

from recognized secular sources. Webster says of “clap” :

“A percussive sound...made to gain attention or to express approval, as applause.”

Webster also offers this definition for “music”:

“1. an art of sound in time which expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color.2. any sweet, pleasing, or harmonious sounds or sound.”

It seems clear that rhythmic handclapping fits these definitions for music. Finally, Collier’s Encyclopedia offers this insightful statement under its music heading:

“Not all **music** is concerned with pitch; the rhythmic drum-beating, **handclapping**, or foot-stamping of many tribal peoples clearly lacks any well-defined pitch”

All of this sustains our point that rhythmic handclapping constitutes percussion music and therefore represents an addition to the authorized music of the church singing. The New Testament commands us to sing - not sing and snap our fingers, not sing and stomp our feet, not sing and hum, and certainly not sing and **clap!**

It is also the case that handclapping may be non-rhythmic and engaged in purely as a means of expressing approval. How should we view handclapping at a baptism or at the conclusion of a sermon or religious lecture? I suggest to you that even in these contexts handclapping should be avoided. My reasoning behind this is twofold. First, the apostle Paul was very clear that in a worship setting all things are to be done “decently and in order” [1 Cor.14:40]. Worship is not for our personal entertainment or amusement. Nor is it a time for rowdy or semi-rowdy behavior. We assemble to revere, praise, and adore our God. My judgment is that handclapping lends itself to an indecent and out of order display. Brother Tom Holland, of Nashville, Tennessee has correctly stated:

“There is a sacredness of worship that must not be sacrificed on altars of superficial spirituality, fads of the day, **emotion-rousing handclapping**, and entertainment-oriented quartets and choirs. The profound dignity of worship should not be sacrificed to shallow, sensational displays of drama.” Second, and this is the nail that closes the coffin, we have a Biblically approved means of showing our approval available—the saying of **AMEN** [1Cor.14:16]! Can we not be satisfied with that which we have Biblical authority for?

The importance of worship should not be underestimated—it must be in spirit and in truth [John 4:24]. Worship affects our own spirituality, our relationship to God, and our relationship to other Christians. I am certain that if one will draw close to the Lord and continue in His word [James 4:8; John 8:31] he will see no need for special effects such as handclapping which have no authority in Scripture. But if you still wish to have a handclapping, foot-stomping good ole time, let me suggest a **rodeo** not the worship of the church.

### **Those requesting prayer**

Grant Killion, Carol Killion, Frances Hagar, Martha Spikes Rampey, Richard Rapert, Shirley Dixon, Nick VanAkin. Gert Jacobson. **Remember all the shut-ins and those in the nursing homes.**

**February 17, 2019**

### **THIS WEEK'S RADIO LESSONS**

#### **on KPOC:**

**Sun:** The Conversion of the Jailer

**Mon:** Conversions in Antioch

**Tue:** The Day of the Lord

**Wed:** God’s Persuading Power

**Thu:** Presuming to Know God’s Will

**Fri:** Abortion, Who’s to Blame

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**Remember the shut-ins and those in the nursing home with a visit, call, or card. Also remember them in prayer**

#### **Residential**

Jenafee Brunner, 1502 W Pyburn

Mary Sue Greer, 2102 Lee Street

**Randolph County Nursing Home**

Elsie Prewitt, 106

Earl Hagar, 109

Jennifer Burr, 204

Charlcie Hufstedler, 223

Anna Lemmons, 332

Bonnie Kellett, 335

Gwen Futrell, 419

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#### **BULLETIN INFO:**

Please give “News and Events” to **Tom and Carolyn Towell**. You can call 892-5087, 870-930-7344 or 870-930-7355 and leave a message. Email address is tctowell@centurytel.net

#### **ITEMS for February CHILDREN’S HOME**

Crackers/Chili

#### **UKRAINE MISSION**

Kool-Aid/ Instant Tea/ Instant Coffee

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Anna Lemmons** is back home to Randolph Home after being in the NEA Hospital last weekend.

Nick VanAkin, grandson of **Barbara Grimsby**, found out Monday that he has a hole in his heart. More tests will be run to determine the next step.

**Sue Gazaway** is still having severe headaches. Keep Sue in your prayers. She is scheduled to have an MRA Tuesday.

**Edwina James** is a little better. She hopes to be in services today.

Bill Stewart from Bear Valley Bible School will be with us next Sunday morning. He will give a presentation on his mission work during Bible class and will be preaching during the worship hour.

Gospel meeting—at Doniphan church of Christ February 24-27 at 7:00pm nightly with Bro Don Blackwell, Director of the Gospel Broadcasting Network as guest speaker.

