

# Pinellas Park church of Christ

Volume 45 Issue 1

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## *P*rovoking Love & Good Works *When In Rome...*

Our Shepherds

*Phillip Martin*

*Dennis Folks*

*Tim Martin*

Our Deacons

*Glenn Duncan*

*Tom Hargis*

*Keith Sabiel*

Ministers

*All members*

Preacher

*Edward Benesh*

Worship Times

Sunday

Singing 9:45 AM

Bible Study 10 AM

Worship 11 AM

Worship 6:30 PM

Wednesdays

Services 7:30 PM

In Rome, not too far from the ruins of the Coliseum where gladiators fought and many Christians lost their lives, there is a small church building that is sort of off the beaten path from most tourism. You won't find it in the tour guides and it is typically not listed as one of the "must see" locations for those visiting. Yet, it is a place of remarkable history.\* The church of San Clemente is named for the fourth Pope of the Roman Catholic church who was martyred for his faith. As the story goes, Clement I, had anchors tied around his neck and he was drown in the black Sea during the reign of emperor Trajan around 100 A.D.

The most interesting thing about this church or basilica is that the structure that now stands was built upon a structure that stood in the fourth century, which was built upon another structure and catacombs that date back to nearly the time of Christ. The bottom layer, which you can still gain access to today, was a place where early Christians gathered to worship in secret, hiding out from the heavy hand of Rome and emperors like Trajan and Nero and Domitian. In places like this the early church gathered and "had all things in common" and "received their food with glad and generous hearts" and "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship and breaking of bread and prayers." (Acts 2:42-47) Oddly enough it was during this time in history that we find a great expansion in Christianity. The world is

turned upside down and many are embracing Christ.

Moving upward, however, to fourth century level, one notes very clearly that the building is much more refined. It is not a private dwelling made up of claustrophobic catacombs, but has been expanded into a church building. And yet as history marches on (Christianity now legalized since Constantine in 313) we see the church actually moving toward apostasy and decline in the form of formalized, pharisaic legalism.

Moving upward, from the roots of the cellar, we see the final level, a basilica full of frescos and statuary and ornate designs and masterfully carved trimmings. It is marble and gold and is an awesome sight to behold even in pictures, though it is considered one of the minor basilicas. This is the church refined. This is the church in all its glory and the church has never been weaker and held less influence in this part of the world.

As we moved away from the basement and catacombs we have created a glittering, idealized, glamorized version of Christianity that I fear is far from what God has intended. We may have more education, but proclaim the word with less power. We are more civilized and cultured, but love less with barely ignited embers of zeal. We may be more PC, but are far less genuine. We are refined and talk of patterns of worship while living in the safety of our

steeple clad, padded pew, halls, but have grown complacent and comfortable in fulfilling our mission beyond making us and our own comfortable.

The solution? We need not pray for persecution or shed our modern technology or give up the pads in the pew. What we need is to continually remember that the cross of **Christ wasn't a convenience.** If you are too busy to be here, **then it's time to go back to the catacombs and cross.** If your heart is just not into the worship and you find yourself murmuring and complaining **because things just don't seem to fit your pampered need for comfort, then it's time to go back and remember the roots of Christianity.** It is time to open His word and begin to take it serious rather than act as if it is a laborious intrusion to your overwhelming day that is full of things you call "essential," but are not. It is time to get serious about your ministry. Its time to go back to the root cellar and remember that a savior died for you, not so that you could be apathetic and serve him in a lackluster way, but that you might worship and pursue Him in all ways with all your heart. It is time to find that attitude that in any age and circumstance would say, **"Make me great at your great commandments"** and commission.

Ed Benesh

\* From "Primal," by Mark Batterson.



## Study Opportunities

Sermon A.M./P.M.

- *Someone Worth Losing It All For*
- *Ruth - The Best Is to Come*

Sunday Adult Class  
*Walk Through The Bible*

Wednesday Adult Class  
*Christianity 101*

Wednesday Teen Class  
*The Me I Want To Be*  
Classes available for all ages during each service

Young Adults  
Sun. - *Walk Through Bible*  
Weds. - *Proverbs*

*Sunday Morning Ladies Class, Raising Girls—*  
*TBA please see C. Benesh*

Connecting With God  
**The Preacher's Blog**  
[edbenesh.blogspot.com](http://edbenesh.blogspot.com)

Online Worship Services  
access to live video feed at  
[www.pinellasparkcoc.org](http://www.pinellasparkcoc.org)

Daily EDifications  
To receive daily devotion from Ed please sign up at  
[edbenesh@gmail.com](mailto:edbenesh@gmail.com).



