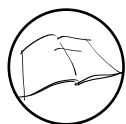


the Lamp

... as a light shining in a dark place. 2 Peter 1:19



The Church of Christ - Good or Bad?



Book of the Month

The Lamp makes some humble reading suggestions ...



Ministry Highlights

CARE Groups are the focus of this month.



Calendar of Events

A calendar highlights special dates along with listings of special events and birthdays for the month of July.



Scott Jackson

I had a very good personal experience growing up in what we simply called "THE church." I have always been a member of a Church of Christ and have had a good experience in every congregation I have joined with. Your experiences may have varied.

When you visit a Church of Christ to worship in another city, you will usually find the worship comfortably similar to your home congregation. If you are a long time Church of Christ member, you often find connections with people you meet at the church. On occasion you find someone you knew previously from another Church of Christ.

In the Church of Christ, I have heard proclaimed the great truths that are common to all who have turned to God and put their trust in His Son, our Savior:

- truths about the great Creator and Sustainer of the universe who holds us accountable and will bring judgment, but also is full of loving-kindness;
- truths about the Son He sent to earth to show Himself, the Son He sent to die for our sins, the Son He raised from the dead to give us promise of what He will do for us, and the Son who now advocates for us to the One who sustains the universe;
- truths about the free access we have to be children of the loving God and the abundant life and favor we have as His children;
- and, although not too clear on what He did, the truth that God has given us a helper, His Holy Spirit.

In the Church of Christ, I have been blessed with teachings that may not be as commonly emphasized. The value of the Scriptures has been emphasized. Growing up I was taught the Scriptures. The preacher of my youth had us memorize Scripture – not just verses; whole chapters. Not just Acts 2:38; Acts chapter 2. (Memory verses are for children; real men learn memory chapters.) The Gods-eye view of the world from the Scriptures has enriched all aspects of my life.

The Church of Christ has emphasized obedience to God. When I have been more obedient to God, I have found David to be correct. "All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant." (Psalm 25:10 NIV)

The Church of Christ has taught that there is one church and that that one church should not be divided into denominations. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13 NIV)

cont'd on Page 4

Ministers

Mike Ross, pastoral CARE
Justin Bruner, Youth & Family

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:00 A.M.
Worship 10:15 A.M.
CARE Groups 6:00 P.M.

Assembly Schedule

Wednesday

Prayer service &
Youth Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.

CARE Groups

Are you fully participating? I for one am great at being able to excuse myself from household duties. It seems that tiredness tops the list in most cases and I tell myself that I can just as easily cut the grass tomorrow. The problem is that tomorrow comes with a new set of chores and they just keep on coming! As in every family of every household we have spiritual chores that come with being a member of God's family. What really matters is are you putting off those tasks...

*Compassion • Accepting
Reaching • Equipping*

What is God doing with you lately? Well, if you're not sure then take it as a sign that you should step up your participation. One practical way to do so is to join or become more involved in a CARE group. Our family has a rich heritage of being there for each other through CARE groups. Two such groups are still meeting together over 20 years since their first meeting! In an effort to organize participation I am encouraging the groups to work with ministry leaders to adopt a ministry that they can support in some capacity. Some groups may find the best way to support a ministry is through prayer. Others may find that the ministry needs a little leg work or thought work for that matter. It will be up to the CARE group and the ministry leader to establish what the group can do to help. CARE group is fun and definitely rewarding. Take a look at the CARE group bulletin board near the church office and see what the different CARE groups are up to. But don't stop there.

Scott Mitchell

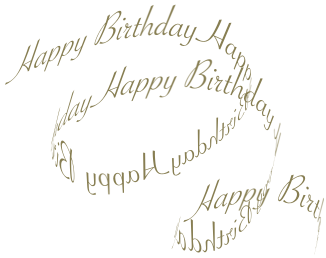
Wednesday Prayer Services

Beginning the first week in June, in lieu of adult classes we will meet as a body in the fellowship hall for a time of prayer. Our mid-week prayer service will be from 7 – 8 PM. The emphasis will be on prayer, but there will be some singing and sharing in the mix. Please plan to pray with the church family, this will be a great way to follow up our quarter long study of prayer. TEAMKid will continue for the children, and the Fusion teens will join the adults once or twice a month and meet as a teen group on the other weeks.



