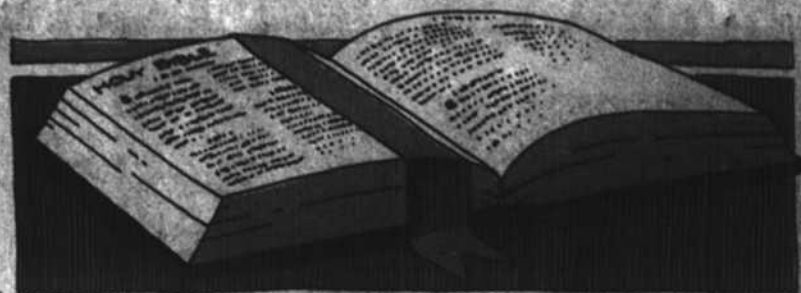


VIEW FROM THE PULPIT



The Views Expressed in This Article Are The Opinions Of The Writer.

Church Has Many Definitions

By Edward B. Newberry, Pastor Memorial Presbyterian Church

When we hear or say "Church," what comes to our minds? Who comes into our mental picture? There are plenty of definitions to help us. The Church is: an institution, a business, an organization, a blessing, an obstacle, a group of good people, a collection of hypocrites. Which one of these images do you have of the Church? What would you add to this small list?

The answers to these questions are important. They determine our understanding of the Church. From our understanding comes our appreciation for and participation in the Church. Our answers are indicators of our seriousness as Christians.

Volumes of books have been written about the Church. It might not ever cease to be the subject of serious thought. That is good, for the attention is an indication of the significance of the Church in our society and world. Human civilization has been greatly influenced by this human and spiritual entity, which has been present for 20 centuries.

The Church is a result of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is commissioned to preach and teach the Good News of Christ. This origin and responsibility make it spiritual.

The Church is "the called out," those persons who respond to the love of God, and dare to believe that Jesus is Lord. People are the human side of the Church.

The best Biblical image which describes the human-spiritual essence of the Church is: Body of Christ. This is only one among many images which the Church has in the New Testament. But it is probably the most useful in shaping a good



Rev. Edward B. Newberry

understanding of the Church.

Body of Christ is introduced to Christian doctrine by Paul, the Apostle, who preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ and organized believers into Churches. These first Church members were new participants in "a new teaching," a new ethic, a new life. They needed to understand who they were and what they were to do as followers of Jesus. Paul told these believers: "you are the Body of Christ." That image of the Church has not changed, from the 1st century A.D. until today. We, in the Church, are the Body of Christ.

There are two things about this New Testament image for the Church which are vital for us to understand.

1. In the Book of Ephesians, 4th Chapter, Christ is the head, "from whom the whole body (is) joined and knit together." In Ephesians the unity of Church is emphasized, "one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one

faith, one baptism." That unity is founded and strengthened by Jesus Christ. For the Church, the ultimate leader is Christ. For all of us, ministers, officers, leaders, or few pew members: Jesus is Lord.

2. In the Book of 1 Corinthians, 12th Chapter, the Church is compared to the human body, to explain that "the body does not consist of one member but many." Those who are believers, are the living organs of the Body. Each of us has a contribution, "a gift...by the Spirit...for the common good" of the Church. Faith in Christ qualifies each for a role in the Church, Christian sincerity and dedication make each contribution important. The wholeness and effective functioning of the Church demands the participation of its members.

It is my view that we who are in the Church need to grow in our understanding of ourselves as people who are called by God, taught by Christ, sustained by the Holy Spirit. We are the Church because of Christ, who unites us. We contribute and serve as evidence of our faith in God, who loved the world so much that He gave Jesus, who taught us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I believe that if we who claim to know Christ, can be spiritually bound together in Christ, there will be real unity in our congregations and a "bond of peace." I think that the observers will say of the Church: "see how they love one another." The world will be blessed. But above all, God will be glorified.

Plaza United Hosts Fall Fest

Continued From Page 8A

within four miles. To order call 372-8386.

Belmont Park United Methodist Church is located at 1303 Hawthorne Lane.

PARKWOOD INSTITUTIONAL
Parkwood Institutional CME Church will hold a workshop on Saturday, November 15, at 9 a.m.

Rev. Paul A. Stewart Sr. will be the workshop leaders for a discussion on the 1988 General Conference and Restructure of the CME Church. Rev. Roosevelt Wilkerson will lead the workshop on Joint Board of Finance.

The church is located at 1021 Parkwood Ave. Rev. Rayfield Medcalf is pastor.

BELMONT PARK
Belmont Park United Methodist Men will host their seventh annual Barbecue on Friday, November 14, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

One plate or two large sandwiches may be purchased for \$4.25. Each includes slaw, potato chips, bread, and pickles. Also, coffee or tea included with eat-in orders only and child's serving available for eat-in orders only. The church will deliver 10 or more orders to one location.

FIRST MT. CALVARY
Pastor and members of First Mt. Calvary Baptist Church invite you to



Rev. Max B. McIlwain
...Mt. Olive's pastor

Join them in an appreciation service for their senior citizens on Sunday, November 16, at 3 p.m.

Rev. Tommy Davis, pastor of Shiloh Institutional Baptist Church, will be the special guest and he will be accompanied by his congregation.

The church is located at 209 W. 28th St. Rev. James Hawthorne is pastor.

PLAZA UNITED
There will be plenty to see, do, eat, and buy all day at the Saturday, November 15, Fall Fest at Plaza

United Methodist Church, 5500 The Plaza, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Crafts will be on sale. Children will solicit penny votes to be king or queen. A barbershop quartet will entertain. Pony rides will be offered. An attic sale will be held. Numerous other events and sales will go on, winding up with an auction and square dance in the evening.

All proceeds will go to benefit the Plaza Adult Living Service (PALS), a day care program for the elderly conducted at the church.

Sausage biscuits, hot dogs, and Brunswick stew will be available for breakfast, lunch, and supper during the Fall Fest. A cake walk will start at 8 p.m.

The public is invited.

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Faith Hosts Tutorial Program

Continued From Page 7A

teachers of the Hidden Valley area to see who would benefit from the program. From this request, the teachers gave a list of names. "We weren't able to contact everyone on the list. There were at least 30 names uncontacted."

The fact that everyone on the list was not able to take advantage of the church's program concerns the Young Adult Council. "Ideally, we would like to have 100 children to tutor, but because this program is being sponsored by the Young Adult Council, funds are limited. However, we are in the process of writing for a grant from various civic organizations that will enable us to expand the program," informed Ms. Curry.

The first session of the program will close near the end of November, with an appreciation banquet scheduled for December. The second session of the tutorial program begins in January.

Enthusiasm is so great for the program that Ms. Curry commented that they have to make the students take a break. "The sessions which last from 7-9 p.m. consist of the children doing their homework and later preparing for their spelling test. At the program, there is also a resource table where tutors can get information."

In addition to Ms. Curry and Ms. Ivory, members of the Young Adult Council who are involved with the program include Greg Woods, Mary Faulk, Floressa Edwards, Jacqueline Edwards, Nay Howell, Carolyn Gooden, and Larry Miller.

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