

# 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 11, 2018

## Contact Us:

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325-646-7102

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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.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

## Church, Facebook Is Killing Us

Being a disciple of Jesus means orienting our lives around the two great commandments: love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt. 22:36-40). The first cannot exist without the second, because without loving those around us we can't possibly claim to love God (1 John 4:20). Unfortunately, we live in a world that is driving people further and further apart and making it harder and harder to love our neighbors (and our enemies).

We all notice the growing divide. But do we realize how much we can contribute to it by our Facebook posts and tweets? How we use those sites can go a long way toward affecting our own attitudes toward others, and others' attitudes toward Christians and the church.

Though this doesn't cover the entirety of the issue, here are three areas in particular where we need to be very careful of how we use social media.

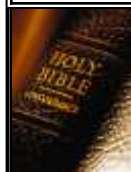
### Hiding behind keyboards

One of the most basic truths of human life is that we are all going to disagree with people at some point. It used to be that when we found out we disagreed with someone, we (in most cases) would either keep quiet or gently express that we hold a different opinion, explain why, and move on with life. Most of us would never even think to approach people in our community to mock them and question their intelligence for having different beliefs about some issue. Think about the effect that would have on the church's influence in a community if its members were known for such volatile attacks on people who held different viewpoints. Now that we can all hide behind keyboards, though, it becomes all too easy. Every time I log in to Facebook I see Christians writing posts and sharing images that mock people who disagree with them on some kind of issue. Is that really how Jesus would act?

Jesus called us to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9, Rom. 12:18). Sometimes – no, a lot of times – that means we're better off just keeping our thoughts to ourselves. For example, the debates on gun control, athletes kneeling for the anthem, or Trump/Hillary will not be settled by you or me posting about them. Those issues probably won't be influenced whatsoever by our posts because debates aren't won, and minds aren't changed through a heated online conversation. But our fellowship with another Christian could be hurt. Or a person who doesn't know Jesus could be driven away. Take it from someone (me) who's driven away dozens of people by posting controversial thoughts while hiding behind a keyboard. It's not worth it. Try to see things from other people's view, and constantly ask yourself if you'd be willing to say in person what you're about to post online. Don't hurt the church with your Facebooking or tweeting.

(Continued on page 2)

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



So Abraham took Ismael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins *that very same day*, as God had said to him. ... *That very same day* Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael; and all the men of his house.... **Genesis 17:23, 26-27**

### Inward focus

Sean Parker, one of the early leaders of Facebook, admitted that creating a false sense of validation and affirmation was one of the goals the company had when they designed the site. “It’s a social-validation feedback loop ... exactly the kind of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with, because you’re exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology.”<sup>1</sup> Another former Facebook exec said that “The short-term, dopamine-driven feedback loops we’ve created are destroying how society works.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, Facebook was literally designed to give us a false sense of value upon which we would become dependent.

Once again, this leads us away from loving people. It causes us to be competitive and makes us envious of people we barely know, and it causes us to focus inwardly. We develop a need for those likes and retweets, and it hurts when somebody else’s life looks better, or their posts are more popular. The Bible helps us realize that feeling valued should instead come from enjoying a faithful relationship with God and having an outward focus to love those around us.

While I have no intention of claiming that Jesus and the apostles wouldn’t use social media, I know they wouldn’t be dependent on it. While they spoke to big crowds, much of their work was done one-on-one, face to face, hand-making disciples. That’s where we truly make a difference in people’s lives. One meal spent growing closer to someone from your congregation is worth more than a post with 10,000 likes or retweets. One chat over the fence with your neighbor makes more of a difference than an article with 1,000 shares. Ten minutes spent praying for opportunities to encourage the saints and reach outsiders does more good for people than a month spent scrolling through Facebook or Twitter.

### Choosing our groups

The Gospel of Jesus is a Gospel of reconciliation. The cross knocked down the divisions between God and

man, and subsequently man and man. In the age of social media, though, we almost revel in our ability to draw lines of division. If somebody has opinions I don’t like, I can unfriend or unfollow them. The result is that we end up surrounding ourselves with people who think just like us, who affirm our opinions and never challenge us. All the while, the people in our churches and neighborhoods become harder and harder for us to connect with.

We grow more like Jesus not by finding people who think just like us and narrowing our friendship to those people, but by finding the people God places directly in our lives and learning to “be patient and bear with one another in love” (Eph. 4:2). The local church will never be filled with people who think exactly like us. That’s by design. It helps us show the love Jesus commanded His disciples to have when we learn to be devoted to one another in love (Rom. 12:10) despite any differences we might have. That’s why it’s those local connections that we need the most. They are the ones that will challenge us. Facebook friendships rarely make us see our flaws, our impatience, our pride. Try to grow in Christian love toward the people around you geographically and you’ll find yourself being stretched and challenged in ways that Facebook friendships and shared interest groups just can’t provide.

Please don’t take this to say that all social media is bad or that we should all give up our accounts. Instead, I hope this article leads each of us to consider our actions and how we talk to people online, how we associate with people, and how it affects our real-life relationships. Use social media as a launching point to create relationships that carry over into the real world. Never use your online presence as a roadblock for the lost or a dividing wall with your brethren. Above all, love your neighbor as yourself.