July 2007

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 <i>Church office closed for Independence Day</i>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>Operation Nehemiah Mission Trip All church Mission Trip to New Orleans La. 7th - 12th</i>						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Prayer Bkfast @ Mary Queen Church 7:10 am</i>
<i>← Meals on Wheels →</i>						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
<i>VBS • Heroes of Faith • 29th - 1st 6:30-8:30 PM • Ages 2 yrs - finished 3rd grade</i>						



3 - Peggy McCullum
5 - Kay Belk
8 - Linda O'Brien
9 - Jeff Thomas
15 - Connor Thomas
16 - Dick Bockart, Kirk McDaniel
17 - Lindsay Harrell

18 - Diana Bradshaw
20 - Beverly Thomas
21 - Janet McGinn, John Thomas,
Alex Van Pelt
22 - Lyndia Boggs, Donna Simpson
23 - Terri Hollingsworth
26 - Natalie Hoskins

27 - Bruce Williams, Vernelle
Hoskins
28 - Dian Kirklín
29 - Gayle Norman
30 - Ron Cox, Cara Hoskins

* Announcements *

July 7th-12th / Everyone is invited to join the youth group as we travel to New Orleans and work with Operation Nehemiah, "Rebuilding The Walls of People's Lives."

July 21st / 7:10 A.M. / Friendswood Prayer Breakfast will be @ Mary Queen Church / Speaker: Charles Kirklín will be speaking on prayer for public officials. Cost is \$5. Call Ed Hoskins to reserve your spot.

July 16th-18th - Meals on Wheels

July 29th-Aug 1st / Vacation Bible School • Heroes of the Faith • Ages 2 years old thru finished the 3rd grade. The times are 6:30 - 8:30 PM.

Congratulations to proud grandparents Bob & Linda Williams and John & Andrea Silver on the birth of Aiden John Silver born Wednesday, May 30th, weighing in at 8lbs 12oz, 21 inches long.

Congratulations to Sheri & Barry Watson on the birth of Mitchell Davis Watson born Monday, June 4th, weighing in at 6lbs 4oz, 18 3/4 inches long.

Congratulations to John & Natalie Hoskins on the birth of Colton Hoskins born May 28th at 11:30 PM, weighing in at 8lbs 14 oz, 20 1/2 inches long.



*Contribution Counters
Betty Dillon & Esther Scott*

*Communion Preparers
Bruce Belk*

All of the teachings that have been emphasized are also subject to distortions. Emphasis on the Scriptures and emphasis on obedience have led some to read into the Scriptures rules and regulations that are not there. Believers that do not accept and obey these rules and regulations have been considered not to be a part of the one church. (See *Stumbling Blocks to Unity* @ http://www.fwdcofc.org/docs/Stumbling_Blocks_to_Unity.pdf) This is not a trivial matter. (If you are receiving this electronically, click on the link above with the “hand” tool in Acrobat Reader and the document will come up in either Acrobat or your web browser.)

I see many parallels between this distortion and the teachings of the circumcision group that Paul condemned in Galatians. The circumcision group was teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and must follow the Law of Moses to come to God. Paul does not say what their arguments were for forcing Gentiles to do that. I could just imagine them saying that it was the conservative thing to do. But it was a burden that God did not require of Gentiles and a stumbling block for them coming to God.

Today, I am afraid that too many of us can tell stories of friends, family, and acquaintances that have been turned off from any church because of arguments they have witnessed between Church of Christ members and other believers. Has this modern distortion of the gospel done less damage to the body of Christ than the first century perversion that Paul condemned? If Paul said that ones who try to be justified by a God-given law have been alienated from Christ (Galatians 5:4 NIV), what would he say of ones trying to be justified by commandments of men?

What shall we do with the teachings we have received? Let us “Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) Let us value the Scriptures and obedience, but let our obedience be obedience to God from hearts that are near to God and not “worship of (God) ... made up only of rules taught by men.” (Isaiah 29:13)

Let us continue to proclaim that Jesus’ church should not be denominational. What can we do about the divided church? I do not think there is anything we can do, but I believe God can do something. Let us be open to whatever God would do. If God calls us to leave the comfort of our traditions, let our prayer to God be “not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39) Let our allegiance be to Jesus and not to our Church of Christ heritage.

Book of the Month • Book of the Month • Book of the Month

It is no secret that we here at the Lamp are big fans of Ravi Zacharias. His aim is to challenge and reach out to the culture with the credibility of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and any of his books are very worthwhile reading. *A Shattered Visage (The Real Face of Atheism)*, *Deliver Us From Evil (Restoring the Soul in a Disintegrating Culture)*, *Can Man Live Without God?*, and *Cries of the Heart (Bringing God Near When He Feels So Far)* are but a few of the titles available. His writing style can tug on your heartstrings as well as reach the mind with equal force, so if you’ve been looking for a good book to settle into give him a try. I don’t think you’ll be disappointed.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
IN FRIENDSWOOD



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