

**Schedule of Meeting Times:**

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM  
*Speaker, Robert Emerson*  
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM  
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM  
*Singing every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening*  
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

**Preacher / bulletin editor:**

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“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

— Colossians 3:16

**Servants during September:**

**Songleader:** Peter (4), Stanley (11), Larry (18), Peter (25)

**Reading:** Larry

**Announcements:** Marty

**Table:** Mike M, Mike B, Stanley, Peter

**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (7), Stanley (14), Kris (21), Larry (28)

**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** Kris (4), Marty (11), Stanley (18), Larry (25)

**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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 Elkmont, AL 35620

# The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” —1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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## God Calling Yet

by Bubba Garner

Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul commanded the churches in Ephesus and Colossae to sing “psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,” Eph 5:19; Col 3:16. This act of worship was to be both vertical, “to the Lord,” and horizontal, “to one another.” Thus, singing in the assembly of the saints does not only express thanksgiving and adoration to God, it is also a way to encourage and uplift the fellow worshipers.

True to the passage, we sing songs that are psalms from the Old Testament put to the music: “Hallelujah! Praise Jehovah,” Psa 148, and “The Lord’s My Shepherd,” Psa 23. We also sing hymns, which might also be called praise songs: “Worthy Art Thou,” and “O Magnify My

Master.” But the majority of our songs fall into the third category—spiritual songs written on a general Biblical theme: “When We All Get to Heaven,” and “He’ll Go With Me.” These mostly have to do with our daily living and the commitment necessary to reach our goal.

I love music. I love to sing. But this can make it more difficult to fulfill the passage to sing and make melody in my heart. The command from God is not given just so that I will be entertained by the chords of the song. “Speaking to one another” takes words. “Teaching and admonishing one another” takes words. We have to concentrate on the words we’re singing lest we get carried away by the notes. It is not just how we sound that is

important; it is what we say.

Do you have a favorite song? Or, if you're like me, do you have several favorites? While the arrangement of the music has a lot to do with it, what usually makes a hymn have special meaning is the lyrics. The words speak to us and motivate us. We recall them in our minds throughout the week while we sing the song, either aloud or to ourselves.

My favorite invitation song is "God Calling Yet." I understand that these words are not inspired by God. They were written in 1735 by Gerhard Tersteegen and translated from German to English by Sarah Findlater in 1855. But they tell the age-old story of a person whose heart is changed by the word of God. Perhaps this spiritual song is speaking to you.

*God calling yet; shall I not hear? Earth's pleasures shall I still hold dear? Shall life's swift passing years all fly, and still my soul in slumber lie?* In the Old Testament, God spoke directly to the fathers and the prophets. He called to them, and they answered him. While He does not operate that way today, God is calling yet. He calls us through the gospel, 2 Thess 2:14. He

speaks, but many do not heed His voice.

Whether through hearts hardened by pride or prejudice, some refuse to answer God's call. They are like the wayside soil that Jesus described in the Parable of the Sower; "the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart," Mt 13:19. Yet, with patience and mercy, God continues to call.

*God calling yet; shall I not rise? Can I His loving voice despise and basely His kind care repay? He calls me still – can I delay?* There's a reason James wrote that humility is necessary to "receive the word implanted," Jas 1:21. It takes someone who is "poor in spirit" to recognize who and what they are without God, Mt 5:3. It takes an honest heart to admit that the path you've been pursuing is selfish and contrary to the will of the Lord. All the while, you hear the voice of Jesus ringing in your ears, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," Lk 23:34.


But there's one thing still lacking: a decision! It is one thing to realize where you are and how far you've gone from God. It is another thing to do something about it. God calls us. The choice

is ours to answer and obey.

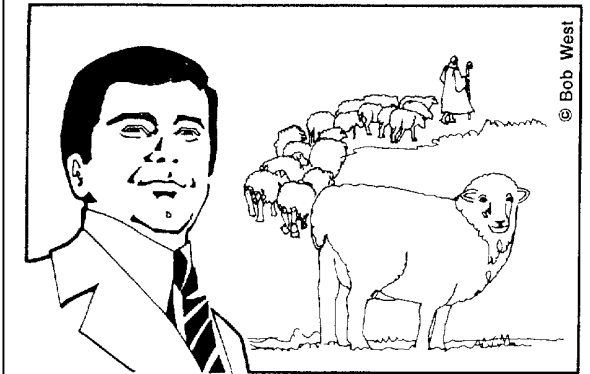
*God calling yet; I cannot stay. My heart I yield without delay. Vain world, farewell, from Thee I part; the voice of God hath reached my heart.* After several attempts to blunt His voice or tune Him out altogether, there comes a time when you can no longer put off what you know is right. Whether it's making the decision to repent and be baptized or to return home, the voice of the Father prevails. Thank God He does not give up on His children!

The heart is the target of the gospel message. It's what was pierced on the day of Pentecost at the preaching of the

crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Acts 2:37. No matter how stony or calloused, the gospel is the power of God to break through and find its mark, Rom 1:16. Make your choice. And don't look back.

God is calling yet. Let us admonish one another to heed His pleading voice. 

## THE EVANGELIST



*At the end of time, many will know the twenty-third Psalm—but not the good Shepherd, Jn 10:4,14; Mt 7:21-23*

## Remember in Prayer

Betty and Robert were both in the hospital this past week, but are back home now. Joyce continues to have a difficult

struggle with cancer; please pray for her, as well as the Beddingfield's, Carolyn Dennis and Dot Hice. 