

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

## 17 August 2014

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2*

### Topics

#### A.M. Bible Class:

The church = The body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23)

#### A.M. Lesson:

Attitudes in worship (James 2:1-13)?

#### P.M. Lesson:

False teachers (2 Peter 2)

#### Wednesday:

Hezekiah's illness (2 Kings 20)

Pulpit Evangelist

*Ken Knowlton: 428-3494*

Elders

*Greg Briggs: 428-8756*

*John Cunningham: 428-0895*

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	10:00 A.M.

## Giving thanks for our meals

Bristol Palin, August 13, 2014

How many of you pray before you eat, even if you're out in public?

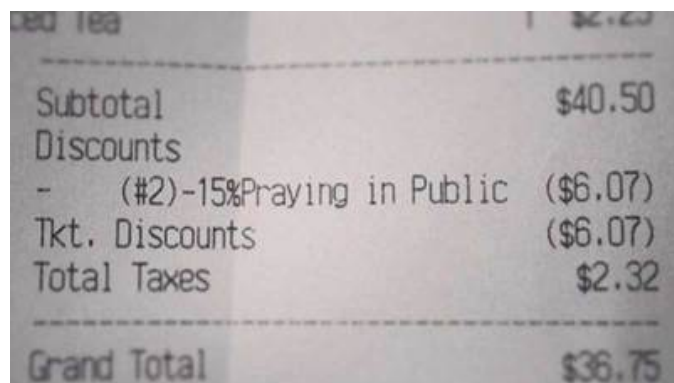
I always think it's touching to see people bow their heads before they dig in.

One restaurant in North Carolina—Mary's Gourmet Diner—acknowledged customers who prayed before meals by offering a 15% discount.

The owner, Mary Haglund, had quietly given the discounts for year. The servers would give the discounts if they saw people praying and it wasn't a

big deal. On the receipt, the percentage off was called a "prayer discounts" but they weren't limited to Christians. Anyone who took a moment of silence or to reflect would get the discount.

What was a quiet policy went national when some diners from out of town noticed the discount on their receipt. Pleasantly surprised, they put their receipt on Facebook.



Subtotal	\$40.50
Discounts	
- (#2)-15%Praying in Public	(\$6.07)
Tkt. Discounts	(\$6.07)
Total Taxes	\$2.32
Grand Total	\$36.75

It went viral.

It didn't take long for the Freedom from Religion Foundation (FFRF) to move in. If Mary's Gourmet Diner didn't stop offering the discount, they'd sue.

Fox reports:

"It has been a real eye-opening experience," Haglund said. "People who have never been here and don't know me say anything they want. It is a little creepy. People have called and said really mean and hateful things that don't even know me."

Thursday, the restaurant decided to change their policy to avoid litigation—and potentially years of expensive legal fees. They put up a sign explaining the policy change, apologizing for "any offense this discount has incurred."

"I just want to make good food and be with happy people," she explained.

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/bristolpalin/>

# The primary purpose of “church services”

First Corinthians 14 provides us with some of the most detailed instruction about the corporate gatherings of Christians in all of the New Testament. In this chapter, Paul explains that church services should primarily be for building up Christians.

Church services should be intelligible to non-Christians. Paul argues that what is done Christian gatherings should be intelligible to non-Christians so that they may hear the gospel, be convicted of sin, and come to faith in Christ. Verses 24-25: “But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Yet fundamentally, church services are for building up Christians. Throughout the chapter, Paul’s dominant concern is that everything in the gatherings build up Christians. Verse 12: “So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.” Verse 26: “What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.”

Bottom line: While churches should certainly view evangelism as one purpose of their gatherings, the primary focus of church services should be to build up Christians.

<http://www.9marks.org/>

Last week I witnessed a person promote the view that the King James Version was the only Bible translation anybody should ever read. He said that any claim of “preference” for another translation providing a clearer picture of God was “putting God in a box.” I have to say, I am truly stunned at the many ways people can be accused of “putting God in a box!” It is an arrogant statement and quite the log-in-my-own-eye rebuke. Below is an appropriate excerpt from a useful article. -ns

## Christian clichés to avoid

Christian Piatt

**I don’t put God in a box.** This actually is a favorite of many progressives. This comes off as pretty arrogant, in my opinion. You’re implying others put God in a box, and that your theological perspective is superior because you don’t. The problem is, anyone who believes in God puts God in a box. Yes, your box may be different than others’ boxes, but unless you share the “mind of God,” your understanding of God is some conscripted, dimly illuminated view of what God actually is, at best.  
<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/christianpiatt/2012/07/nine-final-christian-cliches-to-avoid/>

## News

Fellowship meal today.

The Shorts are out of town this morning.

Mike Cavasos will have sinus surgery on August 26.

Tatyana Knowlton is visiting family in Russia and Ukraine.

John and Sharon Cunningham are traveling.

The Atchleys are back in town.

A **building cleaning** is scheduled for

September 6 at 10:00 A.M. Breakfast will be served from 8 to 10 A.M.

## Prayer List:

*Bill and Barbara Eisenberg, H.L. Boling, Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Nic and Ani Self, Richard Tuey.*

