

THE BEACON CHURCH

Dear Friends,

On behalf of *The Beacon Church*, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our time of praise and Bible study. Our heart felt desire is to minister to the needs of our community. If you are currently searching for a Church home, we ask that you prayerfully consider our fellowship. If you are in need of prayer or if you are not certain that you have a home in Heaven please contact us at 803-873-6596.

God Bless You,

Thomas Vaughan,
Daniel Martin,
& Bill Parisher

OUR MISSION is to grow in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to make Him known to all the people groups of the world.

OUR PURPOSE is to honor and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our purpose will be achieved through the following means:

Jesus commanded mankind to love God with all that we are. **Worship** is how we express our all-consuming love for God. There are numerous forms of worship: prayer, studying the Bible, obedience to God's will, serving the Church, giving of tithes and offerings, praising, etc. Worship occurs on three levels: the individual level, the small group level, and the corporate level. Worshipping God is the main purpose of The Beacon Church.
(*Matthew 22:34-40; Acts 2:41-47*)

Jesus also commanded mankind to love our neighbors the way we already love ourselves. **Ministry** is expressing God's love toward others by meeting their needs. A person's need may be spiritual, physical, emotional, or relational. The Beacon Church has a responsibility to minister to our immediate community and the global community, as well as its membership.
(*Matthew 22:34-40; Matthew 25:31-46*)

CONTEMPORARY Worship
GENUINE Fellowship
THE WORD of God

WHAT WE BELIEVE

In Essential Beliefs – We Have Unity.

(Ephesians 4:4-6)

In Non-essential Beliefs – We Have Liberty.

(Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)

In All our Beliefs – We Show Charity.

(1 Corinthians 13:2)

The Essentials We Believe:

ABOUT GOD

We believe that there is only one true God. He has eternally existed in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. These three persons are co-equal and one God. The Triune God is the Creator, Ruler, and Sustainer of all creation as well as the source of all truth. He is worthy of our love, worship, confidence, and obedience. *(Genesis 1:26-28, 31; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; John 1:1-5, 14, 18; 10:25-30; Colossians 1:15-20)*

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He was born of the virgin Mary. He became a man, without ceasing to be God, in order to reveal God and to redeem mankind from sin. We believe that Christ died for the sins of all people as a substitutionary sacrifice. He arose bodily from the dead for our justification. He is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father. Christ is the Head of the Church (All those who place faith in Him). *(Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Philippians 2:5-9; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:15)*

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the ministry of God the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of sin and regenerates the believing sinner, baptizing him/her into the Church. He indwells, guides, instructs, and empowers believers for godly living and service. We believe that God gives all believers at least one spiritual gift to be used within the Body of Christ. *(2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-15; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:9)*

ABOUT THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is verbally inspired by God. It is without error in the original writings, and It is the Christian's final authority in faith and conduct. *(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)*

ABOUT SALVATION

We believe that salvation is God's free gift. Salvation is not earned in part or in full by any human virtue, work, ceremony, or effort. We receive God's gift of salvation only through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God has delivered Christians from all condemnation and provided every spiritual resource (Holy Spirit, Bible, fellow believers, etc.) needed to live a holy life. In Christ, believers are eternally secure. *(Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; 1:12; John 10:28-30; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21)*

ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

We believe that human beings are the result of God's conscious, purposeful act of creation. God created us to glorify, know, obey, worship, and love Him. We were created in the image of Almighty God. This image has been damaged by our choice to sin against God. As limited, finite beings, mankind's existence is dependent upon God. The only way that people can experience true fulfillment is to have a personal relationship with God by placing faith in Jesus Christ. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; 3:4-6, 20; Matthew 10:28-31; Mark 12:13-17; 1 Corinthians 11:7; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 2 Corinthians 3:18*)

ABOUT THE CHURCH

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, and the Church is His Body. We believe that the true Church is composed of all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit through saving faith in Jesus Christ. The Beacon Church is a local extension of the universal Body of Christ. (*Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 4:15-16; Hebrews 10:25*)

