

THE PROCLAIMER



WILLOW AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST VOL. XXXVII ISSUE #9 MARCH 1, 2017

Do Church at Home?

Every morning as I drive my son to the high school there is an electronic billboard we pass just before the entrance to the school. On the billboard for several weeks now I have seen this advertisement – “Do church at home!” There are some instructions as to how you can do church at home in the rest of the ad.

Over the past few years I have noticed the different ads for churches that have been aimed at being consumer friendly. They say things like, “These are my church clothes” – featuring a guy wearing jeans and a T-shirt. Another one I remember said, “No perfect people allowed.” These ads generally come from large community churches which have sprung up all over the landscape for the past several decades. These groups have had great success because they appeal to little structure, variable doctrines, and love and acceptance of all beliefs.

Their “non-denominational” approach is accurate. Their appeal to be evangelistic and caring is also praiseworthy. Their desire for love and unity is something for which all Christians should strive. But there is one thing that seems increasingly absent from everything they do and teach – correct biblical doctrine. “Do church at home” is a good example of their erring approach.

The word, “church” in the Bible is defined as a called out body of people, an assembly, or congregation.” It represents a group of individuals who have been cleansed by the blood of Christ and added to the universal church by the Lord Himself. The New Testament clearly teaches that Christians in the early church gathered together locally to worship, fellowship, break bread, pray, and were organized under an eldership with deacons and ministers and local Bible teachers in congregations working together for the cause of Christ.

Early churches were actually started in homes, and across the world even today when local congregations are first organized in communities, houses are usually their point of origin. But here is where the problem lies - the goal is not to go home to be the church, the goal is to leave home and spread the gospel to the world!

We have dozens of shut-ins here in our local congregation. These people cannot worship publicly for various reasons and have no choice but to stay home and listen to the radio or watch TV or use some other form of help in order to worship. The church literally has to come to them – it’s not an ideal situation but those of us who are healthy need to reach out to our shut-ins and love them and keep them as a functional part of our fellowship. But how can church really be done at home? Especially when the very concept of the church is an organized fellowship of believers coming together and assembling to worship and work in the kingdom of God?

What’s wrong with encouraging people to “Do church at home”?...

- It keeps people from being accountable to God’s pattern for the organization and direction of every Christian – who should place themselves into a local congregation and submit to the authority and structure God has assigned for His church.
- It encourages a perpetual consumerist approach to Christianity, which aside from a lack of general Bible knowledge in the populace is the major problem with Christianity today.
- It makes it virtually impossible to save the lost! What if instead of “going to all the world” the apostles and early church decided to just livestream it from their couches? Where would we be?
- It makes people lazy! We can get up and go to work and school! But we can’t get out of bed to worship the Creator of the universe! Doesn’t our Savior deserve more from us than a half-hearted effort to even recognize His sacrifice on the cross?
- It’s just not the biblical definition of the church! We are the church all the time! We don’t do church! When I am at home, in my community, or even on vacation being a part of God’s family is something that identifies me, it is not something that I do for a couple of hours before I go on with the rest of my life.

I encourage everyone who reads this article to NOT do church at home. BE the church. Don’t forsake the assembly. Don’t ever miss gathering together with the church if you are physically able. Share the good news with the lost and give every ounce of your being to the blessed church for which Christ died.

“...to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Ephesians 3:21

Jeremiah Tatum

Sermon Topics March 5, 2017

9:00 a.m. – Jeremiah Tatum
"Let Every One Of You Be Baptized"
Acts 16:13-15
6:00 p.m. – Chase Fletcher
"What If I Do Nothing?"
Matthew 12:43-45



A Special Happy Anniversary to Denny & Ann Walker who celebrate 57 years on March 4.



Willow Avenue will be hosting the next Teens 4 Christ on Sunday night, March 5th during our evening service. We will be providing food but we need volunteers to provide dessert. Please sign up on the youth board if you can help.

FOR THE RECORD – FEBRUARY 26, 2017	
9:00 a.m.	482
10:15 a.m.	356
6:00 p.m.	294
Wed 2/22	317

We extend our sympathy to Dot Tomberlin in the death of her sister, Barbara Sims. Her funeral services Thursday, March 2, in Sale City, Georgia.

We extend our sympathy also to the family of our Nola Judd. Her funeral services are Friday, March 3, at Crest Lawn.



