

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



May 17, 2015

Contact Us:

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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

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

If this is your first time to attend a worship service of the church of Christ, you will not see anything too fancy. The simple worship you will witness will probably fall short of the much more entertaining services of large denominational or 'community' churches. The methods you will see will not reflect the latest cultural trends or religious fads. The members you will meet will just be ordinary, friendly, down-to-earth folks, eager to meet you.



I don't love the church of Christ **merely** because of the people (there are good, friendly people in other churches too), methods (other churches are sometimes more efficient and entertaining), or facilities (other churches often have prettier buildings and more to offer). **The reason I love the church of Christ is because of what Jesus and His New Testament have said about it.**

I love the church of Christ because of when it began.

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:13).

Abraham, Moses, and King David – though they were great men – were not members of the church. Why? Because it hadn't been built yet. They all lived before Jesus had been resurrected.

Nearly a year after Jesus' words in Matthew 16:13, the church began in Acts 2. Peter, with the figurative "keys" (cf. Matt. 16:19), opened the doors to the church by preaching the first sermon (cf. Acts 2:14-41).

Thus, the church of Christ didn't begin in Rome in 606 A.D., or Germany in 1520 A.D., or Holland in 1607 A.D., or England in 1739 A.D. The church of Christ began in Jerusalem in the 1st century, just as it was prophesied (Isa. 2:2-4; Dan. 2:44-45; Gen. 12:3; 2 Sam 7:12-13; Zech. 1:16; Mic. 4:1-3). It is, by its very nature, pre-denominational.

I love the church of Christ because of Who owns it.

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:13)

"My" is possessive, meaning, the church belongs to Jesus, which He paid for *"with His own blood"* (Acts 20:28; cf. 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9-10). Therefore, the church doesn't belong to Luther, King Henry VIII, Calvin, Knox, Smythe, Wesley, Smith, or Eddy (and therefore shouldn't bear their names). When 1st century Christians started practicing sectarianism by wearing other names, they were quickly condemned (1 Cor. 1:10-13).

In the words of N.B. Hardeman, *"I was not baptized in the name of Campbell, nor of Luther, nor of Wesley; but into the name of the spotless Son of God divine."* I simply want to be a member of the church that belongs to Jesus, claiming His name and only His name. And His blood cleanses me when I am baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; 1

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"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." **Psalm 51:1-2,7**



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Cor. 12:13).

I love the church of Christ because of its distinctiveness.

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock will build My **church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:13).

Jesus started only one “church,” not many “churches.” It is unique in that it stands alone.

In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul writes, “*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*”

What is the “*body*” (v. 4)? The body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23). Therefore, there is one church, just as there is only one God. By asking someone, “What church are you a member of?” you may as well be asking, “What god do you believe in?”

The fact that Jesus only started one church is evidenced in the New Testament by the lack of distinguishing names for the church. All references to the church refer to the same church:

- ◆ The body of Christ (Eph. 1:22)
- ◆ The bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2; Eph. 5:25)
- ◆ The house of God (1 Tim. 3:15)
- ◆ The kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17)
- ◆ The church of God (1 Cor. 1:2)
- ◆ The churches (congregations) of Christ (Rom. 16:16).

Jesus specified that He did not want His church to be divided (John 17:20-21). In fact, the only way His church is to remain united is by adhering only to the apostles’ word (John 17:20-21), the New Testament. Any congregation of Christ is destined to become a different church when it goes beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 1:13; Rom. 16:17).

Attending “the church of your choice” is foolish if you

did not choose that church based upon whether or not it is THE church of Jesus (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:15).

I love the church of Christ because of what it believes and practices.

“*Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle*” (2 Thess. 2:15).

Do you want to know how the Lord’s church is to worship, organize, and govern itself? Do you want to know what the church should believe and practice? All you need is the New Testament. If you need to cite a creed book, head office, or ruling convention, you’re “*going beyond what was written*” (1 Cor. 4:6).

If all someone knew were the writings of the New Testament, he wouldn’t know enough to be a Catholic, Mormon, Methodist, or Baptist. All he would know is how to be a Christian.

For example, here are some things the New Testament says about the church of Christ. Notice how the Lord’s church is remarkably uncomplicated. They:

- ◆ Were very loving (John 13:34-35) and benevolent (Acts 2:44-45; Gal. 6:10).
- ◆ Worshiped and engaged in the Lord’s Supper every Sunday (Acts 20:7).
- ◆ Contributed financially to the church (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7).
- ◆ Sang congregationally and a cappella, without mechanical accompaniment (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
- ◆ Encouraged and taught one another (Rom. 14:19; 1 Cor. 14:26).

Members of the church of Christ in the New Testament were simply called “*Christians*” (Acts 11:26). They didn’t need to designate themselves by different “flavors” of Christianity because doing so is sinful (1 Cor. 1:10).

I love the church of Christ because of the kind of people in it.

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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

May 17 2 Sam. 16-18

May 18 Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64

May 19 2 Sam. 19-21

May 20 Psalm 5, 38, 41-42

May 21 2 Sam. 22-23; Psalm 57

May 22 Psalm 95, 97-99

May 23 2 Sam. 24; 1 Chr. 21-22; Ps. 30

May 24 Psalm 108-110

“*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)



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“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:12-14).

There are no saved people who are not part of the body, or church, of Christ (cf. Eph. 1:22-23). The moment someone becomes a Christian, they are automatically added to the kingdom, which is the church (Col. 1:13; cf. Matt. 16:18). This is clearly evidenced in Acts 2, when the 3,000 souls who obeyed the gospel (Acts 2:38, 41) were added to the church (v. 47).

