



The church of Christ

at Grandview Pines

December 4, 2011

What About Choirs & Choruses

By Marvin Rickett

For generations the use of small musical groups within the congregation has been popular in the denominations. They have their choirs who sing to the rest of the audience. They have quartets to entertain the audience. Or they have someone sing a solo to “inspire” the worshipers. A whole culture has arisen about this musical practice, with choir robes, minister of music, choir loft, concerts, etc.

Now comes along some churches of Christ who have taken up this practice of small musical groups within the congregation. We read in their bulletins about their forming a chorus to sing during worship, or having a quartet to perform during services or allowing a soloist to inspire the audience with a special rendition. And we read the preacher’s defense of such practice. We are shocked that such unscriptural practices should get into the churches of Christ!

Just a few years ago we all stood shoulder to shoulder opposing such innovations. We should realize that this practice slips in with other unscriptural practices that these brethren have been defending: mechanical instruments of music in church worship, Lord’s Supper on other days of the week, women leadership, unity in diversity, the new hermeneutic, fellowship activities with the Denominations, etc. They all stand or fall on the same principles. Worship is not entertainment. It is not “a big party,” as one of these preachers put it.

If the truth be admitted, the musical presentations given by choruses, quartets and solos are for the entertainment of the passive hearers. It sounds good, it makes them feel good. However, worship is a service given to God. God is the recipient, the audience is not. God is the actual auditor, the people in the pews are the “actors.” (I use actors advisedly, because our worship must never be pretense.) The people in the pews are the servers.

Every Christian is equally obligated to worship God. No one can do it for you. Each person is obligated to sing. Can someone else give for you? Can someone else take the Lord’s Supper for you? Yet, the chorus is singing for you! Even in our prayers, the one who is audibly praying isn’t praying for you. He is leading you in your prayer. When the congregation is singing, you cannot sit silent and be worshiping God satisfactorily. Someone objects: “But I am singing by thinking the words in my mind.” That is not the definition of singing. Singing involves words plus vocal sounds.

The Bible teaches that every Christian is a priest (1 Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 1:6). A priest’s job is to offer sacrifices to God. Every Christian offers the sacrifice of his heart and voice when he sings. No one is authorized to do it for him.

Congregational singing is all that the Scriptures authorize for music in the worship of the church. In 1 Corinthians 14:15 the setting is the assembly of the whole congregation. Paul says “I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.” In Ephesians 5:19, Paul writes to the whole congregation: “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.” Every individual in the assembly is speaking to every other individual, and together they are singing to the Lord.

In Colossians 3:16 Paul writes a similar directive to the assembled church at Colossae: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” These passages give no authority for anything less than the whole assembly singing together.

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Welcome to the services of the Grandview Pines church of Christ

We are thankful to be able to gather to worship our God (John 4:24). Visitors, please take time to fill out a card and place it in the collection plate. If you have questions about what you see or hear we would be glad to answer them after the service. We hope all leave edified and uplifted.

News, Notes & Nouncements

Pictorial Directory

Over the next few weeks we will be taking pictures after services for our new pictorial directory. Please have your family's picture taken so we can have an updated directory.

Happy Birthday!

Janice Claunch's mother will be 90 on December 8th and cards would mean so much to her. Her address is: Peggy Rice 760 Talladega St. Lineville Ala. 36266

Upcoming Youth Events

- December 11th - **Area Wide Devo** @ Wetumpka congregation
- December 18th - Youth Devo @ GvP
- January 8th - **Area Wide Devo** @ Redland Road congregation
- February 12th - **Area Wide Devo** @ Grandview Pines congregation
- February 24-26 - **Challenge Youth Conference**

Ladies Ornament Exchange

At Myra Hall's House at 6:30 p.m. on December 5th

Holiday Party

December 10th @ 6:00 p.m.
Bring a White Elephant Gift and Fancy Finger Foods
If you want your child to have a gift, bring them one.

Autumn Place

We will meet with the residents at four o'clock this afternoon. Come join us as we sing and study.

Youth Devotional Sign-up List

A new sign-up sheet for our fourth Sunday youth devotionals has been placed in the foyer.
We also have a sign-up sheet for the men who are willing to give the devotionals.

