

WELCOME TO FRIENDS DAYS!

A PERSONAL INVITATION

Friends Days are an annual tradition at Buford Church of Christ. These three weeks in April are set aside as an appeal to our members to invite their friends to come visit us so they can find out a little more about who we are. We meet every Lord's Day for worship, and we invite you to begin attending with us on a regular basis. We believe you will make friendships here that will last an eternity.

WHAT WE TEACH

Most all churches have a guide book or a creed book of some sort to present their individual body of teachings or their slant on theology. You will not find such a book among churches of Christ. The only book we use to guide us in all spiritual matters is the Bible. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul, the apostle of Christ, wrote, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work," 2 Timothy 3:16,17. In another place he wrote, "If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord," 1 Corinthians 14:37. The apostle Peter wrote of God's blessed gift saying, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence," 2 Peter 1:3. So, what we have in the Bible is the sum total of what God wants revealed to man today. After the Bible, there is nothing else revealed from God. We honor it, and let it dictate our worship, our organization, and our daily lives.

A LITTLE ABOUT ORGANIZATION

Take a look at the teachings and examples found in the New Testament concerning church organization. We follow these teachings by organizing ourselves like the churches in the first century were organized. Jesus built one church, Matthew 16:18, Acts 2. Yet, in each city there were different congregations of that church. Each was self-governed. The same is true today. You may see a church of Christ here, one in Duluth, another in Dallas, Texas, and still another in Auckland, New Zealand. Though we are tied to one another in spirit and commitment in the Kingdom of Christ, each church is independent. There is no governing body, no convention or hierarchy on earth for churches of Christ. Jesus sits upon His throne in heaven as head of the church, and each congregation answers only to Him.

The first century churches were organized with a body of men as servants within each congregation. The Scriptures refer to them as Bishops, Elders, Presbyters, or Shepherds, all referring to the same group. Familiarize yourself with what the Bible says about these men in passages like 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; Acts 20; and 1 Peter 5. Buford is blessed with eleven elders serving as shepherds of the Lord's flock.

Serving under the oversight of the elders is another body of men, called Deacons. They too are discussed in 1 Timothy 3. These men serve. They serve the church. They assist the elders by coordinating assigned ministries within the local congregation. They see themselves as helpers. If you need help here in any way, these are the guys you look for first. We have twenty-four men who serve as deacons ready and willing to be a help to you. If you need help, simply ask a member, and they will gladly connect you with a deacon or elder who can assist you.

—Scott