



# THE MESSENGER

## OCTOBER 9, 2022

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### **Congregational Meeting**

October

#### **Our Next Gospel Meeting**

Today-Friday

#### **Weekly Bible Studies**

Tuesday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Saturday, 10, Panera

(Georgetown)

#### **Times of Service**

##### **Sunday**

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

##### **Wednesday**

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a  
short worship service)

#### **First Friday of Month**

##### **Singing**

October 7, 7:30

#### **Address and Contact**

University Heights Church of  
Christ

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

### WHEN THINGS GET SHARP

From the moment Barnabas sought out Saul in Tarsus and the two became co-laborers, (Acts 11:25-26) they seem to have operated as a well-oiled machine. Paul loved and respected Barnabas and no doubt felt a deep sense of gratitude toward him for his willingness to embrace him where others feared to. (Acts 9:26-27)

This dynamic duo made their way throughout parts of the Roman Empire preaching persuasively and boldly wherever they went. They planted congregations and encouraged the brethren from Acts 11 to verse 35 of Acts 15. No doubt they laughed often, disclosed things about themselves that few others would ever know, engaged in profound discussions, and marveled at what the Lord was accomplishing through them.

In Acts 13:13 we're told Mark chose to leave the group. It's said in passing and one might wonder why Luke mentioned it at all. Mark has played no role in the narrative besides Luke mentioning that he had joined the group in Acts 12:25. Neither does Luke say anything about the reason for Mark's decision, how Saul and Barnabas felt about it at the time, or whether Mark's trip home was eventful or not.

It's not until the end of Acts 15 that the event is brought to the forefront as the next trip was being planned. (Acts 15:36-41) Saul had never forgotten Mark's decision, did not believe it was justified, and had lost so much confidence in him that he refused to have him as a traveling companion. Barnabas, who had also been left in the lurch by Mark's decision to leave, was insistent that he be given another chance. And just like that, this previously well-oiled machine broke down. (Acts 15:39)

The ESV describes what happened next as a "sharp disagreement" between the two. It was so sharp, in fact, that Paul

## Members Needing Our Prayers

The family of Richelle Banks, Gary Brown, Joyce Bolton, Julie Patton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Richard and Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## Others Needing Prayer

Charles Bishop, Brian Mason, Ernestine Byers, Glen Perkins, Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

## To Our Guests

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and Barnabas chose to part company and go their separate ways. Though Paul continued to speak highly of Barnabas and came to recognize that Mark had become quite useful in the work, there is no indication that he and Barnabas ever worked with one another again. Though God used this event to multiply groups traveling throughout the world, it is difficult for me not to see the whole event as rather sad.

I don't know if Paul or Barnabas sinned in this. I do know that "sharp" means voices were likely raised and things said that would have remained unsaid or said differently had cooler heads prevailed. I suspect neither looked back on the event as their finest hour. I also know that when any interaction is described as "sharp" emotions have entered the picture and are trying to take the reins.

The Proverb writer says, *A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.* (15:1) Perhaps Paul and Barnabas thought about that over the following weeks as they reflected on their "sharp disagreement." Some disagreements *must* exist, especially when truth is at stake. Yet when those times come, let us strive to conduct ourselves as Christians should. AL

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