*Jack Wilkie* (focuspress.org)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/nov/09/facebook-sean-parker-vulnerability-brain-psychology>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theverge.com/2017/12/11/16761016/former-facebook-exec-ripping-apart-society>

#### 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 @ 10:00am 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. 11** Joshua 15—17

**Mar. 12** Joshua 18:1—21:12

**Mar. 13** Joshua 21:13—24:33

**Mar. 14** Judges 1—3 (video)

**Mar. 15** Judges 4—6

**Mar. 16** Judges 7—8 (video)

**Mar. 17** Judges 9—10

**Mar. 18** Judges 11—14

*“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 **83 contacts** were made.

### Announcements

- ◆ **Our Christian Evidences Seminar with Dr. Branyon May begins Friday of next week (23<sup>rd</sup>).** Plan to attend and invite others. **Flyers are available at exits.**
- ◆ There will be a light meal and fellowship between the seminar sessions on Friday and Saturday evenings. Sandwich fixings will be provided. **We need chips and cookies.** Please **keep it to things that can be eaten by hand**, to minimize preparation and cleanup.

### Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

- ◆ March 23-25—Christian Evidences Seminar with Dr. Branyon May.
- ◆ August 14—Host Summer Youth Series.
- ◆ October 14-17—Fall Gospel Meeting with Jacob Rutledge.

### Other Upcoming Opportunities to Learn and Grow

- ◆ March 18-21—Gospel Meeting @ Bangs with Jason Rollo.
- ◆ April 1-4—Gospel Meeting @ Hamilton with Jason Rollo.
- ◆ May 5-10—Focal Point @ University (San Marcos).
- ◆ June 24-28—Junior Camp
- ◆ July 15-20—Senior Camp

## Where Would You Like Him to Be?

Worship is well under way when it begins: A restless child has been thwarted from some contraband he craves, and he begins to cry. It begins low and soft and crescendos into a full-blown wail. Somehow, the preacher, with his mature lungs and microphone cannot compete with the little fellow's howl. Neighbors stir restlessly. Surreptitious glances are cast his way; when will he stop? Will his overwhelmed mom be able to handle this?

Can I make this point as clear as a bell? I want junior to come to church. I want him here! What better place is there for the little fellow to be? Jesus wants him there too: *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 19:14).

That mom, struggling with one, two or more tykes needs to know the ruler of all the universe wants her child here, in worship. She also needs to know that the majority of people making that surreptitious look in her direction are smiling with understanding and compassion. Most of them are parents and grandparents. They know, and they are on your side.

But can I say something delicate, please? She must also be conscious of training him to be in worship. Training implies doing something consistently, over and over again, until character is formed.

Some practical ideas for training junior, or his sister:

- When you must take them outside, make their time outside less pleasant than inside. You don't want them to learn the "valuable" lesson that making a ruckus brings the reward of playing with toys in the nursery.
- Start on Saturday. Lay out clothes for next day, prep a simple healthy breakfast (not donuts or sugary cereal), get the whole family to bed so all are rested in the morning.
- Talk about what worship is and your expectations of each child according to age before you get there. A 2-year-old can be quiet and stay in your pew; a 4-year-old can wait until the sermon to look at books or color; a 7-year-old can open a hymn book and write something about the sermon or copy a Bible passage.
- Pack a church bag that they only get in to at worship. Keep it up and away so it has things that are not "old." Include such things as Bible coloring books and Bible puzzles. A little snack for small ones, especially on a Sunday morning, help them keep quiet.
- Be firm but merciful. Don't make church become a battleground but also help them learn to respect God and others. Don't let them turn around and "entertain" the people in the rows behind.
- Daily family devotions are good practice for corporate worship. In that setting, you can correct some things that are bound to come up in worship.

I don't know about you, but my children and grandchildren are by a galaxy the most precious things I have; I want them to learn to worship God. Mom, I know you do, too. Let's accomplish this together.

*Stan Mitchell (forthright.net)*

## Celebrate

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

**March Birthdays:** Ken Maninger (4), Wayne Kahlich (9), Ann Walker (10), **Susan Ford (17)**, Allen Griffith (20), Mileen Kahlich (21), James Thomas (23), Jessica Stultz (28).

**March Anniversaries:** James & Cindy Fuller (2), Randy & Laura Huckaby (23), Tom & Carol Wilcox (23).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



