



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!
Sunday - September 10, 2023

What is "Placing Membership"?

by Troy Spradlin

When the church of our Lord began on the Day of Pentecost, some 2000 years ago, a few thousand people became new members when they were baptized. The Bible says they were, "*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved*" (Acts 2:47). Later, in Act 5:14, it says, "*And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.*" This indicates that within a very short amount of time, the church of Christ in Jerusalem grew to a very large number of congregants. The church continued to grow when "*those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word*" (Acts 8:4). For the next several years, churches of Christ were planted in Samaria (Acts 8), Damascus (Acts 9), Caesarea (Acts 10), Antioch (Acts 11), and "to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13 and forward). In the first century, there were churches of Christ in many cities with many members making up the various congregations (cf Acts 9:31; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:1,19).



With so many churches and so many congregants, there were times when some members would move from one place to another, leaving one congregation and joining with another. For example, Priscilla and Aquila are identified as disciples in Corinth who had come from Italy (Acts 18:1-2; Romans 16:3). They are also seen in Ephesus (Acts 18:24-26). So, how did they change churches, or move their membership? Did they have to be rebaptized each time they moved and went to a new congregation? What was the procedure? This is an important topic because many have been curious about this, asked me about it, or inquired what must one do to "join the church here at Margaret Street." So, let's answer the question.

First of all, as we have noted, **God adds one to the church when they are saved by obeying the Gospel.** It is not through us or any other means. Putting on Christ in baptism makes one a member of what is known as the "church universal," which is the body of Christ (Gal 3:27; Col 1:18; 2 Tim 2:10). His body consists of all members and all congregations throughout the entire world. This means that as a baptized believer, you and I have brethren all around the globe. You can walk into a church of Christ in any country on earth and instantly have a family connection because "there is one body" (Ephesians 4:4) which makes up the "household of God" (Ephesians 2:19).

Secondly, the Bible gives us guidance in passages like, Romans 16:1-2. Our brother, Burton Coffman explains, "The first two verses here are an apostolic example of what is called today a 'church letter,' or letter of recommendation borne by a Christian transferring from one place to another." It seems that Phoebe had moved to Rome and was planning to assimilate herself into that congregation. Paul was verifying, by written letter, that she was a faithful member of the church and would be a valuable asset to the membership there. Thus, she "transferred" her membership from one congregation to another. Phoebe was already a member of the Lord's church through her baptism. In this passage, we learn that she was changing locations of where she would worship and serve.

Thirdly, this is how it still works today. When various members of the church move from one town to another because of a job change, a desire to be closer to family, or a host of other reasons, they will seek out a congregation in that local area to join. This is often referred to as "placing membership" with that church. As we have seen from the above examples, if they are already members of the body of Christ, all they are doing is transferring the location of where they will worship and serve. Another way of looking at this is to consider that they are moving the oversight of their souls, by one eldership, to that of another eldership (cf Hebrews 13:17). It does not require being baptized again, but instead, a letter of recommendation, or a meeting with the eldership to verify that they are, indeed, faithful disciples. If their baptism and faithfulness is confirmed, then they are identified as "placing membership."

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



UNSTOPPABLE

GULF COAST
AREAWIDE 2023-2024
SCHEDULE

- AUG 13 / AZALEA CITY COC
- SEPT 17 / GULF SHORES COC
- OCT 15 / SCENIC HILLS COC
- NOV 10-12 / FUEL RETREAT
- JAN 7 / SPANISH FORT COC
- FEB 18 / EASTERN SHORE COC
- MAR 10 / UNIVERSITY COC
- APR 21 / MARGARET ST. COC

YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. September 13
5 pm in the FH



BIG EVENT REMINDERS



FUEL Retreat @ GCBC
November 10 – 12
6th – 12th grade
Sign-up & pay \$55 by
October 1st



Exposure Youth Camp
December 27 – 30
All ages are welcome
Sign-up & pay \$175 by
October 1st

Afternoon SNAC SUNDAY AFTERNOON BEFORE CHURCH

October 1 | Makar / King's

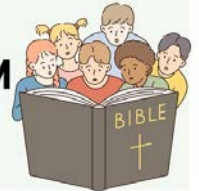


2023 - 2024

Workshop TODAY, Sept. 10
Bible Bowl... 3:00 - 3:45
Song Leading / Songs of Praise... 3:45 – 4:45
Speech... 4:45 – 5:30
*Puppets & Oral Bible Reading begin in November

Teacher Appreciation Dinner

October 7 @ 5:30 PM
Sign up at Info Station



PARENTING SEMINAR

DECEMBER 1-3

JANUARY 12 - 14

MARGARET STREET MARRIAGE RETREAT

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word." - Psalm 119:9-10

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Sherryn Canniff* - health, pain
- Cory Gilreath - hospital, tests (Longmire*)
- Sarah Goldman-car wreck, surgery (Frahm*)
- Terry Jennings* - physical therapy, recovery
- Lipford family* - Paul's parents, travels
- Richard McCool - blood clot removed, stent
- Mary McGriff* - recovery, sciatic nerve
- Glenn Price* - triple bypass surgery, recovery
- Ruth Williams* - recovery, healing

