

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



March 27, 2016

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

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

Gospel Meeting

March 27-30, 2016

“Great Things About Christianity”

4th & Stewart church of Christ
3201 Fourth Street
Brownwood, Texas

Service Times & Topics

Saturday (3/26)	6:00pm	Old Time Gospel Singing
Sunday	9:45am	The Greatest Love
	10:40am	The Greatest Book
	6:00pm	The Greatest Chapter
Monday	7:00pm	The Greatest Verse
Tuesday	7:00pm	The Greatest Mission
Wednesday	7:00pm	The Greatest Decisions

Lunch will be provided after services Sunday Morning.
Snacks & fellowship after Monday & Tuesday evening services.

Kevin Rhodes will be conducting our Gospel Meeting. Kevin graduated from Midwest School of Biblical Studies in 1992. He holds Master's degrees in both History (West Texas A&M University) and Political Science (Tarleton State University) and will receive a Master of Education in Instructional Design (West Texas A&M University) later this year. He has worked with congregations in Missouri, Alabama, and Texas, and has been at Granbury Street in Cleburne, Texas for the last twelve years. In addition to this, Kevin has served on the faculty of Midwestern School of Preaching and Central Alabama School of Biblical Studies, co-edited Sound Words for fourteen years, and served on the adjunct faculty for Hill College. He has authored ten books, available through Hopkins Publishing. He regularly appears on various lectureships, preaches gospel meetings, and holds marriage seminars, leadership seminars, and singing workshops. Kevin and his wife, Tracy, have two daughters, Makaria and Hannah.



“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20)

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15-16)

Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:46-47)

Why Every Church Needs Elders

Some words make us very nervous. Among the world's most nerve-racking words are the simple little words, "all" and "every." Whenever someone dares use such words, objectors are quick to offer possible exceptions, so as to take the edge off these words. So if someone says, "**Every church needs elders,**" there are bound to be people who object. That's why I pray you'll not object too quickly and you'll let me explain why every church needs elders.

1. Every Church Needs Elders Because the Bible Says So

On Paul's first missionary journey, he and Barnabas appointed elders "**in every church**" (Acts 14:23). This has always amazed me, but it is what the text says. The churches established on Paul's first missionary journey all had elders when he left them and returned to Antioch.

On the island of Crete, the apostle Paul gave the task of appointing elders to the evangelist Titus. Paul wrote to Titus, "*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you*" (Titus 1:5). Every town that had a church, needed to have elders. The way Paul phrases this instruction indicates that every church without elders is an unfinished state and is in need of someone to put things in order.

2. Every Church Needs Elders Because Their Role is Important

Every church not only needs elders, but they need the right kind of elders. Every church needs men who meet the qualifications (Titus 1:5-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7) and who are willing to do the work. Elders are the shepherds of the flock (Acts 20:28) and as such, they have a very important role:

- being teachers of truth (Titus 1:9)
- guarding the flock against false teaching (Acts 20:28; Titus 1:9-16)
- keeping watch over the souls of the congregation (Hebrews 13:17)
- praying with the sick (James 5:14)
- being overseers of the affairs of the congregation (1 Timothy 3:1)

3. Every Church Needs Elders Because Every Christian Needs Shepherds

Sheep need shepherds. That is a simple truth, but one that is often overlooked. We tend to think it's just *some* sheep who need shepherds. We think sick sheep, new sheep, or not-so-smart sheep need shepherds. But for some reason, some of us think we are so spiritually mature that we really don't need shepherds.

I need shepherds. You need shepherds. We all need shepherds.

Congregations in the New Testament not only had shepherds, but had a plurality of shepherds, for one reason (I believe) that even a shepherd needs to be shepherded. Elders are not only the congregation's shepherds, they are each other's shepherds as well. They mentor each other, hold each other accountable, teach each other, and confess their sins and struggles to each other. At least that's the way it should be.

Each and every one of us needs to be led. We need people over us. We need accountability. We need to take instruction. We need to obey and submit (Hebrews 13:17). Submission is good for the soul. It humbles us and makes us more like Christ.

4. Every Church Needs Elders Because the Church is Not a Democracy

In the First Century, as well as today, there will almost always be a period of time during a congregation's infancy when they have no elders. During that time, decisions will inevitably have to be made for the congregation. How should a congregation make decisions during that time? As far as I can tell, Scripture simply doesn't say; unless, of course, the apostles and evangelists simply told congregations what they should do in every matter until elders could be appointed.

