

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
Study Sunday 10:00 AM
Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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“...I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My church**; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it,”

—Matthew 16:18



The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Neither Catholic, Protestant ...nor Evangelical

By Al Diestelkamp

Back in the days when churches had tract racks, one that was popular among brethren was titled “Neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jew.” It was in a time when people in our nation categorized all religious people into one of these three ways. The tract was an effort to distinguish true Christians from those simply professing to be God’s people and to issue an appeal to be simply Christians.

The religious makeup of our nation has changed greatly over the decades, creating even more categories. With the addition of the many eastern religions, to publish a tract denying affiliation with all the available houses of worship would require a

ridiculously long title. Today, among those claiming to be followers of Jesus the prevailing thought is that they must be either “Catholic Christians”, “Protestant Christians” or “Evangelical Christians”.

Just where do you and I fit in this denominational mindset? Though we claim not to fit into any one of these categories, the world doesn’t seem to “buy” our protests and view us as just one denomination among many. Even The Babylon Bee, a satire website, when featuring “A Guide to All the Christian Denominations”, included: “Churches of Christ— Another non-denominational denomination.” *Ouch!*

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road
Elkmont, AL 35620

Servants during June:

Songleader: Larry (1), Dwight (8), Stanley (15), Larry (22), Dwight (29)

Reading: Stanley

Announcements: Larry

Table: Mike, Marty, Stanley

Wednesday Lesson: Kris (4), Larry (11); Stanley (18), Kris (25)

Lawn Mowing (week starting): Larry (1), Kris (8), Marty (15), Stanley (22), Larry (29)

Area Meetings:

Eastside (Athens), 15-20, Larry Rouse;

Jennings Chapel, 15-20, Nick Woods;

Lacey’s Spring, 22-27, Tim Sutton;

Truth Lectures, 7/14-17, Various speakers

Distraction

It is one thing for the general public to fail to recognize the non-denominational aspect of the church that Jesus built, Mt 16:18, and lump us in under the evangelical label, but it's another thing altogether when brethren endorse or identify with evangelicalism. Part of this may be that brethren mistake the word evangelical with evangelism; and since we preach and teach the importance of evangelism, we must be evangelicals.

I grant that a dictionary definition of the word evangelical, may be vague enough to seem to include the Lord's people, but we know dictionaries are not always a reliable source for biblical terminology (i.e., "baptism"). Consider the definition from the viewpoint of popular culture:

Evangelicalism, also called evangelical Christianity, or evangelical Protestantism, is a worldwide trans-denominational movement within Protestant Christianity that maintains the belief that the essence of the Gospel consists of the doctrine of salvation by grace alone, solely through faith in Jesus' atonement (Wikipedia).

Besides the doctrinal errors that are espoused within this movement, present-day evangelicalism is perceived as an

arm of one political party. While that party's platform might conform more closely to my personal views, and its success might prove more accommodating to righteous living and the spread of the gospel, the Lord's kingdom is not "of this world," Jn 18:36.

Many years ago I worked with a church that met in rented facilities. The property was owned by a sitting U.S. senator. One year, as Election Day drew near, we found the church's sign surrounded by campaign signs. Though the senator was one whom I personally appreciated, I objected to the political signs, noting that we didn't want to leave the impression that the church endorsed political candidates. Besides that, we didn't want to discourage people from the opposing party from hearing the gospel.

Even though the Lord's church is "catholic" (universal), we don't call ourselves "Catholic"; and though we "protest" the errors of Catholicism, we don't call ourselves "Protestant". Likewise, although we have more in common with evangelicals, I believe it is a mistake to identify with a "trans-denominational movement". We are simply Christians! 

The song leader read the passage that encouraged us to praise the Lord in song and then instructed us to, "pay attention to the words."

Yet... The man sitting two rows in front was staring into space, then looking around the room—never a note sung.

"Pray without ceasing," Paul instructs in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and the gentleman at the front says, "Please bow with me while we pray."

Yet... To the right was a woman making faces at a child, seeking a laugh or smile and to the left another was using her thumbs to quickly send a message on her phone.

Mark 4:24 warns to, "pay attention to what you hear," which applies to the word of God being spoken during a sermon.

Yet... the man behind me broke my concentration by talking to his wife while God's word was being read and taught.

The book of Nehemiah tells of the Israelites standing when Ezra read from God's scroll.

Yet... while sitting in comfortable, padded pews, the time was being

checked on watches and phones, demonstrating disrespect for the holy words.

Jesus commands us to remember Him through the taking of the Lord's Supper ...His death and sacrifice for **MY** sins.

Yet... some around could **NOT** have been remembering because they were busy with other things ...a precious sacrifice forgotten.

Agrippa said, "Almost you persuade me to be a Christian," and so was I...

Yet... during the invitation three in front were preparing to leave and while the song was being sung two left the auditorium just to return moments later.

I came to worship my Lord.

I came to hear His word.

I came to reflect on my relationship with Him.

I came to be persuaded to serve.

Yet... I was distracted.

Pray that we are never part of any distraction.

—Author unknown 

Remember in Prayer

Please pray for **Barbara; Betty; Carolyn; Deborah and Serenity; Hazel; Kathy M; Pam B, Julie, Kaylee and Violet; Mark Horton; Pam McNatt; and John, Sylvia, and Paige**

Pollard. Please also for Kris' friends, **Dawn and Wes**, as well as **Mina and Lorenzo**—they are struggling with serious medical issues. 