

Prayer List

Ann Brinkley, Debbie Caldwell, Barbara Jean Davis, Kenny Davis, Dana Hale, Diane Hutton, Juan Mandujano, Joann Passons, Bobbie Phillips, L G Russell, Chris Stout, Jo Vineyard, Chela's niece Shyllenne, Jerry Perkins, Robert Roush and family, David Snyder, Barbara Greeson, Tim Smith

- Amanda's father, Verne Ragle, has blood clots in his legs.
- Russell is doing fine after his accident Wednesday night (he had a run-in with a wall).
- Tresa's friend Karen was in a car wreck Wednesday in Florida.
- Ella will be having two checkups this week which will determine whether she will have to have surgery.

The Gospel Plan of Salvation

- **HEAR** the word of God; the Bible (Romans 10:17)
- **BELIEVE** the word of God and that Jesus is Lord (John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)
- **REPENT** of sin (Acts 17:30)
- **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 10:32-33)
- **BE BAPTIZED** in order to receive remission of sins (Acts 2:38); in order to have past sins washed away (Acts 22:16); in order to get into the body of Christ, the church (Romans 6:3-4; Acts 2:47); in order to be saved (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21)
- **LIVE FAITHFULLY** in accordance with God's word (1 John 1:6-9; Revelation 2:10)

Announcements

- Our Gospel Meeting with Virgil Hale begins May 4th and runs through the 7th. Monday through Wednesday services will be at 7pm. There are flyers available to hand out or mail to friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.
- Brad and April are at Dresden, TN today attending a lectureship. In Brad's absence, Barry Simmons and David Snyder will be preaching today.

The Numbers

Attendance	Sunday, April 6	22/25/27
	Wednesday, April 9	24
Offering	Sunday, April 6	\$711.25

Those Serving

Prayer Before Sunday Classes	Brian Carver
Morning Worship	
Announcements & First Prayer	Charles Hatcher
Songs	Keith Keever
Sermon	Barry Simmons
Lords Supper & Contribution	Jay Caldwell
Assisting	James Hutton
Closing Prayer	Lance Green
Afternoon Worship	
First Prayer	Keith Keever
Songs	Jay Caldwell
Sermon	David Snyder
Lord's Supper	Charles Hatcher
Closing Prayer	James Hutton
Wednesday Devotional	
Songs	Lance Green
First Prayer	David Snyder
Devotional	Jay Caldwell
Closing Prayer	Brian Carver

April 13, 2008



<http://knoxcoc.com>

Lower Level —
 Click Funeral Home Farragut Chapel
 11915 Kingston Pike
 Farragut, TN 37934

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Study.....9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30AM & 1:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 PM



From The Preacher's Pen POLITICS IN THE CHURCH

Today's article is by Kent Bailey

Preacher, Northside church of Christ, Calhoun, GA

The year 2008 will be both eventful and memorable in that we shall be selecting a new President for our nation in addition to choosing representatives for some Senate seats, as well as all House seats, in the U.S. Congress. There will be various state-wide, county-wide and municipal races to be decided as well during this political year.

Politics in government has become a national tradition in the USA, and has become so fixed in the thinking of individuals that many find it difficult to think of government without politics. By the term government we refer to a systematic arrangement of governing organized society whereas by the term politics we refer to shrewdness in managing, contriving, dealing, and promoting governmental policy. The concepts of government and politics should never be confused. Whereas government is organized society; politics is a mindset that seeks to control such a society.

One of the worst things that has ever been thrust upon organized society is that of politics. The politicians of our nation have in various shrewd ways sought to control, contrive, and use government to their own selfish ends. Statesmen, on the other hand, have sought to be rulers for the good of organized society as a whole.

When one examines the current condition of the New Testament church in both its universal and local extensions, one will find a sad state of affairs among the Lord's people. As in organized society, the church of our Lord is also plagued with politicians of the worse type. As secular politicians have created serious problems within our society, religious politicians have done great harm and continue to do great harm to the Lord's church. Any time individuals seek to control, contrive, and twist God's arrangement to fit their own personal agenda they are engaging in practice of ungodly cheap politics within the Lord's church.

We note religious politics at work when brethren adopt high pressure methods to get their own way and seek to side step the elders of a local church. It

may be the case that they withhold their contributions, or seek to stir up a rebellion against the elders by deliberate misrepresentation and out right lies. Such is a rejection of the New Testament pattern and will as surely send individuals to the flames of eternal torment as will the sin of adultery. While serving as an elder in a local church, this writer encountered a group of politicians within that congregation that preferred to see rebellion to God's divine plan and division take place than to submit to God's plan and see the local church develop the way as authorized by the New Testament. And then to cap the climax on such shameful conduct they sought to excuse themselves by stating the reason that they had acted in such fashion was due to the fact that they had lost confidence in the elders. In reality the reason due to their loss of confidence in the elders was brought about by their losing faith in God!

We also note religious politics at work when brethren abandon God's law of exclusion as it relates to the Biblical doctrine of fellowship (1 John 1:1-10; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 2 Thes. 3:14). In noting specific cases today many brethren (both individually and collectively) are willing to extend fellowship to virtually any false teacher or immoral person. When you deal with brethren of this persuasion, you are dealing with individuals that base their conclusions upon the personal influence of the sinner, or a specific relationship of the sinner to brotherhood politicians. In either case Colossians 3:17 and 2 John 9-11 are rejected and human popularity is elevated over the words of divine inspiration.

Another means of religious politics is noted when factious individuals are permitted to elevate their opinions to a fellowship level and seek to draw lines against brethren when they do not agree with their gun-slinger mentality. Not only do these brethren make laws that God never made, they question the honesty and motives of every person with whom they come into contact. These folks are inconsistent in their own practice regarding fellowship as they fail to see that they do not practice the implications of their own warped doctrine and end up fellowshipping individuals and various practices that they would correctly condemn in others for so engaging. These type of religious politicians often reach the point in their thinking where they believe that God has authorized them to person-

ally destroy any brethren who fail to jump aboard their bandwagon. These people have long abandoned the idea that some concepts fit the category of judgment and opinion. Paul, the apostle gives inspired directives as to how to deal with those of this stripe—after the first and second admonition we must reject them (Titus 3:9-11).

The final type of religious politician to whom we give consideration is the professional promoter, i.e., those who are constantly driven to formulate works that are larger than the sphere of the local church, then to thrust them upon the entire brotherhood and in essence state, "Okay, now all of you pay for it." That is taxation without representation and this writer greatly resents such a mentality.

When one carefully considers the work and organization of the church of Christ one will conclude that such is simple and is certainly not complex. In the New Testament there is no authority for any organization of the New Testament church any larger than the local congregation. Therefore when a local church undertakes a responsibility larger than what it can handle, thrusts it upon the entire brotherhood with the "Okay, now all of you pay for it" attitude and seeks to dominate and control all other local churches under a centralized eldership with a threat of being marked as "anti" in objecting to such a monstrosity; the aspect of centralization and regional (if not brotherhood-wide) control has evolved into a multi-level sort of religious feudalism.

These political promoters either have never known, or else have forgotten the truth that the battle for the souls of men will be both fought and won in the trenches of the local church. When any work grows so large that it encompasses the centralization of a plurality of local churches, such a work ceases to be a faithful work as authorized as per the New Testament.

Politics as found within civil government is truly sad; however, religious politics within the church is tragic. May we uphold that which is right, oppose all that is wrong, and pray that the gospel will have free course, and that all faithful brethren be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith (2 Thes. 3:1-2).