

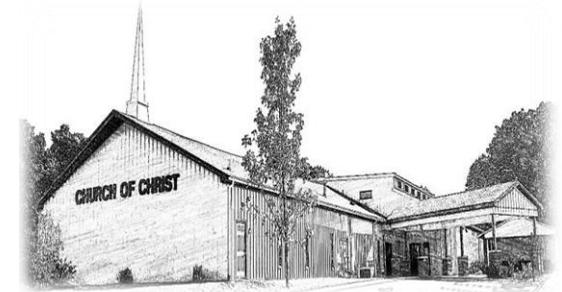
# The Worker

## Hamburg Pike church of Christ

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### A New Year to Use

What are you planning for this New Year? I want to suggest something that will help us to use it better. The idea is that we are all parts of one body, and none of us is alone! Since we have become a part of Christ, we partake of His nature. He very clearly said, "I and the Father are one." The Father, Son and Holy Spirit have no selfish agendas. They are truly one in purpose, care, joy and sorrow.

That is how we should be, and must be, if we belong to the Lord! Each one of us is a member of the other. When my little toe hurts, the rest of my body does not ignore it. That toe is me. My head knows it and my hand knows it. So with all my parts I care for that sore toe.

When something good or bad happens to a member of the body of Christ, that thing is happening to the entire body. In a way, when I try to comfort or help another part of the body, I am helping my other self. So think "body" this year. Think of the whole to which we all belong. We belong to each other. Let us be as connected to one another as the parts of our physical bodies are connected. Then we will fulfill the prayer of Jesus, "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21, NIV).

Henceforth let us resolve we shall no more look at a brother or sister thinking what that person owes us or ought to do for us. Instead let us build one another up. Then, and only then, will we find all our individual needs met!

*Lawrence Barr preaches for the Church of Christ in Indiana, Pennsylvania.*

### A Christian's Compass

A Christian's compass is so very easy to read. It only has one direction that it will lead. It's always with you wherever it may roam, whether you're far away or just at home. Just follow these instructions and you won't go wrong! 100% satisfaction guaranteed.

1. Bow your head and pray.
2. Thank God for each and every day.
3. Ask forgiveness for all your sins.
4. Ask for blessing for your family, neighbors and friends.
5. Thank God for sending His Only Son, who gave His life, that we may be forgiven.
6. Ask for blessings for those who are sick, that they may get better quick.
7. Praise His Holy Name each day.
8. Remember the debt that we could never repay.
9. If you're not sure that you've done all you should have done,
10. Just start over, and repeat with step one.

You're guaranteed not to lose your way if you use this compass every day.

*Author Unknown*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton  
Jerry Casey  
Clint Smith Sr

**Deacons** Clint Smith Jr  
Robby Stocksdales  
Joe Sweeney

**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Mission Work

**Panama Mission**  
Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses, if interested contact us at (812) 284-3125 or email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### A.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer John Keaton  
Scripture Reading Irvin Williams  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Lord's Supper Message Rick Martin  
Table Attendant Brandon Slotman  
Table Attendant Brandon Montgomery  
Closing Prayer Robby Stocksdales

#### P.M. Worship Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr  
Bible Reading Hank Tincher  
Selection 1  
Opening Prayer Nathaniel Welch  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Closing Prayer Ethan Welch

#### A.M. & P.M. Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr  
Lord's Supper Prayer Harold Tincher  
Offering Prayer Greg Blanton  
Usher Bill Cravens  
Count Offering Art Patrick  
Assist Count Robby Stocksdales

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Search Me, O God" Psalm 139  
Sunday Evening: "Simeon's Bucket List" Luke 2:25-35

### Just Some Things to Remember

**Jesus Christ is the head of the Church.** Ephesians 5:23 "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior."; Colossians 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent."

**Jesus Christ has all power and authority.** Matthew 28:18 "And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

**Jesus Christ is our mediator to God.** 1Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,."; John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

**Jesus Christ is consistent.** Hebrews 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

These thoughts came to me after I had glimpsed some television footage of one of the world's religious leader's arrival in the United States and some of the activities associated with him. Remember only our Lord Jesus Christ can rightfully claim any of the above points, no man can!

*Andy McDougal works with the Easton church of Christ in Easton, Maryland.*

## The Church's Responsibility to the Elders (part I)

Eric Welch

In the final lesson in the eldership, we looked into the church's responsibility toward the elders. The Holy Spirit makes overseers of the church (Acts 20:28). He transforms certain men into the image of Christ. The church sees the fruit of this transformation standing out in traits outlined by Paul in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 (cf. Galatians 5:22-23). The church selects these men to lead them. Therefore, the first responsibility of the church is to select its own leaders.

We have seen this pattern before. When Moses was burdened with the civil cases of the Israelites, Jethro advised him to "look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people...So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said" (Exodus 18:21, 24).

When Moses addressed the next generation of Israelites in Deuteronomy, he revealed more about that selection process: "Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads' (1:13). This method pleased Israel (v. 14). The Israelites selected these men based on Moses' instructions.

When we come to the New Testament, the early church in Acts 6 followed the same pattern. When the Greek-speaking Jewish widows were not receiving food, the apostles could not be burdened with this work (vv. 1-2, 4). They presented to the church a solution to the problem. The church would take care of it. How? "Brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty" (v. 3). Like Israel, this instruction "pleased the whole gathering." They set seven men "before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them" (v. 5).

The New Testament church today can follow that pattern as the early church followed Moses' pattern. The elders at Hamburg Pike have made recommendation for an additional elder, but it is the church that decides whether the appointment should go through.

We as Americans can understand this process because of our representative form of government. We select representatives from among our own people who understand us. The Greek names of the seven men suggest that the men were of the same background as the Hellenist widows they would serve. They could communicate and understand their needs.

We can see God's wisdom in this kind of leadership: a plurality of men (cf. Acts 14:23) from among people that we know well. A stranger sent from a remote denominational hierarchy to "pastor" the church cannot fulfill God's desire and pattern for church leadership. It is much easier to submit to a group of men that the church itself has chosen. Then, once the selection is made, the church has a responsibility to submit to their leadership. We will see what this submission entails next week.

## Remember This...

- Bless God for what you have. Trust God for what you need. In all things, pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- A happy home is not one without problems, but one that handles them with understanding and love.
- No life is too broken for God to repair.