

# *Sunday School Times*



September 2019

## **MEN'S MONTH!!**

When September comes that means – it's MEN'S MONTH!! And for Sunday school, we have a SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER!!

### *New Sunday School Series – Gangsta Disciples!*

The aim of the series is to see the transforming power of God in the lives of different men regardless of their status in life; no matter how far down they have fallen, or how hideous their sins. No one is beyond redemption – ALL can be saved and bring glory to His Name! Many of us will never be like a Joseph or John the Baptist – but it is good to know that God still has a plan and a purpose for our lives!



God can use whomever He pleases to do what He wants done! Why? Because He is sovereign! Consider types of persons God used . . .

- Moses – he couldn't talk, and he was a murderer
- Samuel – he was a child
- Rahab – she ran a house of ill-repute
- Ruth – she was a Moab
- David – he couldn't keep his pants zipped

- Jeremiah – he was a cry baby
- Elijah – he was a manic depressant
- Noah – he was a drunk
- Samaritan woman – she had too many husbands
- Peter – he cursed
- James and John – bad temper
- Nathaniel – bad attitude
- Paul – he persecuted the church

But. . . He looked beyond their faults, our faults, and saw their need.

The lessons will be. . .

- Your Arms Are Too Short to Box With God! – Manasseh
- A Hard Head Makes A Soft Behind! – Nebuchadnezzar
- Riddle, Riddle, Riddle re. I See Something You Don't See. – Matthew
- The Good. The Bad. The Ugly. – Judah
- Sleeping With The Enemy! – Samson

### *Indiana Campus – Happy Hour!*

SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER!!  
ST. STEPHEN SOUTHERN INDIANA CAMPUS

**HAPPY HOUR**

BAD BOYS, BAD BOYS WHATCHA GONNA DO?

	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9</b> GUEST TEACHER: DEACON T. A. SPALDING	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23</b> GUEST TEACHER: PASTOR KEVIN W. COSBY
	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16</b> GUEST TEACHER: REV. ALEX CAMPBELL	<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30</b> GUEST TEACHER: PASTOR KEN JOBST 

5:30 PM @ INDIANA CAMPUS 2701 VETERANS PKWY JEFFERSONVILLE, IND 47130

## *Hardin County Campus*

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> will be Super Soul Sunday School Sunday (that's a mouth full)! It's still Men's month and the guest teachers will be none other than two of Hardin County's outstanding teachers in Carter Dyson, Preston Young and Rev. Richard Lockett.

## *Woman-2-Woman Louisville Campus*

During the month of September this Women's class will be led by men! Yep! That's right – guest men teachers for the ladies!. The guest will be:

- First Sunday – Rev. Clay Calloway
- Second Sunday – Rev. William Fortson
- Third Sunday – Rev. Ken Jobst
- Fourth Sunday – Brother Preston Young
- Fifth Sunday – Brother Michael Copeland

Join us in Sunday School in September – it is a **SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER!!**

## God's Promise



Exodus 14:14

14 The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”

## *He Restores My Soul”*

*Psalms 23:3a*

In studying this Psalm it must always be remembered that it is a sheep in the Good Shepherd’s care who is speaking. This sheep has a GOOD shepherd. This being the case, one might wonder why the sheep needs to be restored. Why does the sheep make the statement. . .”He restores my soul?” Surely it would be assumed that anyone in the Good Shepherd’s care could never become so distressed in soul as to need restoration.

But the fact remains that this does happen. Why? Because sheep become “cast” or “cast down.” This is an old English shepherd’s term for a sheep that has turned over on its back and cannot get up again by itself.

A cast sheep is a very pathetic sight. Lying on its back, its feet in the air, it flays away frantically struggling to stand up, without success. Sometimes it will bleat a little for help, but generally it lies there lashing about in frightened frustration.

