

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S CHURCH THAT MEETS HERE!



Volume 25 Number 13

APRIL 8, 2018

SHEPHERDS

Boyce Edwards
Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."-Ecclesiastes 12:13

For more information on our website, scan the QR code with your phone's camera or a QR app.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DEACONS

Jacob Bryant Rey Cruz Roger Deem Dennis Marler Gaylen Williams

PREACHERS

Dan Carter Boyce Edwards Al Washington

*TREASURER

Trevor Heilman

MONTHLY SUPPORT:

Cherokee Home For Children Cherokee, TX

Christian Homes & Family Services
Abilene, TX

Foster's Home For Children Stephenville, TX

Sunny Glen Children's Home San Benito, TX

Please turn off or silence your phone devices-thank you!

Come Join Us!

Speakers & Sermon Dates:

*Dan Carter

Graduate, Brown Trail School of Preaching

- April 8th & 22nd
- May 6th & 13th
- Jun 24th

*Al Washington

Graduate, South West School of Bible Studies

- 15th
- May 20th & 27th
- June 17th

*Boyce Edwards

Graduate Sunset School of Preaching (SSOP)

- April 29th
- July 29th
- September 30th

BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With One Of Our Preachers Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- ⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

To our visitors—Thanks for being with us today, and please come again!

Our mission is to share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ with our neighbors for their soul's salvation. *Our speaker for today is Dan Carter.

Please fill out an Attendance Card and pass it to the inner aisle so we may have a record of your attendance.

THANK YOU!

<u>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u>

SUNDAY
BIBLE CLASSES

9:30 A.M.
WORSHIP

10:30 A.M.
EVENING WORSHIP

5:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY

Classes/Worship 7:00 P.M.

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Country Club Church

By Brad Harrub

They had works.

They labored.

They showed patience.

They could not bear those who were evil.

They were able to detect false teachers.

They demonstrated perseverance.

They labored for the name of Christ and had not become weary.

And yet, according to Jesus Christ—the Great Physician, Who is able to accurately diagnose the heart, this group of Christians in Ephesus had left their first love. (Revelation 2:2-4)

What treatment plan did Jesus give this group of people? He first told them to "remember from where you have fallen." In other words, reflect back to why they came together—go back and look at what your original priorities were. Spend time reflecting on the true mission of the church. Then He commands them, "repent." Too often, Christians who have been baptized look at the word "repentance" as a step of salvation. Yet, Jesus here was addressing Christians—telling this sick church that if it wanted to get better then they needed to repent. Lastly, He tells them to do the first works. This group of people was busy working and laboring, but they had moved away from the things that were truly important.

The Great Physician then revealed what their fate would be if they did not follow his medical treatment: "or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent" (Revelation 2:5).

I suspect this exact same diagnosis could be given to hundreds of congregations across our nation today. We are busy with works. We are laboring. We don't bear with those who are evil. We can identify false teachers. And yet, we have left our first love. Our focus is no longer on Christ and what He has done for us, but rather, our focus is on the next big program or event—in order to please the masses and get numbers up. We've detached ourselves so far away from our sin that we don't spend much time actually reflecting on where we would be without Christ and the cross.

What many modern congregations have actually done is created vast "social clubs" or "country clubs" full of people who want to be surrounded by moral people of the same socio-economic status. We want to feel like we are doing good, involved in lots of works, and have someone to go to lunch with on Sunday. Sure we love God, but deep down we have grown comfortable. We have built massive buildings, all the while we are surrounded

by thousands who are lost and hurting—yet, these people will never hear the Gospel because our social club is too busy with internal programs. Our mentality has become, "We will build bigger buildings and they will come to us."

Don't believe me? Take a moment to consider how much time, energy, sacrifice, and money are spent actually going out into your local community. Now compare that to how much time, energy, sacrifice, and money are spent on "internal" programs—programs for people who already know about the saving blood of Christ. We wave the banner of "edification" broadly, as justification for these programs, but the reality is in most cases these programs are simply tools that keep the church convinced they are busy and active. A serious look reveals a much deeper problem—Christians who have lost their first love, and no longer desire to "go" and reach the lost.