PANTRY ITEMS

March 5 - 11

#14 - Dewight Stamps' Class

Jelly

#15 - College Class

Vegetable Beef Soup

#16 - Mike Dyer's Class

Applesauce

#17/18 - Jeremiah's Class

Salmon

Auditorium Class

Mixed Veggies

CENTURION OF SCRIPTURE
February 26 – March 4 Walk In Unity
Ephesians 4:4-7

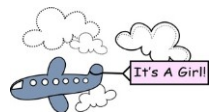
- 4) "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling."
- 5) "one Lord, one faith, one baptism:"
- 6) "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
- 7) "But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift."



All ladies are invited to a Bridal Shower for Elissa Longfellow, bride-elect of Brandon Marks, on Sunday afternoon, March 26 from 1:00 - 2:30 in the multipurpose room.

They are registered at Target, Kohls, and Amazon.

*We have received "Thank You" cards from:
Rachel Welch
Rose Keith
Ann Walker
Faye Jackson*



Congratulations to Dan & Erica Dyer on the birth of Hazel Rose Dyer on Tuesday, February 21. Hazel weighed 6 pounds 8

ounces and was 19 inches long. Proud big sister is Opal. Proud grandmother is Martha Dyer.



Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, March 5. Be sure to turn your clocks forward 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night so you won't be late for worship Sunday morning.



WILLOW MEALS

Make a difference in someone's life – sign up to prepare a dish to help with Willow Meals. The menus are posted on the bulletin next to the shelf with the returned dishes in the hallway.

March menus are now posted.

WE NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP TO COOK FOR THE MEALS!

LADS TO LEADERS

Practice for Sunday March 5 will be: 4:30 Speech; 5:15 Song Leading and Song of Praise; 5:30 Bible reading. Money for hotel is due and if you have any questions, please let the Mayer's know.



CORRECTION

Please add to your March calendar that Edith Stewart will celebrate her 97th birthday on March 20.



BUS DRIVER

Bus driver for Sunday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 8 is: Ralph Bryant (931-252-2025).



If you have requested a CD of a sermon in the past several weeks, please check the table in the foyer. We are getting quite a collection.



Churches of Christ Disaster Relief is an opportunity for service and involvement. We are planning to spend a day at Disaster Relief helping pack boxes. There is a signup sheet on the fellowship bulletin board if you would be interested in going. More details to come. If you have any questions, contact Phil Philips.



GoldenAires - The GoldenAire Luncheon will be Tuesday, March 7, at 12:00 noon in the multipurpose room. Following the covered dish meal we will watch the video "The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage".

Also, check out the work project for this month. Details on the GoldenAire board.

BIBLE BOWL 2017 BOOKS MARK - PHILIPPIANS - COLOSSIANS

Happy Haven Home will have their 52nd anniversary banquet on Thursday, March 30 at 6:30 at the Leslie Town Centre. See the bulletin board at church for more details or call Happy Haven at 931-526-2052.

PRAYER LIST

It was good to see Cheryl Brooks, Patty Dyer, Faye Jackson and Isabelle Palombo all able to be at worship Sunday.

> *Margaret Chaffin is sick at home.*

> *Robert Cowan will have surgery March 13 at Vanderbilt.*

> *Bettie DeLuca is sick at home.*

> *Rose Keith is sick at home.*

> *Linda Phillips will have an echo cardiogram on Thursday, March 2, at TN Heart.*

> *Estelle Pippin fell last Friday and broke a bone in her foot and one of her fingers.*

> *Margaret Way is sick at home.*

> *Brenda Williams had back surgery Wednesday, March 1, at St. Thomas Mid-Town.*

> *Joe & Bev Buras' son who has been in the hospital in New Orleans, has been diagnosed cancer free.*

> *Aubrey Stockton (father of Elizabeth Hudson) is now at home.*

Sick or Recuperating at Home: Melba Bryant, Helen Burgess, Katherine Gaw, Vonda Graham, Ricky Sherrell, Cynthia Tate

Our Members dealing with cancer: Rosemary Andrews, Harold Kinnaird, Bud Scott

Those dealing with ongoing health problems: Michael Allison, Carl & Aileen Alred, Susan Ashburn, Helen Burgess, Kelly Fletcher, Pat Goodpasture, Sherree Hawkins, Judy Hix, Rose Keith, Donna Kinnaird, George Reitenour, Billy Slinger, Owen & Maudean Sparks, Peggy Sparks, Amos Spurlock

Shut-Ins at Home: Dib Anderson, Bud Bartlett, Patti Boyd, Belle Butts, Robert Cowan, Florene Davis, Ruth Gentry, Ben Gore, Rick Grimes, Mamie Henry, Marie Jackson, Reda Judd, Doug & Pearlene McCulley, Virginia McGee, Ressie Pharris, Jean Pitts, Rachel Stafford, Betty Tinch

