

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



December 28, 2014

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study9:45 AM
Worship10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service 2:30 PM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM
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

Goodbye 2014—Welcome 2015

Once again another year has come and is almost gone. As most years are, it has been a year of ups and downs, tears and joy, but always with God's mercy, comfort and grace.

First of all I would like to express my appreciation to the elders and all the congregation for allowing me the privilege of working with you this year. It is a task I do not take lightly. It is both an honor and extremely humbling to stand in the pulpit at 4th & Stewart to proclaim God's Word. May it always be to God's glory! I appreciate the opportunities allowed for my personal growth by attending the SWSBS Lectures, Focal Point, and Polishing the Pulpit, as well as some time off for personal R&R. You have made my family and I feel very welcome and appreciated here, and we look forward to many more years of service together.

Statistically, 2014 looked like this (according to my notes—through 51 weeks):

Average Bible Class Attendance:	45 (high – 58; low – 30)
Average AM Worship:	63 (high – 83; low – 49)
Average PM Worship:	44 (high – 60; low – 23)
Average Wednesday Night Attendance:	42 (high – 57; low – 28)
Average Contribution:	\$1,873 (high - \$2,366; low - \$1,485).

As we look back at 2014, we had some struggles. We lost brother Jim Moore in March and sister Julie Baker in July. They are both surely missed. Several of you lost close family members and friends. Life goes on, but is never quite the same. It makes us appreciate all the more our true home where there is no more death, sorrow, tears, etc. (Rev. 21:4).

Several struggled with health issues, either their own or a loved one's. We are thankful for the healing many have received, and continue to pray with and for those who continue to struggle. Our hearts were touched in late summer as we struggled along with Baby Oliver, and we rejoiced as he pulled through.

Some have fallen from the faith. We had two baptisms in July, both of which disappeared as quickly as they had come. Our hearts ache for these.

Ethel Adams and Phyllis Hooper both moved away to be closer to children. Mirah Knapek, Tiffany McCaghren, Garrett Barnum and Kevin Wilcox all left us in the fall for college.

However, the good far outweighs the bad. Ginger King was baptized in January. Susan Bridges was baptized in April and placed membership here in July. Avelynn Stewart was baptized in September. We rejoice with these who have stayed the course!

We have had several come to be with us this year. Brian Leftwich placed membership, but moved away a few months later. We are glad to have Jean Hamann, Vicki Tallent, the Stewart family, Lucille Stout, Marcia Turnbull, Allen and Karen Bland, etc. with us.

Each week we had multiple opportunities to study and worship God together. What a blessing! In addition to our normal activities, brother Loy Mitchell was with us for our Spring Gospel Meeting. He challenged us from God's Word, and encouraged us with his godly life. I presented the lessons in our Fall Gospel Meeting on "The Scheme of Redemp-

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"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

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

There Is An “I” In Team

All of us have heard, at one time or another, that old, worn-out phrase, “There’s no ‘I’ in team.” Of course, it is old and worn-out for a reason. Coaches use this mantra in order to get their players to take the focus off the individual and place it squarely on the team as a whole. Anyone who has ever been a part of a team knows that success cannot occur if personal egos take precedence over team goals. Every team member must become selfless for the sake of achieving the goal. Each individual must work together as a unit in order to have success. In fact, you have probably seen the acronym for T.E.A.M. on t-shirts and posters—Together Everyone Achieves More. Teamwork is crucial to meeting desired goals, and certainly this applies to the church as well. While it may be grammatically accurate that there is no “I” in team, it is anything but true in a physical sense. “There is no ‘I’ in team” is a practical principle whose message is well-intended and makes sense, but is not completely accurate. There is an “I” in team. A team is defined as a group of individuals united in a common goal, and a team will not be successful if each individual member does not understand their role and carry out their role effectively. The same certainly applies to the church. The church is made up of individuals who form a team. In order for this team to be successful it must be united. Everyone must know their role and carry out their role to ensure that the church meets its goal, which is to serve God and save souls.

Notice what Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12, beginning in v. 14: “For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,’ it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,’ it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired” (1 Cor. 12:14-18). There is an “I” in team because there is a personal responsibility that each and every Christian has to the welfare and well-being of the team. Each member has different abilities, and each member with his or her ability is important to the church. Every member needs the other members of the body in order to function properly. EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT because every member makes up a successful team. Therefore, if you are a part of the body and you are not fulfilling your role then your part of the body is dead. If you are not doing something then someone else has to pull your weight. Each one in the church has a task to do.

In Ephesians 4:16, Paul writes, “...from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” There are different functions among the members, but all unite to form one body. There is a diversity contributing to unity.

