

August Birthdays		August Anniversaries	
6	Dan Greene	16	Margo & Dan Greene
7	Richard Pedrie	27	Nita & Ron Hansen
13	Isaac Davis		
21	Jonah Davis		
22	Marilyn Bartlow		
26	Marian Like		
29	Toni Gates		

August 27, 2023		
Greeters:	Terry Reader	Len Gates
Announcements:	Terry Reader	
Song Leader:	Paul Cunningham	
Opening Prayer:	Stacey Moss	
Closing Prayer:	Jim Richards	
Lord's Table:	Len Gates	Larry Fulton
	Dan Greene	Ken Davis
Coordinator:	Stacey Moss	

**Mission Work Areas**

Quito, Ecuador  
Mazatlán, Mexico  
Reitoca & San Carlos, Honduras

***New Prayer Requests***

Austin Petty (Zirkle's grandson) –His latest scans showed no real effect on his tumors which was expected. They will be adding radiation to his treatment. Thank you for the prayers and please continue to keep him and the family in your prayers.
Ian Stewart – took a fall and broke two bones in his foot. He had surgery and is doing well. He is home now, but will be housebound for a few weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.
Diane Spomer (a previous member here) – diagnosed with cancer. She has had surgery and is doing well. Please keep her in your prayers.
Jane Webb (Debbie Olguin's life friend) – just diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please keep her in your prayers.

***Long Term Prayer List***

Ron Hansen	Richard Pedrie
Ian Stewart	Greg Pyle
Gary Stewart	Beth Pedrie
Marilyn Bartlow	Norma Bartlow
Joan Lawrence	Melissa Wagle (cancer)
Dr. Dick Burt (Margo's Brother)	Betty & Danny Sidebottom
Austin Petty (Zirkle's Grandson) - cancer	Dick McClain (friend of Readers) – lung cancer – some new spots
Crystal & JJ Autry and family	

**Elders**

Stanten Sikes (719) 207-0629  
Ian Stewart (720) 878-2919  
Terry Reader (719) 427-7141

**Deacons**

Stacey Moss (719) 207-0588  
Ken Davis (719) 748-8654  
Kelly Beek (719) 342-5856  
Larry Fulton (719) 398-9987  
Len Gates (719) 207-0039

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If you have bulletin information or updates, please send them to Terry or Linda Reader

- Terry's contact (719) 427-7141 [tldr1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tldr1960@yahoo.com)
- Linda's contact (928) 965-5708 [lintreader@q.com](mailto:lintreader@q.com)



***When you visit us...***

**August 20, 2023**

You can expect to find your friendly neighbor, assembled to worship God the Father, and proclaim the love and grace He has given to us; and remember Jesus, the Christ, our example—our Savior. We will strive always to provoke love and good deeds of one another.

As in the 1st Century New Testament Church, our worship to God is simple - without mankind's rituals. You will find a wholesome respect for the Word of God as inspired by the Holy Spirit. We study only the Holy Scriptures—no human creeds will be used by us.

In addition to the worship of our Creator, we strive to fulfill our Savior's stated plan for us by sharing His Gospel message with this community and throughout the world.

Sermons every Sunday will be based wholly upon the Word of God. They will be Christ - centered and Biblically based so we can develop a deepening relationship with God through our understanding and personal involvement with Him and His truth in our everyday life.

Pulpit Minister—Stanten Sikes  
P.O. Box 1479 \* 16310 County Road 306 \* Buena Vista, CO 81211

(719) 395-8753 \* email: [mvcgbv@hotmail.com](mailto:mvcgbv@hotmail.com)  
[www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org](http://www.mountainviewchurchofchrist.org)

**Sunday**

10:00 am ....Bible Class  
11:00 am.....Assembly  
Noon.....Fellowship Meal  
1:30 pm.....Devotional

**Wednesday**

7:00 pm.....Devotional  
or Bible Class

Why Do Churches of Christ Differ So Widely

Sewell Hall

A sign reading "Church of Christ" in front of a building tells you very little these days. Most any doctrine or practice may be found inside. This is frustrating to many people.

