

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 11, 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.

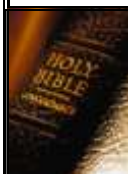


This Sunday, September 11, 2016 is the 15th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. In reflection of that tragic day in American history, what have we learned? As a nation? As a family? As a church? Consider but just a few:

- **Life is precious.** In a world filled with racism, abortion, murder and hatred, we need to stress the sanctity of life.
- **Time is fleeting.** Every moment is important! May the cares of this world never cloud our vision and steal the simple moments that bring about the bigger picture.
- **Faith is powerful.** Faith makes things possible! Strong faith in Jesus Christ is the ROCK upon which to build a happy, successful and peaceful existence.
- **Love is needed.** The world is starving for love. Since, "God is Love," the truth is—The World is Starving for God. Remember, love is the "greatest" and love never fails!
- **Hope is strong.** Hope is strong enough to anchor our soul in rough seas and calm waters. Hope is the greatest of all things.

May we remember the night of 9/11/01 as we gathered as families in our church buildings shedding tears in prayer, pleading with a just God to carry our nation through the pain and healing! May we never forget that total reliance on His power and strength that we experienced that terrible day!

Mark N. Posey (mark.nichols.posey@gmail.com)



"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; **and the door was shut.** Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." **Matthew 25:10-13**

Why the Church Needs Stronger Deacons

It has been rightly said that the work of a deacon cares primarily for physical needs with spiritual consequences. When deacons are appointed to a specific work, it is because the elders see this as something that might keep them from faithful shepherding responsibilities. As an example of having servants especially appointed to “serve tables”, we turn to Acts 6. Though these seven men appointed are never called “deacons”, it is obvious that they are fulfilling a deacon’s responsibility in taking care of these widows and the issues of the food distribution. From this passage, why does the church today need stronger deacons?

The church needs stronger deacons because the cause of Christ is advancing (Acts 5:41-42; Acts 6:1-7). When the church is being the church, it will preach daily, consistently, and universally (Acts 5:41-42). The cause of Christ being first in the lives of these Christians was leading to conversions. When evangelism is taking place, the local congregation will be faced with the greatest problem a local body can have: it is overrun with souls who have obeyed the gospel (Matt. 28:19). What has happened in many places is that the gospel is not advancing the way it ought, and thus, there are fewer and fewer people and also fewer and fewer needs to be met. If a congregation is preaching and teaching the gospel the way it ought, strong deacons will most certainly be a necessity to keep the cause of Christ advancing (Acts 6:7).

The church needs stronger deacons because the needs of the church are multiplying. The needs of a local congregation should be something in which the elders are closely attuned (I Pet. 5:2). If the congregation is growing spiritually and numerically, the eldership must be aware that the needs are growing as well. Here is a principle for appointing deacons: There should not be a deacon appointed without a deacon’s work to do. In Acts 6, the reason why these seven men were appointed is because there was an area of work to be carried out. It needed to be organized, overseen, and an obligation of these deacons to serve these tables (Acts 6:1-2). Strong deacons need to be men who look after the congregation and faithfully strive to meet those needs.

The church needs stronger deacons because people need worthy examples of integrity (Acts 6:3). When the works of elders and deacons are evaluated, it is found that these are men who are examples of “Christian character in motion.”

The qualifications in Acts 6:3 speak to the character of these men appointed to serve tables. If there are men who are appointed who do not meet the qualifications, the influence of the church will suffer, the work of the church will suffer, and the eldership’s ability to shepherd effectively will suffer. Thus, men who are appointed to help the church will become a sore burden by their lack of integrity (Prov. 25:19). However, when deacons are strong and serve faithfully, they “obtain for themselves good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:13).

The church needs stronger deacons because the beauty of Jesus is seen in service (Acts 6:8, 15). One man said, “deacons are like the third stanza of a four stanza hymn: often overlooked and seldom appreciated.” There is a quiet beauty in their service because, in many cases, they are not out in front taking care of large and obvious tasks, but they are serving selflessly in the background the needs that must be met. Yet, that is how “serving tables” ought to be done (Acts 6:1-2). When a man takes the work of a deacon, he washes feet, he serves tables, he takes the example of Christ seriously in doing what needed to be done for the good of others (Mark 10:45; Phil. 2:5-11). They provide living and loving pictures of Christ serving. They are strong and worthy examples of service as they do all “to the glory of God” (Col. 3:17).

Andy Baker (Christian Worker Vol. 102:9, Sept. 2016, pp. 1,7)

How the Church Can Help Its Deacons

To use a football analogy, deacons are the “offensive line-men” of the church: while their role is a dominant factor in the success and progress of God’s people, they are all too easily overlooked and underappreciated. Thank God for deacons who serve well (1 Tim. 3:13). Consider what every congregation can do to help its deacons.