Many congregations resort to men's meetings or congregational meetings, in which decisions are made democratically. I suppose we think this is biblical because we live in a democracy. And even if this is an acceptable short-term arrangement, I don't believe it should be seen as a long-term solution. After all, I can't think of any example of this in Scripture.

The church is not a democracy. It is a monarchy. Christ is the head and there are specific offices in His church: "*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 4:11-12). We have a hard time understanding Christ's Lordship over the universal church if every single one of us gets a say in everything that happens in the local church.

But What If There Are No Men Qualified?

I understand that many will protest what they are reading here and say, "There are many congregations without qualified men or without men willing to serve, surely they don't need elders." I understand this predicament. I've worshiped with – and love dearly – many congregations in this predicament.

The Bible says a sinner needs water in order to be baptized. Some-

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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

Mar. 27 Revelation 10-12

Mar. 28 Revelation 13-15

Mar. 29 Revelation 16-18

Mar. 30 Revelation 19-20

Mar. 31 Revelation 21-22

April 1 Matthew 1-3

April 2 Matthew 4-6

April 3 Matthew 7-9

"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)



- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **33 contacts** were made.

Gospel Meeting Notes

- ◆ **Fellowship Meal** following worship this morning.
- ◆ **We will meet for a meal together before services Monday—Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.** All are welcome and encouraged to attend.
 - Mon.—Underwood’s Cafeteria (402 W Commerce)
 - Tues.—Section Hand Steak House (4412 Hwy 377 S)
 - Wed.—Studebaker’s (409 E. Commerce)
- ◆ **Song Leaders**
 - Monday—Joe Dennis
 - Tuesday—Johnny McCaghren
 - Wednesday—James Fuller
- ◆ **Remember snacks** for Monday & Tuesday evenings.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting Flyers**—use them and invite others!

Announcements

- ◆ The Highway 36 congregation [Abilene] will be hosting a Ladies Day this Saturday. Flyer is on the bulletin board. If you would like to go, let Cindy McCaghren know, so she can RSVP.

Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ April 2—Ladies Day @ Hwy 36 [Abilene]
- ◆ April 3-6—Gospel Meeting @ Windmill Road [Weatherford] (Various Speakers)
- ◆ April 17-21—Gospel Meeting @ 9th & Main [San Angelo] (Michael Light)
- ◆ April 21-23—Academy of Christian Studies (ACS) Class: “*God Centered Preaching and Teaching*” (Mike Vestal)—Dripping Springs, TX
- ◆ April 22-24—Lovely Lectures
- ◆ April 24-27—Gospel Meeting @ Gordon (Jessie Dickison)
- ◆ April 30—Ladies Day @ Comanche
- ◆ April 30-May 5—Focal Point—San Marcos, TX.
- ◆ May 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton (Rick Popejoy)
- ◆ May 21—Ladies Day @ Hamlin (Evelyn Bonner)
- ◆ June 26-30—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 17-22—Senior Camp
- ◆ August 5-7—Discipleship University—Dripping Springs, TX.
- ◆ August 19-25—Polishing The Pulpit—Sevierville, TN.

- ◆ Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat [Brady]
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: “*The Bible and Archaeology*” (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

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one might think an exception should be made for people who don’t have any water, but I would say that’s not true. I would say a person with no water needs to find water, not make an exception. When we don’t have what the Bible says we need, we must find a way to get what we need.

Congregations need to feel the tension of understanding, “We don’t have elders right now, but we NEED elders.” It is only when they feel this tension that hard, but necessary, decisions can be made:

- Should we consider merging with another congregation, even if that means driving a few extra miles?
- Should we consider financially supporting older men to move to our community and serve as our elders?
- Should we simply begin a concerted effort to train and equip some of our middle-age men, so they are able to serve as elders in the next few years.

I understand there may be times when we must go years without elders, but even during those times, we must not get comfortable with that situation.

Before It Even Begins

Maybe if we realized every church needs elders, we would consider that before we begin a new congregation. Sometimes a new congregation is formed simply because a group of Christians won’t get along with their brethren and they say, “Fine, we’ll just start a new congregation.” Perhaps understanding that every church needs elders might help brethren bear with one another in love a little more (Ephesians 4:2).

