

News & Notes

Visitors

We would like to extend our welcome to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Also, please fill out a visitor's card located in the pew in front of you and pick up a Visitors Pamphlet on the table in the foyer.

Please remember in your prayers:

Ed & Barbara Coats, Ruth Corbett, Allen & Joyce Cash, Mary Ann Haugh, Steven Andrews, our **military forces** throughout the world, and always remember to pray for one another.

Other News

- Emma and Ruth, **Darla's sisters**, are not doing well.
- **Pattie Payne's** daughter's father-in-law, has a twisted colon and internal bleeding. He is scheduled to have surgery soon.
- **Russell** is recovering from a torn Achilles tendon.
- **Austin Lankford** is recovering at home.

Those Honored to Serve Today

AM Service

Announcements – E. Coats

Singing – R. Swearingen

Opening Prayer – R. Earl

The Lord's Table

D. Jackson & C. Nelson

Scripture – R. Duncan

Sermon – V. Smith

Closing Prayer – G. Carnes

PM Service

Singing – R. Swearingen

Opening Prayer – V. Smith

Lord's Table – C. Nelson

Sermon – R. Earl

Closing Prayer – W.D. Jackson

Wednesday PM

Opening Prayer – E. Coats

Singing – D. Jackson

Closing Prayer – W.D. Jackson

Oologah Informer

Oologah Church of Christ, Oologah, Oklahoma

May 20th, 2012

Address: P.O. Box 527
Oologah, OK 74053

Evangelists: Vance Smith
Russell Earl

Phone Number: 918-443-2025

TV Programs: SEARCH Program (TV 47/Cable 7)

Meeting Place: Hwy 169
South of Oologah

Service Times: **Sunday**
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Website: www.oologahcofc.org

Sermon Videos: www.oologahcofc.org/sermon-videos.html

Today's Sermon's : **A.M. Sermon** "Progress in Religion" (Heb 6:1-3)
Vance Smith

P.M. Sermon - The Lord is My Shepherd, Part 3 of 4,
"His Promise" (Psalm 23:1,6) – Russell Earl

Jesus Gives "Church" Meaning
Eric Lyons, Apologetics Press

The Greek word *ekklesia*, translated as “church” in most English Bibles, simply means “assembly.” In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build my church (*ekklesia*).” Hence, we could read this verse, “I (Jesus) will build my assembly.” Paul wrote, “The churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16). Again, this world translated “churches” could be translated “assemblies.”

Interestingly, the same term used in the two verses above (*ekklesia*) also is used at times in reference to secular assemblies. For example, in Acts 19:32 the term *ekklesia* is used to speak of the mob at Ephesus. The text reads: “Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly (*ekklesia*) was confused.”

One might ask, “How do I know if the text is speaking about a secular assembly or the church?” Answer: The modifying words in the context of a particular passage are what make it possible to distinguish the kind of assembly to which the Bible writers were referring. We know that the assemblies Paul mentioned in Romans 16:16 are churches because *ekklesia* is modified by the phrase “of Christ.” Likewise, in Acts 20:28, we know the assembly mentioned is the church because it is modified by the phrase, “of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (emp. added). The word “assembly” is set apart from secular assemblies in these passages because the context points to a group of people owned by Christ.

The religious world needs to understand that Jesus is the one who gives *ekklesia* meaning. When mere human names and terms are placed alongside “church,” then the name no longer possesses the meaning that God intended for it to have. Christians should wear the name of Christ (and Christ only) because He purchased the church (Acts 20:28) and said it was His (Matthew 16:18).

Without the work of Jesus, nothing would separate us from man-made assemblies. He gave *ekklesia* a new meaning in the first century, and continues to give it meaning today when we wear His name.

“Slums of Apostasy”

The life of Edgar Allen Poe is one of the most tragic of all American writers. Within a brief span of forty years he literally went from riches to rags. Raised by foster parents who loved him deeply, he was provided with an education that matched his genius in his field of interest. He attended private schools in England. He was schooled in Richmond at the University of Virginia. He even spent a period of time as a cadet at West Point. Poe, in his heyday, was unparalleled as a literary critic, editor, poet, and author of short stories. Most of us have probably had our spines tingled by *The Pit* and the *Pendulum* or *The Tell-Tale Heart* or *The Raven*. His works have indeed left their mark.

But the mark left by his life is another story. Poe lost his young bride through a bitter case of tuberculosis. By that time, alcohol and drug abuse, along with involvement in the occult and Satanism, had proved to be his undoing. Depression and insanity plagued his short life, eventually leaving him unconscious in the gutter of a windswept street in Baltimore. Four days later he died, having never regained consciousness.

Poe began his life with money and brilliance, which quickly brought him prestige and fame. But it was only a matter of time before he became a ragged, penniless bum.

This tragedy, the slow slip from riches to rags, can happen to us spiritually as well. That is why Paul warned, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates” (2 Cor. 13:5)? Do not slip into the slums of apostasy.

*We are living a Gospel. A chapter each day, By deed that we do, By word that we say;
Men read what we live, Whether faithless or true,
Say! What is the Gospel According to you?*

Taken from “The Preachers PC” by Tom Moore of the Park Heights church of Christ, Hamilton, Texas