

Weekly Newsletter

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A Vote Against The Bible

By Steve Higginbotham

Last month, the Presbyterian Church USA, at their national convention, voted against two proposals expressing opposition to all same-sex unions.

In another vote, the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church overwhelmingly voted 70.5% to 29.5% to reject a resolution which declared its, "unchanging commitment to Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the only name by which any person may be saved" (Compare with Acts 4:12).

My response is twofold:

First, how much presumption does it take to vote against a biblical truth? Who does man think he is, voting against the edicts and pronouncements of God? Do people think majority rules when it comes to God's revelation? Do people really think they can "vote God out of office" by reaching a majority decision against God and his platform as set forth in Scripture? Apparently so.

And second, how much presumption does it take to vote, for or against, any biblical matter? Why would anyone be "voting" on any biblical or moral issue? Has not God already spoken? Does not Scripture already "thoroughly furnish us with answers to doctrinal and moral matters? (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Is truth determined by a vote? No vote needs to be taken, rather people need to open the Bible!

Apparently, people need to be reminded that truth is not what we make it, but what God stated. Morality is not determined by a vote, but by the revelation of God. Rather than "voting," wouldn't people be better off just obeying the word of God. After all there is the reminder of Moses echoing through the ages that states, "Do not follow a multitude to do evil." (Exodus 23:2).

CHRIST IN Youth

David Burleson, Youth Minister

This will be the start of my eight week, working for this congregation. Since the very beginning of this ministry, I have been made to feel welcomed. I want to thank the congregation for your kindness and support during this time of transition. Thank you for showing me how great my brothers and sisters in Christ really are.

On Friday, we returned from our week long stay at Freed-Hardeman for Horizons. This was such a great week of Bible study and fellowship. During the week there were many responses and also there was a baptism. However, the week went by so fast that I just cannot wait until next Horizons.

Also, during this week we saw many of our friends from Elizabethtown Church of Christ. It was so good to get to be with them and sing songs that we had learned from Taylor Christian Camp. They were reminding us that on July 22 they are having their youth rally. Make sure to mark this great opportunity in your calendar.

At the end of this month, on July 29, we will be hosting the annual Senior Member's Banquet. There is a sign-up list now available in the downstairs lobby for this event.

School is just about to be back in session, but there is still a lot of our summer left. Don't forget that on Tuesdays this summer we will have SPAM (service project and a meal) This will be an event that will take place every summer.

If you have not signed in to the youth website, please do. Once logged-in, you can then make comments on the forum and join peoplebook. God has been so good to us!

Let's Change Our Name

By Steve Higginbotham

As you enter some communities, you will see a difference on the sign in front of several familiar church buildings. What once read, "Such and Such Church of Christ" now reads, "Community Church (in big bold letters) and then in fine print, you will find the words, if you find them at all, "a church of Christ." Among some brethren today, there is a desire to change the name that is on the sign out in front of our church buildings. We've been told that we would be more effective in our communities if we would remove the name "Church of Christ" and replace it with some other name.

Well now, that's an interesting suggestion. As you know, there is no "proper name" given to the collective assembly of the saints. However, in the Scriptures, there are several designations used to identify the church. Among these designations are the "churches of Christ" (Romans 16:16), the "body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12), the "church of the firstborn ones" (Hebrews 12:23), the "church of the Living God" (1 Timothy 3:15), the "household of God" (Ephesians 2:19), the "kingdom of the Son of his love" (Colossians 1:13), "the church" (Acts 2:47), and the "church of God" (1 Corinthians 1:2). Of these Scriptural phrases, the designation "church of Christ" is used only once; the church of God is used 11 times, and the most commonly used designation is simply "the church." So when it comes to Scriptural designations for the church, we shouldn't be so wedded to one name that we would be unwilling to use another name if one could be proven better than another.

