



Sunday News

Fayetteville Church of Christ

Volume 13 Number 33

August 19th, 2007

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IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY
Sunday's at 7:30 am
WATC-TV - CHANNEL 57
(Channel 2 on Cable)

Gospel Boardcasting Network
www.gbntv.org

Minister

Associate/Youth

Greg Nash
770 487-1331
Cell 404 455-1546

Office Staff

Susie Graham
Jane Lankford

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Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes
10:00 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service

Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Class

10:00 am (September-May)

Wednesday Bible Classes

7:15 pm

Thursday Evening Ladies' Bible Class

7:00 pm

Family Matters

Billy & Mary Weaver - Decieta Lyon sister and brother-in-law and Mary Frances' mother and father.

Linda Smith - Is home recovering from blood clots in her lungs.

Leonita Collins - Is home recovering.

Lurlene Richie - Has a stress fracture in her leg and will be home 4 weeks.

Belle Graham - Has a a hairline fracture in her hip and is having some medical problems.

Barbara Edmonds - Had surgery and is home recovering.

Clinton Shaw - Is having problems with his foot.

Melvin Jackson, Beryl Higgins, Robert Neff, Jimmy Lee Falls, Billie Palison, Jerald Jackson, Stephen Turcker, Alvin Elder, Emma Jean Lyons, Virginia Gregory, Denise Bowman, Darren Smith, Frances Elder, Shirley Smallwood, Alisa Fields, Louise Benefield, Annette Benefield, Brendon Fields, Edna Burdette & Joe Clark, Beryl Higgins, Amy Alexander, Brandon Stark, Ruth Mayfield, Lauren Harlow, Angela Compton, Glenn Bailey, Angie Britton, Charleston Moore, Dixie Elam, Austin Frisber, Joann Hendricks, Chris & Angee Waites

Shut-ins:

Dorothy McLaughlin, Christine Davis, Louis Vickery, Jo Smith, Margaret Davis & Ruth Manuel

Members away in the Military:

FN Warrington, Shaun,0725MT, Naval Nuclear Power Training, Command, 101 NNPTC Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445

Brad & Ansley Willis, 4805 Pace Patriot Blvd, Pace, FL 32571

PVT2 Matt Waldrop, D Troop 5-73 CAV, COB - KMTB/Caldwell, APO AE 09324

Deepest Sympathy

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Nash, Burdette, Hopkins, Biles and Garner families at the loss of Vivian Nash. Vivian passed away Sunday and her funeral was Wednesday. Please keep all these families in your prayers.

Bridal Shower
Marisa Mitchell

September 2nd at 3:30 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

Braves Game

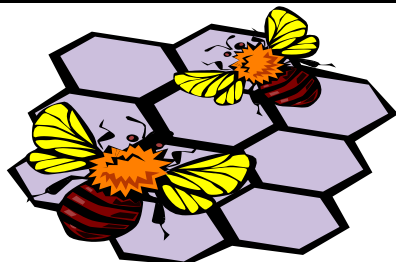
September 2nd

See Rupearl Sharpe for
information by Sunday

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Mitchell request the honour
of your presence at the marriage of their Daughter
Marisa Mitchell to Richard Chambers

on Saturday, the Twenty-second of September Two Thousand and Seven
at Two O'Clock in the afternoon at Fayetteville Church of Christ

Golf Tournament to support the West Cobb Christian Academy at Macland Rd Church of Christ on September 24th. See Greg for details.



Ladies Day
Fayetteville Church of Christ
Bee all you can Bee
September 29th from 9am to 1 pm

The Organization of the Church

The church is a perfect, divine, absolute monarchy. Christ, the head of the church, possesses "all authority...in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), and is "both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Paul, speaking about the absolute authority that God gave to Christ, said, "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). If we wish to be pleasing to God, we must hear Christ (Matt. 17:5) for God speaks today through His Son (Heb. 2:1-4). The Bible declares that Christ, the head of the church, is the divine Son of God (Matt. 16:16; Rom. 1:4). Since Christ is divine, you expect His character to be perfect and so it is for the Bible says He is without sin (7:26-27; I Pet. 2:22) and merciful and compassionate (Heb. 2:10; 4:15). Since Christ is divine, His law is perfect (Gal. 1:25; Rom. 8:2).