If the owner does not arrive on the scene within a reasonable short time, the sheep will die. This is but another reason why it is so essential for a careful shepherd to look over his flock every day, counting them to see that all are able to be up and on their feet. If one or two are missing, often the first thought to flash into his mind is *One of my sheep is cast somewhere. I must go in search and set it on its feet again.*

It is not only the shepherd who keeps a sharp eye for cast sheep, but also the predators. Buzzards, vultures, dogs, coyotes, and cougars all know that a cast sheep is easy prey and death is not far off. This knowledge that any cast sheep is helpless, close to death, and vulnerable to attack makes the whole problem of cast sheep serious for the shepherd.

Nothing seems to so arouse the shepherd’s constant care and diligent attention to the flock as the fact that even the largest, fattest, strongest, and sometimes healthiest sheep can become cast and be a casualty. Actually it is often the fat sheep that are the most easily cast.



Many shepherds go out early in the morning and merely turn their eyes to the sky. If they see the black-winged buzzards circling overhead in their long slow spirals, anxiety grips the shepherd's heart. He will leave everything else and immediately go out into the rough wild pastures and count the flock to make sure everyone was well and fit and able to be on its feet.

This is part of the pageantry and drama depicted for us in the magnificent story of the ninety and nine sheep with one astray. There is the shepherd's deep concern, his agonizing search, his longing to find the missing one, and his delight in restoring it not only to its feet but also to the flock as well as to himself.

### **Luke 15:4-6 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup>“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

As soon as the shepherd reaches the cast ewe, the first impulse is to pick it up. Tenderly, he rolls the sheep over on its side. This would relieve the pressure of gases that has built up in the stomach and rumen. If the sheep has been down for long, he has to lift her onto her feet. Then, straddling the sheep with his legs, he will hold her erect, rubbing her limbs to restore the circulation to her legs. This often takes quite a bit of time. When the sheep starts to walk again she often just stumbles, staggers, and collapses in a heap once more.

All the time the shepherd works on the cast sheep he will talk to it gently. Little by little the sheep will regain its equilibrium. It will start to walk steadily and surely. By and by it will dash away to rejoin the others, set free from its fears and frustrations, given another chance to live a little longer.



📖 For You have delivered my soul from death.  
*Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?* (Psalms 56:13)

📖 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (1Corinthians 10:12)

How does a sheep become cast in the first place? The answer is – the same reason Christians become cast!

(1) Looking for a soft spot. The sheep that choose the comfortable, soft, rounded hollows in the ground in

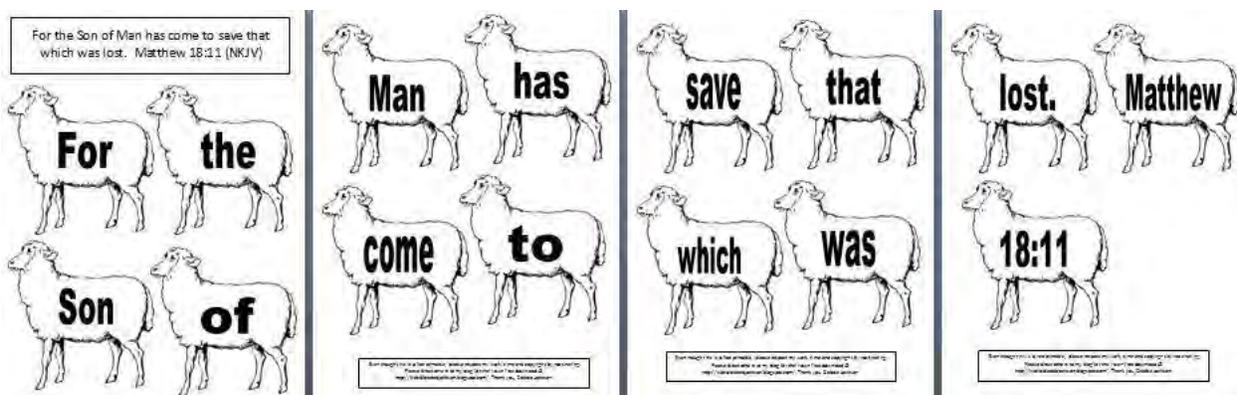
which to live down very often become cast. In such a situation it is so easy to roll over on their backs.

