

Welcome

The Chardon church of Christ welcomes you to every service and to a full investigation of what we teach, in the light of the Scriptures.

The church of Christ occupies a unique place in the religious world. It is no part of Judaism, Catholicism, or Protestant Denominationalism. It is as distinct from these religions as they are from each other. Its plea for a return to the Bible has made it appealing to those who long for spirituality and simplicity of the church as revealed in the Bible.

We preach the same gospel and teach the same plan of salvation based upon the grace of God as taught by the apostles. Rom. 1:16.

This plan includes: **Faith** in Christ; Mk.16:16; **Repentance** of sins; Acts 2:38; **Confession** of faith in Christ; Matt. 10:32; **Baptism**; (This baptism is a burial in water of a penitent believer to wash away his sins.) Eph. 4:5.

Our worship is according to the New Testament pattern. Jn. 4:23-24. Services consist of : **Singing** without the use of man-made instruments of music; Eph. 5:19; **Praying** to God; Acts

2:42. Observing the **Lord's Supper** each first day of the week; Acts 2:42; **Giving** by members of the congregation; I Cor. 16:1-2; **Teaching** of God's Word; Acts 2:42.

Calendar

- Jan. 15—Bible Study 10 am
Jan. 15—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
Jan. 15—a. Tom & Nina
Jan. 18—Bible Study canceled for the winter
Jan. 22—Bible Study 10 am
Jan. 22—Worship 11 am & 6 pm
Speaker: Mark
Jan. 25—Bible Study canceled for the winter
Jan. 26—b. Amy
Jan. 29—Bible Study 10 am
Jan. 29—Worship 11 am & 6 pm

Answer to the Puzzle:

Hidden Phrase: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Laziness grows on people: It begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains.” (Matthew Hale)

Church of Christ

128 Maple Avenue
Chardon, Ohio 44024
440-286-5505

Chardonchurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services:

Worship Services
Sunday: 11:00 a.m.
and 6:00 p.m.

Bible Study
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Chardon Church of Christ

Church Bulletin

Sunday

January 15, 2017

Losing Our First Love

By David R. Ferguson

As a small child growing up in rural central Illinois, one of my favorite memories was of those Sunday mornings when our family of seven children loaded up in our father's station wagon and he would drive us and our mother to visit one of our sister congregations in the area. Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ was one of those congregations we visited. While driving through the countryside enjoying the beautiful fall colors one recent afternoon, I found myself at the lane leading to Lower Ash Grove Cemetery. I pulled into the lane and I have to admit, I was quite saddened at the spectacle of the old abandoned church building which I saw greet me so forlornly as it stood under the shadows of the trees.

I know the church isn't the building. The Bible makes it quite clear that the church is comprised of the body of Christ (Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24), which is made up of individuals who are immersed, obedient believers (Acts 2:38) whom God adds to His church (Acts 2:47). But I was saddened, nonetheless, by seeing this abandoned building where a once vibrant congregation of the Lord's people used to assemble.

I wish I could say that what has happened with the Lower Ash Grove Church of Christ is the exception for those congregations we used to attend, but unfortunately, it has become the rule. Even the congregation we attended as members when I was a small child long ago abandoned "the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints" (Jude 1:3 [NAS]), and has gone the way of apostasy.

I wish I knew why this happened here in central Illinois, but maybe the answer is found in what Jesus says to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:3-5 [NAS]: "I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent."

Maybe the reason so many of those congregations from my youth are now gone is because they got so caught up in "marking" those whom they felt were false teachers that they lost their first love, like Ephesus, and never repented.

It is true we need to keep the church pure, but as Jesus pointed out to the church at Ephesus, it becomes dangerous if that becomes our primary goal. When our focus is on the deeds of evil men, rather than on our first love, we tend to forget to evangelize the lost around us, which is what our first love, Jesus Christ, demands.

If I had but one wish, I think it would be to be able to go back in time to the 1960s and 1970s and show these photos of what has become of those once thriving congregations in central Illinois to those brothers and sisters in Christ. Maybe then they would have repented of their ways, and returned again to their first love. But since that isn't going to happen, I pray to God that I will not become so focused on the evil men of today that I, too, forget my first love to the point that the Lord will have to remove His lampstand yet again.

Sunday Worship Services, Jan. 15, 2017

Greetings and Announcements	Mark
Song Leader	Ray
Hymn	Hold The Fort—234
Opening Prayer(Please Stand)	Larry
Hymn	My Faith Looks Up To Thee—33
Scripture Reading (Ephesians 1:15-23)	Dale
Hymn	We Saw Thee Not—313
Lord's Supper.	Tom & Ryan
Hymn	We're Marching to Zion—2
Sermon (AM).	Mark
Invitational Hymn Please Stand)	Where He Leads Me—639
Hymn	Take the Name of Jesus With You—661
Closing Prayer.(Please Stand)	David

Prayer List

*Pat is still having breathing problems.
 *Tom & Nina had a stomach flu last week.
 *Juanita's son Ron and daughter Debbie.
 *Dale, his cousin Cartrell, his mother, his Aunt Mary and his cousin Reginald.
 *David, Doreen and their family.
 *Ruth (arthritis), and her brothers George and John.
 *Ron & Pat, their great-grandson Bryan, and Ron's brother Gerald.
 *Rebecca, her son Steven, and other members of her family.
 *Our Congregation and Our Nation.
 *Our Veterans and their families.

Things to Remember
Chardon Website:
Chardonchurchofchrist.org
Business Meeting is held the 1st Sunday of each month following morning worship.
Potluck Luncheon is held the 2nd Sunday of each month following morning worship.
 The link to **Gospel Broadcasting Network** is www.gbntv.org.
Church of Christ Radio can be listened to at 880 WRFD.
 Information for the bulletin should be sent before Friday of each week. Call Mark or Nina or use e-mail address: Church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com

Prayer for Spiritual Wisdom

Scripture Reference: Ephesians 1:15-23

ABOVE	ACCORDING	AFTER	BEING
BELIEVE	CALLING	CEASE	CHRIST
CHURCH	DOMINION	ENLIGHTENED	EVERY
EXCEEDING	FAITH	FATHER	GLORY
GREATNESS	HEARD	HEAVENLY	INHERITANCE
JESUS	KNOWLEDGE	MAKING	MENTION
MIGHTY	NAMED	PLACES	PRAYERS
PRINCIPALITY	RAISED	REVELATION	RICHES
SAINTS	SPIRIT	THANKS	THINGS
UNDERSTANDING	WHEREFORE	WISDOM	WORKING
WROUGHT			

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Hidden Phrase:

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