## Records

|              | Feb. 25, 2018 | Mar. 4, 2018 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Bible Class  | 51            | 44           |
| AM Worship   | 64            | 60           |
| PM Worship   | 43            | 48           |
| Wednesday PM | 45            | 44           |
| Contribution | \$1,556       | \$2,359      |

|                               | This Week: 3/11/18  | Next Week: 3/18/18                                  |  |                         |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Sunday AM:</b>             | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                               | Song Leader: Mike Bannister                         | <p><b>March 2018</b><br/> <b>Make Announcements:</b><br/>                     Gene Bannister<br/> <b>Prepare Communion:</b><br/>                     Allen &amp; Linda Griffith<br/> <b>Clean Building:</b><br/>                     Fuller / Stultz</p> <p><b>April 2018</b><br/> <b>Make Announcements:</b><br/>                     John Barnum<br/> <b>Prepare Communion:</b><br/>                     Dennis Family<br/> <b>Clean Building:</b><br/>                     John Barnum Family</p> |                         |
| <b>Greeters</b>               | Maninger Family   | James & Cindy Fuller                                |  |                         |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | James Fuller  | Allen Griffith                                      |  |                         |
| <b>Communion</b>              | John Barnum*, Ryan Settles<br>Allen Griffith, Larry Petty | James Thomas*, Tom Wilcox<br>Jack Turner, Don Smith |  |                         |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | Gene Bannister  | Ken Maninger  |  |                         |
| <b>Attendance Cards</b>       | Aaron Smith   | Ian Barnum  |  |                         |
| <b>Sunday PM:</b>             | Song Leader: James Fuller                                 | Song Leader: Joe Dennis                             |  |                         |
| <b>Opening Prayer</b>         | Randy Huckaby   | Gene Bannister                                      |  |                         |
| <b>Scripture Reading</b>      | Don Smith   | Rafe Smith  |  |                         |
| <b>Communion</b>              | John Barnum   | James Thomas  |  |                         |
| <b>Closing Prayer</b>         | James Thomas  | Ryan Rudloff  |  |                         |
| <b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b> | March 14<br>Joe Dennis                                    | March 21<br>Rafe Smith                              | March 28<br>Don Smith  | April 4<br>Prayer Night |

## 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 March 11, 2018

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 10:14**  
 Wed. Class ..... **Old Testament History: Genesis 18:16**

#### Expanding Our Faith (Genesis 17)

- I. **God Gives Us What We Need** (1-8). God renewed and expanded the Abrahamic covenant in a number of ways.
  - A. The Lord gave Abraham greater knowledge of His divine nature by revealing a new name for Himself: 'El Shadday, meaning "Almighty God" (1).
    1. Abraham's faith wavered as the years pass and God's promises are not fulfilled – God revealed Himself as 'El Shadday, the all-powerful One, fully capable of accomplishing what He had promised.
    2. The Jewish people of the 1<sup>st</sup> century were in a similar position – they had been waiting centuries, for the coming of the promised Messiah.
  - B. God expanded the covenant, challenging Abraham to "walk before" Him and "be blameless" (1).
  - C. God changed Abram's name to "Abraham" (4-6).
  - D. God repeated the promise that these descendants would receive "the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession" (7-8).
- II. **God Set Us Apart** (9-14).
  - A. God gave circumcision as a sign of the covenant.
  - B. Paul mentioned baptism and circumcision together (Col. 2:11-13).
- III. **God Leads Us Forward** (15-22).
  - A. God named a new, seemingly impossible vehicle for the fulfillment of the covenant – Sarah.
  - B. As a sign of this truth – God changed her name from Sarai to "Sarah" (15).
  - C. The thought that a woman 90 years old could have a child seemed ludicrous to Abraham – he fell to the ground and laughed in unbelief.
  - D. This was difficult for Abraham to learn, having struggled with unfulfilled promises for so many years – to "hope, contrary to hope" is difficult.
- IV. **God Expects Us Not to Hesitate** (23-27).
  - A. Abraham quickly obeyed God's covenant command.
  - B. The prompt obedience of Abraham is the kind of response God always desires.
  - C. A tragic illustration of the danger of hesitation is Israel's refusal to obey quickly in claiming the Lord's promise of conquest in Canaan.
  - D. Prompt obedience to the gospel (the good news) is important – it should not be postponed until a more convenient time.

#### Galatians 3:19-29 – Justification: Not by Law but by Faith in Christ (3)

- I. **Justification: Not by Law but by Faith in Christ** (Chapters 3-4).
- E. **The Inadequacy of the Law** (3:19-22).
  1. Given that salvation does not come through the Law, "What purpose then does the law serve?" (19).
  2. "It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made".
  3. The Law – given "through angels" and "by the hand of a mediator" – was inferior to the promise given directly from God to Abraham.
  4. "Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not!" (21).
    - a. Paul affirmed that the purpose of the Law was not to "give life".
    - b. "But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe".
- F. **The Temporary Nature of the Law: A Tutor Leading to Christ** (3:23-29).
  1. Before Jesus came in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Jews "were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed" – the Law served as a restraining force (confinement) while it was in effect.
  2. "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (24).
    - 1) The Greek word for "tutor", literally means "child leader".  
 ["custodian" (RSV), "disciplinarian" (NRSV), or "guardian" (ESV)].
    - 2) "Schoolmaster" (KJV) does not accurately represent the meaning.
  - b. "But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor" (25).
  3. In v. 26, Paul shifted from the 1<sup>st</sup> person plural ("we" – the Jews) to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural ("you" – the Christians in Galatia) – "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus".
  4. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (27).
    - a. Paul reminded his readers that this salvation offers a beautiful equality: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (28).
    - b. Paul concluded with an identification: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (29).
    - c. Christians are recipients of God's promise by faith – we have no need to follow the law of Moses.