I have probably heard every excuse in the book: "Door knocking doesn't work anymore." "We don't think advertising in the local paper will work." "We don't really know how to reach the lost in this technological age." Etc. So instead of trying something, we add a few more internal programs and comfort our guilty consciousness. Or maybe we justify it by saying: "We stream or record our services for everyone on the internet" as if there are thousands of people sitting by their computers or televisions who will stumble across our site with the intention of learning the Truth.

Yes, in too many cases we have become country club churches. It's with tears in my eyes that I point out this truth. I love the church. I love the people who make up the church. But the truth is we are comfortable. We are busy in the building. But we are about to have our lampstand removed. It is time leaders and members repent and get busy doing what God really expects us to do. It is time we return to our first love. It is time we get out of our comfort zones and do the hard things.

As for me and my house? We're tired of social club church. We desperately want to serve. We want leaders to blaze a trail into our community. We want to stop wasting money on frivolous internal programs. We want to roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty. We want the waters in our baptistery to be rippling every week—rather than growing stagnant. We want to return to our first love. And that, my friend, is what we shall do. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. By Brad Harrub, Ph.D.

Harrub, Brad. "Country Club Church." *Focus Press*, Focus Press, 16 Feb. 2017, www.focuspress.org/2017/02/16/country-club-church/.



WORSHIP

Man has an instinct to worship. It matters not where you go, you will find people worshipping. Whether one goes far, or near, he finds those who worship. Left without any kind of guidance, man reaches up. Man realizes that there is something beyond.

Man also enjoins others to worship with him. We desire to reach out and touch other lives! When it comes to True Worship, the plan is no different. We desire others to worship with us. This is shown in Hebrews 10:24, 25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: not forsaking the assembling together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as you see the day approaching."

Yes, we desire to worship, and, we desire all the brethren to worship with us.

Worship is vital for a number of reasons. Of course, by it we show our love and devotion to God, but we also help one another. We edify each other as we worship together. When we sing; we speak to one another in psalms and hymns (Col.3:16). When we pray; we touch the heart strings of others in the assembly. When we study the Bible together; we are made stronger. Yes, it is important that we come together. It is important to show our love to God, and to help each other in walking the life of Christ.

Also, there are needful times that we come together. For instance, Simon Peter, was locked up. Herod intended to kill him, but prayer was made on his behalf by the assembled brethren (Acts 12). Oh, by the way, the prayers of the saints were answered; God sent an angel and led Peter out of jail!

We recognize there is a time for private devotion. Each of us must have our private time with God. Christ often withdrew to a deserted place to commune with God, His Father. There are times we need to be alone with our thoughts to God, but there are times when we need to blend our voices in unison to God in an assembly. Just like when the church came together to pray for Simon.

It is necessary to see that the assembly is vital. We need each other. There is power in numbers. There is strength. There is compassion. God knew we needed each other. Worship is one of our greatest blessings.

THOSE TO SERVE THE WEEK OF APRIL 8, 2018:

PARKING LOT DUTY: BRUCE BROWN

HALL MONITOR: TONY SHELTON

AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR APRIL: JOHN HOBSON

ANNOUNCEMENTS: LEE FISHER

SONG DIRECTOR: REGGIE BASS

COMMUNION:

(NORTH) JACOB BRYANT, ANDRE PETTAWAY PATRICK SELLERS, ANTWUAN PERRY

(SOUTH) ZACK PETTIES, DENNIS MARLER TREVOR HEILMAN, CHARLES CULVER

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN LLEWELLYN

PICK UP CARDS: ANDREW FORKEY RANGER SANDERS

PRAYERS:

(A.M.) GAYLEN WILLIAMS, REY CRUZ (P.M.) ROGER DEEM, DENNIS MARLER

NURSERY ATTENDANTS (A.M.): BARBARA SHELTON & CHERYL FLORES

EVENING SONG DIRECTOR: ZACK PETTIES

EVENING COMMUNION:BOYCE EDWARDS, GAYLEN WILLIAMS

WEDNESDAY SONG LEADER: JOHN LLEWELLYN

WEDNESDAY PRAYER: DENNIS MARLER

PREPARE COMMUNION FOR APRIL: KITTY KACIR & BETTY KNIGHT

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

OUR SICK: James Garner's wife, Tammy, is recovering from her second spine surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