Outsiders make fun of the situation, saying, "You preach unity, but you are the most divided people we know." They may add, "This just proves you are not the true church." This last statement shows a total misunderstanding of what the true church is, but it is a misunderstanding shared by far too many "members of the church."

How Can We Explain It?

First, many churches that claim to be churches of Christ are not "of Christ" at all. Any church can claim that designation, but only one that truly recognizes Christ as its head is justified in using it. There is no denominational accrediting board that can certify a church as a true church of Christ — the Lord Himself is the judge of that.

In addition, there are churches, claiming to be churches of Christ, that intend to follow Jesus but have widely differing ideas of what that involves. Some, like the Sadducees, "are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God" (Mt 22:29). Others know the scriptures but construe them loosely, rejecting only those things that are forbidden. Still others believe that only those things clearly authorized are to be practiced, but even among these there may be differences as to what is authorized. When such congregations are truly autonomous, it is inevitable that there will be noticeable differences.

Such Differences Are Not New

Differences existed among churches established by the apostles even while the New Testament was still being written. The "seven churches of Asia" (Revelation 2 and 3) provide good examples. A visitor in Ephesus would have found an old established church that was doing everything right but with a lack of love (Rev 2:4). Moving on to Smyrna, he would find a rather poor little group that had a bad reputation among the Jews in town (Rev 2:9). Visiting the church in Pergamum, he might well hear a teacher defending idolatry, approving of the eating of meat sacrificed to them (Rev 2:14). And if that was not shocking enough, going on to Thyatira he might meet a woman in the church who claimed to be a prophetess and was actually teaching and seducing the men to commit fornication (Rev 2:20).

If the traveler expressed concern about what he had found thus far, he might well be told that he would find things better in Sardis where there was a church widely known as a really lively church. But on arriving there,

he would be disappointed to find that, as far as doing what God wanted them to do, they really were dead (Rev 3:1-2). Moving on to Philadelphia, he would find a church made up of good people, but relatively small and with "little strength" (Rev 3:8). Finally, in Laodicea, visiting the church he might be met by greeters at the door offering him a brochure and telling him how rich and self-sufficient the church was; but on closer inspection, he would find that they really were spiritually "wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked" (Rev 3:17). At least, that's what the Lord found.

Were all these churches right because they would claim to be "of Christ?" No! Two of them were threatened with total rejection by the Lord (Rev 2:5; 3:16) and three others were warned of dire consequences if they did not repent. Did the remaining congregations comprise the "one true church?" NO! The one true church is not composed of congregations but of faithful individuals saved by the Lord (Acts 2:47). In spite of the false teaching and immorality in some of the churches there were still some who had "not defiled their garments." The faithful remnant in these and other churches made up — and make up — the "one true church."

What All Churches Must Do

In John's epistles, written about the same time, we see echoes of the same problems. He speaks of those who questioned both the divinity and humanity of Jesus (doctrine of the Nicolaitans?); of those claiming they could sin without guilt and of some who hated their brethren. There had even been divisions which John explains by saying, "They went out from us because they were not of us" (1 Jn 2:19).

John stated the solution. Approximately ten times in 1 and 2 John he speaks of "the beginning." Most often that expression seems to refer to the beginning of the church on Pentecost under the direction of the apostles of Jesus (see 1 Jn 2:24). After warning of false teachers (1 Jn 4:21) he provides the standard by which they are to be tested. As an apostle, he writes: "We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error" (1 Jn 4:6).

We cannot be responsible for every church in the world that calls itself a church of Christ. Our responsibility as congregations is to be the church as it was in "the beginning" and to follow the apostle's doctrine in which that church continued steadfastly (Acts 2:42). As individuals we must make sure that we are a part of the faithful remnant that makes up the "one true church."

- - Biblical Insights, February 2012

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We invite you to stay for our Weekly Fellowship Lunch & Afternoon Devotional! We hope you'll stay and eat, fellowship and worship with us immediately following morning services.

For your calendar.....

Weekly Fellowship Luncheon	Sunday – 12:00 Noon
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Singing	September 6 – 7:00 PM
Lost Canyon Fall Outing	September 17 – Following Services