However, with that said, I must express some serious doubts as to the legitimacy that the designation "Church of Christ" in front of our buildings is hindering people from becoming a part of our fellowship. It's not the name people have problems with, it's our doctrine (e.g. baptism for the remission of sins, acappella singing, the role of women, weekly observance of the Lord's Supper, etc.). Changing the name on our church signs won't make any difference, for it's not the name to which people object, it's our doctrine that offends them. Changing our designation without changing our doctrine won't attract those who are prejudiced against us.

"It's not the designation that is drawing or repelling people today, it's the doctrine that is espoused, and friends, that's non-negotiable!"

Now that really brings us to the point. Most of those who are desiring a change in name know that a change of name without a change in doctrine is meaningless. Therefore, within these congregations who were formerly identified as churches of Christ, but who now designate themselves as "Community Churches," we see wholesale defection from the doctrine of Christ. Instrumental music is commonplace. The role of women in leadership positions has been broadened. And the essentiality of baptism has been repudiated.

Bottom line...The problem is not with our name. If we change our designation but retain our doctrine, we will be of little interest to many people. On the other hand, if we change our doctrine to a more compromising, accommodating doctrine, we can retain our name and be of great interest to many people. So that tells me, it's not the designation that is drawing or repelling people today, it's the doctrine that is espoused, and folks, that's non-negotiable!

Family Matters

Sick List

- Prayers are requested for Shannon Noal, granddaughter of Jessie Thompson, she underwent cancer surgery on Tuesday.
- Brooklyn Alexander underwent a heart procedure this week in Louisville. Brooklyn is the daughter of Matt & Vicki Alexander. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- Continue to remember: Mary Anderson, Ruby Anderson, Wendell Britt, Shawn Bryant, Andrew Carson, Ruby Cloyd, Dorothy Coffey, Margaret Cox, Jim Dunaway, Eddie Gerald, Kathy Hamilton, Eugene Harlow, Sally Henry, Fred Hensley, Reba Herriford, Amanda Hinton, Preston Jolly, Stacey King, Jeanette Krume, Mary Lynn, Dr. George McKinley, Charles McDonald, Samantha McPherson, Marney Nunnally, Linda Pedigo, J.C. Polson, Frances Searcy, Shelley South, Donald Smith, Ed Staley, Donnie Stephens, Dixie Strode, Al Tennyson, Helen Pedigo Tucker, Ronnie Walker, and James Williams.

Visitation Team

Visitation Team #2 will meet Sunday, July 16, following the morning worship service for a finger food meal and meeting. Team members are asked to bring their visitation records to turn in. Team Leaders are Howard Alls and Jim Searcy.

Golf Scramble

The annual South Green Golf Scramble is scheduled for Saturday, July 22 with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m., at the Fox Hollow Golf Course. The cost is \$22.00 paid in advance no later than Sunday, July 16, to Darrell Pitcock. Sign up sheets have been posted and you are asked to add your name to one of these sheets if plan to participate in this event. Should you need additional information you are asked to contact Darrell Pitcock.

Senior Members Banquet

In honor of the Senior Members of the South Green Street Church of Christ a banquet in your honor will be held on Saturday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m. This banquet will be hosted by the Youth Group. If you and/or your spouse are sixty years of age and above your presence is requested. Sign up forms are available in the foyer and near the rear entrance. Please fill out one of the forms so that adequate preparations can be made.

Back To School

Donations for the annual Back to School Ministry are now being accepted. Donations will be collected until August 6, 2006. With your donations basic school supplies as well as other essentials will be purchased for children in need that attend one of our local schools. Please place donation in an envelope marked Back to School and give to Rollin Simmons or Gary Edmunds.

Special Contribution

The Elders have challenged the congregation to give above and beyond our normal weekly contribution on Sunday, July 30th in an effort to retire the debt on our church building. Presently, we owe approximately \$75,000.00 Retiring that debt will not only save in interest payments but will allow us to use our current \$5,243.00 a month payment for other good works. Please pray about your response to this challenge. Allow this to be a time when you exercise your faith and strengthen your commitment. We have over 230 families at South Green. If just 100 families would commit \$300.00 we would have \$30,000.00 raised! Surely we can do this if we have the mind to do so.

