

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Nondenominational

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Wayne and Cathy, Abby, Peggy Beebe needs our prayers.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Ben is outside on storm duty. Cathy is traveling. The Kelly's and Decker's are traveling.

Men's Meeting: There will be a men's meeting today immediately following the morning service.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program

Women's Study: The next women's study will be Saturday December 14th at 1:00 PM at the Building

Evangelism: There are several bible studies ongoing. Check the website and attend if you can.

Today's Scripture: "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" **1 Corinthians 1:13 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!" **Psalm 133:1 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 80/58: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

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EVANGELIST

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December 1st, 2019 BULLETIN for the



God's Plan of Salvation

Hear.....	Romans 10:17
Believe.....	Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
Repent.....	Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
Confess.....	Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
Be Baptized	Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
Arise & Walk in Newness of Life	Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

Bible Classes:	10AM
AM Worship:	11AM
PM Worship:	5PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study:	7PM
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OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

Nondenominational

We often hear today about churches that claim to be “nondenominational”. They don’t want to be considered a “denomination”, but when we look closely at them they contain all the aspects of others that proudly carry that description. Every “nondenominational” church I have visited have beliefs that are closely related, or identical, to those in denominational churches. What they have done, is to take some doctrines from Baptists, some from Methodists, some from Presbyterians, and some from other denominations and in doing that call themselves “nondenominational”. For example, each one that I have visited use musical instruments in their worship services. Often it will be a single instrument; a guitar, a piano, or an organ. They have all taught that one is saved by faith only and that baptism plays no role in salvation. Some will teach that baptism is the “first commandment that must be obeyed” once a person is saved while others I have visited don’t even go that far.

A Wikipedia article on Nondenominational Christianity states the following: **Nondenominational Christianity** (or **non-denominational Christianity**) consists of [churches](#) which typically distance themselves from the [confessionalism](#) or [creedalism](#) of other [Christian](#) communities^[1] by not formally aligning with a specific [Christian denomination](#). Often founded by individual pastors, they have little affiliation with historic denominations, but typically adhere to [evangelical Protestantism](#), and are a type of [Protestantism](#). This article goes on to state that the first nondenominational churches appeared in the US in the 20th century in the form of independent churches. They have experienced significant and continuous growth in the 21st century particularly in the US where they represented the third largest Christian denomination in 2010. The article goes on to state that “Nondenominational churches are recognizable from the evangelical movement, even though they are autonomous and have no other formal labels. The movement is particularly visible in the megachurches. The neo-charismatic churches often use the term *nondenominational* to define themselves”. And that “Churches with a focus on seekers are more likely to identify themselves as non-denominational.” A final paragraph in the article titled “Criticism” states: in part that “Boston University religion scholar Stephen Prothero argues that nondenominationalism hides the fundamental theological and spiritual issues that initially drove the division of Christianity into denominations behind a veneer of “Christian unity”. He argues that nondenominationalism encourages a descent of Christianity-and indeed, all religions- into comfortable “general moralism rather than being a focus for facing the complexities of churchgoers’ culture and spirituality. He further argues that nondenominationalism “encourages ignorance of the Scriptures, lowering the overall religious literacy while increasing the potential for inter-religious misunderstandings and conflict.”

The church is not and never has been a “nondenominational” church. We have

By: Bill Beebe

continually rejected denominations from the earliest years of the church. Paul had to fight this in Corinth where some were identifying themselves as disciples of Paul, Apollos or Cephas. Read as he condemns divisions within the church **1 Corinthians 1:10-13 (KJV)** ¹⁰ *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.* ¹¹ *For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.* ¹² *Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.* ¹³ *Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?”* But we don’t have to rely in Paul alone for condemnation of divisions in the church. Jesus, in His prayer as recorded in John chapter 17 encouraged, and actually insisted on, unity. Listen as Jesus prays for our unity; **John 17:11 (KJV)** ¹¹ *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”* And again in **John 17:20-23 (KJV)** ²⁰ *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;* ²¹ *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* ²² *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* ²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”*

Jesus wanted us to be a single church, teaching the same thing throughout the world. Paul argued against divisions in his letter to the Corinthian church. But we can only be one if we study and obey the scriptures. We do not ever want to be the type of church that Mr. Prothero described; encouraging “Ignorance of the Scriptures”. It is through constant and consistent study that we can be the one church that Jesus promised to build in Matthew 16:18 and that 3,000 were added to in Jerusalem on that great day when the Apostles spoke in languages that they hadn’t learned and Peter opened the door to. (Acts 2:37-47).

Finally, remember what Paul taught to the Ephesians: *“With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”* **Ephesians 4:2-6 (KJV)**

The church of Christ is not a denomination, it is not nondenominational. It is the single church that was built by Jesus.