

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Wednesday Evening Class We invite each of you to attend the mid-week Bible Study upstairs on Wednesday evening beginning at 6 p.m. We encourage you to attend these vital and exciting studies!

Church Clean-Up We will regularly have monthly church cleanings on the last Saturday of each month, beginning at 10 a.m. The next cleaning day will be on April 30, so be sure to attend and help!

Words of Wisdom: THE REST OF THE STORY...

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood. Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, the two elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the mines.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg. Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn a reputation as a respected artist.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream, and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No...no...no...no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look...look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brother. ...for me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, watercolors, charcoals, woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands."

The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, if you still need one, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!

Welcome to the EVERLASTING COVENANT CHURCH

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Follow Us:



"The Everlasting Covenant Church", Birmingham, AL

"THE_ECC2015"



Eric R. Agee, Jr., Pastor

March 6, 2016

VISION STATEMENT



*Enhancing Our Knowledge of Jesus Christ,
Empowering All Believers for Ministry, and
Encouraging Continuous Dedication to the Lord.*

ORDER of SERVICES

Fellowship / Refreshments – 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School – 10:00 A.M.

Powerful Faith:
"Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" – Mark 9:24, NIV"



MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:45 A.M.

- Devotion Deacons & Congregation
- Responsive Reading Pastor & Congregation
- Youth Inspiration
- Selection Choir & Congregation
- Announcements & Recognition of Visitors
- Tithes and Offerings Deacons
(Visitors are NOT required to contribute - members are encouraged to do so)
- Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor
- Selections Choir & Congregation
- Sermon

Invitation to Christ

BENEDICTION



RESPONSIVE READING: JAMES 2:14-26 (NIV)

- 14 *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?*
- 15 **Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.**
- 16 *If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?*
- 17 **In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.**
- 18 *But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*
- 19 **You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.**
- 20 *You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?*
- 21 **Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar?**
- 22 *You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.*
- 23 **And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.**
- 24 *You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.*
- 25 **In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction?**
- 26 **As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.**

SERMON NOTES

Scripture: _____

Subject: _____

Notes: _____