- -Diedre Jones' mother is battling cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.
- -Shawn Forkey has begun physical therapy for the bulging discs in his lower back. Please keep him in your prayers that he heals and is able to return to work.
- -Millie Simcox received a CT scan to be tested for Hodgkin's lymphoma. Please keep her in your prayers.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND: Betty Garnett's daughter in law (Jessica Garnett), Donna Hines's friend's granddaughter (Kylie Pruitt), Jodi Culp's father & his wife, Pat Bruner, Trudy Perrault's granddaughter (Lieda), her granddaughter's husband, great grandson Romeo, great grandson Jesse & her daughters (Trudy & Carol), Linda Moore's brother (Carl Britton), James & Tammy Garner & family members (Christel Alcozer & Mary Simmons), Dora Ray Chanslor, Connie Cruz and her friends (Benancio Padilla, Jane Rubio, Juanita Cardenas, Juanita Cardenas & Yolanda Perez) & Rey & Connie's family, Willard Dunn, Linda Walts, Tina Pallo, Jim Dukes, Kyle Pocanowski's mother, Scott Davis, David Shilling, Brenda Sellers' mother, stepmother, nephew (Matthew), & her sister (Jesse), Al & Gayle Wilson's sister-in-law (Regina Farmer), Alice Saffor, John Llewellyn's sister (Janet Schleyer), Nelda Cox, Sybil Cason, Jonathan Simmons Sr., Janet Simmons, Jonathan Simmons Jr., Garnie & Nada Miller, Gail Mende's son (Eric), Shirl Foster, and Amanda Petties' nephew. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

REJOICE: We rejoice for sister Diedre Jones who came forward for restoration. Please keep her in your prayers.

VISITATION TEAMS: Visitation Team #1 will meet with their leader, Jim Dukes, today, to get their visitation assignments. Team members are: Jim Dukes, Christina Fletcher, Jerdene Williams, Ollie Jones, Freddie Saffor, and Victoria Day 58 - 1 Thess.1-5; 2 Thess.1-3 Polanco.

JOIN US FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON TODAY: We will have our monthly fellowship luncheon today after the morning service. Kitchen group #4 will have kitchen duties: Joyce Brown, Janet Bass, Beverly Williams, Natalie Fisher, and Carla Heginbotham.

SENIOR BANQUET: Our Annual High School Senior Banquet on April 21st. from 6-8pm, at Rudy's BBQ, located at 5621 E Central Texas Expy, in Killeen. Our graduating senior this year is Aleah Heilman. The price is \$15 and the signup sheet is in the foyer. Please give the payment to Jacob or Jessica Bryant by April 18.

LADIES: There will be a ladies potluck retreat at the Nolanville Campgrounds on Saturday, April 21st, at 9:30 am. Bring your favorite dish! Ladies from the area congregations have been invited to join us.

-Ladies who are attending the May 18-19 retreat in Salado need to make the payment to Amanda Petties by April 29. The cost is \$55 per person. If you do not wish to stay overnight, but would like to fellowship the evening of 18th, then you are invited to join them for food, fellowship and fun.

CHEROKEE HOME FOR CHILDREN DRIVE: We are collecting caffeinated coffee, breakfast juice (non-perishable), and family sized tea bags until the week of April 29. These items can be placed in the foyer next to the pantry box.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018: Our 2018 VBS will be held from July 22 through 25. Please save the date!

SIGN UP FOR YARD WORK: We invite our members to sign up to help with the yard work. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the south foyer.

SAVE THE DATES: From June 2nd-June 6th we will host a Marriage Seminar (June 6), and Gospel Meeting (June 3-6) with our returning quest speaker, Dr. Bill Davis. Brother Davis is an Editor of Focus Press Magazine, and serves as an elder at the Arlington Road church of Christ, in Jacksonville, Florida.

THE RECORD OF APRIL 1, 2018

BIBLE CLASS ATTENDANCE_	87
A.M. WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	120
P.M. WORSHIP ATTENDANCE_	70
CONTRIBUTION	\$5757.49

THE RECORD OF APRIL 4, 2018

WEDNESDAY ATTENDANCE: 50



New Testament Study (Chronological Order)

Day 56 - Galatians 4-6

Day 57 - Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18

Day 59 - Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41

Day 60 - 1 Corinthians 1-4

Day 61 - 1 Corinthians 5-8

Day 62 - 1 Corinthians 9-11

Day 63 - 1 Corinthians 12-14

*If you would like to join the forum to ask questions, share insights, or to receive encouragement, please see Gaylen or Nichole Williams.

