAIL THEIR MEMORIES TO SCOTT AT [OFFICE@DEGAULLEDRIVECOC.COM](mailto:OFFICE@DEGAULLEDRIVECOC.COM).

## LAST WEEK'S RECORD

### Attendance

Bible Study	51
Sunday AM	87
Sunday PM	40
Wednesday	49

## NEEDING CARE & PRAYERS

### Our Members & Visitors

Family of Sandra Brock  
 Bill & Barbara Burchett  
 Family of Dick Grantham  
 Ann Roberts  
 Debbie Starr  
 LaTonia Brooks-Washington

Martha Clark  
 John & Mary Cullum  
 Dan Joseph  
 Lillie Smith  
 Louise & Toni Sylve

### Our Shut-In

Elwanda Piskorik

### Our Family & Friends

**Evangeline Joy:** 3-year old granddaughter of Chuck & Lydia deSambourg; has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

**Rebecca Roberts:** Sister of Sharon Macaluso; will not receive chemo treatments & is on the road to recovery.

**Gwen Webb:** Wife of Kermitt Webb. Recently fell & broke her arm & hip.

**Gene Zimmerman:** Son-in-law of Billie Singleton; has cancer & is in ICU with pneumonia & A-fib of the heart. He is scheduled for surgery on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Arnold	Family of Betty Beatty
Mitchell Burns	Leroy Bedreaux
Robin Clark	Sherry Dale
Cleveland Ellis	Family of Virginia Farr
Mary Macaluso Hardee	Elbert Jackson
Rebecca Roberts	Steve Sanders
Erlene Singleton	

### Deployed Servicemen

**Nathan Gillespie:** Dawn, Tempe, & Dalton are serving in Japan.

Please submit all prayer requests in writing to Scott or Melissa Cain. Please supply regular updates on each individual in order to keep our prayer list up-to-date. For the sake of space, any name (except for shut-ins) will be removed after four weeks unless a new update is received. Thank you for helping us all to stay informed of the spiritual & physical needs of our members, friends, & family.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

### THIS WEEK

**MAY 17**

**Sunday AM**

**Welcome:**

Steve Tucker

**Prayer:**

Ron Landis

**Song Lead:**

Howard Goodale

**Communion Scripture:**

Wes Arabie

Acts 20:6-12

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Macaluso (2)

**Sermon:**

Scott Cain

**Dismissal:**

Troy Singleton

**Sunday PM**

**Welcome:**

Steve Tucker

**Prayer:**

Wes Arabie

**Song Lead:**

Howard Goodale

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Macaluso (2)

**Sermon:**

Scott Cain

**Dismissal:**

John Cullum

### NEXT WEEK

**MAY 24**

**Sunday AM**

**Welcome:**

Howard Goodale

**Prayer:**

Wes Arabie

**Song Lead:**

Howard Goodale

**Communion Scripture:**

Norm Starr

Luke 23:32-38

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Macaluso (2)

**Sermon:**

Scott Cain

**Dismissal:**

Don Robinson

**Sunday PM**

**Welcome:**

Howard Goodale

**Prayer:**

Glenn Bates

**Song Lead:**

Howard Goodale

**Lord's Table:**

Paul Macaluso (2)

**Sermon:**

Readings: Rom. 4-5

**Dismissal:**

Jerome Riddick

# May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 Work Day 	
3 Teacher's Meeting 	4	5	6	7	8	9 VBS Workshop 	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17 A.M Fellowship 	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27 Work Night 	28	29	30	
31							
<b>BIRTHDAYS</b> 				<b>ANNIVERSARY</b> 			
Pat Lee	05/05	Caleb Hensley	05/17	Howard Goodale	05/27	Jeff & Michelle LaCaze	05/01
Jimmie Hollister	05/07	Steve Tucker	05/17	Keisha Rogers	05/28	Randy & Melissa Lepine	05/04
Aubry Buller	05/11	Troy Singleton	05/19			Don & Margaret Robinson	05/11
Sharon Brock	05/12	Trish Goodale	05/23			Mack & Chris Meek	05/25
Dayton McKinney	05/12	Jennifer Barthelemy	05/24			Bill & Barbara Burchett	05/28

**WPRK NIGHT:** April 29th.

**WORK DAY:** Will be May 2nd @9:00 A.M. Lunch will be served.

**GENERAL TEACHER'S MEETING:** Will be May 3rd @ 4:30 P.M.

**VBS WORKSHOP:** Will be May 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 A.M.

**FELLOWSHIP MEAL:** Will be after A.M. worship on May 17th.

**GOSPEL MEETING:** At Crowder Blvd. will be the 17th—20th. See board for details.

**WORK NIGHT** Will be May 27th