

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

July 29, 2018

What Draws People To Church ?

A question church leaders often ask is, “*What we can do to increase our numbers at our worship and Bible studies?*” While I don’t think that large numbers necessarily mean a better church, at the same time, a greater attendance does mean that more people are having an opportunity to hear the gospel and to be encouraged to mature. Surely we all would like to see the Fruitland church grow in both ways. Sometimes I have the opportunity to ask people from different denominations about their church and what they do there. Their answers reveal quite a bit about what they think the people in our community are looking for in a church.

By far the most often mentioned feature I hear is their music. Many churches have quite a production. Church bands are quite popular. Churches spend a lot of time, money and energy in producing the best church music they can. It’s a fact: church music does draw a crowd, and it is the primary reason some people regularly choose to attend a particular church.

Another factor that draws people to a given church is their ambiance. Ambiance may result from having a stylish building in a prime location. It’s true. Some people are drawn simply by the facilities of a church. Or, ambiance may come from within

the building, creating a certain feeling or mood, such as, “*high church*” rituals or “*spirit-filled*” assemblies, or “*friendliness*”. Size may even create an appealing ambiance (*some like to get lost in a crowd, others like the coziness of a small church*). So, ambiance is an importance factor in why people choose a certain church.

The minister/pastor of a church is an important aspect as well ... but not as much as you might think. Having a preacher who is dynamic and communicates well is not a requirement for drawing people. Sometimes it’s more *what* he says than *how* he says it. God warned us that there would be people who would be drawn to having their ears tickled (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Remember, some in the first century divided into different factions because some liked Paul or Peter or Apollos better than others (1 Cor 1).

And then there’s history. People sometimes are drawn to a particular church, not because of its programs, buildings or people, but because their family has “*always gone there*.” I have heard this many times.

But the one thing that I rarely hear is that people choose a particular church because the truth is taught there. Not many will mention that their church is concerned with Christ and truth. They talk about spiritual activities (*missions*) and programs (*youth*), but rarely have I heard anyone say that they chose a particular church because that’s where Jesus and truth are faithfully being taught.

Yet, the Bible makes it clear that the one thing we should emphasize in order to draw people to the Lord is not our appealing music, our dynamic preacher, or our beautiful building. The one thing that should draw people to the Lord is the cross of Christ. “*But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself*” (John 12:32). Preaching the crucified Christ may be a stumbling block for many, but it is the only power to save (1 Cor. 1:22-24). People may prefer music, buildings or ministries, but let’s never forget that the only way to heaven is by and through Jesus (John 14:6). Instead of getting caught up in promoting the wrong things in order to draw a crowd, let’s tell the of crucified Christ to a lost and misdirected world! Let’s not be ashamed of

the gospel, because it is the power God uses to save those who believe (*Rom. 1:16*) !

— Joe Chesser

Observation

“Religion today is not transforming people; rather it is being transformed by the people. It is not raising the moral level of society; it is descending to society’s own level, and congratulating itself that it has scored a victory because society is smiling accepting its surrender.”

(A.W. Tozer)

Gratitude :

Please indulge me the use a few lines to express my personal feelings. Since the 9th of May I’ve been in a period of personal challenges unlike anything I’ve ever had to face in the past. It’s an emotional and painful situation with which I must deal on a daily basis. This is the kind of thing which could wear one down, but your love and your prayers bolster me enabling me to press on day by day. I understand that the level at which I am able to perform my duties is diminished and I am VERY grateful for your patience and your continued prayers. We are also grateful for the many expressions of love; flowers, books, cards, pies, vegies, etc. I am striving to overcome and some limited progress is being made. May God give us success as we press on. wp

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we’ll be bringing: Bags of any kind of individually wrapped hard candy (not chocolate), Gum, bubble gum, Pop Tarts, (any but strawberry favorite), Fruit snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Gushers

Birthday : Nancy Miller July 31

Anniversary : Jonathan & Mary Niehls July 29

Reading : **Romans 6: 1-18**

NEXT WEEK : (August 5, 2018)

Song Leader : Tim

Scripture Reader : Butch

Table & Announcements : Greg

Prayer list :

Blake : This week Sherry's granddaughter was admitted to the hospital and transferred to St. Louis where she had surgery to install a drain for an abscess. She is now home.

Rosanne : Carpel tunnel Pain. 2nd surgery in early August

Brenda : She'll be evaluated by Dr. at Washington University

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Francis,
Pete & Hazel,

Other members with ongoing issues :

Ron and Doris Bartanen : Are slowly improving, but continue to have significant health issues.

Pete & Hazel : Dealing with multiple issues, some age related

Delaney West : Surgery on hold as tumor is being observed

Wayne : Recovering from stroke.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !