

What are You Getting Out of Congregational Worship? What are You Putting In?

by Ron Adams Franklin church of Christ Franklin, TN

There is a great movement in the religious community to make public worship periods more meaningful and less boring. In an effort to make a broader appeal to potential worshippers and draw more members, some have resorted to all types of innovations to appeal to the masses.

When a congregation of God’s people examines means and methods to make our worship together more meaningful, the examination should start within the individuals who participate in those services. If a congregation practices only those things authorized in the scriptures, and we still don’t have the experience we think we should take away from our worship, I suggest we start looking inward for answers. We think the worship is boring. Have we become so overly entertained by the world that our worship seems lacking in comparison? We come away saying to ourselves that we got nothing out of the service. Please let me know what scripture teaches that the thrust of our worship is to please us and meet our needs. Oh, that should certainly be a byproduct. Have we become weary of worshipping God like the children of Israel as mentioned in [Isaiah 43:21-24](#)? When we do, we will bring tainted sacrifices like they did.

Are we making God weary of our sacrifices? Have we become so bored, we are going through the motions of worship? Worship was never intended to be boring. The very word, worship, should evoke powerful emotions within us. We should come before Him with thanksgiving, praise, humility, love, and reverence. We should be excited when we offer Him our grateful praise. All this can be lost in a mindless, unprepared period of routine with its shallow, self-centered worship. If this is our attitude, our worship together will certainly be boring.

Some try to create an artificial sense of excitement and energy by having a fast paced song service and high energy, feel good sermons. Some services dull our sense of real worship by tranquilizing us with quiet, muted colors, organ music, and a sermon delivered in a smooth, calming “preacher voice.” We try to replace a deep reverence for God, our creator, and the deep feelings elicited by the lessons we learn with hand clapping and arm waving.

How do we lose the real sense of excitement when we worship God? There may be a sense of boredom developed by entering into our worship unprepared. We spend our time preparing for our busy Saturday evenings, preparing for our recreation filled Sunday afternoons, and let things like preparing our minds and our Bible study lessons go undone. We let our minds wander during the worship because we have not put in the preparation and effort to actively participate in worship. Our lives are so busy we just don’t have the time to give to proper worship preparation and are, therefore, bored. We believe in preparation in all our worldly endeavors, yet, we make little or no preparation for our worship together. We try to cut corners and create artificial stimuli to draw out the emotions we desire. That is not the answer.

The answer is the humble heart of one with great needs and who is prepared for worship. This soul is one who has a great appreciation for God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and for all their gifts. A soul who follows God’s worship values will have meaningful and exciting worship experiences. ”Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed” ([Revelation 15:4](#)). Only God is worthy of our worship; because of all His righteous acts. His willingness to provide salvation from our sins through Jesus’ sacrifice should excite us to the point we enthusiastically engage in worship to Him. Are you bored with our public worship? Do what is recorded in [Lamentations 3:40](#), “Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD” (NASB).

Ask yourself; is worship about me or about God?

NEWSLETTER

May 22, 2016

Mark Dailey, evangelist
(716) 754-2752

Schedule of Services

Sunday AM Bible Class	9:45 AM
Sunday AM Worship	11:00 AM
* Sunday PM Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday PM Bible Class	7:00 PM

La Salle
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** There is no PM service on the 5th Sunday of the month.*



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you) so we may have a record of your visit. Later in the service we will pass around a collection plate. As a visitor you are obviously not expected to give but we would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in the collection plate. Thanks.

There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs for infant care.

Please silence cell phones and any other noise making devices during worship.

La Salle
church of Christ

A Place of Worship and Healing

2016 Theme

How To

Love

Let Go

Live

Learn

Lead

Laugh

Speaker
Phil Sanders

Time Warner Cable
Channel 20
Thursdays 11:00 AM

Prayer List *In our prayers let’s praise God, recognize His greatness, and thank Him for His blessings.*

Let’s Keep These Folks In Our Prayers: Joe Pitts, Mildred Lynum, Bill Flanagan, Anna Brink, Red & Goldie Crow, Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Tony and Egla Grana, Pat Hazlett, David Alcorn, Willow, Darlene Reed, Leo & Jeanne Johns, Butts & Edie Sumner, Rick & Fran Fees, Chris Highway, Keith & Glory Marten, Bev McArthur, Candi Butcher, Cheryl Mellott, and Ron Cameron.

