

Church of Christ

77 Cogan Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 563-2970

April 30, 2017

IS THE CHURCH BROKEN?

You hear comments in Bible classes that amount to what's wrong with the church, what we're doing wrong, what we're not doing, and what it's doing to us, our children, and the world. You read people's minds through their social media rants, raves, and ramblings, and the bottom line message is that the church is inept, irrelevant, irresponsible, or, worse, insidious. To hear some tell it, the church is not only unhelpful, but actually hurtful. I know that we can be prone to say things out of hurt, disappointment, anger, and bitterness, but the words themselves are no less potent even if influenced by such emotions.

Is the contention, as one Christian sister put it, that "the church is broken," true? Another way to put that is, "Are elders, preachers, deacons, Bible class teachers, and every other Christian broken?" Perhaps we impersonalize it and overly-institutionalize it with a nameless, faceless designation of "church." But the church is, as we were taught as children, "the people." People who are prone to say the right thing at the wrong time, the wrong thing at the right time, and, sadly, the wrong thing at the wrong time. We disappoint, we mishandle, we poorly execute, we unfairly judge and criticize, and we simply blow it. That is definitely not an excuse or a permission slip for bad behavior. Yet, it is not likely to ever change.

Because the church is made up of sinners saved by grace, the church is broken. We who are quick to condemn the church as broken need to face that

we ourselves, as those placed by Christ into that church when we were saved, are broken, too. Show me the perfect person who never mishandles a situation, never sins with tongue, attitude, or deed, and I'll show you someone who will stand before Christ at the Judgment saved on the basis of their own merit and goodness. That won't happen.

Let's be reminded of what the church is. It is the precious, beloved bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-25; Rev. 19:7; 21:2). It is that institution purchased by His very life's blood (Acts 20:28). It is that which was thought up by God from the eternity before time as is the expression of His manifold wisdom (Eph. 3:9-11). It is the place where Christ is glorified (Eph. 3:21; 5:27). It is the present the Son will present to His Father when time is no more (1 Cor. 15:24). It is that and truly so much more.

God designed the church. Reckless criticism of it is reckless criticism of Him. All of us should be determined to improve in every area of our spiritual lives, to be for others what we need to be, to conquer faults and sins in our lives. We should also extend to others the grace we intensely desire to receive when we stand before the King at the last day! Yes, the church is broken, but not in the sense that it cannot help, serve, minister, love, and encourage. Let each of us strive to be the church we want the church to be. Model and exemplify it. Emit the fragrance of Christ. That way, the broken church can help mend the broken lives that make it up.

Neal Pollard
Denver, CO
BulletinDigest.com



PRAY FOR...

Bone, Dan, Melinda's uncle, heart attack and other issues
Carter, Roland, Jim L's relative, health
Cave, Susan, recovering from surgery
Cech, Matthew: Terry's relative, mitochondrial disease
Chambers, Harrison and Roger: Alfred's brothers, health
Dailey, Wendy: Darrell's wife, great scan
Elders: Alfred and Doug
Gilpin, Shirley, Michelle's mother, loss
Hagen, Cindy and Missy: Carl's relatives, surgery/recovery
Hogan, Garth: work situation
Kashorek, Lori: lung cancer
Kemp, Pauline and Frank: Christina's friends, struggles
Lebeau, Steve: John's friend, health
Lermineau, Sean: Carl's relative, struggles
LePage, Jim Sr. & Gail: Jim L's parents, health
Miller, Amber: chemo after cancer-free!
Missions: Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia
Murphy, Gerald:
Richardson, Elizabeth: Eddie's sister, health
Sayah, Gerald & Jane: Lori's parents, health/cancer
Spencer, Carrie:
St. Pierre, Lynn, health

"Continue to help us keep this list updated and to pray for those mentioned in previous bulletins."

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www.plattsburghchurch.com

shepherds serving under the Good Shepherd:
Alfred Chambers, 901-205-8584
Doug Kashorek, preacher, 563-0835
c645-1509
available: Sun. & Tues. 12-3 p.m. or by appt.

Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Class 10 A.M.
Morning Worship 11 A.M.

Wednesday
Bible Classes 6:30 P.M.

Welcome to Worship

The church of Christ that meets in Plattsburgh invites you to attend any of our services. We love having visitors and are honored for you to attend. We seek to follow the New Testament in all that we do in our worship services. Our primary aim in worship is to glorify and honor God by worshipping Him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24) Trusting in the promise of the gospel message, we now live out obedience to God’s Word as our only authority and pattern for our lives and the church. We want to encourage you to come and learn, worship, grow, and serve the Lord with us! “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psalm 133:1).

From the Shepherds ...

- sign-ups for a Camp Hunt week (the church pays for those in regular attendance) are due by 5/31 for the early bird discount.
- health forms for kids under 18, in anticipation of Camp Hunt, are available.
- if wanting to contribute to supplies for Camp Hunt this season, give Doug your donation.
- If interested in helping Johnny Davis of the Burlington church of Christ get his doctorate in Christian Counseling, see Doug.



