

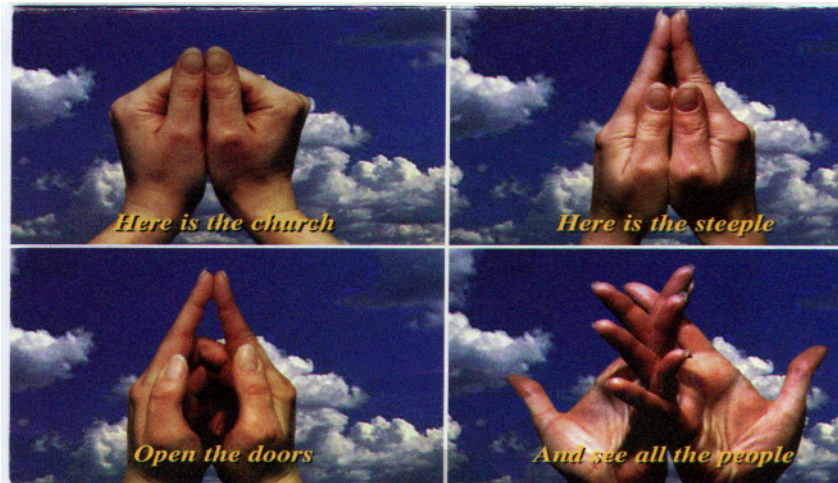
# ☆ Shepherd's Voice ☆

## Orcutt Christian Church Newsletter



Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

### The Minister's Musings Bro. Archie Miller February 2018



## Why Do I Need To Be A Member of OCC

Church membership is not only important to us at Orcutt Christian Church for practical reasons—making sure we have accurate contact information and knowing who you are so we can minister to you better—it is also very important to us for Biblical reasons.

The Bible refers to the church as a "body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) and says that the "body" is made up of many individual parts, each of which has a unique function to fulfill and contribution to make to the mission of that particular "body," or church.

We believe in church membership because it helps us identify ourselves as a unified "body" that needs each person in order to function at our highest capacity.

The Bible also talks about the importance of being part of a community that can help meet each other's needs (Acts 2:42-47) and the importance of submitting ourselves to the leaders of a church (Hebrews 13:17), which both happen best through the commitment and accountability of church membership. Paul reminds us in Hebrews 10:24-25 (NASB) “<sup>24</sup>and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*...”

While the Bible does not specifically command people to become members of a church, we believe that having a membership and committing to it is the best way to cultivate the kind of community the Bible describes the church to be..

## “Chancing one’s arm”

In Dublin, Ireland is the famous, old, historic, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and in St. Patrick’s is a very old door. It was doing it’s duty when Christopher Columbus first arrived in the Americas. There is a long, rectangular hole hacked out of the center of the door. And therein lies a lesson for us.

In 1492, two prominent families, the Ormonds and Kildares were in the midst of a bitter feud. Besieged by Gerald Fitzgerald, Earl of Kildare, Sir James Butler, Earl of Ormond, and his followers took refuge in the chapter house of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, bolting themselves in. As the siege wore on, the Earl of Kildare concluded that the feuding was foolish. Here were two families, worshipping the same God, in the same church, living in the same country, trying to kill each other. So he called out to Sir James and, as the inscription on the door in St. Patrick’s says, “under-took on his honor that he should receive no villanie.” “Wary of some further treacherie, Ormond did not respond. So Kildare seized his spear, cut away a hole in the door and thrust his hand through. It was grasped by another hand inside the church, the door was opened and two men embraced, thus ending the family feud.

“The expression ‘chancing one’s arm’ originated with Kildare’s noble gesture. There is a lesson here for all of us who are engaged in ‘family fueds’, whether brother to brother, language to language, nation to nation. If one of us would dare to chance his arm, perhaps that would be the first crucial step to the reconciliation we all ! seek.”

<http://www.stpatrickscathedral.ie/thedoor.htm>

## **New Board. New Beginnings**

We have a new board who have clasped hands to serve you here at Orcutt Christian Church. They have “chanced their arms.”

**Elders** are Ed Saunders and Archie Miller. **Deaconesses** are Cindy Saunders, Heather Webb, and Marilyn Currier. **Trustees** are Genevieve Williams, Cindy Saunders and Heather Webb. **Church Clerks** are Betty Aytes and Sheila Decker. **Treasurer** is Wayne Webb. **Financial Secretaries** are Linda Light and Sheila Decker.

### **Hebrews 13:17-19 (NASB)**

**<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. <sup>18</sup> Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things. <sup>19</sup> And I urge you all the more ...**

