

kingdom” (Matt. 26:29). Notice though that this language changes beginning on the day of Pentecost. “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47). “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father” (1 Cor. 15:24). “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Col. 1:13). John called himself “both your brother and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom” (Rev. 1:9). This was an unmistakable truth and a turning point in my mission to find the true church. I knew then that only the church that could trace its origin to Pentecost was the true church. Anything before that is too soon and anything after that is too late. It must be the church of Pentecost.

But how could any group of people trace their origin back that far? Somewhere their line of history would be broken. Some of the people I talked to showed me historical accounts that took their religious groups back a long way. Some got as far back as the sixteenth century. Another one offered a line of succession that took his affiliation back to around AD 1100. But you see my dilemma, don’t you? None of these satisfied what I knew to be the truth. If it cannot be traced to the day of Pentecost it is not the church that Jesus built. I also knew from reading the parables of Jesus, particularly the Parable of the Sower (Matt. 3; Luke 8), that the seed of the kingdom is the Word of God (Luke 8:11). I was not required to show an unbroken chain of disciples from my present back to Pentecost in order to find the church. All I needed was the Bible. Remember when I said I found the pattern for the church? That is the key. The New Testament is a guide to the church. If I wanted to be a part of the right church, all I had to do was look at its characteristics in the Bible.

One of those was the date and place for its beginning. Of course, the church was always part of God’s eternal plan (Eph. 3:9-11). But there was a beginning date. That was the day of Pentecost and in the city of Jerusalem. Another identifying mark is its worship. As I carefully read the New Testament, I found that worship is simple and beautiful and purposeful. On the first day of each week, every Sunday, the church partakes of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7-12) and takes a collection (1 Cor. 16:1-2). The church is also to pray (1 Tim. 2:8), sing (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19) and preach the Word of God (Acts 20:7; 2:42). Just in this one identifying mark, my search narrowed greatly. I found some people doing one or two of these things. I found some singing in ways different than what the New Testament required. Some took the Lord Supper but not with the frequency God required of first-century Christians. Sure, I grew up doing these things. But now I understood these actions were part of Jesus’ church. Therefore, I love the church of Christ because it is Biblical in its worship.

*Continued next week....*

# North Hamilton Church of Christ

8310 Dayton Pike/PO Box 517 Soddy Daisy, TN 37384

(423) 842-1044

[www.northhamiltonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.northhamiltonchurchofchrist.com)

## Schedule of Services:

Sunday 10:30 am, 5:00 pm; Wednesday 7:00 pm

## Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am-Noon



January 3, 2021

## Elders:

Willard Elsea

240-9539

Art Greer

902-6295

Joel Laney

322-7828

## Deacons:

Joe Anderson

Keith Herron

Brad Jones

Tommy Qualls

Chris Randolph

Curt Stewart

Justin Tripp

Toby Ward

## Preacher:

David B. Smith

667-1987

## “I love the church of Christ (Part 3)”

David B. Smith

I paid careful attention to the language in the New Testament in how it was describing the kingdom of God. I knew from the Lord’s promise that “kingdom” and “church” were interchangeable terms (Matt. 16:18-19). This meant whenever Jesus said the “kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 3:2) that He was speaking of the church. With that understanding, it was clear that the day of Pentecost following Jesus’ resurrection and ascension was the pivotal point in history. Prior to Pentecost, the kingdom/church is future. “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18). “I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power” (Mark 9:1). “I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s

*Continued on back....*

### Prayer List - Members

Nancy Birch	Bobby Wilson	Susie Hargis
Jenny Partin	Loretta Leffew	Judy Lusk
Tommy Grandfield	Barbara Castleberry	Kathy Castleberry
Kaye Hopkins	Joan Holloway	Joel Laney

### Prayer List - Friends and Family

Mike Bouldin	Fred Hafley	Tina Brown
Tony Miller	Steve Gaines	Steve Higginbotham
Tim Randolph	Bill Greer	Juanita Johnson
Janice Smith	Grayson Ledbetter	John Webster
Diane Stacy	Becky Eustice	Jan Burton
Ruth Fuller	Terry Driver	Carol Dodd
Tammy Hudson	Kathy Hamilton	Willie Langley
Clinton Miller	Kenlie Carr	Don Thurman

(See additional information on each of these on the bulletin board at either hallway.)

### Sick and Recovering

- **Joel Laney** had surgery this week and is doing very well. He is now recovering at home.
- **Margaret Smith's** uncle, **Robert Webb**, member, and deacon at Mountain Creek, is in the ICU with COVID and not doing well.
- **Margaret Smith's** sister-in-law, **Mabel Pendergrass**, fell and has broken bones in her leg and ankle area. She is now in rehab.
- **Brooke Ward, Toby, and Judi's** daughter was diagnosed positive for COVID last Sunday. Low grade temp. and flu like symptoms. Toby, Judi, Brad, and Sissy are quarantined.
- **Sue Swafford** was diagnosed positive for COVID this week.
- **Doris Shannon Perry's** brother, **Gary Shannon**, is having a triple bypass. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Please continue to remember all those who are suffering currently.

### Participating in Worship Service - January 3, 2021

AM Opening Prayer: Steve Pell Sr  
Leading Singing: Art Greer

AM Closing Prayer: Willard Elsea  
Lords Supper: Jonathan Compton

PM Opening Prayer: Michael Jackson

PM Closing Prayer: Rick Essex

### Sermon Topics

- **AM:** Don't Give Up
- **PM:** Question and Answers
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

**Attendance: Sunday 12/27 AM - 86; PM - 54; Wednesday 12/30 - 77**

### January Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

1 - Bob Doak  
1 - Tom Hendrickson  
2 - Evie Rose Smith  
2 - Peggy McCollum  
4 - Doug Wright  
9 - Joyce Haithcock  
9 - Nelta Jo Hicks  
10 - Brad Jones  
10 - Steven Pell  
11 - Terry Williamson  
16 - Mary Ruth  
Cranmore

16 - Steve Everett

17 - Jimmie Cash  
18 - Patricia Harvey  
20 - Carrie  
Hendrickson  
22 - Pat Pursley  
24 - Jonathan  
Compton  
25 - Ivy Anderson  
25 - Leslie Jackson  
28 - Barbara  
Castleberry  
31 - Jerry Wright

#### Anniversaries

8 - Carroll & Paulette  
Oxford  
19 - Freeman &  
Debbie Cooper

### Congregational Information and News

- **Ladies Bible Class:** We will begin meeting again on Tuesday, January 5. If you are available, please come and join our class. We begin our new study in a book by Wendell Winkler titled "*Heart Diseases and Their Cure.*" We meet in the auditorium at 10:00. Hope to see some new faces in our class.
- **Freeman and Debbie Cooper** are quarantined after exposure to a positive case.
- Thanks to **Kaye Greer** for the beautiful silk flowers up front. They will last for years to come!

"Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless His name; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day."  
Psalms 96:1-2