February 4, 2024

A.M. Worship 103 Contribution \$7.051.00 Weekly Budget \$5,884.00

THOSE WHO SERVE

February 11 February 18

LOCK BUILDING

Darrin Griffith WE NEED YOUR HELP

PROJECTOR AM

Shane Young **Curtis Sanford Quincey Trammel** Jeff King

SCRIPTURE READING

Brian Casev Joe Maywald

FIRST PRAYER

Gerry Austin Darrin Griffith

LORD'S SUPPER

Joe Maywald James Henry Stephen Bailey Carl Barrow D.D. Lindsey Lucas Byrd Taylor Rieck Sean Alsobrook Justin Alsobrook **Braxton Haseloff** William Stidman Caleb Griffith Drew Stidman Gary Faycosh James Carr Larry Timaeus Ceasar Vereen Joel Sarabia Caleb Griffith Rick Arnold

CLOSING COMMENTS

Curtis Sanford Curtis Sanford

CLOSING PRAYER

Kyle Teat Scott Ratcliff

EVENING PROJECTOR PM

Ethan Anderson Joe Davis Gary Faycosh Brian Casey

SCRIPTURE READING

John Trammel James Carr

FIRST PRAYER

Darrin Griffith David Johnson

LORD'S SUPPER

Joe Davis Dan Talbot Carl Barrow William Stidman

CLOSING PRAYER

Dan Talbot Gerry Austin

Wednesday Night with the Master

February 7th at 6:00 p.m.



Come enjoy baked potatoes and fellowship.

February 11, 2024

GREETERS

February 11 James & Christina Henry Curtis & Tammy Sanford Dan & Roberta Talbot February 18 David Johnson Carl & Sharon Barrow Nita Fry

MONITORS

Rick Arnold February 11 February 18 Kyle Teat

MEN TO COUNT CONTRIBUTIONS

Rick Arnold & John Trammel February 11 Rick Arnold & John Trammel February 18 **SPECIAL SERVICE**

Communion Preparation/Clean Barrow's

SONG LEADERS

February:

11 Scott Ratcliff

18 Sean Alsobrook 25 Stan Murray March:

3 Scott Ratcliff **10** Richard Thompson **17** Sean Alsobrook **24** Stan Murray 31 Scott Ratcliff

CHURCH OF CHRIST Phone: (979) 849-6391 TEXAS PO BOX 688 ANGLETON, 1

Curtis Sanford

Jeff King

ELDERS

William Stidman

Scott Ratcliff

ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH "

2024

6,

VOLUME LV, NUMBER 6

DEACONS

Sweetheart Banquet Our annual Sweetheart Banquet is coming up on Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Widows, widowers, and retirees are invited to join us for an evening of food, fellowship and entertainment. Please RSVP to the office.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

9:30 A.M.

5:00 P.M.

6:00 P.M.

10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP WEDNESDAY NIGHT WITH MASTER **ACTIVITIES & BIBLE STUDY** 6:30, 7:00 P.M.

FROM THE PREACHER'S DESK

on God. Is it wrong to "want" or "have" certain things? No, if we "seek first the kingdom of God and his

BY: DAVID OLMOS

righteousness," (Matthew 6:33).

In my office, you'll find old publications from different religious organizations dating back to the 1800s. This past week I was flipping through the October 1979 issue of Defender, and I saw an article titled "What Is Killing The Lord's Church in America" by Roger Shiflet. Curiosity killed the cat! I needed to know what struggles Christians were facing in the '70s, and if things were any different today. No surprise, the problems were the same, but that bothered me more. How is it that our society is still facing the same issues today, that we were dealing with almost half a century ago? Where were we failing?

The article began by saying, "Unless we reverse the trend of the last 15 years: (1) the growth of the churches of Christ in this nation will stop in the early 1980s; (2) before the end of this century we will have only half the membership we now have; and (3) within 50 years the church will no longer exist in the United States." At first glance, it seems like we are doing much better than they thought. The growth of the church didn't end in the 1980s, the century passed by and numbers increased, Lord willing that 50-year deadline is only five years from now, and I don't foresee the church being gone by then. It seems to me we deserve a little praise or at least a pat on the back. Let's not celebrate too soon. It could be that the "growth" the churches of Christ have seen is merely from an increase in population over time. Regardless, the bigger issue must be addressed. Have we, as a Kingdom, lost our focus ignoring problems that we've been dealing with for decades? If that's the case, how much longer can we survive? I want to examine the three problems listed in the 1979 Defender article and find out what we can do to ensure we're not "killing the Lord's Church." (Each paragraph begins with a quote from the Defender article).

"The Lord's church in America is being killed by MATERIALISM." Has this changed? No, and I would even argue that we've become more materialistic. With the boom in technology, our society has become gadget and gizmo crazy. People today put more effort into obtaining worldly pleasures than they do laying aside "treasures in heaven," (Matthew 6:19-21). Even though the numbers show an increase in church attendance there is an even greater increase in greediness. If we hope to survive we need to make sure we put our sights

"The Lord's church in America is being killed by WORLDLINESS." Was there ever a time when worldliness was abnormal? When people pointed fingers, not at Christianity, but at those who turned away from the truth? It seems today the churches of Christ are beginning to blend too beautifully into the world. Congregations are removing God by altering worship for fear of what the world might think or a decrease in figures. It was a problem in the past and it's getting even worse today. Let us not forget what Romans 12:2 says, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

"The Lord's church in America is being killed by INDIFFERENCE." It would sadden me, as it should you if the Lord's church ended because we stopped caring. The overall theme of the Bible is love and with that, we must care for each other and care about the future of the Kingdom. We need to look more like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) rather than those who walked by hastily. If we refuse to teach about love and compassion, and live that love and compassion, we will see more than just the Church vanish. Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Good news? Hope is not lost, so long as we continue to live. As our population grows more and more people will turn to the world. Even Jesus prophesied this when He spoke about the broad way and the many who find it, versus the narrow way and the few who benefit, (Matthew 7:13-14). Look at our congregation as hope that truth continues to fight on. We have seen great growth in the past few years, and rest assured it isn't the only one that is still going strong. Death will occur when we stop teaching the truth, so teach the truth to everyone you meet. Wouldn't it be great if in 45 years when people read about the church of today, they won't read articles about its failing, but rather how it stood strong, grew great, and changed the world? John 16:33 says, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." God Bless and have a great week!



Youth Devos

Our teens **NEED** hosts for their Sunday evening devotionals!



SYMPATHY

We express our love and sympathy to the family and friends of Roberta Talbot, who passed away Monday, February 5th. A memorial service has been scheduled for Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at our building.





The Men's Bible Study will be this Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. A continuing study in Romans 5.

Vacation Bible School

Wednesday, February 7th is the deadline for casting your vote for the theme and time of day for our Vacation Bible School. You can vote online on our website or by paper in the foyer.

Please Pray

Lucille Hudgins is scheduled for knee replacement surgery February 13th... Arturo Ramirez is home and waiting to have another surgery...Reid Wilkinson will be having surgery on February 16...Rachel Gardner, sister of John Trammel, completes radiation treatment this week, and is scheduled for surgery February 26...Laurie Trammel, grandmother of John Trammel, had surgery and is in rehab.