## Pinellas Park Potpourri

### Marching for the Masters

MFTM is an outreach group of the Pinellas Park Church of Christ meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays in the church library following morning services. ***They have also set up a table in the foyer to greet visitors, invite them to return and give them valuable information about the church.*** Join MFTM to help in this effort to reach those who reach out to us by visiting.

### L.A.C.E. Membership Drive

The Ladies of Lace will be forming a Pinellas Park branch for 2011, which will meet monthly at Pinellas Park. Dues are \$10 a year.

### Where are the DVDs?

DVDs are being produced every other week and are available in the foyer.

### April

- **Today - Youth retreat at WWCC**

### May

- **15th - Elder's / Deacon's meeting**
- **17th - Men's meeting**
- **29th - Men's leadership Night**

## Our Family Prayer Requests

- Paul Brown, friend of Kathy R. brain cancer.
- Brian Stover, Needing prayers
- Charlie B., Ongoing health issues
- Marion Brule, In assisted living
- Violet (D. Lampe friend) very ill
- Connie Woods, got good news about her biopsy - no cancer
- Rick Woods, back problems
- **Connie Woods' Sister Abnormal mammogram**
- Homer and Lou Johnson Nephews, are both ill
- Deborah Pratt, (wife of Bob and **Betty's nephew**) **double mastectomy**
- Timothy Hicks, throat cancer
- Bob Martin, is doing much better and is home now.
- Co-worker of Beth Martin Asks for prayers for premature twins
- Audrey Young, declining health
- Tom Horis, friend of the Gentry's, has had surgery for recurring cancer.
- Larry Poteet, diagnosed with cancer; undergoing treatment
- Justice, a friend of Carol Axe
- Alex, **Madison's friend, has cancer**
- Vitinia Bonelli, stomach problems
- J.T. Hicks, Bronchial problems
- **Dana And Bobbie Faulkner's** relative in Iraq, along with other soldiers
- Donna Lampe, foot surgery
- Wanda Jarvis, **friend of the Hargis's**, colon cancer
- Caroline Schlemmer, testing for stomach problems
- The Hollingsworth's, moving to the Heron House Assisted Living facility, that helps with Alzheimers
- Daniel Martin, undergoing testing
- Darryl Flints Aunt, cancer
- Faith Woods, pneumonia
- Those travelling north for the summer
- Our youth and several families who are at the Youth retreat and travelling

## Spiritual Classifieds

### Transportation

We have found a new bus! For a closer look see brother Tim Martin.

### Games

Games for Sonshine Day Camp, ages 5 and up. See *Beth Martin*.

### Mission minded Givers

We are continuing to collect money for our mission work by using the collection containers in our classrooms. Plan each week to donate to the valuable and needed missions of our church.

### Worship Order Change

From this Sunday forward we will have our announcements after services **conclude and a "Welcome" message** to open our services and call to order.



## Weekly Bible Reading

- Sunday Ps. 102-104
- Monday 2 Sam 5:10; 1 Chron. 11-12
- Tuesday Psalm 133
- Wed. Psalm 106-107
- Thursday 2 Sam. 5:11-6:23; 1 Chron. 13-16
- Friday Ps. 1-2,15,22-24,47,68
- Saturday Ps. 89, 96, 100-101,105, 132

Questions and answers online at [www.pinellasparkeoc.org](http://www.pinellasparkeoc.org)

## Men to serve

### Song Leaders

Sunday am: Tom Hargis  
 Sunday pm: Phillip Martin  
 Wednesday: Tom Hargis

### Lord's Supper

Bread: William Robinson  
 Cup: Michael Grimmer  
 Assisting:  
 Kenny Brush Sr.  
 Max Benesh

