

IF NOT FOR THE DIKES

In a 2017 editorial for the Gospel Advocate, Gregory Allen Tidwell reflected on a long ago visit to the Netherlands. He wrote, "I was fascinated with the ongoing struggle the Dutch fight with the ocean" (Keeping the Sea at Bay, August 2017). Through a series of dikes north of Amsterdam the people of the Netherlands have reclaimed and developed farmlands that used to be beneath the North Sea. Known as the Zuiderzee, this land had formerly been a shallow bay gradually pushed back by a huge dam constructed in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Protected by the sea wall of dikes, they must be constantly maintained to keep the sea's pounding waves at bay. He concludes: "The view is dramatic. On one side of the walls, the Dutch are going about their industrious lives. On the other side, the surging North Sea pounds and rages. If not for those dikes a sixth of the country would be swallowed up again by the sea.

If not for the cross, we would be swallowed up by the eternally raging fires of Hell.

If not for the cross, we would be helpless in the hands of Satan.

If not for the cross, we would have no hope.

If not for the cross, heaven would be an impossible dream.

If not for the cross, we would be forever lost.

-David Bragg serves at one of the ministers at the Northwest Church of Christ in Greensboro, NC and is co-editor for BulletinGold-

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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Number 16

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."(Matthew 5:16)



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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

12:30 P.M. last Sunday of month

Bible Study

Sunday Morning

10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

7:00 P.M.

For Transportation to Services

615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
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"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

JESUS AND HIS CHURCH

Edward L. Anderson

Jesus has a church (Matt. 16:18)! Please note that He calls it "MY church" (Emphasis added). This may come as a surprise because many religious organizations seem to have a desire to detach themselves from Him. Are they ashamed of Him? (Please read Mark 8:38)

The church belongs to Christ because He purchased (bought), it. And, oh what a price He paid! Paul declared to the overseers of the church at Ephesus that Jesus "purchased" the church "with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). Does this not reveal Him to be the rightful "Owner" of the church?! When it comes to the church, first and foremost in our minds, should be that it is not "yours", "mine", "ours", or "theirs" – but Christ's!

His church is singular in number. He promised to build His "church" – singular not plural. But what about the statement: "the churches of Christ salute you" (Romans 16:16; compare Rev. 1:11)? Paul is referring to the "churches" which had been established in various localities where the gospel of Christ had been preached, believed, and obeyed. These were brethren to those in Rome who had received the same gospel - "the apostles' doctrine" (Rom. 1:16; Acts 2:42). In the natural order, the same "seed" (wheat, for example), sown in different localities will result in the same plant germinating, growing, and producing fruit (Luke 8:11; Gen. 1:11, 12). The same is true spiritually. "Preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2), and the same fruit (Christians), will be produced wherever it is faithfully proclaimed and received.

The "singularity principle" applies throughout the various figures employed to explain the relationship between Christ and His church. Consider the "kingdom" figure. Jesus' promise to build His church is followed by these words: "And I will give to you the keys of the **kingdom** of heaven..." (Matt. 16:19) Paul wrote "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ in Colosse" (1:2), reminding them God had "conveyed (them) into the **kingdom of the Son of His love**" (1:13). Christ is the King over His kingdom - One King and one kingdom! (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16) "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand" (Matt. 12:25).

Christ is the "Bridegroom" and the church is His "bride" (See Eph. 5:22-33; cf. John 3:29; Rev. 21:9' 22:17). Multiple brides or grooms at a wedding altar results in chaos! God's plan from the beginning has been one of each (Gen. 1, 2). The same is true regarding Christ and His church. There is ONE "body" (church), and one "Head" (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23). He is its "Savior", and it is "subject" to Him (Eph. 5:23-24). Are you in His body/church?

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

Attendance was up Sunday from the previous week. Though some were unable to be with us, we were blessed by first-time visitors from the community and some of our own were able to be back with us. Let us be grateful!

Our Annual Friday Night Singing was wonderful with about thirty song leaders leading us in hymns of praise to our heavenly Father! We were blessed by the presence of all our guests. We remembered our beloved brother in Christ, W. A. Gibbs, who had long promoted, participated in, and exceeded our singing and the singing hosted by Montrose. His influence lives on in those younger men who are developing their abilities to lead singing. Thanks to everyone who assisted with signing up leaders, hosting, setting up/arranging tables and chairs, serving the catered meal, greeting guests, and doing clean up. A special thanks to our "booth boys" who took care of the power point and getting songs on the screen in a timely manner as they do from service to service.