I love the people in the church of Christ because they are members of the *“household of faith”* (Gal. 6:10, 1 Tim. 3:15) – a truly special people (Matt. 11:11; John 3:5). They have been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus (1 Cor. 6:20).

Conclusion

Why do I love the church of Christ? Because it belongs to Christ, and therefore is not a denomination of Christendom. Christ built His church, the church of Christ. It is His exclusive body. And it shall be presented to God *“a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish”* (Eph. 5:27).

Adapted from an article by **Ben Giselbach**
(www.plainsimplefaith.com)

Celebrate

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

May Birthdays: Ian Barnum (5), Rosa Fuller (6), Tori Stewart (7), Barbara Bannister (10), Nita Boyd (14), Pam Teague (14), Caitlin Barnum (15), Billy Chism (15), **Peggy Moore (17), Randy Brubaker (23)**, Isaac Stewart (28), Gracen Hardy (30).

May Anniversaries: Joe & Lasha Dennis (6).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	May 3, 2015	May 10, 2015
Bible Class	42	42
AM Worship	56	60
PM Worship	40	41
Wednesday PM	NA	43
Contribution	\$2.033	\$1,979

Privileged To Serve

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

	Next Week: 5/17/15	Next Week: 5/24/15		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	May 2015 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Jack & Judie Turner Keep Grounds: James Fuller June 2015 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Gene & Barbara Bannister Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	Joe Dennis Family	Bannister Families		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Gene Bannister		
Communion	Ken Maninger*, Chase Churchwell Joe Dennis, Caleb Dennis	James Thomas*, Hank Wheeler Joe Dennis, Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Billy Chism		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Joe Dennis	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Gene Bannister	Joe Dennis		
Scripture Reading	James Fuller	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Joe Dennis	James Thomas		
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Ken Maninger		
Wednesday Devotionals:	May 20 Don Smith	May 27 Joe Dennis	June 3 Prayer	June 10 Allen Griffith

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 10, 2015

Sunday Class Acts 6:1ff
 Wednesday Class Ezekiel 6:1ff

Help Wanted

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:37,38; Lk. 10:2).

- I. The Lord's plan is for **every member of his kingdom to be involved in his work** (Jn. 15).
 - A. **Every Christian, regardless of age, gender or ability, is to do his/her part.**
 1. Every single member is vitally important! – Every member has a work he/she can do.
 2. Do your part! Find a work (or works) you can do and do it.
 3. Remember who you work for – the Lord, not men.
 - B. **Pray for the work.**
 - C. **Work for the work.**
 1. Those who are members of the Lord's body must work.
 2. The Lord's army is completely made up of willing volunteers.
 - D. **Teaching for the work.**
 1. Instructions must be given to both those who are laborers and to those who would be laborers (Mt. 28:18-20).
 2. Those who are taught need to be informed of the hardships of faithful labor (2 Tim. 3:12).
 3. Laborers must be taught there is no "middle ground" (Mt. 12:30).
 - E. **Training for the work.**
 - F. **Examples for the work.**
 1. The faithful of the 1st century were laborers for a lifetime.
- II. **Workers are involved every day.**
 - A. Christianity is not just a Sunday religion.
 - B. It involves labor and work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- III. **Satan is our adversary.**
- IV. **The rewards of faithful labor.**
 - A. The rewards of faithful labor are many.
 1. It will keep you humble (Acts 4:31),
 2. It will drive out selfishness (Phil. 2:2-4),
 3. It will give you real purpose in life (1 Thess. 2:19),
 4. It will keep you from backsliding (2 Pet. 1:10,11),
 5. It will give you great joy (Acts 5:41; 8:39),
 6. It will cause you to study more (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - B. "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master" (Mt. 25:21)

Can This Be The Christ? – John 4:16-42

- ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."
- Jesus totally changes the subject and the direction of the previous conversation.
- ¹⁶ Go, call your husband. Jesus changes the direction of the conversation.
- ¹⁷ I have no husband. Jesus knows the woman's life as if an open book. The woman wants to change the subject as quickly as possible.
- ¹⁹ Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. She first thought that Jesus was just a Jew. Now she knows He is a prophet, a man of God.
- ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped...but you say.... The woman tries to get out of the personal situation by discussing a religious subject. Worship.
- ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.
- ²¹ 1st truth – a time is coming where the place is totally insignificant.
- ²² 2nd truth – you do not know...we know, for salvation is from the Jews.
- The reason Jesus offers for the de-emphasis of the place of worship is found in the very nature of God – God is Spirit.
- ^{23,24} Jesus is not talking about church services, but a manner of life. To worship in spirit and truth, one must: **Know the truth, and do the truth.**
- ²⁵ The woman might be asking: "Could you be the Messiah?"
- ²⁶ I...am he. This is the first of the "I am" passages.
- ²⁹ Can this be the Christ? This is a decision the reader must make.
- ³⁴ The "true" food that sustains eternal life is doing the will of the Father.
- ³⁵ Fields are white for harvest – the people of Sychar. The disciples need to stop worrying about what to eat, lift up their eyes and see the opportunity.
- ³⁹ Many...believed...because of the woman's testimony. The purpose of the Gospel of John is to tell its readers to believe - 3:16.
- ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word. These people had seen no overt miracle. Jesus' words were enough to bring about belief.
- ⁴² The testimony of the people of Sychar is that **Jesus is the Savior of the world.** How is Jesus the Savior of the world?
1. He saves us from sins – 1:29.
 2. He delivers from the wrath to come – 3:36.
 3. He delivers from ignorance and darkness.