

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of May 26, 2024 -

Sunday School	-----	30
Sunday Morning Service	-----	39
Sunday Evening Service	-----	22
Wednesday Eve., 05/29/24 Service	-----	15

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of May 26, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 715.93
Sign Repair	-----	\$ 2.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/26/24:		\$ 717.93

- Week of May 19, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 1,269.92
Sign Repair	-----	\$ 2.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/19/24:		\$ 1,271.92

- Week of May 12, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 657.30
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/12/24:		\$ 657.30

- Week of May 5, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 2,332.24
Sign Repair	-----	\$ 2.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 05/05/24:		\$ 2,334.24

- Week of April 28, 2024 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings	-----	\$ 455.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/28/24:		\$ 455.22

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



LISTEN TO -

ABIDINGRADIO.COM



Church Directory

Todd W. White	-----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	-----	Pianists
Derek Quinnely	-----	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Keith Shufelt	-----	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	-----	Outreach
Keith Shufelt	-----	Men's Prayer Group
GinaMarie Shufelt	-----	Ladies Bible Study/Flowers
Seth White	-----	Sound/Video
Larry Byars, Derek Quinnely, David Smith	-----	Trustees

REMINDER



WHERE DOES THE CONSTITUTION SAY THAT CHURCHES CAN'T TALK ABOUT POLITICS?

Hint: It doesn't.

In America, we've become so accustomed to hearing about how pastors can't talk about politics from the pulpit that we seldom stop to question why. We would expect this level of censorship from authoritarian governments such as Cuba, China, and Venezuela. Still, the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States protects everyone's ability to speak freely.

It's True. Neither the Constitution Nor the Bible Restrict Political Discussions in Houses of Worship, So Why Does the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

It shouldn't shock you that the reason pastors can't endorse or even discuss political campaigns originated with a jaded politician. In 1954, then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson proposed an amendment to the tax code (a.k.a. The Johnson Amendment) that greatly restricted the free speech of pastors and churches.

Although there is a shroud of secrecy around how Congress was able to push through this legislation without any discussion about how this would affect churches, his motives are less obscure.

Senator Johnson of Texas, the future president of the United States, forced the amendment out of his anger that two local non-profits had voiced support for his primary opponent.

There you have it. "The IRS rule that strips tax exemption from churches engaged in electioneering was born of Lyndon Johnson's Texas politics, not the U.S. Constitution . . ." according to the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ).

To go one step further, the quick passage of the Johnson Amendment draws even more suspicion when you realize the timing of this legislation. Less than three years after its passing, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. organized a political movement at Ebenezer Church in Atlanta to oppose the Democrat party's unconstitutional civil rights violations. Did Johnson see these protests coming from church leaders?

What Does the Code Say?

Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position (verbal or written) made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity.

Respectfully, is this not the exact government interference in religious expression that our founders warned about and sacrificed their very lives to prevent? Oh, the irony of a strategic restriction on churches and houses of worship by one political party to force their political opponents to stop being political.

It's important to note, however, that nothing is stopping pastors and Christian leaders — including the IRS — from sounding the alarm against policies that violate Biblical truth.

Can a Church Really Lose Their Tax-exempt Status?

Practically speaking, the threat to churches is more perceived than actual.

A court case in 2000, Rossotti v. Branch Ministries, represents the first time the IRS revoked a church's tax-exempt status because of its involvement in politics. Four days before the presidential election, Branch Ministries in Binghamton, New York, placed full-page advertisements in both the Washington Times and USA Today warning Christians not to vote for Bill Clinton.

(continued inside)

Following a three-year investigation into the church, the IRS sent Branch Ministries a letter revoking their tax-exempt status under IRS code 501(c)(3).

After receiving the IRS's decision, the church and its pastor immediately sued the IRS! (See *Branch Ministries v. Rossotti*). The church argued that *"the revocation violated [the church's] right to free exercise of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."*

The court ruled that ***"because of the unique treatment churches receive under the Internal Revenue Code, the impact of the revocation is likely to be more symbolic than substantial."***

If the revocation is simply symbolic, what is the purpose of the threatening to revoke tax-exempt status in the first place?

