

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

Missions

Panama Pablo & Myra Sanchez
 Panama Denicio & Carmen Miranda

Those Privileged to Serve

A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins
 Opening Prayer Rick Martin
 Scripture Reading Ethan Welch
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Lord's Supper Message Irvin Williams
 Table Attendant Rudy Ayala
 Table Attendant Brandon Montgomery
 Closing Prayer Hayward Blanton

P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Ryan Irwin
 Bible Reading Greg Blanton
 Selection 59
 Opening Prayer Jerry Casey
 Sermon Eric Welch
 Closing Prayer Leon Stocksdale

A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr
 Lord's Supper Prayer Joe Sweeney
 Offering Prayer Harold Tincher
 Usher Robby Stocksdale
 Count Offering Harold Tincher
 Assist Count Art Patrick

Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning

The Heart of Teaching - John 3:1

Sunday Evening

The Return of Christ - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Last Sunday

Offering: \$3,009 Attendance: 86

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 Hayward, Jerry and Clint for your service and leadership, your work is much appreciated!

The Worker

Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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Fathers to the Rescue

The year was 1940 . . .

The French Army had just collapsed under Hitler's onslaught. The Dutch had folded, overwhelmed by the Nazi regime. The Belgians had surrendered and the British Army was trapped on the coast of France in the channel port of Dunkirk.

Two hundred and twenty thousand of Britain's finest young men seemed doomed to die, turning the English Channel red with their blood. The Fuehrer's troops, only miles away in the hills of France, didn't realize how close to victory they actually were.

Any rescue seemed feeble and futile in the time remaining. A "thin" British Navy—the professionals—told King George VI that, at best, they could save 17,000 troops. The House of Commons was warned to prepare for "hard and heavy tidings." Politicians were paralyzed, the king was powerless and the allies could only watch as spectators from a distance.

Then as the doom of the British Army seemed imminent, a strange fleet appeared on the horizon of the English Channel—the wildest assortment of boats perhaps ever assembled in history: trawlers, tugs, fishing sloops, lifeboats, pleasure craft, smacks and coasters, sailboats, even the London fire-brigade flotilla. Each ship was manned by civilian volunteers—English fathers sailing to rescue Britain's exhausted, bleeding sons.

William Manchester writes in his epic novel, *The Last Lion*, that even today, what happened in 1940 in less than twenty-four hours seems impossible—not only were all the British soldiers rescued, but 118,000 other Allied troops as well.

Today the home is much like those troops at Dunkirk. Pressured, trapped, and demoralized, it needs help; your help. With the highest divorce rate of any nation on earth, we need an "all-out" effort by men and women "sailing" to rescue the exhausted and wounded family casualties. We need an effort by common Christian couples with faith in a common God.

- Story told by Bob & Jan Horner, via Jacksonville, AL church bulletin; via Families-2000 & Beyond; via The Family Friend, a monthly newsletter published by the Calvert City church of Christ, Calvert City, KY.

Be Careful to Whom You Listen

Eric Welch

What do we need as Christians to serve God and others in a time like ours? Today comedians mock us, Hollywood dismisses us, and politicians exploit us. One thing we need in a culture like ours is moral courage to stand against the rebellious winds of our time.

One example of moral courage is Micaiah the prophet in 1 Kings 22. On the throne of the northern kingdom of Israel, was Ahab, a weak king and also the most wicked to that time. He was depressed since he had gone three years without war. He did not like peace, a typical trait of tyrants. He decided to go to war with Ramoth-Gilead. He invited the new king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, to join him. Jehoshaphat agreed on one condition, "Could we inquire of the Lord as to whether He is in this?"

Ahab agreed. He summoned the council of prophets in Israel, 400 strong. He, along with Jehoshaphat, went to them and asked, "Should I go against Ramoth-Gilead or should I not." The prophets were unanimous: "Go and God will prosper you." However, Jehoshaphat was not satisfied: "Is there not another prophet that we could ask?" Interestingly, Ahab was not offended at this question and suggested one, Micaiah. "But I don't like him," he said, "because he never prophesies anything good for me, Only bad." But Ahab needed an ally, so he agreed.

Ahab sent a messenger to summon Micaiah. The messenger begs Micaiah not to stir the waters but just to do what Ahab wants. To that request Micaiah made a statement of moral courage: "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that I will speak" (1 Kings 22:14). Micaiah was prepared to go before the kings to tell them what God said. Political pressure was on him to keep his mouth shut.

Ahab was used to getting his way (1 Kings 21). He thought that the prophets were the source of their prophecies. If Ahab could control them, he could get what he wanted. The motto of the 400 prophets was, "the king is always right." Thus, Micaiah stood against political pressure (the king) and now against religious pressure (the prophets).

Micaiah went before the audience of 402. Imagine the pressure of the pomp, pageantry, power. "Alright," Ahab says, "You're here. Now, should we go to Ramoth-Gilead or not?"

Micaiah repeated the words of 400 prophets, "Sure. You'll win. Go with God."

We know by Ahab's answer Micaiah was sarcastic: "How many times have I told you, speak the truth when you're before me."

"Oh," Micaiah replies, "so it's the truth you want. 'I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd'" (cf. Numbers 27:17).

Ahab turned to Jehoshaphat and said, "See, I told you so, He never prophesies good to me, always bad."

Micaiah was not done. He told another story of a great court in heaven. God was on the throne and angels surrounded him. The only thing on the docket was how to destroy Ahab. Many suggestions were given and then one spirit rose and said, "I'll be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets." That's it. That will destroy him.

Micaiah concluded, "the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you." Ahab would not be struck down by lightning or swallowed by earthquake; he would die because he followed the advice of false prophets.

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The Lord said that to them. He says that to us. We must be careful of the preachers we like. Do not choose preachers you like and who will tell you what you want to hear. Choose preachers who will not lie to you. That's how you choose your doctor, is it not? We want doctors who will tell us the truth, not always say that we are healthy when we are not. We must be careful of the books we read, the experts we embrace and the statistics that deceive. We must think critically with God's word in hand.

May we all stand with moral courage against the wind of immorality to speak, not what tickles others' ears, but what God says we all ought to hear. Be careful to whom you listen.

Hamburg Pike Happenings

The Monday Night for the Master group will meet Monday February 18th at 6:30 p.m. the meal theme is pizza.

The Jr Leader group will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose on Sundays February 17th. Please see Ashley or Cassie for further details.

The Jr Leader and Good Samaritan Lads 2 Leaders groups will be hosting a Sweet Heart dinner at the building on Friday February 15th at 6:00 p.m. and everyone in the congregation is invited to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. We hope you can join us. If you have any questions please see Ashley or Cassie.

A Teacher's Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Sunday February 17th after the morning worship service. Fried chicken, drinks and cake will be provided. A sign-up sheet for side dishes is on the table.

The ladies' Bible class will not meet in February. The next class will be Saturday, March 2nd. See Stephanie with any questions.

The Hamburg Pike contact list is being updated. The elders ask member families to please carefully review and update your family's contact information.