

The Mars Hill Messenger

August 13, 2017

RE-EXAMINING "OUR TRADITION" OF A CAPPELLA WORSHIP

Some of our folks are reexamining the practice of a cappella worship. This can be a healthy process when it is based on Biblical principles – after all, every generation has the opportunity and obligation to read the scriptures for themselves and own their own faith. The freedom to question has always been an essential tenet of our Restoration Movement, and the "noble Bereans" (Acts 17:11) held up in many a sermon as worthy examples.

Rethinking a subject as essential and holy as worship can be unhealthy, however, when it is based only on personal preferences or shallow, uninformed understandings. For example, a few weeks ago I was talking with an individual whose congregation has just decided to add instrumental music to their worship. He dismissed the practice of a cappella worship as being only "our tradition." That phrase is misleading on two counts.

First, anyone who is familiar with the whole sweep of church history will recognize that the use of a cappella singing in worship is not an idiosyncrasy of our particular fellowship, but was the exclusive practice of Christendom for many centuries, and is still the worship experience of many millions of believers today who have never heard of the Churches of Christ. The term "our tradition" seems to portray us as being eccentric or odd, when in reality it is today's rock and roll worship bands that are out of step with the historic mainstream of Christian theological understandings of worship.

Second, the phrase relegates our use of vocal worship to the status of an unthinking church "tradition," when in reality there is a long history of reasoned reflection on Christian worship which supports the practice. –Continued on inside

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:15 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Bible Class	7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 185
 Vilonia, Arkansas 72173
 Phone: (501) 796-2052
www.churchofchristmarshill.org

Elders

Thomas Martin	796-3741
David Riley	472-5108

Deacons

Rodger Harlan	207-2334
Rodger Moore	288-0135
Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	796-8889

Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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Youth Minister

Dan Blair	514-3450
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Missions

- Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)
- Roberto Sarmiento, Costa Rica
- Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)
- Youth Outreach University Youthoutreachuniversity.com
- Truth For Today World Mission School
- Gospel Chariot (Africa)
- Gospel Crusade (Local)
- Camp Areopagus

At A Glance

August 13 - Back-To-School Kick-Off for Mars Hill families. 3:30 p.
August 19 – Sew-In at Areopagus. 9a.m. – 4 p.m.
August 20 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30 p.m.
August 20 – Area-Wide Youth Devo. Mars Hill. 4 p.m.
August 27 – Mars Hill Breakfast. 8:30 a.m.
August 27 – Contribution to Building Fund
September 9 – Ladies' Day. Mt. Home C of C
September 10 – Iron Sharpens Iron. Clint Slicer to present lesson
September 10 – Area-Wide Youth Devo. Perryville. 5 p.m.
September 17 – Iron Sharpens Iron. Eli Loyd to present lesson
September 24 – Contribution to Building Fund
October 7 – Katie Bonds and Eric Coppin wedding.
October 8 – Area-Wide Youth Devo. Windsong. 5 p.m.
October 14 – Fish Fry. 5 p.m.
October 29 – Contribution to Building Fund
October 29 – Potluck Meal after A.M. service
November 12 – Area-Wide Youth Devo. Guy. 6 p.m.
November 26 – Contribution to Building Fund

Bible Class Lessons

Sun, Aug. 13: Lesson #384 – 2 Timothy 3-4
 Wed., Aug. 16: Lesson #385 – Review
 Sun., Aug. 20: Lesson #386 – 2 Kgs 3
 Wed., Aug. 23: Lesson #387 – 2 Kgs 4

August 13, 2017

Nursery

Lisa Hunter

SOUND ROOM

Josh Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caleb Shock

SCRIPTURE READING

James Moore

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Thomas Martin

LEAD PRAYER

Roy Bulice

Carlton Clayton

LORD'S TABLE

Aaron Harp, b.

Mark Muaney, c.

Steve Shock, o.

Dan Blair

Curtis Sawrie

Rodney Partee

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Colton Hunter

LEAD PRAYER

Gary Lambert

Rodger Harlan

LORD'S TABLE

Stanley Gordon

Jade Smith

August 16, 2017

LEAD SINGING

Michael Hunter

LEAD PRAYER

Steve Shock

Dan Blair

DEVOTIONAL

Colton Hunter

August 20, 2017

Nursery

Lisa Hunter

SOUND ROOM

Josh Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caleb Shock

SCRIPTURE READING

Mike Widner

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Jacob Moore

LEAD PRAYER

Jack Hancock

Stanley Gordon

LORD'S TABLE

Jarod Partee, b.

Carey Wells, c.

Rodger Harlan, o.