Our Shut-Ins

Please take the time to call, visit, or send a card to our Shut-Ins.

Linda Bush - Prattville Rehab & Nursing Home, RM 212.

Katie King - Room 308, 95 Charlton Place, Old Prattville Hwy. 290-2966

Shut In Communion Sign-Up List

A sign-up list for taking communion to our shut-ins is posted in the foyer.

Please help us serve our shut-ins in this manner. (James 1:27)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning

Topic: The book of Philippians.

Teacher: George Vinson

Wednesday Night

Topic: The book of John

Teacher: Terry Claunch

Monthly - January 13th

Topic: How to Study your Bible

Teacher: George Vinson

Serve Those Serving For Us

The Ladies' Bible Class has a new service project to show our love and concern for family members of our congregation who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. **If you have a family member deployed, please provide complete mailing information and a list of items they would like to Glenda Gregory or Beverly Vinson as soon as possible.** We are asking the congregation to buy these items and/or contribute to their purchase and the \$12.95 per box shipping cost. Copies of the compiled lists and a collection container will be in the foyer. Some preliminary suggestions include canned meats like Spam and Vienna sausages, beef jerky, nuts, and boxed microwavable (add water) pasta dishes. Personal items will be listed brand specific.

Cell Phone Usage

Please silence cell phones so our worship services will not be interrupted. Please do not be disrespectful to God and those assembled by sending or receiving messages during class and worship. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Do You Know Your Bible?

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. — 2 Timothy 2:15

This Week's Question:

Answer to Last Week's Question

**Who is known for saying,
"Behold, I thought"**

**Naaman
2 Kings 5:11**

Bulletin Updates, Changes & Removal of Names

Don't forget to let us know if prayer list or other bulletin information needs to be changed.

Please email Trey Harvell by Friday night. trey.harvell@gmail.com

Prayer List

... but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. — *Philippians 4:6*

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Tim Bayles (Toni Colquitt's brother)
Don Brannan—diagnosed with cancer. He is an elder at Eastern Meadows.

Martha Bixler—Kidney stone surgery that had complications. She will be having further surgery.

Lee Bowren - (A. Sadler's mother) in nursing home in Heber Springs, AR.

Hulon Cooper and his wife Barbara - (B. Little's family) In motorcycle accident, sister-in-law broke her leg.

Jackie Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Rickey Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Russell Cooper - (B. Little's family)

Jerry Davidson - (Director of Guyana missions) Parkinson's Disease.

Charles Dobbins - (friend of the May family) under hospice care.

Sydney Fuller - (G. Fuller's brother) has two inoperable aneurisms. Continue to pray for him.

Addison Hall - will be seeing another doctor for second opinion.

Fredrick Harbaugh - His mother at

93 is dealing with various ailments. Pray that she will be comforted at this time.

Marilyn Hatcher - (E. Howard's mother) Returned home from chemo treatments.

Tim Johnson - (G. Shelton's uncle) is undergoing cancer treatments. Cancer has spread to his liver.

Angel Koche - expecting

Richard Koche—his grandmother passed away this last week in Pennsylvania.

Holly Sadler (Jay's wife) diagnosed with diabetes and liver damage.

Rayford Lee - (J. Sadler's father-in-law)

Walter & Cheryl May - (R. May's parents) both facing physical ailments.

Ann Morris (friend of the Fullers) cancer treatment in NC

Alen Nix (friend of Gwen Shelton) diagnosed with cancer. Will be going to Texas for treatment.

Martha Pilkinton (Glenda Gregory's sister-in-law) terminal cancer.

Peggy Rice - (Janice Claunch's mother)

Peggy Stabler - Fourth Stage Kidney Failure

Carolyn Stanley - (Coworker of Jeremy and T. Harvell) Undergoing several procedures including spinal surgery over the next few months.

Tina Tatum - will continue to see doctor every 6 months to monitor illness.

Mickey Thomas - (former member) Room 313 Prattville Rehab.

Amy Turner - continuing to deal with illness.

Kevin Turner - ALS

Juanita Waggoner - (M. Stinson's aunt) advanced stage of Parkinson's Disease.

Lisa Woodard (friend of Toni Colquitt)

Garrett Young - heart problems.

