

## Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler  
Usher: Dale Schwartz

### RECORD

Attendance           **82**  
Contribution   \$   TBA  
**Weekly Budget   \$   2854.00**

### *Thought for The Day*

“Within the covers of one single book, the Bible, are all the answers to all the problems that face us today—if only we would read and believe.”

*Ronald Reagan*

## Church of Christ of Venice

**4301 SR 776  
Venice, FL 34293**

### MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Bill Burnside  
Songs: Marty Wingo  
Sermon: Ted Wheeler  
Closing Prayer: Marvin DeMeester

### EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Joe Austin  
Songs: Marty Wingo  
Sermon: Warren-Flew Debate  
Closing Prayer: Larry Jenson

### COMMUNION

Dale Schwartz Mike Weber  
Tim Simmons Chris Dorris

# Church of Christ of Venice

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

March 23, 2008

Volume 19, Number 12

## The Church of Christ ... Welcomes You

The Church of Christ is located in your community and is very interested in you. We are concerned with two things above all others on this earth: the word of God and the souls of men. Since Jesus assures us that these two shall meet in Judgment (John 12:48), it is urgent and essential that we try to get them together in this life before eternity begins.

### THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. **The Fulfilled Prophecies:** We believe the church began according to the promise of Christ (Mat. 16:18), on the first Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2). At that time, place, and manner the church began according to the prophets (Isa. 2:1-4; Dan. 2:44) and continues to this very day (Heb. 12:28). The Bible teaches that the word of God is the seed of the Kingdom (Luk. 8:11), and when sown in the honest hearts of men will once again produce children of God (Luk. 8:4-15). Since the Word is here and shall never perish (Mat. 24:35), we can preach and teach that same Word to the people who wish to be saved and the Word can lead them to God (Acts 2:37-47). Since this is a church built by Christ, entered by His Word, guided and governed by His last will and testament (Mat. 26:28; Heb. 9:15-17, 10:9-10), the church of Christ is not a denomination, for denominations are the products of men.

2. **The Foundation:** The church is founded on Christ (1 Cor. 3:11), and no other. We gladly wear His name (Rom. 16:16). Every name used to describe Christ's disciples can be

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.

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Outreach:



worn with God's approval, whether it be Christian (Acts 11:26-27), brethren (Heb. 3:1), disciples (Acts 11:26), saints (1Cor. 1:1-2), or children of God (1 Jo. 3:1-2), or others the Bible uses.

3. **The Government:** Since Christ began the church it is not a human denomination. It is subject only to Christ without a hierarchy or governing body except the local elders in each congregation (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17). There is no authority for anything else in religion (2 Jo. 9; Mat. 15:14-15).

### THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. **To Uphold the Truth:** The church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:14), and therefore is the undergirding support of God's truth. We must teach it in order for men to be free from all error and sin (Jo. 8:31-37). This same truth teaches us how to worship and live (Jo. 4:24). The truth is found only in God's Word (Jo. 17:17) and not in our human beliefs or opinions. The church is to help men to return to God (Jo. 14:1-6) and to know right from wrong (Jo. 8:32).

2. **To Show the Right Way:** The church is God's salt and light to preserve and guide men on the road of life (Mat. 5:13-16). The church is special to God and is "an elect race, a royal priesthood and a holy nation on this earth" (1 Pet. 2:9). We are engaged in a mighty war with the forces of sin and the powers of darkness (Eph. 6:10-12). Our ultimate victory is assured (1Cor. 15:58), but many tribulations shall accompany our efforts (Acts 14:22).


3. **To Bear Fruit:** We must help each other grow and mature in Christ (Eph. 4:11-16). We are united by faith and obedience (1 Pet. 1:20-22) to show the works of Christ in our lives (Eph. 2:8-10), in order to have the mind of Christ in us (Phil. 2:5). Christ's example motivates us to deeds of compassion and kindness (2 Cor. 5:14) all the while contending for the truth (Jude 3) in the face of all opposition and error (Mt. 23).

### THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

When Christ gave the Great Commission (Mar. 16:15-16), "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," He gave us our mission while we live on this earth.

1. **The Plan of Salvation:** The gospel is preached to help man become Christians. They must hear the truth (Rom. 10:17; Jo. 8:32), believe that Jesus is God's Son, the Savior (Jo. 8:24), then confess that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved (Rom. 10:9-10). They must repent of their sins (Lk. 13:3-5) and be buried in baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 22:16) and thereby put on Christ (Gal. 3:27). Until this happens no one has been born again (Jo. 3:3-5), and until you are born again you cannot go to heaven (Jo. 3:3-5).

2. **True Worship:** After conversion men must partake of the Lord's Supper each first day of the week (Acts 20:7), give as they have prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and sing and make melody in the heart (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19). Prayer and assembly is also required of men in the



## CONGRATULATIONS

*Abby Keathley* completed her internship on Friday and passed her final State examination (*Subject Area Exam*) this week and has successfully completed all requirements earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Florida Gulf Coast University. Her graduation ceremony is the 27th of April.

assembly with other Christians (Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:25). Tithing, Sabbath-keeping, the burning of incense and singing with instruments of music in worship are unknown in the New Testament Church. Since we seek to follow Christ, we must respect His authority and do only what He authorizes. Someone may say, "This is too simple - surely more is required than this!" God's way is simple and profound. Men have always rejected its simplicity and beauty. We continue to grow as we study and do God's will (1 Pet. 2:1-2).

### THE DESTINY OF THE LORD'S CHURCH

1. **Heaven Bound:** He is the Savior of the body which is the church (Eph. 1:23; 5:25). The Lord will ultimately take His people to heaven (Rev.:21-22). Our efforts will be rewarded (1 Cor. 15:58) and the final victory will be ours (Rev. 17:14). The gates of hell will not prevail against the church (Mat. 16:18) nor will anything separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39). Jesus will come in the clouds of the air and receive us to Himself (1 Th. 4:17-19).

2. **The Final Victory:** This is a story with a happy ending! God's people will be saved, and you can be a member of the Lord's church. Why not let us study with you and help you to be simply a Christian, a member of the church of Christ? Why not visit our services and see a New Testament Church in action, for the church of Christ welcomes you.

*Andrew M. Connally*

## Remember in Prayer

- RON JONES
- PENNY SIMMONS
- MARY GLOSTER
- JAMES BAGWELL
- SCOTT BROWN
- STEPHENY BENNETT
- CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
- FRANK SMALL
- IVA & LEM TURNER
- JEANETTE THOMPSON
- PATRICIA FORD
- VALERIE PARENT
- BENNIE HOUSE

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### Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Apr 6: Fellowship Meal
- ✓ Apr 29: Song Service
- ✓ Jun 15-21: Weeki Wachee Bible Camp.

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“Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them.”

### TODAY'S SERMONS

**Putting 1st Things 1st**  
*Matthew 6:25-34*

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