Bethesda: Irene McBroom, Jimmy Sitto

Cedar Hills Senior Living: Phyllis Julian, Sara Lewis, Zina Mitchell

Heritage Point Assisted Living: Bud Scott

Life Care Center Sparta: Leslie Cole, Eddie DeLoach, Billie Watson

Senior Lifestyles: Shelby & Bonnie Forkum

Signature Healthcare: Bud Bartlett, Doris Haile, Juanita Nation

Mabry Healthcare Gainesboro: Olga Szalay, Kathleen Ragland, Betty Richardson, Glenn Webb

Morningside: Pearl Cockrum, Mildred Palk, Edith Stewart

NHC: Ann McWaters, Rebecca Brown

**Contact elder for March is
Jeff Gaw 931-260-2397**

CARE LINE: 931-432-6333

Willow Avenue Church of Christ
1150 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506

ELDERS

Jeff Gaw - Larry Harp
Dan Huffines - John Hudson
Roy Johnson - Gary Risley
Reed Wilson

DEACONS

Barry Allison - Ralph Bryant
Tom Bumbalough - Mark Caldwell
Charles Cobb - Tyler Gaw - Dennis Hood
Todd Hudson - Buddy King
David Lancaster - Phil Phillips - Paul Pippin
Steve Qualls - Rick Ramsey
Denny Richardson - Tim Richardson
David Ray Smith - Ryan Smith
Tom Stafford - Glenn Stockton
Don West - Richard Wood

MINISTERS

Jeremiah Tatum - Preacher
Mike Dyer - Involvement Minister
Chase Fletcher - Youth Minister

SECRETARIES

Vickie Stockton & Cathy Whiteaker

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Worship 9:00
Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:15
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00

RADIO BROADCASTS

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM
WHUB - AM 1400
WHUB - FM 107.7
WHUB.com

"Minutes of Meditation"

Three Times Daily Monday - Friday
WLKQ 95.9 FM and WLIV 104.7 FM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.
Office Phone 931-432-2333
Fax Line 931-432-2338
Care Line 931-432-6333

Website www.willowcofc.net
Email willowcofc@twlakes.net

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP - MARCH 5

Lead Singing - Roy Johnson
Read Scripture - Charles Bean
First Prayer - Gary Risley
Last Prayer - Carver Moore
Announcements - Dewight Stamps
Give Thanks - Neil Ashburn

Serve the Congregation -

<u>South Side</u>	<u>North Side</u>
David Ragland	Tim Woodward
Karl Nye	Tom Spohnholtz
Derek Gaw	Ryan Smith
Chase Fletcher	Barry Allison

Take Communion to the Shut-ins - Chayce Gaw
Cole Walker

Usher in the Auditorium - Tom Bumbalough & Justin Pace

Usher in the Vestibule and Assist with Outside Doors
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

North Door - Bill Bilbrey
South Door - Jerry Williams

Sound Booth: Sunday & Wednesday
Songs - Ethan Hammond
Sound - Dennis Hood

Parking Lot Patrol - Tom Stafford

Keep Nursery - Kylie Richards & Cathy Whiteaker
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Greet at Doors before Service & Hand Out Flyers
(Please be here by 8:30 am)

Door #1 - Tyler Carr
Door #2 - Mark & Leigh Caldwell
Door #3 - Karen Lykins & Lindsey Phillips
Door #4 - Phyllis Cobb & Julie Aikens
Door #5 - Sara Blaylock

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - MARCH 5

Lead Singing - Jeremiah & Luke Tatum
Read Scripture - Allen Richardson
First Prayer - Drew Caldwell
Last Prayer - Kasey Mann
Announcements - Dewight Stamps

Serve The Lord's Table - Denny Richardson & Barry Chaffin

Keep Nursery - Valerie Kirby & Beth Qualls
(If you cannot serve call Lisa Bumbalough at 931-260-8817)

Parking Lot Patrol - Tom Stafford

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - MARCH 8

Lead Singing - Dan Huffines
Invitation - Rick Ramsey
Announcements - Dewight Stamps
Prayer - Buddy King
Parking Lot Patrol - Tom Stafford

Pens-Pencils-Pews - Week of March 5 - 11
Wes Hudson & Cade Smith

**IF YOU CANNOT SERVE CALL:
Charles Cobb 526-4337 or Lewis Coomer 252-2051**