

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance: 54
Contribution: \$ 2464.00
Weekly Budget: \$ 2920.00

Thought for The Day

Generosity consists less in giving much than in giving at the right moment.

La Bruyere

Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Dick Navarre
Songs: Marty Wingo
Sermon: Tim Simmons
Closing Prayer: Delbert Leavens

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell
Songs: Marty Wingo
Sermon: Delbert Leavens
Closing Prayer: Tim Simmons

COMMUNION

Kerry Keathley Sean Keathley
Troy Wheeler Kaden Simmons

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

September 10, 2006

Volume 16, Number 36

You and Church Growth

Charles Spurgeon was one of the most popular preachers of the last century. He preached to over 5,000 people each Sunday in the London Tabernacle Church. When asked how he built such a large congregation he replied,

"You asked me how I got this congregation? I never got it at all! My congregation got my congregation. I had 80 when I first preached. In a short time I had 200. Everyone in the congregation was urging a neighbor to come to the service. Soon we had 400 and then 800. This is how our people got our congregation."

The secret to church growth really hasn't changed since Spurgeon's time. The best way to build up the church is for every member to be actively involved in personal evangelism. When friend invites friend, and neighbor brings neighbor, souls are going to be saved and the church will grow. Friendship evangelism, where we work through the ties of friendship and trust that already exist has always

Continued on Page 2

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a **nursery** available at the rear of the auditorium. **Bible classes** for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders

Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister

Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services

Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ

4301 Highway 776
Venice, FL 34293
USA

Telephone:

941-493-2403

Email:

mail@venicechurchofchrist.com

Internet:

www.venicechurchofchrist.com

Outreach:



FLORIDA SCHOOL
OF PREACHING

been the most effective method of winning souls. The many studies done in the area of church growth bear this out. The FULLER INSTITUTE OF CHURCH GROWTH conducted a study of why people become members of local congregations and discovered that ...

- Only 2 to 3% were members because of the programs of the church.
- Only 3 to 5% listed the preacher as the reason for their membership.
- Visitation and door knocking resulted in winning only 1 to 2% of those surveyed.
- Meetings and campaigns had reached only .0001%.
- What the study revealed was that 70 to 90% of those who became church members did so through the invitation and influence of a Friend, relative, or neighbor.

Suddenly, Spurgeon's statement, *"My congregation got my congregation,"* makes sense.

What neighbor, friend, or relative do you know that needs to be a Christian? Why not invite them to church this Lord's day? The chances are in your favor that they will come. All they may be waiting on is an invitation from you.

Bill Pratt

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Sep 24: Song Service
- ✓ Sep. 30: YOUTH. *Photographic Scavenger Hunt* @ River Road church in New Port Richey
- ✓ Oct. 1: Fellowship Meal @ noon
- ✓ Oct. 29: Song Service

Today's Lessons

AM: **Why I Believe in the Gospel of Christ**
Romans 1:16

PM: TBA

THE FOLLY OF SUPPOSING

For a long time I have preached on the folly of supposing. For years, I have seen people feel perfectly secure with something they believe to be the truth. This has often been done without investigation. It is possible for a person to do all of this and be just as wrong as he can be. That is a lesson I have learned the hard way.

On July 6th, I drove my car to the building and came in to go to work. I had been here about twenty minutes. A lady from the police station called and said, *"your car has been involved in an accident"*. This was some five or six blocks from the church building. I did not believe what she was saying and felt that she was talking about another car. I just knew the car was where I had parked it a short time before. When I went out to investigate, I found that what I had suppose was not true. I later learned that a ten year old had taken it and wrecked it.

I was just as honest as I could be in believing that car was where I had parked it twenty minutes before. But, did that honesty reverse all the facts and mean the car was still where I thought it was? The facts were facts, in spite of my thinking otherwise.

Do you think the lady at the police station was out of place or unkind in trying to convince me that I was wrong? Should she just agree with me? Would that agreement change the case? Would she really be the kind of friend I would need under such circumstances?

It is easy to answer questions like that when we speak of a car. Suppose my soul had been involved?

When I look back it is easy to see that I supposed without first investigating. There were some facts that I failed to get before I came to the conclusion. Without those facts my reasoning was all wrong. Until I investigated I didn't have the facts and couldn't come to the right conclusion.

Again, suppose I had refused to accept the facts when I learned the real truth. Suppose I had persisted in saying, *"my car is under the stoop"*. Would that mean it was as I said it was? What would people think of me? Wouldn't they think I was ignoring the facts? Wouldn't they conclude that I would become to them an object of pity?

Yes, I know the car can be replaced and life will go on. But, have we stopped to think that many folks in this old world are dealing with spiritual matters in much the way that we have described? There are people, just like that lady at the police station, people of good will who will try to help us. They will try to help us get the facts and to act in a responsible fashion. These folks are not trying to interfere. They are trying to help us. After all, man doesn't have another soul.

Winfred Clark

Remember In Prayer

- DORIS WHITE
- PAT BURNSIDE
- DONNA YOUNGBLOOD
- CHRIS MILLER
- GARY LUCAS
- DONNA TILLER
- CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
- PATRICA SMITH
- FRANK SMALL
- IVA & LEM TURNER
- PATRICIA FORD
- JEANETTE THOMPSON
- TED WHEELER
- DAVID ATNIP