- (2) There is the aspect, too, of a sheep simply having too much wool. Often when the fleece becomes very long and heavily matted with mud, manure, burrs, and other debris, it is much easier for a sheep to become cast, literally weighed down with its own wool.
- (3) The third chief cause of cast sheep is simply that they are too fat.

Previously, we looked for the “lost coin,” those persons within St. Stephen who seemingly have “slipped through the cracks.” Now, we need to look for the “lost sheep,” the un-churched and de-churched! Many are out of church for the same reason that a sheep becomes cast down. . .

- (1) They looked for an easy life, a comfortable life, a soft life not realizing that a soft, hollow ground will give out under their weight. The songwriter said, “on Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”
- (2) Some people are carrying too much wool or perhaps we should say, too many burdens that weigh them down! After carrying it around they give up, give out or give in. To those persons we need to be witnesses that Jesus said, “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.” Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)
- (3) The third reason is that some are simply too comfortable living their lifestyle and see no need for Christ.

Let us make a concerted effort to go and look for the lost, lonely, left-out, left behind and yes even the lazy!



# Evangelism

Would you pull out your garden hose to help save your neighbor's house from a fire? If you were a doctor, would you be able to tell someone if they had a terminal disease? How about if you had the cure? That makes it easier doesn't it? If you would take the car keys away from a drunk then you should witness to a friend. If you would sit by the bedside of an ailing family member then you should invite them to church.

God has called upon the people of St. Stephen to buckle down and make the big decisions about life and eternity and what is truly important, and to set our priorities upon getting the gospel out and personally leading people to Jesus and salvation. And God has called you to lead others to do it!

When God looks down on St. Stephen Church, He sees two kinds of people:  
You say, yeah, black and white...no!  
Democrats / republicans...rich / poor...no! No!

God sees the

- ▶ Saved or
- ▶ Lost

On their way to heaven or hell!

There's no joy you will ever experience as a Christian like being a part of someone's salvation!

There was a pastor who stood at the deathbed of a church member who said, "I'm not afraid to die...but I am ashamed to die...God left me here on earth to reach others...I take no one with me!" Will you be like that person...not afraid to die, but ashamed to die because you have no fruit to show the Fruit Inspector?

Invite someone to Sunday school and worship service. Invite your friends, relatives, neighbors and associates. **You** will be glad and **they** will be glad that you did!



## *Christian Chuckles!*



A priest, a minister, and a rabbi want to see who's best at his job. So each one goes into the woods, finds a bear, and attempts to convert it. Later, they all get together. The priest begins: "When I found the bear, I read to him from the catechism and sprinkled him with holy water. Next week is his first Communion."

"I found a bear by the stream," says the minister, "and preached God's holy Word. The bear was so mesmerized that he let me baptize him."

They both look down at the rabbi, who is lying on a gurney in a body cast. "Looking back," he says, "maybe I shouldn't have started with the circumcision."

### **God's Left Hand**

**L**ittle Bobby was spending the weekend with his grandmother. His grandmother decided to take him to the park on Saturday morning. It had been snowing all night and everything was beautiful.

His grandmother remarked... "doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?"

Bobby said, "Yes, God did it and he did it left handed."

This confused his grandmother a bit, and she asked him "What makes you say God did this with his left hand?"

"Well," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School last week that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

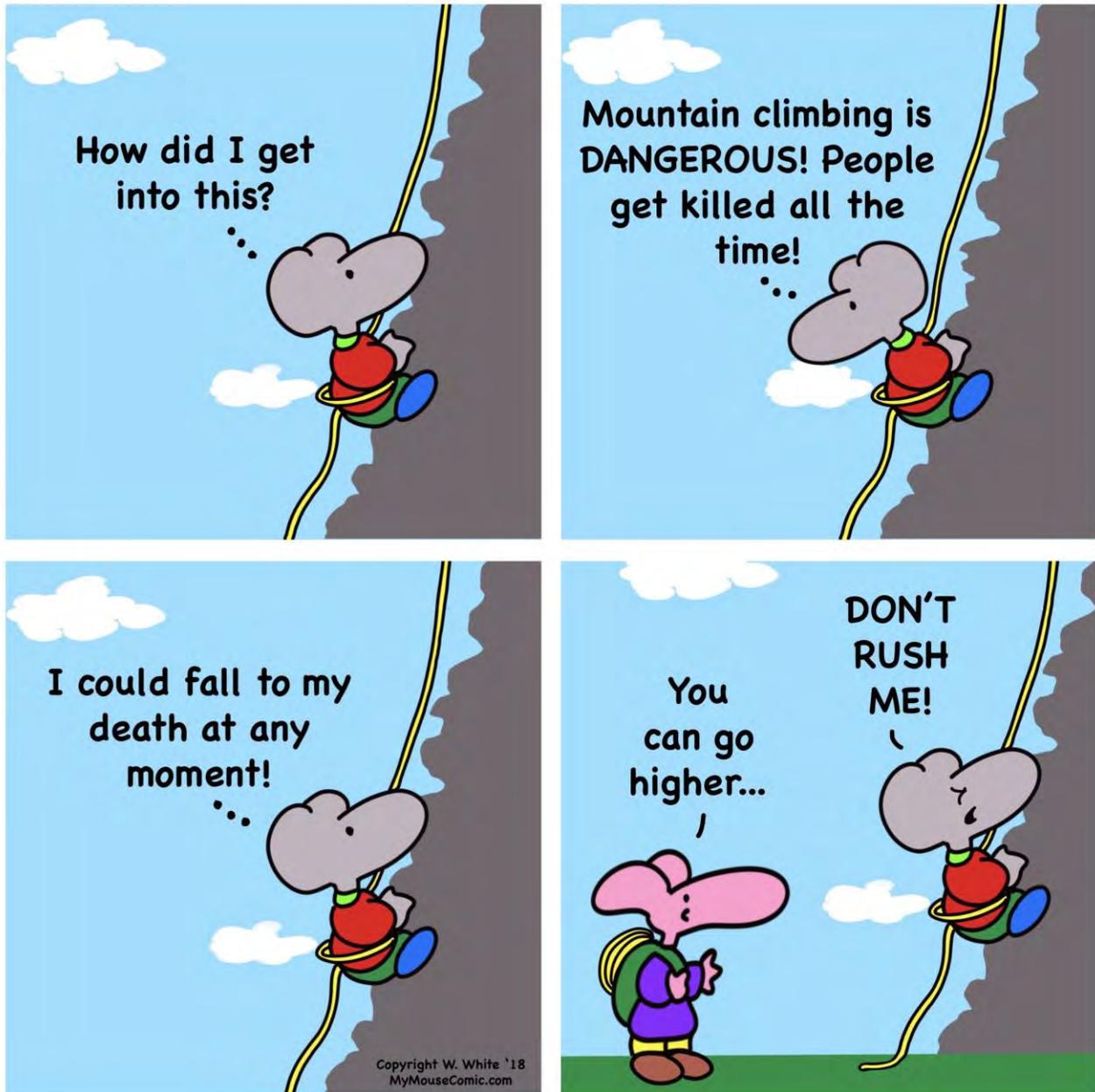
### **How to Get to Heaven!**

**A** teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

"NO!" the children all answered. "If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?" Again, the answer was "NO!" "Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"

## *Climbing Up The Sunday School Mountain!*



Yep! We are going to scale higher heights! That means we want to have 4,000 in **SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!** **We can do it!** If we all work together we can hit 4,000 and more! How can we do it??

