

First United Methodist Church
Center, Texas

Love God, Love People, Serve The World



FROM THE PASTOR

You Can't Love Jesus Without Loving His Church By Jason Allen

I want to share an article with you that I read while vegging out this past week after my trip to the ER. It is too long to share in its entirety so I will share it over 3 weeks. Please make the time to prayerfully consider its message for you and for our church. Karen

Have you ever heard someone say, "I am into Jesus, but not the church"?... What I have come to understand more fully, is that Christianity is inextricably linked to the local church. In fact, the local church is the New Testament's expression of Christianity. The New Testament depicts the Christian and the local church together, like hand in glove.

.... I consistently bump into two unhealthy extremes—both of which misestimate the role of the church. First, and most common, is spiritual *individualism*.

This extreme so prioritizes a personal relationship with Christ that it forgets the role of the church altogether. To many evangelicals, conversion is a personal encounter with Christ and growth in Christ is, too. One is nourished spiritually through books, conferences, podcasts, para-church ministries and Bible studies.

The other extreme is an overly *institutional* approach to Christianity. In its most unhealthy form, this is seen in traditions..... that hold "no salvation outside the church," and necessitates receiving the sacraments for salvation.

But some evangelicals operate just one tick away. This institutional error equates salvation with church membership and Christian growth with church activity.

Both of these extremes misunderstand the Christian life. Conversion is an individual experience that's intended to become a congregational reality. It's simply impossible to conceptualize New Testament Christianity apart from the local church.

THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL, THE CHURCH LOCAL

Another common misconception concerns the church universal and the church local. The church universal refers to all the redeemed in the history of the world. The church universal is often called the "invisible church" because we ultimately aren't able to know who or how many comprise it.

And yet, almost every reference of "church" in the New Testament is about the local church. By local church, I mean a group of Christians who have covenanted together to gather regularly for worship and ministry.

Again, many today argue that church membership isn't in the Bible. But the early church *did* keep a roll, at least in some form. We see the early church mentioning the number of additions and baptisms. We see them talking about both inclusion in and exclusion from the church. How could the New Testament authors report on these matters without some kind of a membership roll?

Karen

FINANCE UPDATE

2018 Budget

\$414,701.00

Needed weekly

\$7,975.02

Received on 9/2/2018

\$7,361.00

Received to date (week 35)

\$246,300.55

Needed to date 9/2/2018 (week 35)

\$279,125.70

Difference

-\$32,825.15

September 2nd Attendance

Sunday School	32
8:30 am Worship Service	42
11:00 am Worship Service	45
Total in Worship	87

Memorials

Margaret Montgomery

Vance Payne Family

Carolyn Brown

Billie Sue Payne

Wanda Samford

Jerry Samford

Debbie Stevenson

Jerry Samford

W.I. Davis

Jerry Samford

Roy Masterson

Jerry Samford

Sunday Schedule:

8:30am – Worship

9:30 am – Coffee Fellowship

by Pairs & Spares

10am– Sunday School for all ages

11am- Worship



Shelby County Outreach Ministries is in need of canned foods. Their pantry is low. Drop off in red bin by the office.

Something to Ponder...

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.” (Phil 4:13 KJV)

When Peter saw his Lord walking on the water, he went into the water without hesitation and began his impossible journey of walking toward Jesus. Very quickly, he took his eyes off of the Lord and realized how rough and choppy the water was, and he panicked. His nagging doubts caused him to slip into the sea, until our Lord reached down and pulled him to safety. Dr. J. Vernon McGee said, “Our Lord performed this miracle for His own, that they might be brought into the place of faith. Even Simon Peter, who was audacious enough to say, “Lord, bid me come unto thee on the water” and actually walked on the water, which should have cemented his faith.” Many of us struggle with doubts every day, especially when we keep our eyes focused on what is right in front of us, and the words, “I can’t” become louder than the words, “I can” in our spirit. We hesitate to move forward, even at the call of our Lord, because we forget that it is through the strength of Jesus Christ that we can do even the impossible like the apostle Peter. Father God, we lift up each day to You, and ask that our “cant’s” be turned into “cans” as we learn to trust in You, knowing You have the power to do what You have promised in Your Holy Word. Teach us to be obedient to a walk of faith, believing in the unseen, and not by sight, lest we slip beneath the angry waves and perish. AMEN

You may send your prayer requests and praises to Terri Lacher at btlacher@sbcglobal.net or at (936) 598-3484 or (936) 332-2717



Kids Grow 'n Christ parents be sure to check your email for the snack schedule.



Thank you for the gift card for school supplies. The beginning of the year was such a whirlwind that I just put the card in my desk. I found it today; which was an emotionally hard day. The gift card ended up lifting my spirits just when I needed it. Thank you for all the church does.

Tracie Galindo



Dear FUMC Church Members,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer cross and blanket. Your kindness and prayers mean so much. Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Cohenour



Lucy Dawn Wahl

Born Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Proud Parents: Wesley & Kelly Wahl

Proud Sister: Ella Wahl

Proud Grandparents:

Guy & Cindy Griffin

John & Regenia Wahl

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