

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~ Matthew 16:18



September 7, 2014

## Contact Us:

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## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service .... 2:30 PM  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..On Break  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

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

You may have seen on the news that Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, a congregation well known for its "progressive" movement to the left, began using instruments of music in their worship a couple of weeks ago. You can view KTAB's news coverage of the story at [http://www.bigcountryhomepage.com/story/d/story/highland-coc-puts-new-twist-in-sunday-services/18060/KYWaITzeZkeXKCB9\\_64w4A](http://www.bigcountryhomepage.com/story/d/story/highland-coc-puts-new-twist-in-sunday-services/18060/KYWaITzeZkeXKCB9_64w4A). Wes McAdams, who spoke at our Summer Youth Series, wrote the following in response. Johnny



Recently, a congregation in the city where I preach decided to start using instruments in their worship assembly. Apparently, even the community realizes that among churches of Christ, this is a big deal because the local news and newspaper have done stories on it. Obviously, I love my brothers and sisters in congregations that make this decision, but the question I have is, "Why must you use instruments to worship?" You see, the burden of proof is not on me to prove why I *don't* believe in using instruments in worship; the burden of proof is on them to prove why they feel it is necessary to use instruments.

Here's why I don't think any congregation's arguments for using instruments hold water.

### 1. Is it because you want to "reach people in deeper ways"?

According to the news report, this particular congregation says they added instruments to reach people in deeper ways. My opinion, for whatever it's worth, is that instrumental music reaches people in *different* ways, but not *deeper* ways.

The sound of instrumental music has the ability to affect our emotions in profound ways, regardless of the context. If you are attending a concert – whether it be a rock concert, a classical orchestra, or any other kind of performance – your emotions are affected by the music. Even without lyrics being sung, an orchestra can bring some people to tears by the way the music is played. And even without lyrics, rock music can get your heart pumping and send adrenaline coursing through your veins. This is not a spiritual experience, but a physical and emotional experience.

When this same phenomenon is used in worship, it gives people the impression that their hearts are being stirred by the Spirit, but it is more like their emotions are being manipulated by the strings of the guitar and piano.

Furthermore, don't you find it at least a little condescending to say that instrumental music is able to reach people in *deeper* ways than congregational a cappella singing can? If instrumental music is deeper, wouldn't that imply that a cappella singing is somehow more *shallow*? For two thousand years, great numbers of Christians have sung songs, hymns, and spiritual songs to the Lord without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments. They made music with the instrument of their heart. They taught and admonished one another with the *words* of these songs.

(Continued on page 2)



*"It was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!' And having said this he breathed his last."*  
Luke 21:34-36

(Continued from page 1)

It is the words of the songs which reach the heart of other spiritual men or women and it is the words of the songs that reach the heart of God. Instruments may reach people in a *different* ways, but not *deeper* ways.

## 2. Is it because you want to reach more people?

Nearly every time a decision to add instruments is made, the leadership says that it was done to reach more people. “We want to reach the unchurched of our community,” they say, “and we can’t reach them unless we offer them an instrumental worship service.” This may sound noble, but I believe it is an entirely misguided motivation.

This attitude shows a misunderstanding about the nature of worship. Worship happens when a redeemed and sanctified people come before the throne of a holy God and reverently bow before Him. When the goal of worship shifts to attracting and entertaining the “unchurched,” it can no longer – in any sense – be called worship.

I want to reach the lost. More than anything in the world, I want to reach the lost. In fact, I’ve dedicated my life to teaching people the gospel. However, **worship belongs to God**. It does not belong to the world. Frankly, it doesn’t matter what the world would like to hear in worship; it matters what God wants to hear.

Teach the gospel to the lost (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Baptize them into Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Galatians 3:27). Fill them up with the word of Christ, so that His word dwells in them richly (Colossians 3:16). Stand beside them and lift up fervent praises to the God who has redeemed you both. Teach them to appreciate – and enjoy – the spiritual nature of worship. Teach them that worship is not about the sensual and carnal pleasures of the flesh, but about things of a spiritual nature.

## 3. Is it because you want to allow people to showcase their talents?

To me, the most disturbing part of this news story was the very last line, “The people that perform the music are all from the church and now they are able to showcase their talents to the rest of their church community.” I have been saying for years that when worship becomes about showcasing our talents, it ceases to be worship.