Clay Winn

Mike Widner

Jack Hancock

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Youth Devo

LEAD PRAYER

Youth Devo

Youth Devo

LORD'S TABLE

Youth Devo

Youth Devo

August 23, 2017

LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

LEAD PRAYER

Curtis Sawrie

Rodney Partee

DEVOTIONAL

Michael Hunter

Continued from page 1:

Since those advocating instrumental music are the ones introducing a change, it seems to me that they have a responsibility to build a Biblical case for how it better reflects the nature of God and improves our worship of Him, yet when talking with them I rarely hear anything that rises above the level of "People like it."

It might be useful to remember that this is not the first time God's people have reevaluated worship. With the beginning of the New Covenant the followers of Jesus appropriated the Old Testament psalms with gusto, but: they jettisoned the instrumental music of the Temple worship, as indeed they emphatically rejected so many of the other practices of the Old Covenant, consistently moving to more spiritual expressions of faith. I include this observation because I have talked with some of my brethren who believe they're on the cutting edge of progress by introducing instrumental music in worship, but I can't help feeling they are actually going backwards – in fact, they're going a whole covenant backwards!

I fear that many of us who grew up in the churches of Christ fail to appreciate what a marvelous legacy we have when we maintain the original practice of the church by singing a cappella. The uniqueness of congregational singing expresses that equality of fellowship of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 23:8-12. Oh, I know, I know, the current rage in entertainment is shows like "The Voice" or "American Idol": lavish productions that prompt us to admire the talents of the musically gifted. But realistically – how many places in life do average folks regularly join with others in a community of song? That still happens in our churches.

Sometimes when friends ask me, "Why do your folks sing without an instrument?" I'm tempted to answer, "Because we still can!" I have visited in many worship services held by other religious groups, and almost without exception the level of participation in the singing is far lower than in our assemblies. The addition of musicians, with their instruments, microphones, and amplifiers, all too often seems to create an audio hierarchy, with the musicians as the new high priests. As a result, ordinary Christians are drowned out, intimidated into silence, or lulled into becoming passive spectators at a religious performance.

-Dan Williams

All The Evil in the World

All the water in the world,
However hard it tried,
Could never, never sink a ship
Unless it got inside.

All the evil in the world,
The wickedness and sin,
Can never sink your soul's fair craft,
Unless you let it in.
(AC Hoffman)

PRAYERS NEEDED

Eddy Jones is struggling with an upper respiratory infection.

Sabrina Gray is undergoing chemo therapy.

Buddy Herrod is undergoing chemo therapy and in need of prayers.

Heather Partee received a report back on recent tests and will be treated with medication.

Alex Lafferty is at home recovering from back surgery.

Ronnie House, Mary House's husband, will have more test conducted on his heart.

Karen Barger, Amy Smith's mother, is having some serious health issues.

Kynadi Peppers, Rodger and Saundra Harlan's granddaughter, has Lyme Disease.

Hannah Cupp, Shea Moore's sister, is struggling with some health issues.

Extended Sick List: Pam Webb, Paula Stocks, Shelia Riddle, Roy Bulice, Monteen Ward, Bill Ward, Martha Walker, Nell Bostic, Nita Patrom, Jeane Harvey, Mark Allen, Pam Webb, Ethan Lafferty, John Kimbrell, Sunny Moody, Martha Green, Linda Brown, Beth Moreno, Gladys Widner, Allie Sawrie, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Charlene Lasley, Gordon Newsome, Ava Walker, John Riddle, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones, Barbara Fowlkes, Jim Canter

FAMILY NEWS.

Sympathy: William "Buck" Mauney, Mark Mauney's father passed away this past week. We extend our love and sympathy to the family.

Back 2 School Kickoff: Everyone is invited. We would like to have a special time with all Mars Hill families today. Hotdogs, chips, cheese-dip, soft drinks, etc. will be served at 3:30 p.m. Prayers and encouragement from God's word will be enjoyed at 6 p.m. Rodney Partee will deliver a special message. Everyone is invited. Please come be a part of encouraging our students, teachers, and administrators as they begin another school term.

Sew-In: The Mars Hill ladies will be hosting a sew-in for Healing Hands International at Camp Areopagus next Saturday. The day will begin at 9 a.m. with cinnamon rolls and coffee. Lunch with iced tea will be provided. We will sew until 4 p.m. Come sew/cut/iron with us.

Area-Wide Youth Devo: Mars Hill will host the Area-Wide Youth Devo next Sunday at 4 p.m. If you are able to help by bring a package of hot dog buns and/or a package of chips, please bring see Dan or Sarah Beth.

Mars Hill Breakfast: On Sunday morning, August 27th, all Mars Hill members are invited to share in a breakfast meal. The menu: Biscuit, eggs, bacon, orange juice, apple juice, and coffee. The serving line will open at 8:30 a.m. Come enjoy a great meal, and be on time for Bible School.

Elders/Deacons Meeting: Next Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Faith enables us to stand what we cannot understand.

Nothing cooks your goose quicker than a boiling temper.