Unfortunately, the church does not always play like a team. The church will often resemble a football game where 22 players are doing all of the work while 80,000 fans either cheer or boo from the stands. Some team members choose to play arm-chair quarterback; criticizing and complaining without ever rolling up their sleeves and going to work. Some opt out of service because they are more comfortable in the role of spectator rather than participant. Some feel that they have nothing to contribute.

God believes in body building. Our Lord understands the crucial need for His body to be toned and tight with no underdeveloped or sagging parts. He wants every muscle in His body to be built up so that it will be strong and healthy. His body, of course, is the church. Whether you are a hand, an eye, a foot, etc., your part of the body is vital because your part of the body contributes to the whole.

Some church members suffer from the disease of “comparisonitis.” They determine their worth and their value by measuring themselves against another. It is easy for a foot to look at a hand and say, “Look how useful the hand is. He can do so many things. What can I do in comparison?” God does not suffer from comparisonitis. God does not get lost in comparing various parts of the body. Rather, God wants the foot to be the best foot he can be, or the hand to be the best hand he can be. Because God established the church, He knows that each body part is crucial to the overall functionality of the body.

There are no nobodies in the body of Christ. You are crucial to the life and vitality of the church. If you ever come to question your worth, simply consider the price that was paid for your salvation. Christ purchased you with His own blood; that automatically makes you an integral part of the body. You may not be able to lead singing. You may not feel comfortable with leading a prayer. You may not feel apt to teach. Your role may be greeting visitors, sending cards of encouragement, calling on the sick, or grading World Bible School lessons. Regardless of how small you consider your contribution to be, it is instrumental to the welfare of the body. There is an “I” in team.

Christ McCurley (via start2finish.org/team/)

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

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

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am 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

Dec. 28	Revelation 1-5
Dec. 29	Revelation 6-11
Dec. 30	Revelation 12-18
Dec. 31	Revelation 19-22
Jan. 1	Genesis 1-3
Jan. 2	Genesis 4-7
Jan. 3	Genesis 8-11
Jan. 4	Job 1-5

*“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 **42 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ Continue to pray for the elders, deacons, preacher and the congregation as we move into the new year—especially our search for additional elders and our personal evangelism emphasis.

On the Calendar

This Week:

- ◆ Dec. 31—**New Year’s Eve Party @** Jessica Stultz’s home (2510 Greenway Drive), following Wednesday night services. Bring snacks, games, etc.

Future:

- ◆ Mar. 29 - Apr. 1—**Spring Gospel Meeting** with **Chris McCurley**.
- ◆ Oct. 10—**4th & Stewart Ladies Day** with **Nancy Wheat**.
- ◆ Oct. 11-14—**Fall Gospel Meeting** with **Bobby Wheat**.

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tion.” Several of our young people attended the Heart of Texas Christian Camp, and the ladies even got in on the camping experience at the Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat.

Two of our young people were recognized on the national stage this year. Garrett Barnum achieved Mastery Level of the Health Care Issues Exam as part of the Health Occupations Students of America organization. Shannon Dennis’ team won second in the nation at the 4-H National Food Challenge. Congratulations again to both!

As we put 2014 to rest and begin 2015, we face some challenges. We are in the process of looking for additional elders and deacons. We should all be spending much time in prayer for wisdom and guidance as we go through this process. I challenge the men who are qualified to search their souls deeply for the desire to serve.

We face the challenge of evangelism. We are learning how to do personal evangelism. What will we do with the information after we learn it? We owe it to God and to the lost around us to speak boldly in the name of the Lord.

Lord willing, we will have at least four opportunities each week to study and/or worship together. There will be additional opportunities to fellowship with one another. We have Gospel Meetings planned with Chris McCurley and Bobby Wheat. The ladies have Ladies Bible Class on Wednesdays and their retreat again in October, plus a Ladies Day! What wonderful opportunities!

If you are not regular in your attendance and/or are not participating in the works of the church, you are missing out (and we miss you!). Why not resolve as we enter the new year to be here for every service and every work? You will be glad you did!

I hope each of you are enjoying the holiday season and may the Lord bless you in the New Year.

Johnny

Celebrate

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

January Birthdays: Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (20), Mattison Churchwell (25), Karen Bland (29) and Judie Turner (29).