In our culture, we want the spotlight on us, we take selfies all the time, and we brag about every little accomplishment on social media. It’s no wonder that people are begging to showcase their talents “to the rest of their church community.” But worship is

not a talent show. It is supposed to be a time of profound humility, where we all come before God on our knees to *showcase* our brokenness and praise Him for healing us. It’s not supposed to be a time where we say, “Look at what I can do,” but, “Look at what He has done.”

And why is it that only the musicians can use this argument for why they should be able to perform in worship? Shouldn’t the trash man and the barber get the same opportunity to showcase their talents? Surely not, because worship isn’t a talent show.

Congregational singing accomplishes this goal. When we all sing together – without choir, praise team, or band – we are all on level ground. But when we turn worship into an entertaining performance, we have missed the entire concept of what worship is supposed to be about.

Does this mean people aren’t supposed to use their talents for God? Of course not! We can still use our talents for God’s glory by using them in everyday ways. In the first century, the slave was told to use his position and his labor for God’s glory (Ephesians 6:1-8). The Christian trash collector uses his talents to glorify God. The Christian barber uses his talents to glorify God. The Christian doctors, lawyers, and sales clerks use their talents to glorify God. They do this by doing their common and everyday jobs in extraordinary ways.

You do not have to bring your talents into the worship assembly to use your talents for God. As Paul wrote, “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

## Conclusion

As I’ve said many times before, the reason I don’t believe in using mechanical instruments in worship is very simple: God specifically told us to make music with our hearts and our lips (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19). That’s it. His specificity means other ways of making music are simply not an option. And we don’t *need* anything else. The tools He has given us are more than sufficient to do what He wants us to do in worship.

Instruments continue to divide Christians. They continue to turn worship into a talent show. They continue to distract from the words that are being sung. The bottom line is this: Why do you need an instrument to worship God? You don’t. You don’t need one at all.

Wes McAdams, via [radicallychristian.com](http://radicallychristian.com)

### Television

[The Truth In Love](#) (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB

[In Search of the Lord’s Way](#)

Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Sunday @ 6:30 am on Dish:267, DirectTV:376

### Radio

[Preaching the Word](#) (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network

Gbntv.org and on Roku

### 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

**Sept. 7** Ezek. 35-37

**Sept. 8** Ezek. 38-39

**Sept. 9** Ezek. 40-41

**Sept. 10** Ezek. 42-43

**Sept. 11** Ezek. 44-45

**Sept. 12** Ezek. 46-48

**Sept. 13** Joel 1-3

*“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

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **24 contacts** were made. \*\*\*\*\***Please remember to take time to go sign the cards! Some of our members work hard on Sunday afternoon getting these ready, and the number signing them has been dwindling.**\*\*\*\*\*

### Special Announcements

- ◆ **1st Sunday Fellowship Meal** today following morning services.
- ◆ **Ladies Bible Class** will be resuming Sept. 17th at 10:00am. Linda will be teaching 1 Peter. Plan on taking part in this time of learning and fellowship! Those who would like will go to an area restaurant for lunch together following class on the 17th.
- ◆ Any ladies planning on going to Hamilton's Ladies Day Saturday, let Cindy know so transportation can be planned

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Sept. 27**—Ladies Fellowship at Jessica Stultz / Earlene Burge's home. Begins at 9:30am. Bring snacks and your Bible.
- ◆ **October 5-8**—Fall Gospel Meeting Speaker: Johnny McCaghren, Theme: *"The Scheme of Redemption"*