Even when a congregation is formed with the very best motives and intentions, consideration ought to be given to the question, “Who will serve as our elders?” Isn’t it funny, we often consider how to acquire a building before we consider the question of elders. There is nothing in Scripture that says a congregation needs to own a building, but there is plenty that says a congregation needs elders.

Wes McAdams (radicallychristian.com)

Celebrate

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

April Birthdays: Jessica Stultz (3/28), Vickie Tallent (4), Lasha Dennis (6), Sarah Rudloff (6), Ginger King (8), Kristi Maninger (9), Darlene Smith (10), Caroline Dennis (30).

April Anniversaries: John & Tina Barnum (8).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Mar. 13, 2016	Mar. 20, 2016
Bible Class	44	50
AM Worship	64	70
PM Worship	39	51
Wednesday PM	41	46
Contribution	\$1,566	\$2,664

	This Week: 3/27/16	Next Week: 4/3/16		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	March 2016 Make Announcements: John Barnum Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz Hostess Committee: Cindy McCaghren's group April 2016 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: M&P Bannister / Greer Hostess Committee: Jessica Stultz's group	
Greeters	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Randy Huckaby		
Communion	John Barnum*, Randy Huckaby Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler	Tom Wilcox*, Don Smith Allen Griffith, Allen Bland		
Closing Prayer	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
Attendance Cards	Caleb Dennis	Jaceten Evetts		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Johnny McCaghren	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Gene Bannister		
Scripture Reading	Tom Wilcox	Hank Wheeler		
Communion	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Don Smith	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	March 30 Gospel Meeting	April 6 Prayer Night	April 13 Tom Wilcox	April 20 Don Smith

It's the Church's Responsibility to Meet My Needs

How many times have I have heard someone say: "I left that church because they weren't meeting my needs."

The thing I'm struggling with is the vision of a church as a place where our needs ought to be met, as if we were entering a shop, then storming out because the service did not meet our expectations. All of which begs the question: Is the purpose of a church to meet my needs? Is that why we join a church – in order to be served?

You are aware that service is the Christian model. Jesus tells his disciples that though the way of the world is to demand things of others, "*It shall not be so with you*" (Matt. 20:25-28). When our model of church resembles worldly models, it is time to reevaluate!

We do not draw our view of the church from military, political or business models! Greatness in the church lies not in calling the shots but in service. The real model is that of Jesus – the greatest servant of all. He declares that "*the greatest among us*" would be the one who

serves the most (Matt. 23:11,12).

In the upside down world of Christianity, leadership is service, greatness is humility. In the Christian system, we "*consider others as better*" than ourselves, we "*look not only*" to our interests but to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3,4).

When we think of leadership in the church, the sound of water in a basin should fill our ears (John 13:12-14). To slightly misquote John F. Kennedy, we should "Ask not what your church can do for you, ask what you can do for your church."

Folks, service is not one of the ministries of the church; *service is what Christians do!*

I get it. Jesus is the loving, compassionate savior and the church is the collection of mistake-prone, flawed people who claim to follow him. I am not claiming that the church is perfect. I am claiming that the church is deeply valued by God! He shed his blood for it (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25). The church is his radiant bride. The Lord lovingly and sacrificially gave himself for her (Eph. 5:27).

We see a bunch of people who didn't meet our expectations; God sees his

beautiful bride. Is God's love blind? Actually, no, love is truly love only if it loves in spite of imperfections.

Here are some practical suggestions

- Our contribution need not be big and flashy. Even a cup of water is noted by the Lord (Matt. 10:42).
- There doesn't have to be a program. We can simply do something good for someone else.
- But we can help by supporting church programs.
- Serving is something everyone – the young, the old, the shy – can do.

Encouraging is a ministry (Acts 4:36,37). The church needs another Barnabas.

Someone says, "But I don't owe those people a thing!" (Well, we'll ignore a rather poor attitude toward your brethren).

Make no mistake, we do owe someone. We were "*bought at a price*" (1 Cor. 6:20). In fact, the Lord calls on us to "*lay our lives down for our brothers*" (1 John 3:16).

The way we serve each other is the way we serve God. We do not serve in a vacuum; we serve in a church.

Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)