

hope **one** God
 Lord Spirit body
 faith **family**
 baptism hope

January 4, 2015

12932 S. Elwood Ave. • Glenpool OK, 74033

Why the Churches of Christ Were Right After All

The following article was written in 2011 by a Methodist blogger. He had previously held a pretty negative view of the Church of Christ, but he gave us another shot by visiting a congregation in Texas. He was impressed, and what follows are his own words about what he thought was good about the Church of Christ. You don't have to like everything he says about us to appreciate the good characteristics he points out. May we be the kind of people who practice this kind of Christianity. — Ben

Here are five reasons why the Churches of Christ may be right after all.

First, they have a profound insight into Christian music and its place in worship. I'm not sure I buy the rationale that says that because the New Testament doesn't mention musical instruments, congregations should not be forced to sing with them. The Churches of Christ seem to use plenty of stuff ... that are not to my recollection mentioned in the Holy Scriptures. But they sure do sing well and, speaking as a man on this point, I really appreciate a church that does not expect me to sing soprano, even transposed an octave lower. There's something utterly wonderful about the sound of human voices blending together in harmony. I wonder if we have gone too far with our instrumental fetish in worship. First the instrumentalists just accompanied us, then they wanted to improvise on the last verse, forcing us all to sing soprano, and now they just seem to launch off into improvisation whenever they feel like it with no warning. Maybe we need to send out a message on our projection screens or with a flashing neon lights, "Everybody Sing Soprano Now" or "Altos, Tenors and Basses: Drop Off." I'm tired of it; I think I like the Church of Christ.

Second, they've sure got the right name. If you think about, I mean, think about it from the perspective of a friendly outsider, "Methodist" and "Presbyterian" and "Baptist" are not really ace names for Christian groups. Even "Catholic" sounds a little pretentious and "Orthodox" a little snitty. "Church of Christ" sounds pretty straightforward by contrast. And you don't find local Churches of Christ congregations named "Wellspring Cornerstone Kewl Informal Non-Stuff Community," just "Preston Road Church of Christ" or "Highway 59 Church of Christ." Like the New Testament, they just name their congregations for the places where they meet, kind of like the hobbits who built a new row of hous-

ELDERS

Jesse Byers
 Bobby Hill
 Bill Path
 Keith Riggs

MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

Matt Caldwell,
 ASSOCIATE MINISTER,
 YOUTH & EDUCATION

James Hamilton,

WORSHIP

Bruce Rothell,
 MISSIONS

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages	9:30 am
Morning Worship Assembly	10:30 am
Evening Worship & Classes	5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages	7:00 pm
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es and then after a long discussion decided to name it “New Row.” Perfectly straightforward. What’s not to like about that?

Third, the Churches of Christ celebrate the Lord’s Supper every Sunday. Churches of Christ folk haven’t fallen for Protestants’ quirky idea that words can suffice in place of bread and wine. The service at Preston Road was very simple, with an elder of the congregation offering a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the bread (which seemed to be matzot, the kind of unleavened bread that Jews eat during Passover) and a prayer of thanksgiving for the wine (which tasted a lot like grape juice), then the elements were distributed to the congregation in the pews. It reminded me a lot of the simple prayers over the bread and wine in the second-century *Didache* document; I wondered if the distinguished second-century scholar Everett Ferguson of Abilene Christian University had somehow influenced this congregation or its leaders.

Fourth, there really is only one Church of Christ. That’s one of the cardinal claims of the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century, and the Churches of Christ were way out front in making us aware of that claim. You don’t have to buy the “hard-shell” version of the Church of Christ teaching to own that basic truth.

Fifth, and perhaps most importantly, the simplicity of the Churches of Christ allows them to focus on what is most important, namely, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There was no congregational creed beyond the songs we sang, of course, but a member of the congregation got up before the offering and exhorted us to consider the sacrifice of Christ as we give ourselves. ... This man knew the faith and he presented the Gospel in a simple and straightforward manner. The pastor’s sermon on the salt and light passage in the Sermon on the Mount (St. Matthew 5:13-16) drove home the message that Christians need to be giving themselves for the world. The salt, he said, needs to get out of the salt shaker.

I came away with the sense that Churches of Christ folk really are the hobbits of the Christian world: not a lot of technological razzmatazz, not a lot of heavy emotion, not an elaborate or sophisticated liturgy, they just get the job done. There is a primitive simplicity to their communities that really stands out among other church bodies trying to be the church of Christ. We’d do well to learn from them and thank God for their witness.

by Ted Campbell

CHILI COOK-OFF

A Chili Cook-off is planned for Sunday, Jan 18th after evening services. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the old foyer for those who would like to compete and for additional items that can be brought. If you do not wish to compete you can bring soup, sandwiches or desserts and come join the fun. Group Hill is responsible for setting up and cleaning up. For questions see Shirley Hill, Deb Path, Nancy Riggs or Becky Byers.



upcoming
work dinners
events fellowship
retreats picnics games parties
meetings

Sunday, Jan 11th

Elder’s and Deacon’s meeting at 3:30
Tulsa Area Wide Youth Rally at 29th & Yale

Sunday, Jan 18th

Chili Cook-off

Sunday, March 8th

Tulsa Area Wide Youth Rally -- here!