No voice must be heard as authority in our preaching, work, and worship but the voice of Christ. Of course, when we are governed by the teachings of the apostles, who were filled with the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth (John 16:13), we are governed by the teaching of Christ. In Luke 24:49 Jesus instructs the apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until they received power from on high. They would receive this power when the Holy Spirit came on them (Acts 1:8). In Acts 2:1-4 we read that the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak as the Spirit gave them utterance. Since those who receive the apostles receive Christ (Matt. 10:40; John 13:20), then those who are governed by the teachings of the inspired apostles are governed by the teachings of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.

One can properly understand the organization of the church when one understands the essential role which God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the apostles had in this matter. The role of each in the organization of the church was substantial and one makes a serious mistake when one tries to minimize the significance of any.

What Is God's Plan?

Even though God made Christ the head of the church, there was no provision made for Him to remain on earth and reign on a literal, earthly throne. Instead, the Lord reigns from heaven over the universal church (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; I Tim. 3:15) which is the whole body of believers. He did not authorize an earthly, universal, hierarchical system in order to bind all local congregations together. Instead, His law is administered on a congregational level. Each mature congregation is overseen by elders (Acts 14:23; 20:17, 20; I Pet. 5:2). The qualifications of the elders (I Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-7; I Pet. 5:1-3) indicate that they are the men best suited to oversee the affairs of the local congregation.

When one considers that Christ, the absolute monarch of the church, is divine, perfect in character, has a perfect law, and that elders who are to oversee the affairs of the local congregation are best suited by knowledge, experience and wisdom to direct the affairs of the local congregation, you know that there can be no better government for the church. Who can conceive of a better government for a group of dedicated people than an absolute, divine monarchy with a perfect, benevolent monarch whose law is administered by the wisest and the best? It is the part of wisdom that we accept and follow God's perfect plan of government for the church.

The Elders

"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons" (Phil. 1:1). All the saints at a given place, with the bishops and deacons, a local assembly working and worshipping as it is written, constitute the church in that place.

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are men who have demonstrated that they can live the Christian life and that they possess wisdom and judgment in affairs of administration. One must be careful not to join that school of thought, composed partly of preachers, who often say none is qualified to serve as elders, because none possesses the qualifications to perfection. Have you ever known a preacher who possessed perfectly the qualifications of an evangelist as given in First and Second Timothy and Titus?

In Bible terminology the terms elder, bishop, overseer, pastor and shepherd all refer to the same men. From Miletus Paul "sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church" (Acts 20:17). Paul later referred to these same men as overseers (Acts 20:28) and pastors (Eph. 4:11). Paul told Titus to ordain elders in every city-(Titus 1:5) and then gave the qualifications of a bishop (Titus 1:7). Peter addressed the elders (I Pet. 5:1) and then implied that they were shepherds under "the chief Shepherd" (I Pet. 5:4).

There was always a plurality of elders (Acts 14:23; 15:6; Acts 20:17; Phil. 1:1). It was the eldership. No one elder in any congregation had authority over the others. One of the first steps in changing God's government, and leading to apostasy, was exalting one man over the others and calling him "the bishop."

Elders should "tend the flock of God which is among you" (I Pet. 5:2-3; Acts 20:28). The prerogative of the elders does not extend beyond the limits of the congregation in which they serve as elders. Elders of one congregation should not meddle in the affairs of another congregation.

