

Why Churches of Christ are at a Pivotal Moment in History

By: Wes McAdams

I believe churches of Christ have reached a pivotal moment in history. We have some questions to answer, some choices to make, and we will inevitably need some strong men and women of God to help us through these perilous and exciting times.

People are Fed up with Denominations

I think it is so exciting to watch my generation move away from religious division, creeds, and denominationalism. We have preached “non-denominationalism” for decades. Now the general public is starting to consider themselves “non-denominational.” Although a person may attend a Baptist church, he very well may not consider himself a Baptist. Our long-held plea to be “Christians only” seems to be resonating through the land.

The problem is that our communities see “The Church of Christ” as a denomination. They identify the community churches as being non-denominational and us as being denominational! Something is dreadfully wrong with that! It is time for us to reintroduce ourselves to our communities and let them know we are non-denominational, un-denominational, and anti-denominational. We have to let them know we are not “Church of Christ-ers” or “Campbellites,” we are Christians and Christians only!

But, in order to do that we have to come to grips with it ourselves. We have got to stop seeing ourselves as a denomination. We have got to stop seeing the description, “church of Christ” as a name or title. Anyone who has been baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his/her sins (Acts 2:38) is a Christian and God has added him/her to the church of Christ (Acts 2:47). Meeting in a building labeled, “Church of Christ” does not make one a Christian or a member of Christ’s church. Only God can make someone a member of the church of Christ; and it is high time that we remember that!

I have recommended for a number of years that our meeting places should simply say, “Christians meet here.” Maybe then we could remember that we are not “CofC,” we are Christians! But whatever we do in the coming years, we are going to have to remind ourselves and our community that we are truly non-denominational.

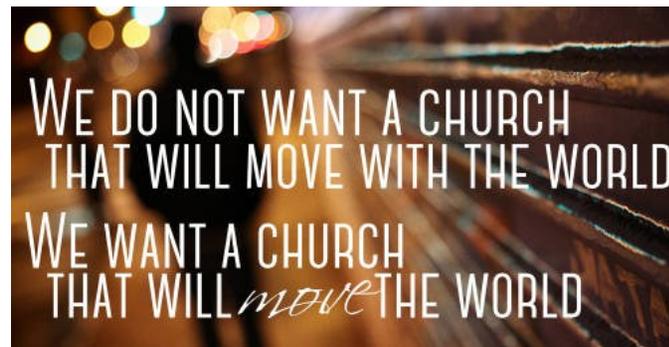
People are Starving

Every study and statistic I have seen lately says that community churches and denominational churches are losing people right and left because they are not teaching and preaching the Bible. People are seeing the emotional and entertainment-driven churches for what they are...fluff! They have no substance; they are shallow to the core. People are starving for some intellectual and spiritual stimulation.

This news ought to cause us to jump for joy. After all, there was a time when people thought of us as “walking/talking Bibles.” Unfortunately, many
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Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Mark Lane will have a laser procedure to crush a large kidney stone. Hopefully that will work without surgery.
- ◆ Tinker had flu last week.
- ◆ Sympathy goes to Jason and Julie Schofield after the death of Alta, Jason’s mother, on Thursday.
- ◆ Richard and Rene Blackburn are recovering from Covid.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Dale Strong, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry’s sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg’s sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piegerdes.



*So the first place
to start must be
the church. God
so loved the
world ...
and still does ...
but the church is
Christ's heart's
desire, His
chosen one.*

SAVE THE DATE

SPECIAL SPEAKER
Sara Forhetz

SPECIAL LADIES' NIGHT
FRIDAY, JAN 9TH AT 6PM
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY & NEIGHBORS

First Baptist Church—Gainesville

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
1-4	Aleta Collins	1-10	Matt and Rose Burton
1-7	Bill Collins	Birthdays	
1-10	Marty Jones	1-25	Melinda Walrath
1-11	Rose Burton	1-28	Sangchun Moyers
1-19	Brooke Hambelton	1-29	Sarah Hossman
1-19	Laramie Pleasant	1-30	Waylon Strong
1-24	Frances McGinnis		

Pat Kirkland will be serving taco salad and dessert for our Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes. **Resolve** to attend on Wednesday nights.

who wear the name “Church of Christ,” are following the pattern of the shallow emotionally-driven churches. They are abandoning the meat of the word and replacing it with cotton candy and they too are starving their members.

On the other hand, there are many congregations preaching meaty sermons and conducting meaty Bible classes, but nobody knows about it! We have got to get back into the community and let people know where truth can be found. The church is the “pillar and the support of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). But, let’s also not forget that as teachers and preachers, we must help people make application to their lives. We have to show people what the Word says, what the Word means, and what difference the Word makes in their lives! You can preach Truth without being dry and you can preach applicable sermons without starving people to death.

Imagine if the church would use the power of the internet more effectively. I am so thankful for many of my Christian brothers and sisters in Christ who are blogging, making YouTube videos, and recording podcasts. But I am still amazed how many congregations don’t have a website. Or worse yet, they don’t update their website.

We are at a pivotal moment in history and there is a huge potential to reach the lost. The question is, will we choose to take advantage of our opportunity or will we squander it?

January Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd’s Prayer

1-4 John Abraham
1-11 Mark Lane
1-18 David Stevens
1-25 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Tinker Langston
Titus Smith
Paul Wade
Don Reynolds

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: and Melinda Abraham

The Family News

January 4, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: **Church**

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd’s Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#709, *How Sweet, How Heavenly*; #711, *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

#725, *Let Us Break Bread Together*; Communion Service

#744, *God’s Family*

Sermon and Invitation

#951, *The Savior I Waiting*

#704, *Bind Us Together*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us