Military personnel & their families

- Stewart Burkey - Afghanistan
- Joshua Corey - deployed
- David Howard - Afghanistan
- Britt Shores - Afghanistan

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However, the defenders of choruses and solos think they find scriptural justification for their practice in 1 Corinthians 14:26 -- *"How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation."*

They argue that the one who had a special psalm was allowed to sing it solo before the audience. Is this the case?

1. In the first place, it was during the time of miracles and there were practices then that did not continue in the church. No one today receives a direct revelation from God in the form of a psalm, or any other way. We have the completed, written Word.
2. The passage never says the psalm was sung! Psalms were not always set to music. A psalm was basically a poem that revealed a truth about God and spiritual things.
3. It could very well have been that the passage is speaking of the inspired man who received a psalm from God and in turn taught it to the audience line by line so that the whole audience rendered the psalm.

They appeal next to James 1:13 -- *"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."* "Now surely," they argue, "This is authority for singing a solo in church." But James is not speaking of church worship. He is talking about an individual who expresses his feelings of joy in personal devotion

There is no authority for injecting choruses, choirs, quartets, solos and other small singing groups into the worship of the church. The practice is contrary to the very nature of worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Let us be content in doing things just as the Lord authorized them

Elders:

Terry Claunch 285-4142
Jim Cox 303-0414
Glenn Fuller 365-4923
Lary Sadler 285-7455
George Vinson 262-3440

Deacons:

Lonnie Burkey 467-9444
Jason Hall 549-1869
James Woodruff 285-2947
Luke Wright 205-280-6454

Minister:

Terry Claunch
Study 285-6327
Home 285-4142
Cell 313-1539

Work of Evangelism:

Home Bible Studies
Bible Correspondence Studies
Biblical Tracts
Staton & Tutwiler Prisons
Sermon CDs & Cassettes
Gospel Broadcasting Network

Work of Benevolence:

Food Pantry
Guyana Missions - Summerdale
Congregation
1st Sun. singing - Autumn Place
2nd Sun. singing - Merry Wood Lodge
Clothes for Panama
Eye Glasses for Thailand
Assistance to those in need

Work of Edification:

Sunday
Bible Class 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
Worship 5:00 PM
Wednesday
Ladies' Class 10:30 AM
Bible Class 7:00 PM

Internet

www.grandviewpineschurch.org
contact@grandviewpineschurch.org
Look for us on Facebook!
(Grandview Pines church of Christ &
Grandview Pines church of Christ Youth)

Where We Meet

165 Deatsville Hwy,
Millbrook, AL, 36054

*Privileged to Serve
Sunday Worship Services*

	Today: December 4th	Next Week: December 11th
AM Service		
Announcements	Tom Young	Trey Harvell
Song Leader	Luke Wright	Tim Ashley
Opening Prayer	George Vinson	Glenn Fuller
Closing Prayer	Sammie Girod	David Conyers
Scripture Reading	Christopher May Philippians 2:3-7	Coby Maine 1 Thess. 4:14-18
Lord's Table - Head	Tim Ashley	Tom Young
Lord's Table - Serve	Levi Colquitt Jason Hall Lary Sadler Trey Harvell	Charles Price Jim Hammonds George Vinson Sammie Girod
PM Service		
Announcements	Tom Young	Trey Harvell
Song Leader	Luke Wright	Tim Ashley
Opening Prayer	David Conyers	Jim Cox
Closing Prayer	Brandon Gonzalez	Jim Hammonds
Lord's Table	Tim Ashley	Tom Young
1st Sunday Sermon	Jeremy Claunch	
Sunday Helpers' List		
Foyer Attendant	Jim Hammonds	James Woodruff
Greeters	David Conyers Rosie Price	Charles Price Jeremy Claunch
Wednesday Bible Study		
	This Week: December 7th	Next Week: December 14th
Song Leader	Brandon Gonzalez	Robert Golden
Invitation	Lary Sadler	Jim Hammonds
Closing Prayer	Coby Maine	Cliff Cleveland
If you cannot meet your scheduled duty & cannot find a replacement, please contact Jim Hammonds.		

Grandview Pines Church of Christ
PO Box 3
Millbrook, AL 36054