- (i) Make sure your class is organized to grow! That means you need a leadership team. The leadership team is made up of teacher, co-teacher, prayer leader, class administrator, evangelism coordinator,

missions/ministry coordinator, fellowship coordinator and care coordinator. See page for job descriptions.

- (2) Leadership Team meet and set a growth goal. The goal should be SMART. That means the goal should be:

**S**pecific

**M**easurable

**A**ttainable

**R**ealistic

**T**ime-lined

The goal should be **specific** because it does no good to say, “we want all we can get!” I believe many of us should work to **DOUBLE** our class! That is a **measurable** figure, as well as an **attainable** and **realistic** figure! If we start now you can double your class in a matter of six months!

- (3) Contact members who have not been in attendance.

If your work schedule doesn't allow you to physically come to class then check out the lesson **LIVE STREAMING** or on **DEMAND!** Yep! You read it right! You can get the Sunday school lesson on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. with Minister Geneva Nelson, or Mondays at 6 p.m. (Millennial Mondays) with Ryane Jones! Ryane is a 17 year old senior at Sacred Heart Academy. She has been a member of St. Stephen all her life. If you can't tune in live you can catch her on demand! Check it out on live on [ssclive.tv](http://ssclive.tv) and on demand on YouTube and [ssclive](http://ssclive.com) website.



Ryane Jones

# YES WE CAN!!!

*Mark Your Calendar!!*

- ▶ September 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> - Men In Black (Tuesday, Hardin County, Wednesday, Indiana and Louisville Campuses)
- ▶ September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> - Men's Weekend!
- ▶ October 2<sup>nd</sup> - West Louisville Forum: Solutions for Urban America
- ▶ October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> - ADOS Conference (American Descendants of Slavery)
- ▶ October 13<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day - Hardin County
- ▶ October 25<sup>th</sup> - Pastor's Gala (Celebrating Pastor's Anniversary)
- ▶ October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - Pastor's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend

# *I Am Excited!*



I AM EXCITED! What am I excited about you may wonder? I AM EXCITED that after serving for 15 years as the Director of Christian Education here at St. Stephen Baptist Church that I am still excited! Sunday school still excites me! Christian Education still excites me! Church growth still excites me! And needless to say, TEACHING still excites me!!

I am excited because several years ago under the direction and leadership of Dr. Cosby the decision was made to no longer do the standard lesson but that we would start writing our own Sunday school series and lessons and make them relevant to today! Our purpose and goal was to make students aware of the biblical solutions to today's challenges! All lessons are biblically based but under the direction of Dr. Cosby we have taken the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other and learn to deal head on with such issues as social justice, slavery, terrorism, racial profiling, police brutality and other challenges facing our communities today. No, no, NO! We have not forgotten about the least, the less and the lost! In fact, I see St. Stephen as the "good shepherd" who went searching for the lost sheep in the article "He Restores My Soul". Every Sunday school class is to have an evangelism coordinator and keep evangelism in front of the class. Each Sunday school class has a missions coordinator to serve beyond these walls! I will tell you about them another time!

But as I was saying. . .we study lessons that help us see that the God of Moses, is the same God for us today. All of our Sunday School series come from the aim and mission of St. Stephen Church - (1) Exalt God in Worship; (2) Evangelize God's World; (3) Equip God's People; (4) Express God's Love and (5) Expand God's Kingdom. Our series fall in the following categories: (1) Social Justice; (2) Biblical Studies; (3) Personal Growth and Development; (4) Evangelism, and (5) Missions. We have studied such series as: Jesus Loves Obama Care; Seven Deadly Sins; Sins We Tolerate; Making It RIGHT When You Have Been WRONGED!, just to name a few.

I am excited because I feel that we are on the cutting edge of new ideas and are ready to change the face of Sunday school to meet today's learning style and culture!