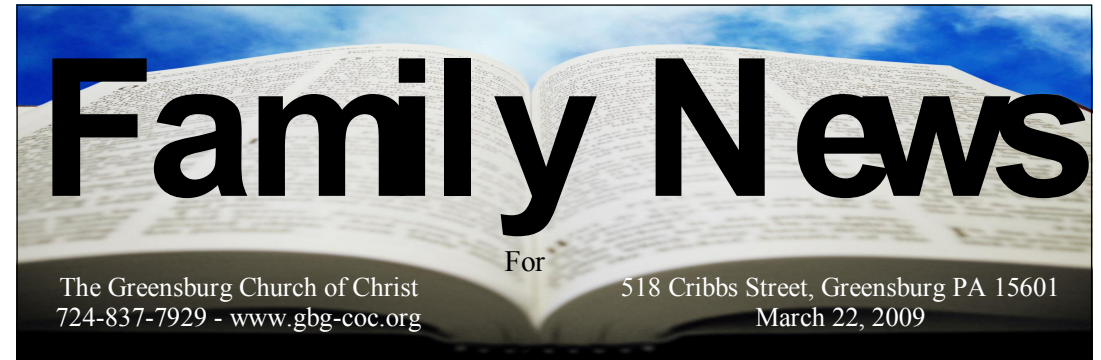


Our Meeting Times

Sunday 10 AM The book of Esther
 Sunday 11 AM "Just Preach Christ"
 Sunday 6 PM "I Want to Go to Heaven"
 Wednesday 7 PM The book of Acts

Sermon Notes:

AM "Just Preach Christ"	PM "I Want to Go to Heaven"
I. The _____ of Christ	I. Heaven is my _____
II. The _____ of Christ	
III. The _____ of Christ	II. Heaven is my _____
IV. The _____ of Christ	
V. The _____ of Christ	III. Heaven is my _____
VI. The _____ of Christ	



Welcome to the Church of Christ at Greensburg

Must One Need To Be A Member of A Local Congregation?

By Robert Hatfield

The English word "church" is translated in the New Testament by the Greek word *ekklesia*. The word literally means "called out," and, in its most basic sense, refers to a congregation or assembly of people. In fact, Acts 19:32, 39-40 use *ekklesia* in a non-religious sense to refer to an assembly of people.

When used in a spiritual sense, *ekklesia* refers to the church in three ways. (1) *Ekklesia* can refer to the entirety of God's people. For example, Christ promised to build His *ekklesia* in Matthew 16:18, and ultimately purchased the *ekklesia* with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The Lord adds to the *ekklesia* those who are immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:47). (2) *Ekklesia* also refers to God's people in a certain location. The church (*ekklesia*) at Jerusalem is identified in Acts 5:11, and Paul wrote "unto the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Cor 1:2). Seven congregations (churches, *ekklesia*) are identified in the first part of the book of Revelation (cf. Rev 1:4, 11). Local churches were established whenever men and women obeyed the gospel upon receiving the gospel message (cf. Acts 14:23).

Our Elders:		Our Evangelist:
Jeff Berkey 724-289-0451 briarwood1956@yahoo.com	John Vaughn 724-853-6824 baseballjrv@yahoo.com	Timothy Carignan 724-216-5167 soundpreacher@comcast.net

(3) *Ekklesia* may be used to refer to a body of people who are brought together at a specific place and time to worship God (1 Cor. 11:17ff; 14:34; 3 John 10).

In answering the question, “Must one be a member of a local congregation?” the second usage (as listed above) of the term *ekklesia* is helpful. Consider this thought: **Can a Christian completely obey God’s Will without being a member of a local congregation?** Please consider the following Scriptural evidence.

The New Testament emphasizes that members of the early church were TOGETHER. “All that believed were together, and had all things common” (Acts 2:44; cf. 4:23-24, 31-32, etc). The church is comprised of many members who work together, pooling talents and resources, to accomplish God’s Will on earth (cf. Eph 2:10; 4:16-17). This goal will not be attained if Christians wander around without devoting themselves to a specific place.

The New Testament church assembled together to worship God on the Lord’s Day. Passages such as Acts 2:42; 20:7-12; 1 Cor 11:17ff; 14:1-14; 16:1-2 make this point very clear. In fact, how can Christians “provoke one another unto love and to good works” and admonish each other not to forsake the assemblies without being a part of a local congregation (Heb 10:24-25)?

Individual congregations are structured around God’s organized plan. Christ is the head of the church worldwide (Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18). Elders (bishops, pastors, shepherds) are to be appointed in local congregations where there are qualified men (1 Tim 3:1ff; Titus 1:1ff; Acts 14:23). These overseers operate under Christ’s rule, and members are to submit to their elders (1 Thes 5:12; Heb 13:17).

The collective work of the church does not take away one’s individual responsibility as a Christian, but the collective work of Christians is magnified through the local congregation. God’s wisdom truly is seen in the structure and organization of the church. Without doubt, God expects the Christian to be a member of a local congregation!

Prayer Requests

- **John & Jeff**, as they shepherd this congregation
- **Tim**, as he works with this congregation
- **Regis** is recovering
- **Denice’s father** has Pnumonia
- **Patty Carignan’s mother, Miriam** is recovering after a fall
- **Jeff Berkey’s Grandmother**
- **Patty Berkey’s mother, Eleanor**
- **Jocelyn Holmes daughter, Monica**
- **Merle Kalp** is at home
- **Donna Rockmore’s family**
- **Tony**
- **Tiffany Rimlinger**
- **Haley Trainer**
- **Gary Carl**
- **Ray Rose**
- **Keith Rockmore’s mother**

Care & Share Item

Any Non-perishable food



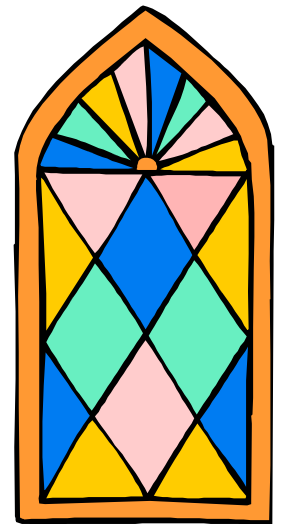
Upcoming Events

Ladies Night Out

6pm, March 30th at Ground Round

Special 5th Sunday Contribution

All of the contribution above the budget on March 29th will be used toward the auditorium window fund.



Record for the week of 3-15-09

Sun. Bible Study.....	34
AM Worship.....	41
PM Worship.....	21
Wed. Bible Study.....	16
Contribution.....	\$1394.00
Budget.....	\$1128.00