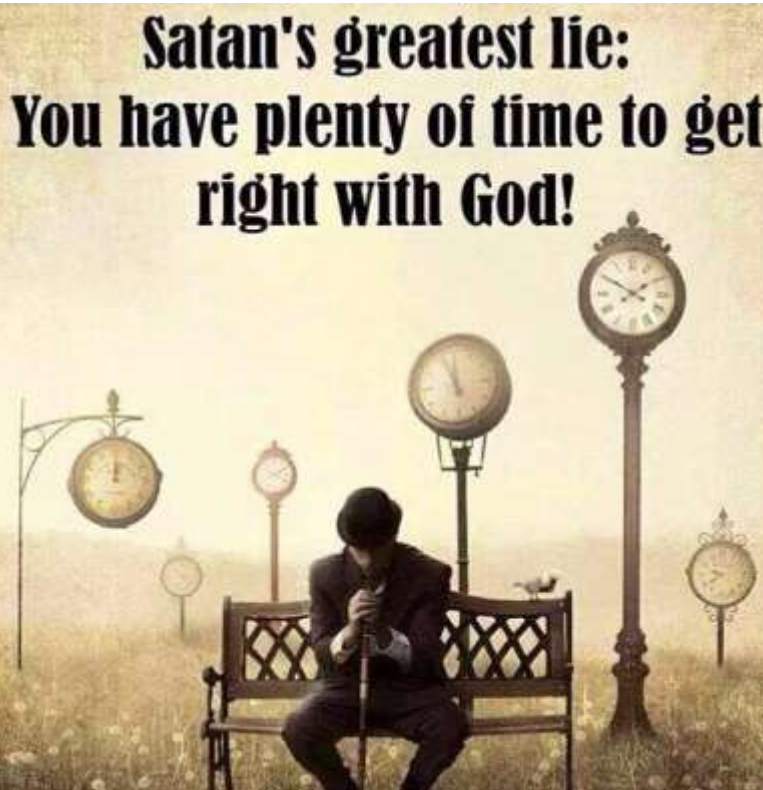
### In The Area

- ◆ Sept. 13 **Ladies Day @ Hamilton**—*"Being at Peace"* Mona Popejoy. Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Sept. 13 **Children's Day @ Foster's Home for Children** (Stephenville).
- ◆ Sept. 19-21 **26th Annual Bible Lectureship @ 5th & Grape**—*"Knowing the Will of God."* Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Sept. 20 **Ladies Day @ 5th & Grape**—*"The Will of God: Unity of the Sisterhood."* Flyer on bulletin board.

- ◆ Sept. 21-24 **Gospel Meeting @ Rising Star** with Jason Rollo
- ◆ Sept. 21-24 Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main (San Angelo) - *"The Truth About Moral Issues"* with Don Blackwell
- ◆ Sept. 27 **Annual Auction @ Cherokee Home for Children** (Requested donation list on bulletin board)
- ◆ Sept. 28 **Michael Shank** (Author of "Muscle and a Shovel") @ **Hico**. Flyer on bulletin board.
- ◆ Oct. 2-4 **Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat**. Information & registration forms are on the bulletin board.
- ◆ Oct. 5-8 **17th Annual Lubbock Lectureship**—*"Male and Female Created He Them"*
- ◆ Oct. 18-19 **5th Annual "Back to the Bible" Lectures @ Hamilton**—*"Moral Issues Facing Our Nation and the Lord's Church"*

*"We need to stick to our guns! We do not need to be afraid to talk about Jesus Christ! We do not need to be afraid to say that we love somebody! We do not need to be afraid to say that we forgive somebody! We do not need to be afraid to say that we are created from God! It's time for Christians to stand up and tell the world that we are Christians!"*

Johnnie LeMaster, ex-MLB star and an elder of the church in Paintsville, KY, speaking to the youth, Polishing The Pulpit 2014.



## Celebrate

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)*

**September Birthdays:** Jean Hamann (3), James Fuller (6), Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28), Jimmy Seale (29).

**August Anniversaries:** Jack & Joyce Hill (10).



## Records

	Aug. 24, 2014	Aug. 31, 2014
Bible Class	49	44
AM Worship	69	55
PM Worship	42	40
Wednesday PM	34	45
Contribution	\$1,533	\$2,

	This Week: 9/7/14	Next Week: 9/14/14	September 2014	
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Ken Maninger	
<b>Greeters</b>	Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	John Barnum Family	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghren Family	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith	<b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren Family	
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler*, Gene Bannister Don Smith, James Fuller	John Barnum*, John McCaghren Hank Wheeler, Ken Maninger	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> James Fuller	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism	<b>October 2014</b>	
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell	Chase Churchwell	<b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister	
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	<b>Prepare Communion:</b> Tom & Carol Wilcox	
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Mike Bannister	James Fuller	<b>Clean Building:</b> Jack and Judy Turner	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Allen Griffith	Mike Bannister	<b>Keep Grounds:</b> Tom Wilcox	
<b>Communion</b>	Hank Wheeler	John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Maninger	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	September 10 Allen Griffith	September 17 Johnny McCaghren	September 24 Tom Wilcox	October 1 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)