Grieving a Loss

- Brooklyn Bostwick* - loss of mom, Kandi
- John Hart Ellis* - loss of wife
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Elsa Nunes* - loss of brother, Guillermo Deir
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Jada Crider* - Baptized
- Brittany Parker* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock* - Baptized
- Matthew & Ashley Gingerich* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott* - Baptized
- Ashley Scott Buckley* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker* - Baptized
- Scott Graham* - Baptized
- Jan Holmes* - Identified
- Mike and Addie Frahm* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway* - Identified
- Allen & Heather Overton family* - Identified
- John & Holley Raley family* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family* - Identified

Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Savannah Smith
- Stephen English
- Nick Webb
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Lily Weathersbee
- Jackson Lash
- Reed Wilson
- Caleb Owens
- Lexi Wildes

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Patricia Ann* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford*)
- Max Bowers- prayers, final stages (S.Temple)
- John Broadfoot - health
- Gale Broadfoot - knee surgery, recovery
- Mike Brown - stroke, recovery (former mem)
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Winston Burnham*-back surgery soon
- Sherryn Canniff - health, prayers
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - health
- Renee Decker - final stage/kidney (Lester*)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Gary Good* - tests (Frahm*)
- Dixie Gorham - recovery - heart failure
- Donald Hamilton-surgery, recover (McGriff)
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Marcia Jones -loss of cousin (Kenya's* friend)
- Joe King* - spine issues, PT therapy
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Elsa Nunes* - fell/recovery, arthritis
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Gloria Vonada* - health
- Jan Whitney* - heart procedure, recovery

Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas
- Cole Weathersbee - Great Lakes, Illinois

Cancer

- Darlene Baxley* - hospice, prayers
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Max Bowers - (S.Temple)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Pat Deforest*
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherry Davis* - The Blake (Davis/Napier*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia* - Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom*)
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas* - Victorian Manor

Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024

Directory Pictures
 Make up pictures 9/10 and 9/17
 in the Library right after AM Services
These will be the last days this is offered until next quarter

Elders & Ministers
 Trevor and Brooklyn Bostwick
 Ashley Scott Buckley
 Scott Graham
 Mike and Addie Frahm
 Sharon Parker

*Those wanting an updated picture,
 please come on these days too!

**Spiritual Gardening
 Ladies Day**
 September 16th
 2-4 PM
 Located in the Fellowship Hall
 Transportation is available

**Ladies Reconnect
 Weekend**
 Whenever You Choose
 to Plant Yourself
Bloom
 September
 22nd - 24th

SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, SEPT 10

MORNING

Opening Prayer Matthew Henry
 Song Director Mason Chandler
 Sermon Casey Bearden
 "Unity"
 Scripture Reading Dane Harrington
 Colossians 3:1-15
 Closing Prayer Phillip Webb

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Darrell Bozeman Judsen Jennings
 Gabriel Lee Brody Crider
 Pat Mense (Balcony)
 Comments Joe Wilson

EVENING

Opening Prayer Josh Owens
 Singing Rick Bird
 Scripture Jared Lee
 Luke 24:24-27
 Comments Joe Wilson

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Elsa Nunes
 PowerPoint Brooks Ann Singley
 Greeters Jak Gallagher
 Secure Building Blake Hatcher

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Blake Hatcher
 Opening Prayer Dane Harrington

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 139
 AM Worship 179
 PM Worship 95
 Wed. Night Bible Class 134
 Contribution \$7,279

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday**, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa for Bible studies, meetings, etc.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.

BENEVOLENCE

Margaret Street CHURCH of CHRIST

FOOD PANTRY

Food Pickup : 9/12 @ 9:30 AM
 Preparing Boxes:
 9/13 @ 5:30 PM
 9/14 @ 9:30 AM
 Distribution : 9/14 @ 2:30 PM
 Please consider donating travel size toiletries!!

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!

Bible Study and Fellowship
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM

OWLS

Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
 cell: 850-910-2868
 spradlin.troy@gmail.com
Casey Bearden Family Minister
 cell: 706-889-3222
 caseybearden@live.com
Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
 cell: 850-625-8911
 margarstcoc@gmail.com
Scott Shanahan Missionary
 cell: 865-443-9856
 scottshanahan@hotmail.com
Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
 cell: 937-417-4297
 smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
 bird1plus3@icloud.com
Phillip Webb 232-7431
 pw_webb@hotmail.com
Joe Wilson 206-8350
 jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR SEPTEMBER:

Primary..... Phillip Webb
 Secondary Rick Bird

DEACONS* & MINISTRIES

Administration Troy Spradlin
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell
 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden