

## Welcome to the Church at Martinsburg!

Whether this is your first time or your next time, whether you are a member or a first-time guest – we want to connect with you! Use the white card with this Loop to relay information to your church staff. Please complete the front so we can update our records and use the back to request information or share your prayer requests. As your pastors, we're honored to pray for & serve you.

### This Week's Announcements

**Good Friday** is March 29<sup>th</sup> and we'll be having our annual Good Friday service at 6 PM. It will be at Harvest Community Church (74 Dupont Road, Martinsburg, WV 25404).

**Easter Sunday** is March 31<sup>st</sup> (only 2 weeks away)! We'll be having three services that morning (8, 9:30, and 11) and be talking about Stephen from Acts 8. Invite your friends, family, and those far from God!

**Moldova Mission Trip:** We are sending a mission team to Moldova from July 4 – 13 to care for children and spread the gospel in Eastern Europe. Go to [missions.martinsburgchurch.org](http://missions.martinsburgchurch.org) or see Pastor Richard after the service at Guest Services for more info.

**Pastor On Call:** If you have an emergency and need to get a hold of a pastor from Friday morning through Monday morning please call 304.616.9007 to reach the Church at Martinsburg's Pastor on call.

### This Week's Ripple Report

*"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ..."*

Ephesians 4:11 (ESV)

God has been at work in a number of young men in calling them to church planting and pastoring. Recently, Luke Dorminy and Chris Gomes were invited to preach in local churches where the gospel was proclaimed, the body was encouraged, and many heard of Jesus! Praise God that C@M embodies Ephesians 4:11 and that many workers would be released into the fields!



How is God working? Let us know by tagging your tweets with #ripplereport or sending them to [ripple@martinsburgchurch.org](mailto:ripple@martinsburgchurch.org)!

## Resources for Sunday, March 17, 2013

**Acts**  
of the Apostles  
The Church Begins

### This Sunday's Sermon:

**Title:** "Acts: Our Circumstance, His Plan"  
**Scripture:** Acts 5:12-42  
**Bottom Line:** God uses all of our circumstances to accomplish His purposes.

### Community Group Questions

1. Share with the group any insight, truth, or observation from Sunday's message that helped you, troubled you, or ministered to you.
2. When is it acceptable for a believer to disobey civil authority? (*Ex. Exodus 1:15-17; Daniel 6:4-10*) Discuss the believer's relationship to civil authority. See Romans 13:1-7.
3. How aggressive should we be in proclaiming Christ? Is there a balance between tact and boldness?
4. What standard do you use to determine what you will or will not do in a difficult situation? How did the apostles decide whether to continue to preach or not? Did they consider their own comfort? Safety? Social propriety? What can we learn from their example?
5. Consider Gamaliel's statement in Acts 5:38-39. What does His statement tell us about God's character? What does it mean to "oppose God"? In what ways might we be opposing God in our daily living? (*See 1 Th. 2:14-16; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; Php. 3:18-19; James 4:4-6*)

### Missionary Toolbox: John Bunyan and Persecution

**John Bunyan** (Puritan writer of *The Pilgrim's Progress*) suffered profoundly for the sake of the gospel. His first wife died leaving him with four small children, the oldest of them was blind. Two years into his second marriage, Bunyan was imprisoned for preaching the gospel without state sanction. This cut him off from his family and his church for twelve years. He could have been freed at any time if he would have agreed not to preach. Instead, he said he would remain in prison until the moss grew on his eyelids rather than fail to do what God had commanded him to do. "It is not what enemies will, nor what they are resolved upon, but what God will, and what God appoints; that shall be done... No enemy can bring suffering upon a man when the will of God is otherwise, so no man can save himself out of their hands when God will deliver him up for his glory... We shall or shall not suffer, even as it pleaseth Him." This understanding of God's sovereignty gave Bunyan the courage to stand up under persecution and gave him hope and resolve in the midst of grief.

### This Week's Reading:

<b>Monday:</b>	2 Tim. 1:6-12	<b>Thursday:</b>	1 Peter 2:13-17
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Luke 12:11-12	<b>Friday:</b>	1 Corinthians 15:3-7
<b>Wednesday:</b>	1 John 1:1-4	<b>Saturday:</b>	Romans 13:1-7