<b>Studies for the week of September 7, 2014</b>	<i>Sunday Class .. Not Forsaking the Assembling of Ourselves Together</i> <i>Wednesday Class ..... Mark 15</i>
<p><b>Studies in Luke—The Death of Christ—23:33-38</b></p> <p>The culmination of God's promise to Abraham is at hand. Those who set themselves against Jesus finally found the opportunity they were looking for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ After Jesus ate the Passover meal with His apostles and prayed in the garden, Judas lead Jesus' murderers to Him and betrayed Him with a kiss.</li> <li>◆ From the garden Jesus is led to the high priest's house, where He is denied by Peter, questioned and beaten (22:63-65)</li> <li>◆ From there He is led to the Jewish council, then to Pilate, then Herod, then back to Pilate.</li> <li>◆ Pilate is willing to punish Jesus and let Him go, but ultimately gives in to the Jews' demand and delivers Jesus to them.</li> </ul> <p>All that Luke has written climaxes in Jesus' death and resurrection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ All history either looks forward to it or looks back on it.</li> <li>◆ It is the focal point of all four gospel accounts.</li> <li>◆ Key words in the NT (redemption, propitiation, reconciliation, justification, etc.) focus our attention back on the cross.</li> <li>◆ Yet, the death of our Lord is summarized by three or four words—all the gory details of crucifixion are left out.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Why so little detail?</li> <li>◆ The significance of this event is not simply in the fact that Jesus died.</li> <li>◆ Jesus was not the only man to have ever been crucified (two others were crucified on the same occasion).</li> <li>◆ Maybe the Holy Spirit did not elaborate on the biological aspects of Jesus' death because the significance of the cross is more <b>theological</b> than biological.</li> <li>◆ For Jesus the supreme agony of the cross, in prospect and in reality, was that the sins of the world would be heaped upon Him! ("<i>My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?</i>" (Mt. 27:46)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Man's greatest injustice had just been committed. But through it the means by which God could remain perfectly just and also justify those who live by faith was accomplished.</p>	<p><b>Daniel 7:1-8—The Four Beasts (Part 1)</b></p> <p>Note: Don't get so caught up in the symbolism, that you miss the message!</p> <p><b>The Vision—The Interpretation / Description ..... 7:1-14</b></p> <p>Daniel's dream closely parallels that of Nebuchadnezzar's recorded in ch. 2.</p> <p><i>"In the first year of Belshazzar"</i> (1)</p> <p><i>"The four winds of heaven"</i> (2)</p> <p><i>"The great sea"</i> (2)</p> <p>The <i>"four great beasts"</i> (3)</p> <p>Each of the four beasts described (4-8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>"The first was like a lion..."</i> (4)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Corresponds with the head of gold in chapter 2 (Babylonian Empire).</li> <li>◆ The beast's wings are plucked.</li> <li>◆ It is raised up on two feet like a man and given a man's mind.</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <i>"Another beast, a second one, like a bear"</i> (5)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Corresponds with the breast of silver (Medo-Persian Empire).</li> <li>◆ <i>"It is raised up on one side"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth"</i></li> <li>◆ It is commanded to <i>"Arise, devour much flesh"</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <i>"...another, like a leopard..."</i> (6)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Corresponds with the belly and thighs of bronze (Grecian Empire).</li> <li>◆ Leopard noted for nimbleness, quick-striking, agility &amp; prowess.</li> <li>◆ <i>"Four wings of a bird...four heads"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"Dominion was given to it"</i> - Indeed, God rules in the affairs of men!</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <i>"...a fourth beast..."</i> (7,8)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This is the beast Daniel primarily focuses on.</li> <li>◆ <i>"Terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"Great iron teeth"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"It devoured and broke in peaces and stamped what was left"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"It had ten horns"</i></li> <li>◆ <i>"Another horn, a little one...(with) eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things"</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>