Give them a work to accomplish – Elderships frustrate deacons when they fail to properly delegate (cf. Acts 6:3; Ex. 18:17-18). Genuine delegation means that an elder ship gives a clearly defined responsibility to deacons. Additionally, elders must give deacons the needed resources and authority to carry out the task without the need to constantly consult the elders regarding the specific details of the work to be done. Further, delegation means that the eldership will be proactive in periodically assessing and providing helpful feedback

(Continued on page 3)

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

Sept. 11 Hebrews 2-4

Sept. 12 Hebrews 5-7

Sept. 13 Hebrews 8-10

Sept. 14 Hebrews 11-13

Sept. 15 James 1-3

Sept. 16 James 5—1 Peter 1

Sept. 17 1 Peter 2-5

Sept. 18 2 Peter 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 **28 contacts** were made.

Announcements

- ◆ The new tile has been laid in the multi-purpose room and looks very nice.
- ◆ **Lu Whitsett's memorial service** will be Friday at 2:00p.m. at Davis-Morris Funeral Home. We will be providing a meal here for the family before the service.
- ◆ The **ladies** are beginning a new **"Digging Deeper" study**. If you have not received your material, see Cindy McCaghren.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ October 16-19—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge. *"The Christ Centered Church: The Beauty of Christianity from the Book of Ephesians"*
- ◆ October 29—Ladies' Day with Becky Blackmon. *"Making Christ the Lord of Your Life in Every Situation of Your Life"*
- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.

Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ **Sept. 16-18—5th & Grape Lectureship.**
- ◆ Sept. 18-22—Gospel Meeting @ San Angelo with Omari French.
- ◆ Oct. 1—Ladies Day @ Dublin.
- ◆ Oct. 1—Developing Church Leaders Conference—Baker Heights (Abilene).
- ◆ Oct. 2-5—Gospel Meeting @ Stephenville with Jim Nash.
- ◆ Oct. 6-8—Texas Ladies for Christ Retreat (info on board)
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Lubbock Lectures
- ◆ Oct. 9-12—Homecoming Lectureship @ Rising Star
- ◆ Oct. 22—Ladies Day @ San Angelo with Cathy Iverson
- ◆ Oct. 27-29—ACS Class: *"The Bible and Archaeology"* (Dewayne Bryant)—Dripping Springs, TX

(Continued from page 2)

(without micromanaging) regarding the quality and thoroughness of the work the deacon is doing. Wise indeed are elderships and congregations that give their deacons a clearly defined work to accomplish.

Remind them frequently about the nature of their work – Deacons need to be reminded of several crucial truths regarding their work. First, the work that deacons do reflects on the name of the Lord Himself (Heb. 6:10). Second, the attitudes displayed by the deacons, whether positive or negative, will be imitated by the church (3 John 11). Third, the role of deacons is designed by God to better enable the church to grow by freeing elders to, "Watch for souls" (Heb. 13:17; cf. Acts 6:4). Finally, the work that deacons do is neither pointless nor empty; it is Kingdom work (Matt. 6:33; 1 Cor. 15:58).

Show respect by consulting them before altering or initiating work – Cooperation is an essential key to encouraging deacons, for Christians are to be fellow workers (1 Cor. 3:9). Deacons need to resist the temptation to become overly territorial, and at the same time elderships and congregations need to consider and respect the plans and work that deacons are already accomplishing. Consider how a deacon might feel if the preacher, the elders, or even some zealous and well-intentioned members publicly announce a change in a deacon's area of work without first consulting that deacon. May the Golden Rule always be at the forefront of our relationships in Christ (Matt. 7:12).

Pray repeatedly for the success of their ministries – Do not forget to pray for deacons! What a wonderful thing for elderships and congregations to continually bring deacons and their work before the throne of God in prayer (Heb. 4:16). Christians everywhere ought to pray constantly that deacons might possess the essential qualities of wisdom, strength, love, patience and Christlikeness as they labor in the Lord's service (Jas. 1:5; 5:16). When the deacons succeed in serving well, God is glorified and the church is always blessed.

Praise them for work well-done – In football, offensive linemen usually only receive attention when they have performed poorly or made a mistake. May this never be the case regarding deacons in the Lord's church. Elders and preachers are very wise when they publicly and frequently highlight excellent work being done by deacons. Members are especially helpful when they offer encouraging words (both written and spoken) to men who serve well (Eph. 4:29). Serving as a deacon can be a thankless task; do not neglect to praise them when they serve well. May God be glorified in the service and labor of the deacons.

John Baker (Christian Worker, Vol. 102:9, Sept. 2016, pp. 3-4)

Celebrate

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

September Birthdays: Jean Hamann (3), James Fuller (6), **Emily Ochoa (11), Gene Bannister (16)**, Frank Alexander (19), Matthew Ochoa (19), Allen Bland (23), Glenda Milam (24), Cindy Proud (26), Garrett Barnum (27), Matthew Howell (28).