Our Gospel Meeting with brother David Lipe is scheduled for October 24-27. Though still a couple of months away, we should be praying, preparing, and planning for the success of this evangelistic event. As mentioned, we are being blessed by first-time visitors to services. The visitation program, led by Josh Brown, is leading to contacts with newcomers to the area. All this provides an opportunity to present the good news of the gospel to a truth-starved world.

Appreciation is extended to all (teachers *and* students) who have participated in the Wednesday evening Summer Series. Four lessons remain in the twelve-week series based on the lectureship book from the SEIBS lectureship book. Barry Cohoon; Steve Bray; Andy Rutherford; Josh Brown; Dusty Whitaker; Eric Swann; Seth Hackett, and yours truly have taught lessons, with Michael Hackett, Justin Mauldin, Jeremy Hassler, and Chris Hicks scheduled to present the final four studies. The mid-week Bible study is an excellent opportunity to increase your Bible knowledge and to enjoy fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ.

I will be away for a Gospel Meeting with the Bethany church of Christ (Franklin, KY), August 15-18. Justin Mauldin (AM), and Jeremy Hassler (PM), will be preaching Sunday.

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

BAPTISM & RESTORATION: Our hearts rejoice with and for Sophie Linder, as she made the good confession and was baptized into Christ last Sunday, August 8; also as Kaylan Linder was restored to her first love, last Sunday. May God bless them both in their walk with Him.

SICK: Janice Hicks was admitted to Vanderbilt yesterday (Tues.), for additional tests. Mary Jo Hackett has been suffering with bronchitis/sinusitis. Barbara Anderson has been dealing with bursitis and a possible pinched nerve. Dayton Jamison is scheduled for back surgery August 26 and 27. Lola King continues treatments. Ruby Fisher was able to be with us Sunday. Eric Marvin, Carol Woodard's son-in-law, is recuperating at home from recent surgery. Sharon Woodard, Wilma Richardson's daughter and Carol Woodard's sister-in-law, is recuperating from recent heart valve surgery. Greg Phillips has been moved from the hospital to a nursing facility. Prayers are requested for Roger Kemp (cancer), and his daughter-in-law, Lucette (treatments). Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara's sister-in-law, still has trouble walking. Mary Phillips saw a doctor in Nashville last week, Jerry is still not feeling well.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham; Jan Anderson (SCHR); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss's grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

SYMPATHY: To the family of Lavon Lankford (former member), whose funeral was Monday evening at Bass Funeral Home (Gordonsville); to the family of Sarah Ann Blair, of Tanglewood, who was buried today (8/11); to the family of Janice Perdue, friend of Peggy Faustina and on our prayer list, in her recent passing.

THANK YOU'S: Notes of gratitude have been received and read from the Sherrie Gibbs Lawrence family and Darlene and Dennis Hackett and Boys.

POTTER'S COMMODITIES: Your contributions of supplies and money for perishables were picked up last week. Your gracious generosity was help provide for the children and those who care for them. They – and you – will be blessed!

PRAYER LIST: Terry Collins; Rick Adams; Tim Loftis; Bob Bennett; Ruthie & Richard Stafford; Sue Reed; Jimmy Key; Greg Phillips; Tracy & Holly White; J.B. Dailey; Patricia Maxwell; Deborah Murray; Cranston Massey; Robbie Napier; Teresa Hampton; Joyce Kilgore; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Scott Bane; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November (as permitted by COVID regulations), 2:00 PM; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional* (To be resumed when permitted); *Bible Bowl:* September 18 at Hooper-Eblen Center. *Run4Don:* September 18 (Can be done virtually). *Gospel Meeting:* October 24-27, with David Lipe.

MAGI BOXES: The Magi boxes have all been taken and filled. A big "THANK YOU" for your generosity, which will bless the lives of many children! Please return filled boxes ASAP so they can be delivered for mailing. Postage will be paid by the church.

AREA EVENTS: *Men's Seminar:* East Main (Murfreesboro), August 14, with B. J. Clarke, Jim Dearman, and Alan Highers; *Girl's Day:* East Main, with Laura Jenkins, September 11; *Bible Lands Museum:* Smyrna (Cookeville), August 13-15. *Gospel Meeting:* Bethany church of Christ (Franklin, KY), Edward L Anderson, August 15-18, 7:00 PM.

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with assignments with welcomes and calls, please contact him. Making a visit can make a big difference in the life of another and our own!