January Anniversaries: None

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Dec. 14, 2014	Dec. 21, 2014
Bible Class	45	39
AM Worship	65	49
PM Worship	43	37
Wednesday PM	41	28
Contribution	\$2,021	\$1,485

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 12/28/14		Next Week: 1/4/15		December 2014 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: John Barnum Family Clean Building: Cindy Fuller / Jessica Stultz Keep Grounds: Jack Turner January 2015 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Billy & Peggy Chism Clean Building: Jack & Judy Turner Keep Grounds: James Fuller
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis John Barnum, Garrett Barnum	Gene Bannister*, James Thomas Hank Wheeler, John McCaghren		
Closing Prayer	John McCaghren	Garrett Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Billy Chism	John Barnum		
Scripture Reading	Kevin Wilcox	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Billy Chism		
Wednesday Devotionals:	December 31 Gene Bannister	January 7 Prayer	January 14 Garrett Barnum	January 21 Joe Dennis

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 December 28, 2014	Sunday Class Acts 2:25ff	Wednesday Class Personal Evangelism
<p style="text-align: center;">Church Leadership: Responsibilities of Elders</p> <p>God has given elders His ordained authority to oversee and care for His church. The terms God used to describe the "work" of leadership in the church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Elder" or "Presbyters" - men that are "older" (spiritual age) – having a marked degree of wisdom and experience. • "Shepherd" or "Pastor" – tending a flock, feeding and protecting. • "Bishop" or "Overseer" – one who watches, manages, oversees, and guards from without and within (Titus 1:7; Phil. 1:1). <p>I. Elders Have the Responsibility for Instruction of Truth.</p> <p>A. Elders are to "feed the flock of God", the milk and the meat of God's Word. B. Elders themselves must be able to teach (1 Tim. 3:2). C. They are responsible for the truth being taught by all those that might teach within the congregation.</p> <p>II. Elders are Responsible for Protection from Being Led Astray.</p> <p>A. Elders have a specific duty to protect the church and keep it pure from both doctrinal and moral corruption. B. Purity of doctrine is to be protected is by exhortation and conviction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exhortation – giving instruction, encouragement, increasing in faith, and comfort. 2. Conviction – bringing to light, exposing, and pointing out that which is not consistent with the scriptures. <p>C. Elders must have a firm grasp on sound doctrine in order to guard against those things that threaten the Lord's church.</p> <p>III. Elders are Responsible for Correction.</p> <p>A. "Ruling well" requires church discipline.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those that live in sin must be disciplined if they will not repent. 2. "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Cor. 5:1-6). 3. False teachers must be marked and avoided. 4. Any unruly brother or sister must be exhorted (2 Tim. 4:2), rebuked (1 Tim. 5:20) and chastened. <p>B. Members must know the elders will not tolerate sinners who are unwilling to repent.</p> <p>IV. Elders are Responsible for the Direction & the Functions of the Church.</p> <p>A. Elders must keep the church doing what the scriptures command. B. Deacons should be given sufficient authority to fulfill their duties, but the oversight rests upon those ordained as elders (1 Tim. 3:1). Elders have a huge task before them. They must let God's Word guide them in their decision making, as well as taking every decision to God in prayer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">1 John 3:13-24 – Love and Hatred Contrasted</p> <p>III. God Is Love 3:1-5:12</p> <p>A. Love And Hatred Contrasted 3:13-24</p> <p>13. <i>Do not be surprised [marvel].</i> Be not amazed, do not wonder. <i>That [if] the world hates you.</i> First class conditional meaning "since." Christ suffered – why should we escape suffering?</p> <p>14. <i>We have passed.</i> To pass over from one place to another. <i>Out of death into life.</i> Should read "into <u>the</u> life". <i>Because we love the brothers.</i> Love of the brethren is not optional! <i>Whoever does not love (his brother) abides in death.</i> As the presence of love signifies life, so it's opposite signifies death.</p> <p>15. <i>Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer.</i> A man slayer, one who kills a human being. Also a "soul slayer". <i>No murderer has eternal life abiding in him.</i> Not loving is hating.</p> <p>16. <i>For us [On behalf of].</i> This verse is the Christian's response to John 3:16.</p> <p>17. <i>Goods.</i> Things pertaining to life, such as wealth or possessions. <i>Closes [Shuts up].</i> To shut up, to lock up.</p> <p>18. <i>In word or talk [tongue].</i> Language, speech. <i>In deed and in truth.</i> Work.</p> <p>19. <i>By this – by loving in deeds and truth (by doing!).</i> <i>Reassure [Shall assure].</i> To persuade, reassure, set at rest. Assurance of our salvation is a major theme of this book.</p> <p>20. <i>Condemns.</i> To know something against, to make a final judgment. <i>Is greater than.</i></p> <p>21. <i>If our heart does not condemn us.</i> The cleansing from every sin (1:9), which Jesus' blood does for us, cleanses the conscience. <i>Confidence [boldness].</i> Openness, confidence, assurance. When we let Jesus' blood cleanse us thoroughly, we also let it cleanse our conscience and then we can have boldness toward God. A simple way to remember – "Let Go. Go Forward"</p> <p>22. <i>We keep.</i> To guard, to keep, to obey. <i>We receive...because we keep.</i></p> <p>23. <i>The name.</i></p> <p>24. <i>By the Spirit whom He has given us.</i> The Holy Spirit is the guarantee [earnest] of our inheritance. Since we have Deity dwelling in us we should keep the premises clean – free from sin!</p>	