September Anniversaries: None.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Aug. 28, 2016	Sept. 4, 2016
Bible Class	54	45
AM Worship	71	66
PM Worship	49	45
Wednesday PM	43	39
Contribution	\$3,140	\$1,982

Privileged To Serve

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

This Week: 9/11/16		Next Week: 9/18/16		September 2016	
Sunday AM:		Song Leader: Mike Bannister		Song Leader: Mike Bannister	
Greeters	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller		Make Announcements: James Fuller	
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Gene Bannister		Prepare Communion: Maninger Family	
Communion	Don Smith*, James Thomas Hank Wheeler, Gene Bannister	Joe Dennis*, Caleb Dennis Allen Bland, Ryan Rudloff		Clean Building: Fuller / Stultz	
Closing Prayer	Allen Griffith	Randy Huckaby		Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Attendance Cards	Jaceten Evetts	Ian Barnum		October 2016	
Sunday PM:		Song Leader: Tom Wilcox		Song Leader: Ken Maninger	
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Tom Wilcox		Make Announcements: Don Smith	
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		Prepare Communion: Tom & Carol Wilcox	
Communion	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		Clean Building: M&P Bannister/Greer	
Closing Prayer	Mike Bannister	Don Smith		Hostess Committee: Laura Huckaby's group	
Wednesday Devotionals:	September 14 Tom Wilcox	September 21 Don Smith	September 28 Joe Dennis	October 5 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 September 11, 2016

Sunday Class *Romans 2:2ff*
Wed. Class *Things Associated with being a Member of the Body*

<u>And The Door Was Shut</u>	<u>Psalms of Praise</u>
<p>Text: Matthew 25:1-13 (10)</p> <p>This parable tells us that it is possible to be ready for the Lord's return – but it is equally possible to not be ready (and the door was shut!).</p> <p>I. I am not ready for the door to be shut...If I am Lost! Rom. 3:9-10; 23; 1 John 5:19 Mankind is lost! – We need a Savior! We need Salvation! The greatest question ever asked is, "Sir, what must I do to be saved?"</p> <p>A. Believe – Philippian Jailor – Acts 16.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved." 2. "Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him..." Result: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes" – repentance. b. "And immediately he and all his family were baptized." c. "...he rejoiced, having believed in God..." <p>B. Repent and be Baptized – Jews on Pentecost – Acts 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "...whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (21). 2. "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth..." (22). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." b. "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 3. "What shall we do?" – "How do we call on His name?" 4. "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." <p>C. Be baptized – Saul of Tarsus – Acts 9.</p> <p>II. I am not ready for the door to be shut...If I am not Faithful!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. To be faithful, we must give attention to our...Attendance (Heb. 3:13; 10:24-25). B. To be faithful, we must give attention to our...Work (Eph. 1:22-23; Jn. 9:4). C. To be faithful, we must give attention to our...Living (Titus 2:12). <p>III. I am not ready for the door to be shut...If I am Relying on Man!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Man teaches that the door can be reopened once it is shut. False! B. Man teaches that no one will be shut out. False! C. Man teaches that there is no afterlife. False! <p>The most sobering words to ever come from the lips of our Savior – "and the door was shut." Are you ready?</p>	<p>The people of ancient Israel found many reasons to praise God. Their praise psalms usually had the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction – invited people to come and praise the worthy God. • A main section – giving the grounds for praise. • A conclusion – which repeats why this psalm of praise was a worthy and logical thing to do. <p>Types of Praise Psalms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hymns celebrating God as Creator (8, 19, 29, 104). • Hymns of sacred history (78, 81, 105, 106, 111, 114, 135, 136). • Hymns of the kingdom (24, 47, 68, 75, 93, 95-100). • Hymns of Zion (46, 48, 76, 84, 87, 122, 137). • Mixed hymns (33, 103, 115, 133, 145-150). <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 8</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!</u></p> <p>This Psalm is also Messianic because of its numerous quotations in the New Testament (v. 2 - Matt. 21:16; v. 4 - Heb. 2:6-8; v. 6 - 1 Cor. 15:27).</p> <p>Outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God is Supreme (1). 2. God and Creation (2). 3. God and His Concern for Man (3-5). 4. God and the Rule of Man (6-8). 5. God is Supreme (9). <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>Considering anew God's created world and God's concern for mankind will inspire us to think deeply about the greatness of God – and such meditation can only cause us to repeat this sentence with greater understanding and deeper emotion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!</p> <p>We cannot add to the majesty of His name – all we can do is proclaim it throughout the earth.</p> <p>God is all-glorious and nothing that we do can embellish or increase His glory – however, we can reflect His great glory in our personalities and lifestyles and declare it with our lips to others.</p>