The Deacons

Deacons were a part of the organization of the Lord's church (Phil. 1:1). The general meaning that is given to a deacon (diakonas) is attendant, servant, or minister. The word has a general usage to various ones who did work and served the church; however, there is a specific use of the term which shows that the early church had an official office of work known as the deacon. The qualifications of a deacon are given in I Timothy 3:8-13. It is not the deacon's business to run the affairs of the church. The church is not under the "elders and deacons," but the elders. When the deacons begin to function as elders, they are out of order.

The Preacher

Since it is God's will for elders to over-see the affairs of the local congregation, then the rest of us who compose the congregation must be among the overseen. This includes the preacher.

The preacher's business is to preach the word of God. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2). He must do the work of an evangelist (II Tim. 4:5). He must be an example (I Tim. 4:12). He must commit truth "to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2).

It is not the preacher's business to run the affairs of the local congregation. The preacher has no business trying to run the affairs of any church anywhere, either through his writings or through other preachers or through his meetings. There is something sadly wrong with the spiritual life of churches of Christ when small groups of preachers set themselves apart from other gospel preachers and operate more or less as little cliques. It is true that false teachers (preachers) must be marked (Rom. 16:17-18), but we need to be sure the marking is for teaching false doctrine, not just matters contrary to my opinions, methods, likes and dislikes. Let each of us be content to serve the Lord in our own field of endeavor without trying to intrude into the affairs of other churches.

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The Majority

According to God's plan it is not the business of the majority to run the affairs of the church. When a church has properly qualified elders, it is under the direction of a group of men who have proven by experience that they live the Christian life, possess a knowledge of the Bible, and are wise. The decisions reached by such a group of elders are far wiser and better than any decision reached by a group of people who have not yet proven that they excel in the Christian life, knowledge of the trust, and judgment and wisdom. Sometimes, because of lack of knowledge and wisdom, the majority may think that they know more than the elders and are therefore better qualified to run the affairs of the church. Sometimes this is confidence born of ignorance and when acted upon tends to destroy the church. Sometimes the desire for majority rule becomes so strong that the elders are removed. Elders should never be removed unless they become unqualified and the Bible procedure is followed before the church (1 Tim. 5:17-19).

The Members

The early church was also composed of members. They were individuals who had heard the word of God and had obeyed the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:13-17; II Thess. 1:8; 2:14; 1 Pet. 4:17). The members are to serve the Lord to the best of their ability, giving God the glory (1 Cor. 10:31; Rom. 16:27). "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Rom. 12:4-5). Roy Deaver, in commenting on this passage, makes the following application:

There is a work which each member is to do, and which each must do. This particular work cannot be done by someone else. The work of each member is essential, and is for the benefit of the whole body.

Paul wrote, "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Eph.4:16).

Conclusion

The organization of the church then is composed of both a divine side and a human side. Ultimate authority resides in God. He delegated authority to Christ. Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles into all truth. God's will is authoritative in all matters of faith and practice. The human side is composed of elders, deacons, preachers and members. Jim Laws wrote,

If this organization had been respected through the centuries, much of the false doctrines that have splintered the religious world would not have been brought into the church. It is safe to conclude that if God's original plan for the organization of the church had been re-spected, millions more precious souls would have been saved.

ENDNOTES

1 Roy Deaver, Romans, (Biblical Notes, Austin, TX: 1992), p. 456.

2 Jim Laws, "Declaring War on the Organization of the Lord's Church," Shall We Restructure the Church of Christ, 1995, Memphis School of Preaching Lectures, Editor Curtis Cates, p. 162.

James Meadows is director of the East Tennessee School of Preaching and Missions located in Knoxville, TN.

The Spiritual Sword, July 1996

Order of Worship for July

To attain a higher level of dignity, we would like to suggest that our men wear coats and ties while serving the congregation. Please consider this suggestion seriously. Your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated.

