

I had already reached the point in my studies to know that Jesus promised to build only one church (Matt. 16:18). Paul and others only speak of one church (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23). Paul even wrote in the same context of one faith—the body of doctrine that is to be believed and obeyed (Eph. 4:5). On Pentecost, people that submitted to God were added to the church (Acts 2:41-47). I was still wet behind the ears, as they say. I had lots more to learn in life. But even in my youth I had enough experience to know, especially from the military, that people can be sincere and wrong at the same time. I had even seen people die from acting on misinformation, even though they were sincerely convinced they were correct at the time.

That meant I could not find who was right until I knew what was right. Jesus said that we love Him by keeping His commandments (John 14:15). He also said that truth sets us free (John 8:31-32). There is simply no way I could be convinced that I could just accept a faith based on my personal preferences. I had no personal animus toward the people I had been talking to about religion. I just knew that I would find the church when I listened to what God had to say about it. One of the memories that helped so much was the story of Noah and the flood. I read and reread that story a few times as a way of understanding that God's plans for people always involve a pattern. God specified the wood, the number of stories, the dimensions, the number of windows and doors and the requirements for animals (Gen. 6:14-22). Noah is said to have acted in "faith" (Heb. 11:7) because He did what God said (Gen. 6:22). I also remembered how God planned all the details for the Tabernacle (Heb. 8:5). I read the words of Moses as he described the arrangement for the Tabernacle's construction, adornment, and service (Exodus 26ff.). If God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8), then I knew He would still have a pattern today—especially in the church, since it is the place of redeemed people. If inspired writers could characterize the church as the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15), then I would have to follow the truth to find the church. Remember that I wanted to know for myself what was right. I did not want the church of my parents unless I knew beyond doubt, they were doing what God wanted. The Bible had to be the only authority. It had to be my only guide. Otherwise, I would just end up in a place based on my personal preferences. I had been a doubter. I had wondered aimlessly without an objective guide. I already knew the danger of that. Now I wanted truth and all the consequences that would come with accepting truth. Jesus built one church. He built His church. How could I find it? How would I know? What is the truth? I found the pattern for His church in the New Testament, and here is what I found.

Continued next week...

North Hamilton Church of Christ

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

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Schedule of Services:

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

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9 am-Noon



December 27, 2020

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 2)"

David B. Smith

But how can I be so sure? How can I say one church is right and others are not? How can I say my search led me objectively to one group of people and not to another? I want you to know that I talked to numerous people from different faiths. In doing so I found a few things to be true about those people. Specifically, each group of people was incredibly sincere. They really believed what they believed. Second, they were adamant they were following Jesus even though their own doctrines contradicted other religious groups. This is precisely what caused me to dig deeper for answers.

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	

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

- **Joy Germ Paynter's** friend, **Janet Lentz**, lost her dad last week. Please keep that family in your prayers as they grieve this loss.
- **Kaye Hopkins** suffered a heart attack last Sunday. She was admitted to the hospital, received a stint, and is now recovering at home. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Joan Holloway** has had a real rough time with her legs swelling. She has been to the ER but is now at home. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Please continue to remember all those who are suffering currently.

Participating in Worship Service - December 27, 2020

AM Opening Prayer: Gene Grindstaff AM Closing Prayer: Willard Elsea
Leading Singing: Tom Greer Lords Supper: Carrol Oxford

PM Opening Prayer: Steve Everett PM Closing Prayer: Tom Greer

Sermon Topics

- **AM:** "I (saiah) Spy," part 4
- **PM:** What we've learned from 2020
- Livestreaming continues in the fellowship room (masks mandated) for all services.

Attendance: Sunday 12/20 AM - 97; PM - 67; Wednesday 12/23 - 76

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

27 - Gene Grindstaff
28 - Beverly Randolph

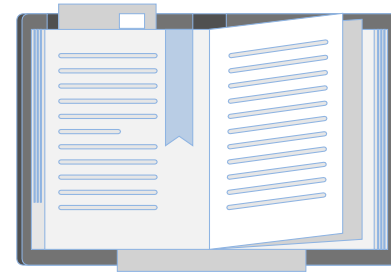
Anniversaries

27 - Bob & Darlene Doak
28 - Michael & Leslie Jackson
31 - Clyde & Barbara Benford
31 - Karl & Lisa Bolus

Congregational Information and News

- An "all call" was done to the congregation on Monday by David. If you did not receive that call, please let **Joel Laney** know so that he can add you to the call list.

"There is one body & one Spirit. . ."
Ephesians 4:4



"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called

Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day"

- Edith Lovejoy Pierce