

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Gary VanWinkle heart issues; Delia Schlachter back issues; Tammy Odom— recovering from a broken femur; Emily George and John Nickl are recovering from hip surgeries and doing good; Ashley Wygal— for her pregnancy; Teresa Broyles cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS;
Paula Davis— friend Tracey recovering from motorcycle accident; Jan Lavern's nephew, Kerry/knee surgery; Les Vasterling's grandson, Michael/kidney issues; The Bonelli's daughter, Vitina for UC flare; Jinni Cochran's mother Nickie Campbell in Madonna Ptak Rehab; The Broyles stepmom Mary Jane Wright recovering from broken femur; Regina Hunter's sister, Cynthia/health issues; Carol Mitchell— tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons for health issues; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dyianna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; John Benson's friend, Wendell; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Linda Hadsock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Lou and Rose Fiores also co-worker Marie Woleck.

INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

SHUT INS: Alison Harris, Delia Schlachter, Joyce Stanley, Guery & Nancy VanWinkle

Activities

NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS—Friday, March 17th at 1:00pm in the small building.

GOSPEL MEETING—Mark your calendars for our Spring Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster from Sunday April 2nd through Thursday April 6th. We will have a fellowship dinner on Sunday after the morning service. Be sure to invite family, friends and neighbors. Flyers are in the foyer.

SYMPATHY— Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sandy Caldwell and family for the recent loss of a grandson, Nicholas. Remember the Caldwell family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their dear loved one.

NEW ADDRESS— Matt and Hannah Pryor have recently moved out of the area. If you would like to keep in touch with them their new address is: 2510 46th Ave W, Bradenton FL 34207-1253.

TIME CHANGE— Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday the 12th. Just a reminder to change your clocks an hour forward on Saturday night.

REMINDER—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Greeters—John Benson/Paula Davis

Announcements—James George

Song Leaders—Jesse Lancaster/James George

Scripture Readers—Rob Schlachter/Bob Hadsock

Opening Prayer—Joe Bonelli/David Jones

Lord's Table—Van Stewart

Closing Prayer—Dennis Cuckler/Patrick Pinto

Anniversaries This Week

Jim and Emily George—March 6th

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 5, 2023
 centralofchrist@gmail.com
 www.centraleofchrist.com

Office: (727) 446-4808
 1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater, FL 33756-2357

Gospel Broadcasting Network
<http://gbntv.org> **YouTube**
<https://spiritualsword.org/>

SEARCH TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday **YouTube**
 watch & hear Phil Sanders

THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR **YouTube** (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

House to House Heart to Heart
www.HouseToHouse.com
FSOP
 EST. 1969
 fsop.net

Childhaven, Inc.
 Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL
www.childhaven.com

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME
fairhavenchildrenshome.com www.christiancourier.com

Soaring for Souls
soaringforsouls.com

INDIA MISSIONS
cocindia.net

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale
 Czech Republic Missions —Tony/Heidi Orellana

Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles
 James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
 Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Major Prophets—Intro to Daniel

Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Jesus Did It All For Us
 2 Corinthians 5:14

Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM
 Charles Broyles

A Microscopic View of Jesus
 Revelation 1:4-7

Ladies Bible Study-Friday
 March 17th at 1:00PM

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM
 Charles Broyles
The Problem of Sin

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and **YouTube Live!**



From the Preacher's Pen

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—LARRY D. MATHIS

Fellowship (koinonia in the Greek), is defined as: “association, joint participation, sharing.” Thus, to be in Christian fellowship with another is to be his partner, a joint participant, his associate. This means that church (Christian) fellowship is predicated on agreement. One is not an associate, a joint participant, or a partner with another when his conscience forbids him to share in what that individual is doing. How could a faithful child of God be a partner, in Christian fellowship, with atheists, false teachers, disruptive divisive brethren, or immoral church members?

Christian Fellowship: Inclusive and Exclusive

The very idea of fellowship considers the possibility that one may be included in it or excluded from it. Some things and individuals can be fellowshiped with God's approval, others can not. The New Testament draws the boundary line and faithful Christians will honor and respect what God has revealed therein. God's children must seek to include in fellowship that which God has included and exclude from fellowship what he has excluded.