The Wrap-Up

Regardless of whether the threat of losing tax-exempt status is actual or not, the threat of losing our religious freedom in America is real. We are calling on our pastors and church leaders to use their great influence to push back on government overreach.

Could there be fall-out? Will there be consequences for taking a stand, for example, against far-left Democrat policies and politicians who seek to kill, maim, and sterilize our children? Sure, it's possible.

Pastors and clergy were so courageous in their pursuit of freedom from a tyrannical government during the founding of our country that the British blamed them for American Independence. These men (dubbed the Black Robe Regiment) paid dearly for their activism.

Dedrick Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, was imprisoned and executed as a direct result of his involvement in a plot to overthrow Adolf Hitler.

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., served prison time in 1963 after being arrested at a demonstration to end segregation.

Let's not forget that Jesus was arrested, detained, and executed as a political prisoner—not a criminal one—because he opposed the ruling class of his day. So, we shouldn't think that it won't happen in America.

Thank you, pastors, for all that you do. We appreciate those who are taking a stand to preserve our Constitutional rights to serve God in America, not the government.

Amy L. Travis, founder of the Stand Coalition and author of seven books on the topics of faith and conservative values including, "The Pursuit of Liberty: Protecting our God-given Rights."

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ ***NAR "PROPHETESS" PROPHESED THAT TRUMP WOULD WIN COURT TRIAL AND BE PROVEN INNOCENT*** - Julie Green, associate "pastor" at Faith Family Fellowship and head of Julie Green Ministries, has once again proven herself to be a false prophet—as if we needed another reason to believe so.

As recently as last week, she predicted that former President Donald Trump would be exonerated in his New York trial,

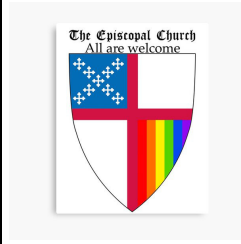
labeling the judge "unjust" and claiming Trump would go free. This "prophecy," like all of others from Green and people like her, has not come to pass. She said:

"Breaking news will be heard that will rattle the enemy's camp. Innocent. This ruling will be heard. The case has fallen apart.

The last ditch effort did not work for President Trump. They cannot put him in jail now as the last indictment falls apart. Watch how things dramatically take place to stop your

election and my David from taking back the seat of the president. But your enemies cannot stop the freight train coming against them because it's me, saith the Lord of hosts."

These baseless and sensational "prophecies" distract from the true mission of the Church and undermine the sufficiency of Scripture. According to Deuteronomy 18:22, the failure of her predictions confirms her status as a false prophet.



❑ ***THE EPISCOPAL "CHURCH'S" NEW "PRIDE SHIELD" LOGO IS EMBLEMATIC OF THE HARLOT CHURCH'S APOSTASY*** - Just recently, the Episcopal Church—a totally apostate harlot that bears no resemblance whatsoever to the Bride of Christ—unveiled a new logo. This new "Pride shield" shamelessly merges the

historic Episcopal shield with the garish colors of the LGBTQABCDEFGH+++ Pride flags. The arrogance of such a move is astounding.

One must marvel at the sheer irony of a so-called "church," one that claims to represent Christ, celebrating what the Bible explicitly condemns. In Romans 1, we see a clear depiction of God's wrath against humanity's unrighteousness and sexual immorality. It states unequivocally that those who suppress the truth in unrighteousness are given over to depraved minds, committing acts that are shameful and dishonorable.

Clearly, the Episcopal Church is given over to depravity, so this "pride shield" should not surprise anyone. Yet, the Episcopal Church's endorsement of sexual immorality is nothing short of blasphemy—aligning themselves with such trash, they stand in total condemnation of God's truth. Let's not be fooled by their facade of "inclusion" and "progress." In reality, they are capitulating to the world's demands while lifting their middle finger to the only one who matters.

But let's take a step back and examine the root of this apostasy, the bigger and more important issue here. False churches almost always start out by compromising on women in the pastorate. This is why this is not a mere "secondary" or "tertiary" debate as many, for example, in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) are currently contending—rather, it's a gateway to further theological and moral decay. The SBC is currently embroiled in this very debate. Once a "church" compromises on women pastors, it sets the ball rolling for all sorts of compromises.

