

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Delbert Leavens

### RECORD

Attendance **97**  
Contribution \$ TBA  
Weekly Budget \$ **2854.00**

### *Thought for The Day*

"Unless there is within us that which is above us, we shall soon yield to that which is about us."

*Forsyth*

## Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293

### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell  
Songs: Dick Navarre  
Sermon: Ted Wheeler  
Closing Prayer: Bill Burnside

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Mike Weber  
Songs: Dick Navarre  
Sermon: Warren-Flew Debate  
Closing Prayer: Larry Jenson

### COMMUNION

Tim Simmons Chris Dorris  
Thomas Wise Kaden Simmons

# Church of Christ of Venice

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

March 2, 2008

Volume 19, Number 8

## The Lord Needs You

As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying that colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it" (Luke 19:33,34).

Jesus had sent two disciples into Bethany to get the colt for what we call today the triumphal entry. He told them where to find it and what to say to the owners: "The Lord needs it".

In one sense, the Lord needs nothing of ours nor of us. To an Israel addicted to formal religion He declared:

*"I do not need to take a bull from your household or goats from your sheepfolds. For every wild animal in the forest belongs to me, as well as the cattle that graze on a thousand hills. I keep track of every bird in the hills, and the insects of the field are mine. Even if I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all it contains belong to me" (Psalm 50:9-12).*

He wanted sincere worship from Israel, not because He needed it, but as adoration of the heart on the worshipers' part.

There is nothing I can do for God. He has no personal need that I can fulfill. As God, He is self-sufficient and complete.

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](mailto:mail@venicechurchofchrist.com)

Internet:  
[www.venicechurchofchrist.com](http://www.venicechurchofchrist.com)

Outreach:



In another sense, however, the Lord has seen fit to use our lives and acts for His kingdom. Jesus told the Twelve:

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that remains, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you" (John 15:16).*

What Jesus says to the Twelve here is also true of every Christian. By His graciousness, He has made Man a part of His work to save others.

In this sense, then, it is appropriate to say, as Jesus did of the colt, that He needs us.

So when a mother is discouraged about her children, the Lord needs you to cheer her.

When a child is frustrated or sad or hungry in this world, the Lord needs you to care for him.

When you meet someone who has yet to obey the divine commandment, the Lord needs you to teach that person.

When false teachings creep into the church, the Lord needs you to stand up and speak the truth clearly and lovingly.

When funds are in short supply to do the work, the Lord needs you to be generous.

When tempers flare and harsh words begin to fly, the Lord needs you to act as a peacemaker.

In the family, the Lord needs you to fulfill your role. In society, He needs you to be salt and light. In the church, He needs you to be a pillar for truth and a platform for peace.

To be coworkers with God, as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:1, is a humbling and glorious thought.

To have been chosen by him to go and bear fruit in this world as a part of His great mission fills our heart with awe, gives speed to our feet, and strength to our hands when we hear Him say, "The Lord needs you."

***J. Randal Matheny***

THE VOICE OF TRUTH INTERNATIONAL

## HOW MUCH FAITH DO YOU NEED?

In Luke 17:5, the apostles said, "*Lord, increase our faith.*" They felt a lot like most of us. "If I had more faith, I could do greater things." At that point, it is my judgment that most commentaries do not do justice to the lesson Jesus is trying to teach. The ones I remember say something like this, "The grain of mustard seed is small. If you just had a small amount of faith you could do great things."

No doubt this is true, provided some other conditions were met, but it appears to me that his statement is concerned with the other conditions, rather than with the "size" of their faith. Why? He already admits they had a little faith (Mt. 8:26, Mt. 14:31; Mt. 17:20). So, if just having a little faith would allow them to do the "impossible" tasks, then they could already be doing them. It is not the SIZE of the faith that he is emphasizing, but the NATURE or QUALITY of the faith!

That is, I do not think he is saying, "If your faith was as BIG as even a grain of mustard seed you could do great things", but "Though you know your faith is small, for you asked for it to be increased, if it were AS (not as BIG AS, but had the qualities of) a grain of mustard seed, you could do tasks which seem impossible." Now, how IS a grain of mustard seed? Well, it is small, but that is not the important point, for they ALREADY had THAT kind of faith! The important things are: it has in it a germ of life; it has power to grow; it has power to, and does, appropriate God's gifts in according to his laws, etc.

The point is, they did not need an INCREASE in faith as much as they needed an ACTIVE, OPERATIONAL faith. If a grain of mustard seed is dead, it does not matter whether it is small or large, it will produce nothing. But if a grain of mustard seed is alive, active, and appropriating the gifts of rain, sunshine and earth then it will produce greatly. So it is with YOUR faith! The real truth is, you do not need to pray for an INCREASE in faith. It does not come that way! If you will have a faith AS the mustard seed and DO WHAT YOU CAN, WHERE YOU ARE, WITH WHAT YOU HAVE, it does not matter whether it is big or little, it will grow, and with its increase, it will produce "*exceedingly abundantly above all that you are able to ask or think*" (Eph. 3:20).

***T. Pierce Brown***

## Remember in Prayer

JAMES BAGWELL

SCOTT BROWN

STEPHENY BENNETT

CLARENCE RIGGENBACH

FRANK SMALL

IVA & LEM TURNER

JEANETTE THOMPSON

PATRICIA FORD

LARRY JENSON'S  
*great great granddaughter*

ANNETTE TILLER'S  
*great grandson's grandmother*

BENNIE HOUSE

MATTIE HALL

JACK TRUESDELL

---

---

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Mar 2: Fellowship
  - ✓ Mar 30: Our young men will be conducting our AM services.
  - ✓ Jun 15-21: Weeki Wachee Bible Camp.
- 
- 

## TODAY'S SERMONS

**Abraham's Faith**

*Hebrews 11:8-10*

**Warren-Flew Debate  
on the Existence of God**

*Video*