

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Dale Schwartz

### RECORD

Attendance **78**  
Contribution \$ 3370.00  
Weekly Budget \$ **2854.00**

### *Thought for The Day*

The soul that has no established aim  
loses itself.  
*Montaigne*

There is no road to success but through a  
clear, strong purpose.  
*Munger*

## Church of Christ of Venice

4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293

### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Tim Simmons  
Songs: Mike Weber  
Sermon: Ted Wheeler  
Closing Prayer: Kerry Keathley

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Marvin DeMeester  
Songs: Mike Weber  
Sermon: Warren-Flew Debate  
Closing Prayer: Wayne Vowell

### COMMUNION

Delbert Leavens Bill Burnside  
Dick Navarre Larry Jenson

# Church of Christ of Venice

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

March 9, 2008

Volume 19, Number 9

## Christ and the Church

*"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church."* (Ephesians 5:23)

There is a common sentiment that it makes no difference what church one belongs to, if any at all, and that church membership is not essential to salvation. So the indifferentism of "join the church of your choice," as though God had none, is age-old in religious nomenclature. Such expressions can only be viewed as a sort of "pious profanity" by those who know and believe what the Bible says about the church.

Jesus built the church; he died for it and purchased it with his blood; ransomed and redeemed it; washed and cleansed it. He is the Saviour of it and he will come again to own and claim it. Yet we are told that it is a very "non-essential" thing.

There are only two senses in which the church can be scripturally viewed. First, the comprehensive, or universal, sense, to include all the saved of the earth—all who have obeyed the gospel. Second, the limited, or local, sense, to include all Christians, or saved people in a particular place described and limited by geographical terms. The denominational idea does not fit either case. A denomination is smaller than the whole church, but larger than a local church in that it is composed of many local

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:



churches of the same faith and order; therefore, a denomination is both too large and too small to be scriptural.

It is admitted that one can be saved without belonging to any denomination. The Lord adds saved people to the church (Acts 2:47). Therefore a man can be added to the church and never belong to a denomination. Hence, it is the denomination and not the church that is non-essential.

### The Church Is The Body

Paul's theme in the book of Ephesians is the church in its relation to Christ—Christ and the church. In the first chapter he compares the church to a body, with Christ as head (vv. 21-22) and in chapter four he declares that *"there is one body"* (v. 4) ... in chapter five he compares Christ to the husband and the church to the wife (vv. 21-23). Hence, Paul's view is, one head and one body—one husband and one wife.

Continuing his comparison, Paul uses the family analogy—God the Father, the church the family (Ephesians 3:15). Hence, one Father and one family. And reverting to the second chapter, he points out the unifying power of the cross of Christ in making the *"twain"* —Jew and Gentile — *"one new man"* — the church — thus reconciling them *"in one body."*

If Christ would not accept Jew and Gentile in separate bodies, but united them that they should be "one fold and one shepherd," what must be his attitude toward the spectacle of (more than) 200 denominational bodies today that dishonor his name and ignore his prayer? (John 17:20-21).

### Salvation Is In The Church

The idea that one is first saved by some mystical or mystified, unintelligible or intangible process, and afterwards "joins some church" is a common religious delusion. Yet there is no truth more plainly emphasized in the Bible than the fact that the process of being saved is the process of entering the church (Acts 2:47).

First, it is affirmed in Acts 4:12 that salvation is in Christ. Then, to have salvation, one must get into Christ. But Paul, by analogy, in Ephesians 5:30, teaches that as husband and wife are one, so Christ and the church are one. "I speak concerning Christ and the church," he said. Christ and the church being one, how can one be in Christ and out of the church?

Second, Paul makes the fact that Christ is *"the Saviour of the body"* (Ephesians 5:23) the ground of his exhortation to the Ephesians concerning the church as the bride of Christ (v. 25). He washed it and sanctified it; cleansed and saved it; purchased it with his blood and redeemed it; reconciles us to God in it, and adds all the saved to it. Therefore, out of



### Our Deepest Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to sister Vivian Karbiner and family, at the passing of her beloved husband, Hank, this past Thursday. Services will be held at the Southside Church of Christ in Milwaukee, WI on Wednesday. Graveside services will be on Thursday. Cards may be sent to:

**Vivian Karbiner**  
7560 S. Joshua Ct.  
Franklin, WI 53132



Renee's mother's surgery will be March 12. Several have asked for Renee's parent's address:

**Ron & Patricia Ford**  
1305 Stony Point Lane  
Cary, NC 27511

the church there is no cleansing, no blood, no redemption, no reconciliation to God, no salvation.

Third, the relation between Christ and the church is the same as that which exists between God and Christ. Christ is the "fullness" of God (Colossians 1:19), and the church is the "fullness" of Christ (Ephesians 1:22). Therefore, no man can come to Christ and ignore the church for the same reason that no man can come to God and ignore Christ.

We exhort the unsaved to come to Christ, "gladly receive the word," be "baptized into Christ," and the Lord will add you to his church.

*Foy E. Wallace*

### Remember in Prayer

DELBERT LEAVENS  
JAMES BAGWELL  
SCOTT BROWN  
*Surgery—March 21*  
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 #2**  
*Hebrews 11:11-16*  
**Warren-Flew Debate**  
**on the Existence of God**  
*Video*