The Episcopal Church's new logo is definitely a symbol of

pride, but it is also a glaring testament to their spiritual bankruptcy. Pride always goes before the fall. As we witness these acts of apostasy all throughout the professing Church, be aware that the path that leads to destruction is wide, and even most of what calls itself the "Church" is headed directly toward that gate.

LESS ALCOHOL, OR NONE AT ALL, IS ONE PATH TO BETTER HEALTH

by Carla K. Johnson | AP

Moderate drinking was once thought to have benefits for the heart, but better research methods starting in the 2010s have thrown cold water on that.

It's wine time. Beer Thirty. Happy hour. Five o'clock somewhere.

Maybe It's Also Time to Rethink Drinking?

Moderate drinking was once thought to have benefits for the heart, but better research methods have thrown cold water on that.

"Drinking less is a great way to be healthier," said Dr. Timothy Naimi, who directs the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

ARE DRINKING GUIDELINES CHANGING?

Guidelines vary a lot from country to country but the overall trend is toward drinking less.

The United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Holland and Australia recently reviewed new evidence and lowered their alcohol consumption recommendations. Ireland will require cancer warning labels on alcohol starting in 2026.

"The scientific consensus has shifted due to the overwhelming evidence linking alcohol to over 200 health conditions, including cancers, cardiovascular diseases and injuries," said Carina Ferreira-Borges, regional adviser for alcohol at the World Health Organization regional office for Europe.

From Dry January to Sober October to bartenders getting creative with non-alcoholic cocktails, there's a cultural vibe that supports cutting back.

"People my age are way more accepting of it," said Tessa Weber, 28, of Austin, Texas. She stopped drinking for Dry January this year because she'd noticed alcohol was increasing her anxiety. She liked the results — better sleep, more energy — and has stuck with it.

"It's good to reevaluate your relationship with alcohol," Weber said.

WAIT- MODERATE DRINKING DOESN'T HAVE HEALTH BENEFITS?

That idea came from imperfect studies comparing groups of people by how much they drink. Usually, consumption was measured at one point in time. And none of the studies randomly assigned people to drink or not drink, so they couldn't prove cause and effect.

People who report drinking moderately tend to have higher levels of education, higher incomes and better access to health care, Naimi said.

"It turns out that when you adjust for those things, the benefits tend to disappear," he said.

Another problem: Most studies didn't include younger people. Almost half of the people who die from alcohol-related causes die before the age of 50.

"If you're studying people who survived into middle age, didn't quit drinking because of a problem and didn't become a heavy drinker, that's a very select group," Naimi said. "It creates an appearance of a benefit for moderate drinkers that is actually a statistical illusion."

Other studies challenge the idea that alcohol has benefits. These studies compare people with a gene variant that makes it unpleasant to drink to people without the gene variant. People with the variant tend to drink very little or not at all. One of these studies found people with the gene variant have a lower risk of heart disease — another blow to the idea that alcohol protects people from heart problems.

HOW MANY DRINKS CAN I HAVE PER DAY?

That depends.

Drinking raises the risk of several types of cancer, including colon, liver, breast and mouth and throat. Alcohol breaks down in the body into a substance called acetaldehyde, which can damage your cells and stop them from repairing themselves. That creates the conditions for cancer to grow.

Thousands of U.S. deaths per year could be prevented if people followed the government's dietary guidelines, which advise men to limit themselves to two drinks or fewer per day and women to one drink or fewer per day, Naimi said.

One drink is the equivalent of about one 12-ounce can of beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine or a shot of liquor.

Naimi served on an advisory committee that wanted to lower the recommendation for men to one drink per day. That advice was ignored when the federal recommendations came out in 2020.

"The simple message that's best supported by the evidence is that, if you drink, less is better when it comes to health," Naimi said.

- The Associated Press Health and Science Department

[Pastor's Comment: Even the lost world is figuring out the issues regarding the use of alcohol. Seeing as how they've rejected God's Word on the subject, many Christians could learn from the lost world on this point].

