



## Contact Us:

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office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service ..... N/A  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class ..... N/A  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Mike Bannister

Billy Chism... Johnny McCaghren

## Deacons:

John Barnum..... Don Smith

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
World Bible School

## The Theology of Potluck

The word “potluck” means exactly what it seems to mean, a meal of chance. You reach into the “pot” to retrieve some food, not really knowing what you may find, because the dish was prepared by someone else. Personally, I think the best potlucks are church potlucks; table after table filled with casserole dishes, crockpots, and pie plates. Not only are potlucks incredibly enjoyable, they actually reflect good theology. Here are some lessons the church can learn from a potluck.

### Potlucks Reflect the Mutual Generosity of the Church

We have probably all experienced a poor potluck. A poor potluck is one to which multiple families simply bring a 2-liter of Coke or a bag of chips (when they have the means to bring much more). At a poor potluck, the older ladies are typically wringing their hands and whispering to their husbands, “You may need to go to the store for more food.”

Let’s not focus on poor potlucks, but on ideal potlucks. An ideal potluck is one to which most families bring more than enough food to feed their entire family. These families show up not to be fed, but to feed others. When everyone shows up with selfless generosity no one goes away hungry, even those who can’t afford to bring much food.

This is precisely the way the church should function; not just at a potluck meal, but day in and day out. Our attitude should be that of Jesus. Christians should “*look not only to [our] own interests but also to the interests of others*” (Phil. 2:4). We should desire “*not to be served but to serve*” (Mark 10:45). We should generously offer as much as we can possibly afford to share.

When the whole church lives this way, we experience the same phenomenon the early church experienced, “*There was not a needy person among them*” (Acts 4:34). The abundance of the wealthy supplies the needs of the poor, “*that there might be fairness*” (2 Cor. 8:14) and no one goes away hungry.

### Potlucks Reflect the Hospitable Nature of the Church

The Greek word that we translate “*hospitality*” (see Rom. 12:13; Heb. 13:2) is “*philoxenia*.” It is a combination of the words, “*phileō*” (love) and “*xenos*” (stranger). Real hospitality is about taking care of strangers. Notice that “*philoxenia*” shares a root word with, “*xenophobia*,” (fear of strangers). Hospitality is the exact opposite of xenophobia.

Good potlucks leave everyone feeling like family (even if they wandered in from the street). Each member prepares a dish, hoping it will be shared with a complete stranger. Strangers, of course, bring nothing to the table and don’t even know they are going to be invited; but they leave as well-fed as anyone else. Every stranger should leave overwhelmed by the “*hospitality*” of the potluck table.

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Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

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This generosity towards strangers should not be limited to potlucks, but should be our practice every day. Followers of Jesus should be looking for opportunities to do good to people who cannot return the favor. Here is what Jesus says about this sort of hospitality:

*“When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”* Luke 14:12-14

## Potlucks Reflect the Diverse Nature of the Church

Next to running out of food, one of the worst things that can happen at a potluck is that everyone brings exactly the same thing. It’s not much of a meal when everyone brings fried chicken and no one brings side dishes. Good meals consist of a variety of foods.

Isn’t wonderful when a potluck is multiethnic? Don’t you love when families of different ethnicities bring dishes that reflect their unique background, culture, and heritage. Everyone present has the opportunity to expand their palate by trying foods they haven’t tried before. You really get to know someone when you eat the food their mother used to make.

I have never met someone who thinks a potluck would be better if there was only one type of food. No one ever dumps all the food into one large pot and mixes it together before serving. And we do not look at the potluck table and say, “We’re going to try to overlook all of the differences here today and focus on what this food has in common.” No, we all understand that diversity is one of the greatest highlights of a potluck meal.

The same is true in every aspect of the church, diversity is one of the greatest highlights. Rather than being a “melting pot,” the church should focus on being like a potluck. We should recognize and celebrate the ethnic diversity of the people Jesus has brought to his table, people *“from every tribe and language and people and nation”* (Revelation

5:9). The diversity of people at Jesus’ table is a source of his glory and honor.

## Conclusion

Let’s strive to not only *have* potluck, but to *be like* a potluck. The church should be a gathering of diverse people, submitting all of their uniqueness to the *“common good”* (1 Cor. 12:7). Everyone should have a burning desire to serve our brothers and sisters, but also a desire to serve the outsider and the stranger (Gal. 6:10). We should all make room for one another, just as Jesus made room for us (Rom. 15:7).

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

## Biblical Balance Ends with Attitudes

So much controversy, so much conflict! To answer the division present in the Lord’s church today, many are calling for Biblical balance. I am sure some who are asking for balance actually mean, “There should be less preaching that expects me to change and more preaching that makes me feel good.” Others mean, “Let’s change the truth slightly so that it’s easier to digest.” Neither of these positions should be supported because they show a lack of concern for God’s authority. Godly men and women are also calling for Biblical balance, but what does that mean, exactly? Simply put, it is the narrow way (Matt. 7:14). It means that we will not add to or take away from what Scripture has said. We will bind only what God has bound and loose only where God has loosened by command, implication, or authorized example (Matt. 16:19, Col. 2:16). How will we know if someone truly wants balance? Certainly, it begins with God’s Word (Matt. 15:7-9) but it ends with attitudes.

**Attitude Toward Study** — Luke 8:18 reminds us that we have to be careful how we hear. A common misconception about Biblical balance is that it is about finding the truth that is in the middle of two positions. But if our standard becomes the middle of two positions our standard slides away from God’s view over time as the culture changes. Was the truth somewhere in the middle when the Pharisees were arguing with Jesus? Certainly not. Biblical balance is about considering all that the Bible has to say about the subject instead of putting on blinders to the passages that disagree with my position.

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### Television

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org  
Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

### God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)  
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

### Bible Reading Schedule

[video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/](http://video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/)

**May 30** Leviticus 11—12; Psalm 149  
**May 31** Leviticus 13—14; Psalm 150  
**June 1** Lev. 15—16; Prov. 1 (video)  
**June 2** Lev. 17—18; Prov. 2 (video)  
**June 3** Leviticus 19—20; Proverbs 3  
**June 4** Leviticus 21—22; Proverbs 4  
**June 5** Leviticus 23—24; Proverbs 5  
**June 6** Leviticus 25—27; Proverbs 6

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

(2 Timothy 2:15)



### Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Last week **24** contacts were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ There will be a **baby shower for Jayce and Dex Dennard** after evening services June 13th. See bulletin board for details and needs.
- ◆ If you have not turned in your **Work Assignment Sign-up Sheet**, please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received one, see Johnny.

### Upcoming Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ August 10—We host Summer Youth Series
- ◆ October 17-20—Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Ross Haffner

### Upcoming Area Events

- ◆ June 7-9—**Vacation Bible School at Bangs**, “Noah’s Ark” (9:00—11:00am; 3 year old—5<sup>th</sup> grade).
- ◆ June 8—**Summer Youth Series** begins at Bangs. (SYS continues each Tuesday evening through the summer [except camp weeks] at various locations; see flyer on bulletin board for schedule and topics)
- ◆ June 27—July 1—**Junior Camp** (applications available)
- ◆ July 18-23—**Senior Camp** (applications available)

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**Attitude Toward Reflection and Application** — Reflection and application are about loving and doing all of God’s law, not just the parts that agree with my thinking (Ps. 40:8). It is not one scripture against another, but one scripture in light of others. Reflection and application are about loving and doing only God’s law and rejecting the counterfeit (Gal. 1:8-9).

**Attitude Toward Repentance** — This is where the rubber meets the road. Once I understand the proper application of the Word in my life based on study and self-examination I must ask, “What am I going to do with this knowledge?” Consider some texts that can be understood in a Biblically balanced way.

- 1 John 1:7-9: All grace and no law? No. Constantly worried I am going to be eternally condemned if Jesus comes back right now? No. Keep walking in the light (which would involve correcting errors) and confessing fault and your sins will be covered.
- Galatians 5:22-23: I’m fine as long as I have most of those down? No. I am weak in all those, therefore God must be so displeased with me? Not necessarily! I should respond by working on those things that are lacking. God graciously allows for time to grow.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15: Call out every sin here and abroad without speaking to them first? No. Let it go and never question apparent sin? No. We should be diligent to mark, withdraw from, and admonish those who depart from the faith.

Being balanced is about striving to do all that the Bible says on a subject, with the proper attitude. The answer to division in the Lord’s church is not to justify ourselves by finding room in the middle. Neither do we solve the problem by looking to please those in our inner circle or those with greater influence in the brotherhood. Look to God’s word for the answers and have the attitudes sufficient to make all necessary changes.

*Ross Haffner* (Christian Worker, May 2021)

## Celebrate

“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)

## Records

	May 16, 2021	May 23, 2021
Bible Class	39	29
AM Worship	47	36
PM Worship	45	33
Wednesday PM	41	32
Contribution	\$2,280	\$1,702



	This Week: 5/30/21	Next Week: 6/6/21		
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<p><b>May 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Don Smith  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      Maninger Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      Randy &amp; Laura Huckaby</p> <p><b>June 2021</b>  <b>Make Announcements:</b>                      Ken Maninger  <b>Prepare Communion:</b>                      John Barnum Family  <b>Clean Building:</b>                      John Barnum Family</p>	
<b>Greeters</b>	—	—		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	John Barnum		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum, Kyle Duaine Randy Huckaby, Coyce Reed	James Fuller, Chase Churchwell Daniel Edwards, Ryan Settles		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Dex Dennard	Rafe Smith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	—	—		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Dex Dennard		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Ryan Rudloff	Randy Huckaby		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	—	Ryan Rudloff		
<b>Communion</b>	John Barnum	James Fuller		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Don Smith	Tom Wilcox		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	June 2 Prayer Night	June 9 John Barnum	June 16 Rafe Smith	June 23 Don Smith

## Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

### Studies for the week of May 30, 2021

Sunday Class ..... *1 Corinthians 15:20*  
 Wed. Class ..... *Leviticus 16:6*

<p><b><u>Causes of Unbelief (Part 1)</u></b></p> <p>Actions have consequences – and so do beliefs and ideas – whether expressed orally, in writing, or by example – have a powerful impact on others. That our beliefs are correct is vitally important. We examined in an earlier series the "faces" or forms that unbelief takes. We now want to examine the causes of unbelief.</p> <p><b>I. Bias Against God.</b></p> <p>A. In many instances of unbelief, non-rational factors are a primary influence.</p> <p>B. Consider the well-documented case of Charles Darwin.</p> <p>C. Simply put, some people carry within them a stubborn determination not to believe in God. It can have little to do with a lack of credible evidence and much to do with a built-in bias against belief in God in the first place.</p> <p><b>II. Parents and Upbringing.</b></p> <p>A. Surely one of the most formidable influences upon any human being comes in the form of parents.</p> <p>1. Godly parents provide accurate instruction, timely discipline, and a proper example coupled with faithfulness.</p> <p>2. But what about parents who provide inaccurate instruction, a lack of discipline, and in improper example coupled with unfaithfulness?</p> <p>B. The decisions we make, and the actions that stem from those decisions, inevitably affect those we love the most.</p> <p><b>III. Education.</b></p> <p>A. One of the most important causes of unbelief in the world today relates to the kind of education a person receives. (Note "kind of," not education itself.)</p> <p>B. Generally speaking, the educational system in America is the end product of John Dewey's "progressive education movement."</p> <p>C. The child's "appropriate place in society" – specifically the humanistic society that Dewey and his cohorts envisioned – neither included nor allowed for belief in the God of the Bible.</p> <p>D. Organic evolution is subject of choice for the dismantling of faith.</p> <p>E. The atheistic concept of organic evolution is presented as something that "all reputable scientists believe," thus, most people accept such an assessment at face value. The simple fact is, however, that truth is not determined by popular opinion or majority vote.</p>	<p><b><u>Jesus' Third Tour of Galilee – and Instructions to the Twelve</u></b>                      (Mt. 9:35 – 10:42; Mk. 6:6b-13; Lk. 9:1-6)</p> <p>Matthew 9:35 – 11:1 is a single unit. It describes Jesus' sending out the 12 as evangelists across Galilee. This is the second of Matthew's five great speeches.</p> <p>Near the end of the Great Galilean Ministry, Jesus and His disciples made a final tour of Galilee: "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Mt. 9:35). As Jesus looked on those who came to hear Him, "He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (Mt. 9:36). He observed, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Mt. 9:37). He said, "Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Mt. 9:38). His solution to the shortage of harvesters – to send His twelve apostles to the cities of the region.</p> <p>Preparation is essential to success. Jesus did not fail to prepare His workers.</p> <p><b>I. To Prepare the Apostles, Jesus Organized Them.</b></p> <p>A. He divided them into teams of two.</p> <p>B. He may also have made assignments regarding where each team was to go.</p> <p><b>II. To Prepare the Apostles, Jesus Instructed Them.</b></p> <p>A. <u>He told them what to do.</u></p> <p>1. They were to go only to the Jews (Mt. 10:5-6; i.e., the "Limited Commission").</p> <p>2. They were to teach.</p> <p>3. They were to perform miracles.</p> <p>B. <u>He told them what to take</u> – the bare essentials, trusting the Lord to provide.</p> <p>C. <u>He told them what to expect</u> – some would accept their message, but many would reject it.</p> <p>D. <u>He told them how to react.</u></p> <p>1. There were some things they <u>were not</u> to do.</p> <p>a. They were not to waste time on those who rejected them and their message.</p> <p>b. They were not to be intimidated by rejection.</p> <p>2. They <u>were</u> to learn that, though they were rejected by men, they were not rejected by God.</p> <p><b>III. To Prepare the Apostles, Jesus Also Empowered Them.</b></p> <p>A. He gave them the ability to perform miracles.</p> <p>B. He promised them inspiration when they spoke.</p> <p>After Jesus finished His instructions, the apostles left in 6 teams of 2: "So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them" (Mk. 6:12-13). After the disciples left, Jesus resumed His own tour of the area (Mt. 11:1). Now, instead of one team journeying through the province of Galilee, preaching and healing, there are seven.</p>
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