ABOUT ETERNITY

We believe that people were created to exist forever. All of mankind will exist eternally in either Heaven or Hell. Heaven is a literal place of everlasting life in the presence of God without sin. Hell is a literal place of everlasting torment and separation from God. Faith in Jesus Christ allows a believer to spend their eternity in Heaven. Without faith in Jesus Christ, sinful man is condemned to experience the wrath of God in Hell. (*Matthew 5:29; 10:28; 25:31-46; 23:15, 33; John 3:16-20; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 15; 21:1-8; 22:12-15*)

ABOUT SIN

We believe that sin is failure to live up to what God expects of us in action, thought, and being. Sin entered the world through Adam, the first man. Since then, mankind no longer enjoys the close, intimate fellowship with God that we were created for. Because of sin, all human beings are now enemies of God. God is in no way responsible for the sin of mankind. All people choose to sin, but we also have an inherent sinful nature, passed down from Adam, inclining us to wrong acts and thoughts. The results of our sins are tragic and numerous. They include, but are not limited to: divine displeasure, guilt, divine wrath, liability to punishment, enslavement to sin, unwillingness to face reality, and death (physical, spiritual, and eternal). The only solution to humanity's sin problem is the substitutionary, sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. When a person places faith in Jesus Christ, their sins are forgiven, their nature is supernaturally altered, they are indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and they begin the process of being conformed into the perfect, sinless image of Jesus Christ. (*2 Corinthians 5:17; James 1:13-15; Mark 12:13-17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Genesis 2:17; 9:6; Acts 10:9-16; Psalm 5:5; 11:5; Proverbs 6:16-17; Galatians 6:7-8; Hebrew 9:27; Romans 6:23; 3:9-18; Matthew 25:34-40*)

ABOUT SATAN

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel as well as the prince of the fallen angels. Satan also rules this world and blinds the eyes of sinful mankind. He is the adversary of God and of those who love God. He is a slanderer, deceiver, liar, and a tempter. Even though he is very powerful, he is still a limited creature whom believers have been empowered to resist. Finally, the Devil has already been defeated by our Lord Jesus Christ and is destined to spend eternity suffering in Hell. (*Genesis 3:1-5; Job 1-2; Matthew 6:13; 9:34; John 16:11; 12:31; 14:30; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; James 4:7; 1 John 2:13; Revelation 9:11; Revelation 20:10*)

ABOUT MARRIAGE

We believe that marriage is a contractual relationship between a man and a woman, which is ratified by God. Marriage is both a blessing from our Creator and a symbol of the intimate relationship between a Christian and the Savior. We also believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Finally, we believe that God has commanded that no intimate, sexual activity be engaged in, outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of homosexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

(Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:12; Titus 1:6; Hebrews 13:4)

ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN HOME

We believe that God has given parents the responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We believe that a consistent and complete discipleship will occur when parents and the Church work closely together to teach our children how to study the Bible and apply God's principles to their lives. *(Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused, taking of an unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth control, population control, or the mental or physical well being of the mother are acceptable. *(Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; Isaiah 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)*

ABOUT THE ORDINANCES

Jesus instructed His followers to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the Church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders. These two ordinances are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion is a one-time act of obedience to Christ and an initiation into His Body. It serves as an outward symbol of an inward identification with Christ. The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection, and promised return. Each person must decide whether or not to be baptized or to participate in the Lord's Supper. We do not regard anyone's participation in these practices as a means of salvation. *(Matthew 3:1-17; 28:18-20; 26:17-30; Acts 2:41-47; 8:26-39; 9:18; 16:15; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34; Romans 6:3-11)*

ABOUT GIVING

We believe that every Christian is a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him and is obligated to support his local Church financially. God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. *(Genesis 14:20; Proverb 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17; Malachi 3:8-10)*