

Restoring a Thing of Value

By House to House Heart to Heart

Lovely works of art are often marred by accumulations of dirt and grime. Specialists are employed to restore them to their original beauty. They carefully remove the foreign matter that obscures the painting's true nature. Fine furniture can become worn and damaged. Its beauty is hidden by tattered upholstery and layers of paint. To see it as it came from the hands of the artisan, it needs to be restored by a skilled workman. The paint and ragged upholstery need to be stripped away.

Christianity is two thousand years old. Its modern appearance is greatly marred and distorted by the accumulation of human doctrines and practices imposed upon it over the ages. A careful reading of the New Testament provides one with an accurate picture of Christianity as it came from the hands of Jesus. Comparing that with modern "versions of Christianity" reveals a stark difference. Hardly a single teaching or practice of the original faith has been untouched. Human hands have defiled its beauty with changes. But as with the work of art, we can restore the church to its original simplicity and beauty.

First, we look to the New Testament to determine just how Christ intended the church to be; what it was to believe; how it was to worship. We then resolve to follow those guidelines faithfully. Each item of faith and practice must be examined carefully. Anything not part of the New Testament must be discarded. Anything that has been left out must be put back.

We must be willing to endure the complaints, criticisms, and ridicule of those who love human traditions more than they do the original faith. We must be prepared to be a minority because Jesus said, "Many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). We must resolve to hold fast that which we find, lest we drift from it (Hebrews 2:1). The labor will be intense, the cost high, but when we have done the necessary work of restoring, we will see the pure and holy church of Christ He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). We will have found the way that is right, which cannot be wrong.

Some Unusual Things for Which to be Thankful

- * Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- * Be thankful when you don't know ... it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Continue prayers for D. E. Pleasant's eye infection.
- ◆ John's dad Winston has more heart blockages and a leaky valve.
- ◆ Bethany Schneider's mother will have major surgery in July because of cancer in her abdomen.
- ◆ Emily Dobson, granddaughter of Bill Cockrum, will have surgery on May 21 to remove an ovary because of a cyst. Pray that both ovaries don't have to be removed.
- ◆ Dorlene Butler's knee replacement has been postponed due to her hospital stay. She sees a hematologist Tuesday about blood loss.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Emily Dobson, Casey Hamblen, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Wayman King, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Virginia Hamblen, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Jack Moyers, Sycamore Springs. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven.

Girls are like
apples on trees. The best
ones are at the top of the tree.
The boys don't want to reach for
the good ones because they are afraid
of falling and getting hurt. Instead, they
just get the rotten apples from the ground
that aren't as good, but easy. So the apples
at the top think something is wrong with
them, when in reality, they're amazing.
They just have to wait for the right
boy to come along, the one
who's brave enough
to climb
all the way
to the top
of the tree.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-5	Peggy Johnson (70!)	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-20	Ryan and Amy Stevens
5-15	Bentley Goodman	5-21	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
5-16	Steve Clodfelter	5-25	Darren and Denise Crisp
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-31	R. J. and Sangchun Moyers
5-20	Gannon Schofield	Birthdays	
5-23	Barbara Luna	5-29	Beth Wade
5-28	Ryan Stevens	5-31	Julie Schofield

Jessica will have a deli bar and dessert for our fellowship supper Wednesday night.

If you would like to contribute to buy some outdoor games for kids that would keep them safer in the grassy area, please see Titus or Jessica.

Date	Event	Details
Thursday, May 29	VBS Craft Night	Come help get materials ready for VBS
Sunday, June 8	VBS Meeting	Meet following service
Saturday, June 21 9 a.m.—2 p.m.	VBS—Magnified! Pick up a butterfly magnet as a reminder to pray for VBS.	Discovering the bigness of God in the smallest of things.

May Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

5-18 David Stevens
5-25 Don Luna

Communion & Closing Prayer

Titus Smith
Don Reynolds

Song Leader: Andrew Eller
Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston

The Family News

May 18, 2025

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: ***A one-night stand or marriage?***

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Kids Singing up front

#570, A Beautiful Life; #139, In Heavenly Love Abiding

#226, O Thou Fount of Every Blessing;

#479, Peace, Perfect Peace; Communion Service

#764, Teach Me Lord to Wait

Sermon and Invitation

#356; I Believe in the One They Called Jesus

#470, Victory in Jesus; 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