The March Area-Wide Singing will be March 2 at Black Rock church of Christ beginning at 6:00PM.

The group that was stranded in Haiti were able to get a helicopter to fly them safely to the airport.

Pyburn St church is responsible for church services at **Pocahontas Health and Rehab Nursing Home** this month. Those that can help, please be at the Home at 2:00pm.

## Plan of Salvation

**Hear – Romans 10:17** “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.

**Believe – John 8:24** “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”.

**Repent – Luke 13:3** “I tell you, nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”.

**Confess – Romans 10:10** “For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”.

**Be Baptized – I Peter 3:21** “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”.

## Local Missions

### **KPOC 104.1 FM–RADIO PROGRAMS**

Sunday morning @ 8:00 AM

Mon. – Fri. @ 6:15, 11:55, & 4:55

### **IN SEARCH OF THE LORD’S WAY**

Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 13 (Memphis)

Sunday-7:30 AM on Cable 4 (Little Rock)

Sunday-7:30 AM on Direct Channel 367

### **SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE**

Sunday-9:00 AM on Cable 9 (KAIT 8)

### **PREACHING THE GOSPEL**

Sunday-6:30 AM on Dish Channel 267

## World Missions

Ted Knight, Romania

John Reese, World Bible School, Africa

Eddie Cloer, Truth for Today

Ted Lingren, Cambodia

Website—

[www.pyburnstreetchurchofchrist.com](http://www.pyburnstreetchurchofchrist.com)

## February 17, 2019

**Announcements:** Joey Bryant

**Song Leader:** Tom Towell

**Speaker:** Joshua Dement

**AM Sermon:** The Great Unifier

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:18-22

**PM:** Questions and Answer Night

### **Presiding at Table**

Mike Dunn

#### **East**

Elton Fielden

David Futrell

#### **West**

Don McGuirt

Wayne Smith

**Sunday Evening:** Mike Dunn

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

**First Prayer** Byron Futrell

**Closing Prayer:** Doyle Athy

**Read Scripture:** Wayne Smith

### **Sunday Evening Worship**

**First Prayer:** Mike Dunn

**Closing Prayer** Don McGuirt

### **Wednesday Night (Feb 20)**

**First Prayer** Ed Stormes

**Closing Prayer** Joey Bryant

**Invitation** Josh Dement

### **Preparation of Communion for February**

Tom and Carolyn Towell

### **Sunday Services**

**Bible Study** 9:00 AM

**Worship** 9:50 AM

**Evening Service** 6:00 PM

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
7:00 PM

### **Mats for Haiti**

**Ladies Bible Class** Wed 10:30am

### **Elders**

David Futrell 870-378-3513

Tom Towell 870-892-5087

### **Minister**

Joshua Dement 870-378-5551

## **WELCOME VISITORS!!**

**We appreciate our visitors  
and encourage you to fill  
out a “Visitor’s Card”  
located on the back of the  
pew in front of you.**

## **February Birthdays**

Matt Byrd--4

Linda Waymon--4

Benny Waymon--5

Carol McGuirt--6

Nancy Knotts--9

Wanda Counts--11

Ed Stormes--11

Joyce Chesser--14

Arkie Pierce--14

Peggy Blevins--16

Mike Dunn--18

# **In the Footsteps of Jesus**

**Pyburn Street church of Christ**

305 Pyburn Street, P.O. Box 187, Pocahontas, AR 72455

870-892-5596

**February 17, 2019**

## **Handclapping And Worship**

By Mel Futrell

In the course of one’s Christian life, it is inevitable that issues and the persons promoting them will arise and must be looked at critically. The apostle Paul’s declaration in Romans 16:17 stands behind this remark:

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”

The word “mark” is from the Greek *skopein* and means to look at critically, to keep an eye on, to take careful notice of. I believe that the ongoing practice of handclapping in connection with singing, and for that matter handclapping period, in a religious context is such an issue, one that should be critically reviewed. We grant that our opposition to a thing does not in and of itself represent binding legislation. But since we must have the authority of Christ for all we do in religion [Mt. 28:18; Col. 3:17] and since we are to speak only as “the oracles of God” [1 Pet. 4:11] then it follows that any practice that doesn’t fit this criteria lacks authority and must be rejected. At the outset let me say that I do not believe that rhythmic handclapping in connection with singing and handclapping as approval, say at a baptism, are exactly parallel. Although I’m opposed to both, my line of argumentation would be somewhat different.

Brethren, the fact of the matter is that **rhythmic** handclapping represents percussion music. As such, it is an addition to the only authorized form of music for the worship of the church; which is congregational, verbal, vocal music. Proof of the above contention is to be found in the following definitions of “clap” and “music” (con’t)