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Barbara Vaughan's son, Eric, had heart surgery - it didn't go as well as they originally thought, he will need a more extensive surgery later.
- Bob Simmons had a stent placed in one of his veins; his heart valve surgery was postponed until February.
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear; David Guten (Afghanistan);
- **Our friends and family:** Suzanne Stamps; Sue Gilbert (Leasa's mother); Jeannene Thomas (cancer); Barbara Vaughan; Eric Vaughan (heart); the Mulkey family; Larry Isaacs (chemo); Bryant Calip (chemo); Maggie Ryan (cancer); Daniel Cessor (cancer); James Hultman (cancer); Maile Reedy (kidney transplant); Darcy Ives (cancer); Jerry O'Shields & others.

EVANGELISM MEETING

There will be an Evangelism Team meeting today at 4:00 pm.

MEETING

An Elder's and Deacon's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan 11th at 3:30.

FELLOWSHIP GROUP INSERT

Please see the updated Fellowship Meal Teams. Please throw away the list from a week or two ago and keep this one. This one includes our new members too. Sorry for the confusion.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

There are updates for your directories on the long table just north of the foyer. As soon as a page is ready for Zac & Rachel Tenison it will be put out.



AREA WIDE YOUTH RALLEY

The youth are invited to attend the Area Wide Youth Ralley at 29th & Yale on Jan 11th. See Matt Caldwell for details.

DEACON

The Elders would like to put Todd Khoury's name before the congregation to be considered as a Deacon in charge of buildings and grounds.

If you have any Biblical concerns please see one of the Elders today.



JOHN SHAFER

John Shafer will be leaving Jan 19th for his mission trip to India. He is asking for prayers on his behalf and for Jack McNeil, who will be traveling with him. He also thanks us for our financial support. We wish them a safe and successful trip.

BOX TOPS

Please consider collecting Box Tops for Hope Harbor Children's Home.

You can find them on a lot of different products including: Betty Crocker, cereal, Ziploc, Pillsbury, Kleenex, Scott... A complete list of products is posted on the bulletin board in the old foyer. When you have collected some just put them in the plastic bag on the bulletin board. Many Thanks!

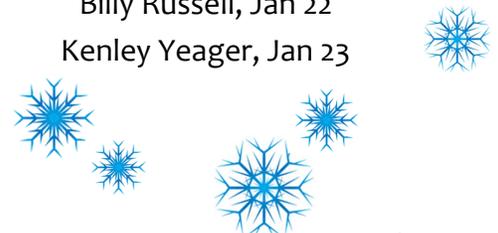


UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Shelby Caldwell, Jan 7
Doyle & Natasha Tuggle, Jan 7
Robert Hallsted, Jan 9
David Tenison, Jan 10
Hannah Edwards, Jan 11

Randy & Vickie Crawford, Jan 15
Rita Risley, Jan 18
Chris & Leasa Mulkey, Jan 18
Jesse & Eleanor Phillippe, Jan 19
Ryan & Jennifer McCafferty, Jan 21

Billy Russell, Jan 22
Kenley Yeager, Jan 23



GLENPOOL church of Christ

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Attendance: Last Week

Sunday Bible Classes	132
Sunday AM Worship	150
Sunday PM Worship	100
Wednesday Bible Classes	Singing

Contribution

Sunday Contribution	\$4,753.96
Budget	\$4,185.00
Over Budget	\$9,715.69
Building Fund	\$4,744.23

Men To Serve

Sunday Morning

Song Leader	Robert Hallsted
Opening Prayer	Randy Brown
Scripture Reading	Ian Hill
Closing Prayer	Jesse Byers
Lord's Table	Ryan McCafferty Todd Khoury Topper Causby Doyle Tuggle Randy Crawford

Greeter

Bruce & Lilia
Steve & Sandy

Ushers

Jeff Bullinger
Bobby Hill

Lock Building

Bruce Rothell and Bobby Hill

Announcements

Bill Path

Sunday Evening

Song Leader	Robert Hallsted
Opening Prayer	Jerry Buller
Closing Prayer	Steve Wetzel
Lord's Table	Todd Khoury Topper Causby

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader	Matt Caldwell
Opening Prayer	Bill Hamrick
Closing Prayer	Larry Potter

Communion Preparation

1/4	Leasa Mulkey
1/11	Rothell Ladies
1/18	Susan Yeager
1/25	Kay Robinson
2/1	Edward Ladies
2/8	Autumn Caldwell
2/15	Tonya Davidson
2/22	Causby Ladies



Sundays at 7:30 a.m. KWHB
TV47 or Cable Channel 7

Search Programs:

Jan 4 - How God Sees Sin
Jan 11 - God Understands
Jan 18 - Did God Make Me Sinful?
Jan 25 - Forgiving Yourself

Sunday Morning Sermon

The Light of the World: "Illumination"
John 1:9-13
Benjamin Williams

Sunday Evening Adult Class

A Study of the Church of Christ
Benjamin Williams