

What Will Be Expected of You



Usually, nothing at all!! You are welcome to participate. But don't feel obligated to. Just observe if that is your choice. You may have been asked to fill out a Visitor's Card when you arrived. If you haven't filled out one, there is one available from the door usher. This simply provides information so that we can write or call to thank you for your visit. Supply the information you are comfortable in doing so.

The People—So, what kinds of people can you expect to find? Pretty much the enter spectrum, as in any group. We are diverse, coming from varied backgrounds, and at different stages of knowledge and spiritual growth.

But you will see, we are not brought together by illusion of perfection or personal righteousness. We are brought together by our recognition that we are sinners in need of the cleansing blood of Jesus (Mark 2:17; Rom. 5:6-9; Eph. 1:7; 1 Jn. 1:7).

That's the reason we can worship together, stick together and with God's help, accomplish some things that make a difference.

We hope you enjoyed the service. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask one of us about anything you did not understand or something that was said during the service that you need to have clarified. If you would like to study with one of us, please let us know. We would be glad to study God's Word with you.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Morning Bible Class (for all ages) 9:30 AM
Morning Worship Service 10:30 AM
Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Mid-Week Bible Study & Prayer 7:00 PM

Directions:

South - Take I-95 N to Exit 126A merge onto US-1 N/ Jeff Davison Hwy towards Fredericksburg. Turn left onto Harrison Road, bldg is on the left.

North - Take I-95 S, Exit 130A (VA-3 E), towards Fredericksburg. Merge onto Jeff Davison Hwy/US-1 S. Turn slight right onto Harrison Road, bldg is on the left.

Church of Christ in Northern Virginia

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Church of Christ in Northern Virginia

What to Expect When You Visit the Church of Christ



Welcome to the Church of Christ!

Greetings!

Thank you for visiting us at the Church of Christ in Northern Virginia. We want you to feel comfortable, so let us tell you what you can expect when you honor us with a visit.

Background—Our background may help you to understand us. We are a part of the “Restoration Movement.” Our goal is to “restore” the New Testament church in our time. We have been called “purist,” for we attempt to determine from the Bible what the church was like in the beginning, and to be like that original church as much as possible. We believe this is a worthy goal.

Even so, we hold the Bible as our guide in religious matters.

Now, let us walk us through typical worship service. If you have visited another Church of Christ, you may have noticed some variations from this description, because every Church of Christ is autonomous (self-ruled, independent). We are not a denomination or organized religious group. We are members of the Lord’s church.

The Setting—Doors open at 4724 Harrison Road on Sundays and Tuesdays. There are no reserved seats, so feel free to sit anywhere you choose.

The Singing—In the seat, there will be a song book for your use. When the song leader announces a number, you can turn to that number in the songbook to find the words and music. One of the unique things about the Churches of Christ is that music is “a cappella”.

That is, we sing without the accompaniment of musical instruments. We do not find use of any musical instruments in the New Testament after Christ was given authority for the church (Matt. 16:18; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19). We are seeking to worship according to the New Testament pattern.

Since the New Testament leaves instrumental music out, we believe it best to exclude it also (1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12).

The Praying—Spoken prayers are part of our gatherings. We believe in the power of prayer (1 Thess. 5:19).

The Preaching—Who preaches is not as important as what is preached. Our preacher does not have a title. He won’t be referred to as Pastor or Reverend. His name is Gary Smith. But just call him Brother Smith, for that is what he prefers. He won’t be wearing any special garments to set him apart. He is one of us. The reason for this is our belief that all are equal (Matt 23:8-12; Gal. 3:26-28 & 1 Pet 2:5, 9).

The Invitation—Inviting worshippers to make a commitment for Jesus will be a part of the sermon. Gary will “extend an invitation”. He will encourage those who wish to “respond” to come to the front, while the congregation sings. Don’t feel ill-at-ease during this invitation. You will not be singled out in any way. There may be several who respond, or none. Some to confess sins; some to ask for prayers for a specific need. Some to “identify” or “place membership” with this church. If anyone responds for baptism, you may witness the baptism. The baptism will be by immersion (Acts 8:25-29; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12), for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

The Lord’s Supper—If you visit of Sunday Morning, the Lord’s Supper will be included in the worship proceedings. Again, for this reason for this is our desire to follow New Testament teaching. The first century church celebrated this observance of the first day of the week, each and every week (Acts 20:7). And we know from respected historians that in the early century (Neander; Eusabius), that the Lord’s Supper was an every Sunday commemoration.

During this memorial, plates containing pieces of unleavened bread will be passed throughout the congregation. The bread symbolizes the body of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:23-25). The New Testament teaches that only those in the Kingdom of God; Christians (members of the Lord’s church) are to partake of this (1 Cor. 10:16-17), by breaking off a piece of the bread and eating it.

Next, the trays with small cups will be distributed. The cups contain the “fruit of the vine,” which is grape juice, symbolizing the blood of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:23-25). Each participant will drink the contents of one cup. If you chose not to participate, don’t be embarrassed. Feel free to pass the plate or tray to the person next to you. This Supper is the original way of remembering the sacrifices Jesus has made on behalf of those who have made Jesus Lord & Christ, as the scriptures tell us (Rom. 10:17; Heb 11:6; Lk. 13:1-5; Matt 10:32-33; Matt 28:18-20).

The Offering—How many times will you be asked for money? None, however, containers will be passed to collect the weekly financial offering (1 Cor 16:1, 2). As our guest, you are not expected to make a donation. Feel perfectly comfortable in just passing the collection container down the row.

“Who preaches is not as important as what is...”