

# MAY 2018

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## From the Pastor's Desk

### What Makes a Church?

Last week I listened to a heart breaking podcast from Albert Mohler – The President of Southern Seminary and Boyce College. He was commenting on a New York Times article about a relatively new church in California that has quickly grown to several thousand members. I share this not to church bash, but make you aware of the existence of these groups and to encourage you to pray for the Church Universal. There are organizations being called “Evangelical Churches” that come nowhere near to what most of us would consider the standard to be.

I have pulled some clips from the transcript of the podcast and I am hoping you will take the time to read them. If you desire, the complete transcript and audio program can be found at the link at the end of this article.

The article says:

*...that establishing a church is just like any other business.*

*She writes that "saving souls is a business like any other. Pastors today who want to start a ministry for those 40 and under follow a well-traveled path. First, they lease out an old theater or club. Next, they find great singers and backup musicians. A fog machine on stage is nice. A church should also have a catchy logo or catchphrase that can be stamped onto merchandise and branded, socks, knit hats, shoes and sweatshirts."*

It turns out that there is training for starting such a church:

*"He spent two days learning the basics at Highlands headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama before Zoe opened for business." The program in which he was involved at the church of the Highlands includes such things as exactly how to orchestrate the very best music, the very best amplification, the very best sight and sound and the very best smoke machines.*

Dr. Mohler continues as the NYT article digs into some culturally controversial issues:

*"Asked about abortion rights, Mr. Veach declined to give a*

*specific answer. "At the end of the day, I'm a Bible guy," he said. Later, the New York Times tells us "Mr. Veach's father shrugged about his sons equivocation. "Last thing you want to do is turn off a whole demographic," he said of today's pastors. "If you draw lines in the sand, people are gonna think God hates them." And the Times tells us, Mr. Veach wants Zoe to be "a refuge for many, against the rhetoric of so many other dogmatic evangelicals." Veach said, in the conclusion to the article, "From the time I've entered, and maybe just what we grew up in, it's like you don't bring politics into church. We're here to preach good news. We're here to bring hope to humanity. We're here to talk about God. This is not the place for a political agenda, this is the last place. When I come to church, you know what I need? I need encouragement."*

Is the bible at the core of the church or is it more about attracting and encouraging a large number of people?

Find the answer to this question and the conclusion of this article on **Page 3** -**"What Makes a Church?"**.



## Financial Information

January - March 2018

### Total Giving:

**\$39,500** (total General offerings) vs.  
**\$34,500** (total Budget is 11,500/month)

### Pledge Giving:

\$33,300 (total given by those  
making pledges)  
vs. **\$27,000** (total pledged YTD,  
\$9,000 per month)

### Budget vs. Actual Expenses:

January 1st cash balance \$13,400

YTD general offerings \$39,500

YTD total expenses \$32,300

March 31 cash balance \$20,600

Account	Budget	Actual
Payroll	\$22,959.50	\$23,000.00
Missions	\$4,640.50	\$5,100.00
Plant & maintenance	\$3,310.00	\$2,200.00
office	\$1,550.00	\$1,000.00
discipleship	\$478.75	\$100.00
Property Ins	\$662.50	\$650.00
Miscellaneous	\$125.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$500.00	\$250.00
Outreach	\$150.00	\$0.00
Worship	\$597.50	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,973.75</b>	<b>\$32,300.00</b>

Current Maintenance account:

\$0

Current Emergency Fund:

\$7,300.00

Current Building account:

\$26,000.00

This is a summary to keep you informed. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, contact Corey Olson or Wade Hetrick

# Next Bike Clinic is on the way!



## For Kids & Adults

When: Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
2 - 5 PM

Where: Community Church

**We need Volunteers!** Volunteers of all sorts needed, people to chat up patrons, to help organize them as they come in, bakers, mechanics, anyone friendly who would love to hang out with our neighbors!

**We are also looking for gently used bikes to be donated so that we can give them away to any neighbors who need one!** If you would like to volunteer or donate bikes, please contact Ken Munson ([kmunny19@hotmail.com](mailto:kmunny19@hotmail.com) or 715-571-0775)

## What Makes a Church?

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*There have been far too many evangelical congregations that have talked more eagerly and more clearly about politics and political issues than they have about the gospel and that is to their shame. But the inescapable fact is that if you are 'a Bible guy' then that means you have to teach the Bible and it means you have to believe the Bible as the inerrant and infallible word of God. It means that you have to preach the parts of the Bible that a contemporary society might find encouraging but it also means you've got to preach the parts of the Bible that a modern, very secular society will find anything but encouraging. Most importantly, if you claim to be committed to human flourishing, you have to be clear about whom the Bible identifies as a human and what flourishing would mean. And that flourishing has to begin with the gift of life.*

The final analysis by Dr. Mohler:

*I think there will be some people looking at this who will say it can't be a church if it has music and lights and amplification and a smoke machine. That's not what I'm saying. I am saying that that does not define a church and it certainly does not define biblical worship. And certainly, it shouldn't be what defines a church and if a church is clear about the smoke machine and the amplification and the music and the cultural approach but is unclear about what the Bible teaches, then that is not success.*

<https://albertmohler.com/2018/03/23/briefing-3-23-18/>

Please join me in praying for The Church in this country and around the globe. It is clearly being undermined from the inside and the outside.

Prayerfully,

*Pastor Wade*



## Monthly Men's "Breakfast with a Purpose"!

Saturday, May 19th at 8AM. Get together with other men for breakfast and some meaningful discussion. We will do a church service project after breakfast.

Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend. Contact Greg Maxey ([gmaxey52@gmail.com](mailto:gmaxey52@gmail.com); 205-3495) for more information.

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## Church Garden Clean Up! Thursday, May 10 We will start at 4PM Come whenever you are able

We gave the gardeners until May 1st to clean up their plots. Then we have to clean out whatever is left. If there is anything you want that is not claimed by May 1st - talk to Pastor Wade. Please join us on Thursday, May 10th to finish cleaning out all the plots.

