

Youth NEWS

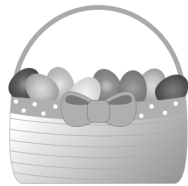


Thank you to the Pitchford Family for hosting the Family/Youth We appreciate you!

Mark your calendar for a youth rally hosted by MidTown May 5-6 with Joe Wells. More details to come!

Everyone is Invited to Egg Hunt

There will be an Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. at the Hutt and Harris' homes. If you plan to participate in the hunt, please bring 1 or 2 dozen filled eggs and your basket. Everyone at the congregation is invited to enjoy hotdogs, served at the Hutt's house. Parking is available at both homes.



Please bring your lawn chair. Also, girls bring desserts and boys bring chips.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, April 2 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Prepare to Worship" Worship is an intentional act of the heart. It takes more than "going" to worship; we must prepare our hearts and our lives as we come into the presence of God.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The MidTown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

MARCH 26, 2017

"NON-DENOMINATIONAL OR NON-CONFRONTATIONAL?" by Ronnie Scherffius

A word being popularized among religious folk today is *non-denominational*. Do a Google search on the Internet for the word non-denominational and you will come up with more than 5.6 million search results!

Everything from web-encyclopedia and free dictionary entries to a history of non-denominational churches to a listing of those churches that are considered "non-denominational" can be found on the World Wide Web. Generally, the term non-denominational is defined as "those churches which have not formally aligned themselves with an established denomination" [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nondenominational_Christianity]. This description continues as follows: "Non-denominational churches establish their own internal means and methods of policy and worship without interference from the policies and worship practices of regional, national, or multinational organizations. Members of non-denominational churches often consider themselves simply "Christians," and many feel at home when visiting any number of other denominational churches with compatible beliefs."

Non-denominational Christianity?! Finally, a spiritual breath of fresh air, a step in the right direction, an enlightenment of the sectarian minds around us; finally, religiously minded people are casting off manmade names and creeds to hold to the Bible only! Could it be that the time has arrived when the religious world has come to the timeless truth that the Bible makes Christians only and the only Christians? After such a long time of apostasy and

thumbing up their nose at God's authority, has the religious world ultimately come to its senses? Unfortunately, upon closer examination we find that the term non-denominational is simply a veiled expression of a more inclusive term *all-denominational*.

Notice again the description of non-denominationalism. A non-denominational church is that church which "establishes their own internal means and methods of policy and worship." Is this not exactly what sets denominational bodies apart from that blood bought body of Christ? Did not Jesus condemn the Jews of His day saying, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by **your tradition**?" (Mt. 15:3)? Did not Paul by inspiration command the Romans to "mark them which cause divisions and offenses **contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned**; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17)? Would not the practice of a people "establishing their own internal means and methods of policy" violate the inspired decree of doing all things "in the name of the Lord Jesus," i.e., by the authority of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17; cf. Mt. 28:18; Acts 4:7-10; et al), and would not the practice of a people "establishing their own internal means of... worship" violate Jesus' decree that God accepts only that worship that is both "in spirit **and** in truth" (John 4:24)?

Furthermore, notice that while “non-denominationalists” may “consider themselves simply ‘Christians,’” they also feel “at home when visiting any number of other denominational churches with **compatible** beliefs.” How is it possible for Christians to “feel at home” with error?! Certainly Christians of the first century did not “feel at home” with the error of the pagan temples, though much of what each believed might have been “compatible” (love and sympathy for man, belief in and worship of a higher power, an afterlife, etc.). In fact, so distant is truth from error and so utterly opposed is God to error that He commanded complete and total separation from and public condemnation of error: “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness... Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Cor. 6:14-17); “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5:11).

There can be no doubt that denominationalism is condemned in the Scriptures: “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Cor. 1:10). Furthermore, it is abundantly clear that denominationalism flies in the face of God’s design and purposes for the church “But now are they many members, yet but **one body**” (1 Cor. 12:20); “And that he might reconcile both unto God in **one body**” (Eph. 2:16), and directly opposes Jesus prayer for unity among believers: “That they all **may be one**; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us” (John 17:21). Christianity is **NOT** non-denominational but anti-denominational! It must be, for denominationalism is opposed to all that is Christian: it is opposed to unity and the oneness of the body of Christ; it is opposed to the blood of Christ; it is opposed to the sufficiency of the Scripture; it is opposed to the authority of Christ; in short it is opposed to truth.

As stated earlier, non-denominationalism is a clever way of saying all-denominational, for it does not oppose error, but rather it embraces any and

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST



APRIL 2 - 5

Presented by
Ronnie Scherffius

- Sunday, April 2 at 9 a.m.**
- ◆ “What Does The Old Testament Say About Christ?”
- Sunday, April 2 at 10 a.m.**
- ◆ “What Is The Nature of Christ: Is He God Or Man?”
- Sunday, April 2 at 1 p.m.**
- ◆ “What Will You Do with Jesus Which Is Called Christ?”
- Monday, April 3 at 7 p.m.**
- ◆ “Why Will Some Be Lost?”
- Tuesday, April 4 at 7 p.m.**
- ◆ “How Can I Know What Is Right?”
- Wednesday, April 5 at 7 p.m.**
- ◆ “How Can I Remain Faithful?”

all error that exists. Non-denominationalism is “American Religion” at its best... it is truly a “melting pot religious beliefs.” It believes that all faiths are created equal and that all faiths should be given equal time and tolerance. It is simply another ploy of Satan to lure men away from the true body of Christ into a perverted and error filled world of false religion. There is no way that any Christian can endorse or stand unopposed to “non-denominationalism” and remain in fellowship with God. There is not Catholic-Christianity, Protestant-Christianity, Denominational-Christianity, or Nondenominational-Christianity, there is only Christianity.

While we approve and applaud those who have severed ties with “organized” denominations we nevertheless disapprove, denounce and are greatly saddened by the fact that they have not gone far enough. We pray that these will maintain a steady diet of the Scriptures and that they will ultimately find the truth that God’s Word does not allow men the right to *establish their own internal means and methods of policy and worship*, but rather demands all men to submit to and follow God’s established rule—those found in the New Testament of Christ.

News & ACTIVITIES

FELLOWSHIP MEAL NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2 there will be a potluck luncheon following morning services with evening services moved to 1 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. Please invite your friends to MidTown’s Gospel Meeting April 2-5. Pick up invitations for your friends and family in the foyer.

Due to the Gospel Meeting next week, there will not be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal today.

Today!

This evening during services Ronnie will be answering bible questions that were submitted in the “mailbox” in the foyer.

Wednesday, March 29

There will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing.

Thursday, March 30

Leadership Development Class at 7 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS!

PARKER GRACE FOERSTER
BORN MARCH 20
9LBS. 6 OZ. 20 IN.



Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
MARCH 19, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....	125
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	160
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	108
Wednesday Attendance.....	104

Offering: \$6,561

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Archana Verma** as well as **Elana Caroll** in prayer who responded Sunday.



MidTown Members:

Paul Atkinson
Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Dee Gilpatrick

Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Betty Mabe
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Angela Sneeringer
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton’s
sister-in-law
Amanda Mueller
sister of Amy Harris

Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Madeline Posey,
family of Julie Posey
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Polly Ray,
aunt of Connie Cleveland
Scott Reeves,
son of Sam and Leta
brother of Sherry Lynch
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnos
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Agnes Sergel,
grandmother of Athena Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory