

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

Leadership

Elders Hayward Blanton
 Jerry Casey
 Clint Smith Sr

Deacons Clint Smith Jr
 Robby Stocksdale
 Joe Sweeney

Pulpit Minister Eric Welch
 Associate Minister Irvin F. Williams

Missions

Panama Mission Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and
 Bible Correspondence Courses

For further information please contact us at
 (812) 284-3125 or email: church@hamburgpikecofc.org
 Visit Our Website: www.hamburgpikecofc.org

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Grover Blanton
 Scripture Reading Clint Smith Sr
 Sermon Brent Donoho
 Lord's Supper Message Robby Stocksdale
 Table Attendant Hank Tincher
 Table Attendant Brandon Montgomery
 Closing Prayer Jerry Casey

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Rick Martin
 Bible Reading Rudy Ayala
 Selection 21
 Opening Prayer Leon Stocksdale
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer John Keaton

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Clint Smith Jr
 Lord's Supper Prayer Ryan Irwin
 Offering Prayer Joe Sweeney
 Usher Art Patrick
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Marc Owens

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning To Be Announced
 Sunday Evening A Prayer for Wisdom James 1:5-8

Last Sunday

Offering: \$2,726 Attendance: 92

Autonomous Leadership

Churches of Christ are autonomous in government. Each one is independent of all others. Each one has its own leadership. We read in the New Testament of churches in a district such as "the churches of Galatia" (Galatians 1:2). However, there was no district organization. Each of the churches in Galatia was self-governing.

It is easy to see that God's plan for His church was for each church in each place to be self-governing. When Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey, they again visited the churches they had established. They "appointed elders in every church" (Acts 14:23). Every church had its own eldership. When Paul wrote to the church of Christ in Philippi, he addressed his letter to "the saints who are in Philippi with the bishops (elders) and deacons" (Philippians 1:1). The apostle Peter commanded elders to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you" (1 Peter 5:2). They were not to feed other flocks, but they were to shepherd the flock which was among them; the local congregation where they were members.

The Hamburg Pike church of Christ is blessed with faithful leaders; thank you Jerry, Hayward and Clint Sr for your service and leadership, your work is much appreciated!

The Worker

Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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A Baptism In the New Testament

It is interesting to go back in time to see the church in its primitive state when the Spirit was still directly instructing Christians on how God wanted religion practiced.

One of the most detailed cases of conversion is the Ethiopian whom Philip taught while traveling down a lonely back road (Acts 8:26-40). This treasurer requested baptism, and Philip conducted his baptism in the way God approves.

Note carefully how baptism was done in the New Testament.

The treasurer made a confession of faith before baptism He said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (8:37). No one can be scripturally baptized unless he has faith in Jesus (Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16) and is willing to make it known (Rm. 10:9, 10). Note that he did not confess that God had for Jesus' sake already forgiven his sin, since his baptism was for the purpose of forgiving sin (Acts 2:38 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The treasurer was immediately baptized. He did not hesitate nor procrastinate. He was not told he would have to be voted on (unheard of in the New Testament) or that he would be on probation for some time. He did not have to go through weeks of classes or have to wait for several others who also wanted to be baptized. Someone has noted that no sinner in the Book of Acts ate, drank, or slept before being baptized once they learned that they were lost.

Both the candidate and the administrator got in the water. They "both went down into the water" and came up out of the water (8:38, 39). Some have said that the eunuch was holding up a water jug when he said, "See here is water..." (One older lady heard that and said, "My Bible says they both went down into the water. Are you telling me they both went down into a jug?!" Insert "jug" for water in the text and see the silliness of it.) Baptism in the New Testament was always a burial-never sprinkling or pouring (Mk. 1: 10; Jn. 3:23; Rm. 6:4, 5; Col. 2:12).

Baptism began a joyful journey with God. Acts 8:40 says this new Christian "went on his way rejoicing." Why? Because his sins were washed away and he had been added to God's family, the church (Acts 2:47). Each of God's steps to salvation is important:

Faith changes man's thinking (Hebrews 11:6);

Repentance changes his lifestyle (Acts 3:19);

Confession of faith forces him to "come out in the open" (Matthew 10:32, 33);

Baptism changes his guilty state (from "outside" to "inside" Christ's body, Galatians 3:26, 27).

Study the other cases of conversion in the Book of Acts and note carefully the original pattern. Let's do what they did.

Biblical Interpretation: Character Descriptions

Eric Welch

Modern western authors such as Charles Dickens, Louis L'Amour and John Grisham, often give detailed descriptions of their characters, their appearance, personalities, and mannerisms. However, the inspired biblical authors rarely "word paint" their historical characters. Instead of a portrait, we barely even have a pencil sketch of them. Moses and Matthew, for example, were realists. They were more interested in telling us about true events than entertaining readers. Because vivid descriptions of biblical people are so rare, when we do find them, we should pay close attention. They are an important clue in understanding the story.

Three examples should be helpful. In Judges 3:15-17, Ehud is "left-handed" and Eglon "very fat." Why are these details important? Ehud wanted to sneak in a sword unnoticed to assassinate Eglon in his chambers. Men usually strapped their swords on the opposite side of the dominate arm. Since most men are right-handed, they would carry their sword on the left side. Because he was left-handed, his sword would be on his right side and would have been less conspicuous. Why is Joseph described as handsome (Genesis 39:6)? This detail explains the erotic advances made by Potiphar's wife and, therefore, she, not Joseph, was the one who acted immorally. Without the description of Esau as a "hairy man," we would wonder why Jacob wears a goat skin on his arm as he spoke with his father (Genesis 27:11). Now you try one. Why is Moses described as "very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3)?

The biblical authors also seem to prefer telling us about people more by their actions than by their physical appearance. Abraham's attempted sacrifice of Isaac shows us that his trust in God is so complete; he will obey even when the command seems unreasonable. (Genesis 22:1-19). Try another one. What do Peninnah's actions towards Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:6-7 say about her?

Thoughts to Remember

A PRAYER TO BE PRAYED MORE OFTEN: "Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder, and your hand over my mouth."

A person may make many mistakes in working for the Lord, but he makes a much greater mistake in not working for Him

Speak well of your enemies....after all, you made them.

Unless you can create the universe in 6 days, perhaps giving advice to God isn't such a good idea.

Happiness is a perfume you can't pour on others without getting some on yourself.

Our temper gets most of us in trouble, and pride keeps us there.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. Paula Casey will be grilling hamburgers, bring your favorite sides and fixins'.

Attention all youth and their families: we are planning a canoe trip for June 17th. If you are interested, please speak with Michael before May 28th to get on the list. If we have enough people we can get a group discount.

The Lads to Leaders have a meeting scheduled for Sunday May 21st 5:00 p.m. at the building.

A group of congregations in our area of Southern Indiana participate in a quarterly preacher swap. The Elders have approved for Brent Donoho from Martinsburg to preach at Hamburg Pike on Sunday morning May 21st and Eric will preach at Martinsburg. We will be on the regular schedule for Sunday evening worship service.

The Ladies' Bible Class will meet Saturday, May 27, at 10 AM. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to participate. Those ladies who can will go out to lunch together after class.

<http://hamburgpikecofc.org>