To propose a fellowship that is more extensive and far reaching than what God has authorized is to effect a pseudo-generosity, an extreme. Conversely, to propose a fellowship that is more limited or stringent than what God has authorized is to spawn another extreme; it is to effect a “holier-than-thou” or super-righteous stance.

No Fellowship with the World

Christians are “in the world” (John 17:11), but are “not of the world” (John 17:16). They have been “called out of the world” (John 17:6), by the gospel (2 The. 2:14), into one body—the church of Christ (Col. 3:15; 1:18; Mat. 16:18). Christians are “sent into the world” (John 17:18), with the glorious gospel-in hope of saving the world (Mat. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16).

Though Christians must make contact with those in the world in order to convert them, God has strictly commanded us to “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11). Paul wrote: “for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God...Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

No Fellowship with False Churches—False Religions

Jesus Christ built his own church (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16; Acts 20:28). Not one of the man made religions, sects and/or denominations in existence today can be found in the New Testament. Actually, every human religion on earth today is in competition with the church of the New Testament which Christ built nearly 2,000 years ago. Jesus prayed against all divisions and sects among believers (John 17:20-23). The inspired apostle Paul warned against sects and parties and divisions as “works of the flesh” and said they “shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21, ASV). Christians cannot fellowship apostate churches/ religions with God's approval.

No Fellowship with Judaism

Christ desired and prayed for unity among those who believe in him, and who accept the apostles' doctrine; i.e., believe on him (Jesus), through “their word” (John 17:20-23; cf. Acts

2:42). Paul said Judaism was the “Jews' Religion” (Gal. 1:13-14), That religion was nailed to Calvary's cross and was taken out of the way (Col. 2:14). Anyone today who rejects Christ, Christianity, or the New Testament for the Old, cannot be fellowshiped by Christians.

No Fellowship with False Teachers

The Lord's church must not adore, use, nor promote any known false teacher (whether in or out of the church). Any and all who abide not in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11), are to be: (1) marked and avoided (Rom. 16:17); (2) withdrawn from (1 Tim. 6:3-5); and, (3) given no encouragement or endorsement whatsoever in their error (2 John 9-11). In the first century A.D., Hymenaeus and Philetus taught in error that the resurrection was past and had overthrown the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:17-18). Now, do you think the apostle Paul considered these false teachers to be in fellowship with him, or with other sound brethren? Are we to suppose that Paul invited them in to hold a gospel meeting, or to lecture the churches back then? Absolutely not!

No Fellowship with Immoral Church Members

“I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat” (1 Cor. 5:11). “Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (1 Cor. 5:13).

No Fellowship with Disorderly Church Members

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you” (2 The. 3:6-7). A “disorderly” person is any member of the church who ceases to walk in the light—one who is walking contrary to the truth of God (1 John 1:7). Contextually, Paul has in mind a member of the church who is too lazy to work for his food (2 The. 3:11-12), but, a member of the church may be “disorderly” in other ways too. For instance, aren't people who habitually willfully forsake the assembling of themselves with the saints “disorderly?”

Whom, Then, May We Fellowship?

The question is, “Whom, with God's approval, should Christians fellowship?” The answer is:

- (1) Those, and only those, who have obeyed the gospel; only those who are God's children—Christians. Those who have not obeyed the gospel are not Christians and are not in God's church family. Therefore, children of God do not have the right to extend family privileges to those who are children of the devil. To become a child of God (a Christian), one must hear the gospel (Rom. 10:17); believe (Heb. 11:6); repent (Acts 17:30-31); confess Christ (Rom. 10:10; Mat. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37); and be baptized (immersed) into Christ for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38 says: “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” The Lord adds such a person to His church (Acts 2:47).
- (2) Those, and only those, who are continuing to “walk in the light” after conversion (1 John 1:7). When it becomes apparent that one has ceased to walk in the light (to follow the truth), and refuses to repent, then he must be refused the fellowship of the church. The right hands of fellowship may be extended and they may also be withdrawn or withheld (Gal. 2:9).