### Opening prayer

Sunday am: Tim Martin  
 Sunday pm: Glenn Duncan  
 Wednesday: Chad Nash

### Closing prayer

Sunday am: Bud Stover  
 Sunday pm: Todd Walden  
 Wednesday: Dennis Folks

### Sermons

Sunday Am: Ed Benesh  
 Sunday pm: Ed Benesh  
 Wednesday: Todd Walden

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.  
 (Rom 13:11)

*What are you waiting for?*

***"The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth... And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name" (Acts 22: 14, 16).***



In the book of Acts, Luke tells the dramatic story of a man named Saul, a Jew and a Pharisee who aggressively persecuted

**anyone who was a follower of Jesus. He didn't just cause trouble for those near him, but travelled to neighboring cities in order to arrest people.**

On a trip to Damascus, Jesus appeared with a bright light and asked why Saul was persecuting Him. As a result, Saul was blinded for three days, until a believer named Ananias came, placed his hands on him and prayed for him. (Acts 9: 1-19)

Everything changed for Saul. He went from persecuting followers of Jesus to proclaiming the name of Jesus as the only way to God. He preached to Gentiles, started churches, wrote much of the New Testament and was eventually killed for his faith.

**Listen as he recounts Ananias' words of instruction. "The God of our fathers has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth... And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name" (Acts 22:14, 16).**

Saul had an encounter with the living God and was never the same. How about you? Just because there was no blinding light, **doesn't mean you haven't experienced God's conviction in your heart.** You have heard the truth: Jesus died so that you could be forgiven and have an intimate relationship with God.

God has chosen you to know His will, to repent of your sins and call on the name Jesus.

What are you waiting for?

Pinellas Park  
church of  
6045 Park Blvd.  
Pinellas Park, Fl

Phone: 727-544-8920  
Preacher :727-723-4519  
Preacher email:  
edbenesh@gmail.com

Visitors are you in need of help? For directions to our building, roadside assistance , finding points of interest in our community or for emergencies please call: 727-647-6758.

## Vital Statistics

Attendance Sunday  
Bible Class— 67  
A.M.— 109  
P.M. - 42  
Wednesday - 62  
Weekly contribution  
\$2285  
Contribution Goal  
\$2500

## Looking Ahead

This is our extended calendar for 2011. If you need to put items on it, see Ed.

- CHBS Benefit Dinner - May 21st.
- WWCC week one - June 12-18 “American Idols”
- WWCC week two - July 10-16 “iAM”
- Zorilla Mission - July 11-16
- VBS - August 7-11

Put these items on your calendar now and plan to come or support these events any way you can!

Visit the Pinellas Park Church of Christ online at [www.pinellasparkcoc.org](http://www.pinellasparkcoc.org)

## Our Ministries

Preaching Programs

- P. Martin, E. Benesh

Missions

- C. Axe, T. Hargis, M. Drake, K. Sabiel

Sonshine Day camp

- T. Martin

WWCC

- G. Duncan, P. Martin

Youth Ministry

D. Folks

Young At Heart

- B. Perry

Worship Coordination

- T. Hargis, D. Folks

Weds. Eve. Speaking

- W. Robinson

Benevolence

- D. Folks, H. Gentry, W. Robinson

Transportation

- T. Martin

Bldgs. and Grounds

- H. Gentry, K. Sabiel, T. Walden

Education

- B. Perry, D. Folks

**Women's Studies Ministry**

- N. Gentry, A. Jucknath

Financial

- H. Gentry, P. Martin

## Dear Visitor...

Welcome! It is hard for us to express in this small space just how blessed we feel by having you visit with us today. You will, no doubt, find that this small welcome address will be followed up by loving conversation with our members, as they introduce themselves and personally welcome you. We are a friendly group who cherish our time together and are always looking to adopt new folks into our family. We want you to feel welcomed and yet, we realize that visiting a church can be overwhelming.

You can expect us to not only make you feel at home and a part of what we do, but also find a willingness on our part to help you understand what we do and why we do it. Some things that are part of our worship may be different than what you are used to, just as some of the things you hear may be different than what you are used to. Rest assured, we welcome all your questions and will be more than happy to explain our reasoning and love for God. We do hope you have enjoyed being with us and come back again soon.

Edward Benesh, Minister

let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.  
(Heb 10:22)

Pinellas Park church of Christ

6045 Park Blvd.

Pinellas Park, Fl 33781

To:

