

“Please Turn to Number 939 in the Devil’s Hymnal”

I grew up in a typical 20th century Church of Christ in the southern United States. (I make that distinction because Churches of Christ in northern states sometime have different practices, traditions and beliefs than those in southern states.) That meant that when we worshiped our singing was exclusively a *capella* (i.e., non-instrumental), congregational (i.e., everyone singing together), four-part harmony (i.e., different musical lines for sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses). We prided ourselves on the beauty of our blended voices and what we believed was the only “authorized” and proper way that Christians are to sing in worship. So I was fascinated by something I learned recently.

The earliest form of singing in churches of which we know was a type of monophony (i.e., singing the melody in unison) known as “plainchant.” *There was no harmony.* Those early Christians knew nothing of basses, altos, tenors, or sopranos. The use of harmony developed first in secular music in the Middle Ages. When attempts were made in the 14th century to introduce harmony into Christian music it was actually banned by the church. Why? Here’s what I read: “Harmony was not only considered frivolous, impious, and lascivious, but an obstruction to the audibility of the words. . . . Dissonant clashes of notes give a creepy feeling that was labeled as evil, fueling their argument against polyphony [i.e., harmony] as being the devil’s music.” Amazing! Not only was the four-part harmony with which I grew up never known or used by the early church, but when it was introduced the church banned it for being “the devil’s music”! Think about that; when we sing songs like “How Great Thou Art” or “Peace, Perfect Peace” we are singing in a style viewed as sinful and satanic by earlier generations of Christians.

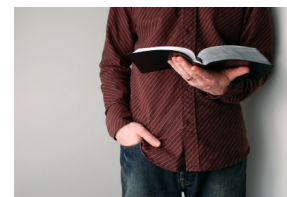
What one generation views as a meaningful and uplifting worship style another generation views as shallow and distracting. A worship tradition that some people believe to be inspiring and reverent others experience it as boring and embarrassing. In trying to solve the tension, some resort to asking the question, “What type of worship does the Bible require?”

The New Testament does not lay out a universal pattern of worship employed in every worship gathering in the first century. Instead we read a variety of stories of Christians worshiping differently in diverse corners of the Roman Empire. The concern of Jesus and his apostles was not so much with the form, format, or style of worship but instead they dealt with the heart of the worshiper. When asked about the right form of worship by a woman living in Samaria, Jesus replied, **“Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem (i.e., form) . . . Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth (i.e., heart), for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth (i.e., authentically)”** (John 4:21,23-24). So does God have a preference for a particular style of worship or for certain practices in our worship? Yes, whichever ones are genuine reflections our hearts.

Curtis Williams
Preaching Minister

Adult Bible classes

**Sunday mornings,
9:30 to 10:15 a.m.**



“Psalms”

**Teacher: Bill Mustin
Location: Cafetorium**

Dates: July 5 – September 27 (13 Lessons)

“Treasure in Clay Jars: What God Is Doing in the World and What Role the Church Plays”

**Teacher: Curtis Williams
Location: A Hall**

Dates: July 5 – September 27 (13 Lessons)

New Class Starting This Morning

“Go Fish”

**Teacher: Billy George
Location: C Hall**

Dates: August 16 – September 27 (7 Lessons)

North Pointe Ministry Staff

Matt Lee, Youth Minister
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Beverly Ritz, Children’s Minister
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North Pointe Support Staff

Tammi Omer, Administrative Assistant
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Sunday morning schedule

Bible classes.....9:30 a.m.
Worship service.....10:30 a.m.

North Pointe Shepherds

Mike Campbell
(Home) 972-475-2699
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Doug Priebe
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Gerow Roberts
(Home) 972-278-3096
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Church Office Information

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Sachse, TX 75048
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North Pointe Web Page

www.northpointecofc.org



August 16, 2009

Order of Worship

Song: *He Has Made Me Glad*
Song: *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

Welcome

Firth Graders Recognition

Call to Worship

Song: *Covenant of Love*
Song: *God Will Make a Way*
Song: *You Are My All in All*
Song (Insert): *Blessed Be Your Name*

Lord’s Supper

Song: *God Has Smiled on Me*
Song: *Come, Share the Lord*

Children’s Offering*

(Children dismissed to Children’s Worship**)
Song: *God Is So Good*

Message

“Face-to-Face With God”***

Offering

Song: *Thank You, Lord*

Family News

(Parents dismissed to pick up children from Children’s Worship**)
Song: *Forever*

New to North Pointe and have children?

Children are an important part of the North Pointe church. For this reason we offer the following opportunities for children during our worship service:

Nursery: A staffed nursery with pagers for parents, is provided during the worship service. The nursery for babies, toddlers and two year olds is located in E Hall past the restrooms. A separate, non-staffed nursery is also available for parents to use as needed.

***Children’s Offering:** To teach our children the discipline of giving we provide them an opportunity to contribute in a visible way. This money is used for various ministries.

****Children’s Worship:** Because children have their own unique level of learning and expression we offer a special worship period for children 3 years of age through 2nd grade. Children are dismissed to Children’s Worship following the Children’s offering.

*****What is “Face-to-Face with God”?**

This time during our worship service allows three opportunities for personal prayer. You may: 1) remain in your seat and spend time privately praying to God, 2) go to the back of the cafetorium where a member of our prayer team will pray for you or with you, privately and in confidentiality concerning your prayer request, or 3) come to the front row of seats with your public prayer request where the prayer leader will include your request in his prayer concluding this period.

North Pointe News

Congratulations

Jessica Tresp graduated from Texas A & M on Friday, August 14 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation, Park and Tourism Science.

Today

“Be My Guest”

Sunday evening, August 16

We are setting aside this last evening of our summer “**Connectivity**” series for you to invite other North Pointe members, or your neighbors, over to your house for dinner.

Future Events

Pointe Groups Resume

Sunday evening, August 23

Sign up this morning for the group you will be attending.

Food Donation for Boles Children’s Home

Sunday, September 13

Every two months we collect food and other items for Boles Children’s Home. We will collect your donated items at worship. Boles has requested the following items this time: brown sugar, laundry soap, canned pineapple, Vienna sausage and dish soap.

Fish Fry

Sunday, September 27

Everyone is invited!

Record for Sunday, August 9

Worship Attendance: 152

General Offering:	\$ 4,365.40
Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,350.00
Over/(Under) Budget YTD:	(\$10,521.61)
Future Facility Fund Offering:	\$ 275.00
FFF Offering YTD:	\$27,299.40
Children’s Offering:	\$ 13.30

“... so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe ...”
Philippians 2:15



Today

Fifth Grade Blessing

Sunday, August 16

For those who just completed fifth grade.

We’ll go to lunch at Brooklyn’s Pizzeria in Firewheel Mall right after morning worship.

Future Events

Back to School Blessing

Sunday, August 23

Help your child begin the school year in a positive way as we offer special prayers of blessings for them on this day.

Elementary Children’s Chorus

Wednesday, September 9

Our chorus will be meeting Wednesday evenings in the fall to rehearse for our Christmas program. Be watching for more details!

Mark these dates on your calendar!

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25

Children’s Chorus

Begins Wednesday, September 9

For children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Cookies with Santa

Saturday, December 5

Children’s Chorus Performance

Sunday, December 13

Beverly Ritz

Children’s Minister

North Pointe Youth Ministry

Future Events

Teen Pointe Group

Wednesday, August 26

7:00 to 8:00 p. m.

Home of **Mike** and **Frances Campbell**

6006 Pleasant Valley Road, Wylie

Middle School Christmas Party

Saturday, December 12

High School Christmas Party

Saturday, December 19

Matt Lee

Youth Minister