Mission Moment

- Please pray for Roger Chambers who completed his mission in Malawi and has returned to have a concerning spot in his lungs looked at. We’ll have pictures of the work there soon.
- Rachel will leave on her mission trip to Ghana this summer with other OVU students, building a church building and assisting at an orphanage.
- Mary Clackler is planning a Let’s Start Talking trip to Kiev, Ukraine from September 7-30.

We’ve Got Class!

Join us Next Sunday at 10 a.m. for:
Adults: “God’s Eternal Purpose & Plan”
Youth classes as well
... and don’t forget our Wednesday Common Time at 6:30 p.m.

Doug’s Devotional

“The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up” Exodus 19:20.

Two overview lessons on Moses? Well, he is a significant figure in understanding a righteous God’s plan to redeem sinful man. The promise given to Abraham that all people on earth would be blessed through him has been handed down from patriarch to patriarch until physically it came to a people that God would take as His treasured possession—the Israelites. After God used Moses to rescue them from slavery in Egypt, He needed to make them His own through a covenant, law, priesthood, and sacrifices. For this, He used Moses for forty years in the wilderness as a leader, mediator, and intercessor before bringing His people to the promised land. No small thing—at Sinai, God came down to meet with man and, the only one in this unique role, “Moses went up.” As great as Moses was and how highly he is regarded, we might believe at first that there was no need for a greater covenant with an even greater leader, mediator, and intercessor, but Hebrews tells us that Moses was “faithful as a servant” while Christ is “faithful as a son.” Are you in Christ?

Munchie Moments

Men’s Prayer Breakfast: our next breakfast will be 6/4.

Fellowship Meal: our 4th Sunday meal will be on 5/28 after service.

Mothers’ Day Breakfast

A week before Mothers’ Day, we honored the mothers among us at this morning’s breakfast. Thank you to everyone who helped with this special day.

Polo Shirts

With the coming of warmer weather and the wearing of short sleeves, we have the church polo shirts in a variety of sizes for \$15 each (no profit, just covering the cost). See Doug if interested.

Sundae Toppings

Today, 8 a.m. Mothers’ Day Breakfast; Half Marathon

5/14, 12:30 p.m. Ladies’ Time
5/21, 12:30 p.m. Family Meeting
5/28, 12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal



Key Word Search

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10 a.m., 11 a.m. 7 p.m.

In Search of the Lord’s Ways:

“In Christ”

Key to the Kingdom:

“Dealing with Adversity”



Weekly Bible Reading Plan



Day 127-Job 15-19
Day 128-Job 20-24
Day 129-Job 25-29
Day 130-Job 30-34
Day 131-Job 35-39

When during the day is your time with God?



Mark Your Calendar



5/9, Austin Blier and Cole Brownwood’s birthdays
5/10, Caleb Briner’s birthday
5/20, Madison’s birthday in Christ (‘12)
5/26, Howard’s birthday in Christ (‘85)
5/28, Taylor & Tyler’s birthdays
5/29, Jim L’s birthday
5/31, Emillie (‘15) & Bek’s (‘09) birthdays in Christ
6/6, Chambers’ anniversary (‘75)

Cleaning Corner

The May sheet is now on the refrigerator. Your taking a turn during this time is appreciated and needed. Thanks.

Men Who Serve Today:5/7

Announcements: Doug
Opening Prayer: Jim L.
Song Leader: Alfred
#749 “The Battle Belongs to the Lord”
#985 “When Morning Comes”
#631 “Lift Him Up”
Talk/bread prayer: Jim B.
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Steven
Pass/collection prayer: Tyler
#882 “No Tears in Heaven”
Scripture Reading: John - Exodus 19:16-20
Lesson: Doug “So Moses Went Up”
#870 “Beyond This Land of Parting”
Closing Song: Eddie
#800 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
Closing Prayer: Jody

Next Sunday:5/14

Announcements: Alfred
Opening Prayer: Steven
Song Leader: John
Talk/bread prayer: Howard
Pass/fruit of the vine prayer: Jim B
Pass/collection prayer: Jody
Scripture Reading: Jim L - John 19:25-27
Lesson: Doug “Here is Your Mother”
Closing Song: Eddie
Closing Prayer: Jody

Week of April 30

Bible Class	10
Morning Worship	28
Wed. Bible Class	14
Contribution	\$688.00
Weekly Ave. Needed	\$550.00

March→April Averages; 1 Year Ago

Sun. Bible Class Ave. 22→ 20; 20
Sun. AM Worship Ave. 36→ 32; 35
Wed. Bible Class Ave. 15→ 10; 9
Weekly Contribution Ave. \$752.53→\$752.86; \$659.63
Yearly Contribution Ave. (35 weeks) \$659.56