	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>
Announcements	GREG NASH	GREG NASH
Song Leaders	STAN MITCHELL	GENE MAYNARD
Opening Prayer	MIKE FIELDS	WADE FOSTER
Scripture Reading	LEE GOODMAN	PRESTON SMITH
Preside LS	TOMMY CHAPMAN	LARRY CARROLL
Serve LS	JACK SORRELL	JACK SORRELL
Serve LS	ANDY JOHNSON	ANDY JOHNSON
Serve LS	SCOTT KELLY	SCOTT KELLY
Serve LS	BRYAN ADAMS	BRYAN ADAMS
Serve LS	GERRY WHITACRE	GERRY WHITACRE
Serve LS	CLARK JOHNSON	CLARK JOHNSON
Serve LS	WADE FOSTER	WADE FOSTER
Serve LS	TROY ETHERIDGE	TROY ETHERIDGE
Serve LS	NEAL BILES	NEAL BILES
Sermon	JOEY BARKLEY	Pending
Closing Prayer	WAYNE NASH	DENNIS ETHERIDGE
PM Service		
Sermon	JOEY BARKLEY	Pending
Serve LS	GERRY WHITACRE	WADE FOSTER
Serve LS	CLARK JOHNSON	LEWIS ARMSTRONG

Ushers for August

Ray Russell & Rick Sharpe

Care of Building for August

Andy Johnson & Steve Hopkins

Nursery Attendants

Morning

Evening

Aug 5th	Karen Harp & Elaine Holloway	Jane Lankford
Aug 12th	Susie Graham & Kelly Hinely	Darla Iniquez
Aug 19th	Abbie Huber & Alex Huber	Bonni Lako
Aug 26	Donna Barnette & Ashley Johnson	Susie Graham

Youth Calendar

August 19th

High Schoolers will go out to
eat after the PM Service

August 25

Service Day

Visiting & helping shut-ins,
widows and widowers

Sept 15

Service Day

Visiting & Helping shut-ins,
widows and widowers

Sept 16

Area Wide Youth Devo
at Fairview Church of Christ

October 28

Area Wide Youth Devo
at Forest Park Church of Christ

October 31

Trunk-a-Treat

Nov 10

Rake & Run Day
Fall Work Day for the shut-ins,
widows and widowers

Calendar

Aug 18

SilverWings Dinner at 6 PM

Sept 2

Marisa Mitchell Bridal Shower

Sept 7

Game Night at 6 PM

Sept 9

Men's Meeting at 2 PM
Guest Speaker-Robert Martin
6PM

Sept 11

Tuesday Morning

Ladies Bible

Sept 15

Service Day for the
shut-ins, widows & widowers

Sept 15

SilverWings Diner at 6 PM Class
at 10 AM

Sept 22

Marisa Mitchell's Wedding

Sept 29

Ladies Day 9 til noon

Sept 30

Family Luncheon

Oct 5

Game Night at 6 PM

Oct 5-7

Macland Rd Church of Christ
Singles Retreat at
Camp Inaghei

Oct 14

Ginny Lankford's Bridal Shower

Oct 20

SilverWings Dinner at 5 PM

Oct 27

Resource Room Work Day 9-12
Daylight Saving Time ends

Oct 31

Trunk-a-Treat

Happy Birthday



August 2007

		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	
		Bryan Adams Malcom & Nancy Moore	Tommy Durden		Rex /Kathryne Hardy	
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
				Bill & Jo Ruffer		
<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
Andrew Pyron Jeanie Pyron		Ashleigh Barnette Kimberly Holloway		Brandy Allender Hick Higginbotham		Lewis Armstrong Paul Lyons
<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
Bill Ruffer	Becky Higginbotham	Curtis & Jo Hurt Gene & Cindy Maynard	Ann Harbin Jane Lankford		Jimmy & Shelby Garner	Service Day
<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	
Sandy Garner Yolanda Moreland	Jeff & Shirley Goodman		Laura Smith	Teresa Orser Jerry & Miranda Kendrix		