Updates

Pat Hazlett needs our prayers as she deals with pain. **Tony Grana & Bill Kinney** are also dealing with pain.

Jodie Kelly needs our prayers because of some medical issues she is dealing with.

Renee Kinney continues with treatment at Roswell for the lesions on her brain. Let’s remember her and her family and let’s pray for her mother Diane Mellott as well.

Denise Garlitz’s daughter’s mother in law **Betty** now has a tumor on her lung.

Dan Hazlett, Pat Hazlett’s stepson, needs our prayers.

Logan, Anna Brink’s great nephew, got head butted playing soccer and was motionless for a few seconds and was taken to the hospital for overnight observation.

Jerrie DuVerney, from the Rogers City, MI congregation, is recovering from recent surgery involving a tumor on her spleen. Pathology reports indicate no cancer.

Also

Let’s pray for family, friends, and loved ones of our members who are having health and other problems.

Let’s not only remember those that are physically sick but those that are spiritually sick as well.

Let’s remember to pray for our shut-ins and to call and send cards.

Let’s pray for those dealing with family situations as well as work situations.

Let’s pray for those of our number who are looking for employment.

Let’s pray for those who may be traveling.

Let’s pray for the work we help support in Sardinia, NY and also Rogers City, MI.

Let’s pray for God’s people that are doing mission work all over the world.

Let’s also pray for Tim Nelsen and his family whom we are supporting as Tim goes to preaching school in July.

Let’s pray for people the world over that we may all learn to get along with each other.

Let’s give thanks to God for the Edmond, OK congregation for all the help they have given us.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)* (see web site for extended list)

May 22 Today. Membership Meeting after the morning worship. (To nominate men for trustees) ➡
The men will also have a quick meeting after the membership meeting concerning flowers around the sign.

May 28 Ladies Day Fenwick, Ontario please see posting.

May 29 Area-Wide 5th Sunday Singing hosted by Southtowns church of Christ. No PM service at LaSalle.

May 30 Memorial Day

Jun. 05 Membership Meeting after the morning worship. (To vote for three trustees)
Potluck (Groups 4, 5, & 6 to setup & cleanup)

Jun. 12 Men’s Business Meeting

Jun. 18 Men’s Breakfast

Sermon Topic Today: *How To - Lead A Life Of Prayer
That Draws Others To Christ*

Trays Today: *Linda Stine*

Scripture Reading: *Ephesians 1:17-23*

Sun. AM Adult Class - Why They Executed Jesus
Sun. PM - A study of the Gospels (*Tonight John 13-16*)
Wed. PM Adult Class - The Book of Job



Wow !! A very special thank you to everyone who sacrificially gave toward Potter Children's & Family Ministry. The food items and change cans do so much in helping the children. You are a true blessing to the name of Christ. Thank You.



Please check the “*Love One Another*” board in the back of the auditorium.

Potter Mission Trip

July 31-August 6, cost is \$100

Please sign the card.....

Please keep Sister Jerrie DuVerney from the Rogers City, Michigan congregation in your prayers. Jerrie was recently diagnosed with a tumor in her spleen and had to be hospitalized for a week. The doctors were able to successfully remove the tumor and the pathology report showed it was cancer free. Jerrie is home and recovering. Jerrie's husband, Dale, is the minister at the Rogers City congregation. There is a card of encouragement on the back table for everyone to sign to let Jerrie know we are thinking of her.

Nomination of trustees TODAY

This congregation (LaSalle church of Christ) was incorporated March 29, 1944 under Article 9 of N.Y. Religious Corporations Law. We are a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. By law, being incorporated requires having trustees and by-laws. Three trustees terms expire this year. They are Charles Bennett (Secretary), Frank Marsden, and Keith Marten. These three men may be nominated as well as other men. However, to save time, please do not nominate the following: Ray McArthur, Bill Kinney, Wayne Carter, or Richard Wheeler. They are already trustees whose terms are not expiring this year. Men nominated are to be baptized members of the Lord’s church and a member of this congregation in good standing for at least two consecutive years immediately prior to his nomination as a trustee. Those doing the nominating are to be baptized members of the Lord’s church and members of this congregation.