

# The Ekklesia of Christ

By Clifton Angel

The word ekklesia is first found in the New Testament first in Matthew 16:18. It is most often translated as "church," "assembly," or "congregation." It is used to refer to variety of assemblies (even Israel in the wilderness, cf. Acts 7:38); however, when it is referring to the church that Jesus built, it becomes much more specific. If you will, read Matthew 16:13–19, and let us consider some details revealed.

The ekklesia (church) of Christ belongs to Jesus. He said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). A man in Coldwater once asked me, "Why do you call yourselves the church of Christ?" In short, I noted we belong to Christ. Our name shows His possession of us. We are His church. This is how Jesus would have it.

The ekklesia of Christ is built upon Jesus. He had asked His apostles, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter responded, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:15–16). Jesus noted that Peter's knowledge of this was revealed by God, not man. He continued by giving Peter his most popular name: Peter. His name was actually Simon from birth, but Jesus gave him this name that means "small stone." Jesus followed this with, "Upon this rock, I will build my church." (Matthew 16:18). Many say that "this rock" points back to Peter's new name. Rather, it points back to Peter's confession of the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. The word Jesus used for "this rock" is a very large rock, a bedrock, a foundation. This also coincides with the fact that He is the chief cornerstone, which gives the pattern and foundation for every other stone of the building (1 Peter 2:5–7; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:11).

The ekklesia of Christ is built by Jesus. He said, "I will build" (Matthew 16:18). He builds His church by adding to it those who are saved (Acts 2:47). Those who are saved are those who believe and obey (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 5:9; Hebrews 11:6). Those who make up the church are "small stones" (e.g., Peter, Matthew 16:18) compared to Jesus, yet "living stones" (1 Peter 2:5) because of Jesus.

Are you a "living stone" following the pattern of the "chief cornerstone," Jesus? Has He added you to His church because you believe and obey?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840  
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732  
Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

Oct 2, 2022

**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

Romans 16:16

---

## WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

### **Today's Sermon: Taming the Tongue**

Paul will be preaching today.

### **Scripture Reading: James 3:1-5**

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

**[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)**

Find us on Facebook:

**[www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc](https://www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc)**

**Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Arthur is teaching from Romans.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm October 5, on Zoom, Paul is teaching from James.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday October 4, Lesson 12, Day 1, 10am on Zoom.**
- ❖ **Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing- October 30<sup>th</sup>, venue TBA.**



### MAGI BOXES

Composition notebooks, pens, pencil bags and other school items are needed. The day after Halloween be on the lookout for cheap big bags of non-chocolate candy. Underwear goes on sale often. Light up bouncy balls can be purchased for \$1 each in many stores. We can use cash donations too.

**Please welcome our guests from the Horseheads church this morning!**

**Linette Short** who was suffering from lung cancer that had spread to her liver and was on our prayer list for many months passed away last week.

## PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine!** Remember to also pray for the people in **Russia**, especially for the church.
- **We are thankful that the Riveras have found a very small but adequate house to move into in Nicholson, PA.**
- **Arthur** is testing once again to see if C-diff has come back on him. Please pray that he can get clear of all the bugs that continue to plague him.
- **Dan Myers** began radiation therapy on Thursday for lung cancer treatment. Please pray that he doesn't have many side effects.
- **Arthur's sister, Susan, of Dryden, NY had an MRI on Friday to check on a possible recurrence of breast cancer. The MRI was inconclusive, and she welcomes prayer on her behalf.**
- **Please pray for comfort and peace for the family of Linette Short, former colleague of Paul's who passed away last week.**
- Pray for these people:
  - **Mike Walls** (frontal lobe dementia), also pray for wife Carrie and the family. Mike told us he is planning on heading back out to L.A. in a few weeks for more surgery.
  - **Henry Rounsville** will be starting radiation therapy soon. Also pray for Henry's sister Caroline.
  - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army) He will be visiting Stateside soon.
  - **Jerry Lowe (connection with a church in Las Vegas)**
  - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer,)
  - **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill-** liver cancer
  - **Steve Noble** (lung transplant) out of ICU, still in hospital.
  - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer)

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at [barncat7237@gmail.com](mailto:barncat7237@gmail.com) or text or call (607) 261-0911.