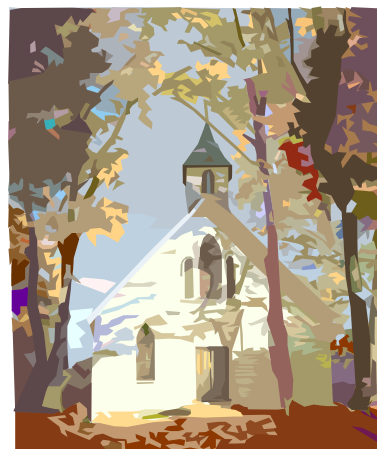


Port Orchard Church of Christ



Where Jesus is Lord, Jesus is
Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Are We Raising Athletes or Christians?

If you know me and my family personally, you probably know my nine-year-old son loves baseball. He watches nearly every Texas Rangers' game on television (or lies in bed listening to them on the radio), he pitches for his Little League team, he could sit and talk about baseball for hours on end, and it's a rare occasion that he does not have some sort of ball in his hand (even in the house). But I strongly believe Christian families need to exercise caution when their children have athletic talent and passion.

The Idolatry of Sports

I believe anything can become an idol and I think a good definition of idolatry is, "Feeling about some *thing* the way you should only feel about God." Idolatry is believing, deep down in your heart, that you cannot be whole without this *thing* in your life. In other words, this *thing* makes life worth living. So, it's not hard to see how Americans idolize sports:

- Are the gigantic stadiums we construct really very different from ancient temples?

- Aren't professional athletes sort of like priests, who intercede with the sport on our behalf?
- Don't Americans watch, listen to, and read about sports *religiously*?
- Doesn't our favorite team playing seem to trump everything else in our lives?
- Isn't our emotional state dependent on the performance of our team?
- Don't many Americans believe sports make life worth living?

I don't want my son to idolize baseball. I don't want him to think baseball makes life worth living. I don't want him to believe he can't be whole without baseball. I want him to know baseball could disappear overnight and everything would be just fine.

Don't get me wrong. I want him to play baseball and enjoy it as long as he wants to; but at the end of the day, I want him to remember that it is a game...not a god.

(Continued on back page.)

Church Staff:

Kelli Keagle..... 757.389.1382

Deacons:

Gary Chasteen..... 360.895.4143
 Gene Gerard..... 360.876.4612
 Troy Hill 360.674.7181
 Brad Orser.....360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century

church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we have a

ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

-Port Orchard Church of Christ

Save the Dates!

Saturday 12/2 Deacons
8:00 am Meeting

Sunday 12/3 Congregational
Meeting

Sunday 12/10 All Saints Potluck

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview

Gene Gerard will be preaching this upcoming Sunday. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

Wish a happy birthday to the following members and extended members: Trinity Delay--01, Serenity Delay--01, Brandon Zepf--02, Nicole Nystrom--02, Tim Blair--06, Jessica Zepf--07, Micah Blair--08, Tiffany Rousseau--10, Dan Gross--15, Julie Snyp--21, Renny Woodrow--24, Haddie Keagle--29, and Matthew Esquivel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Greer

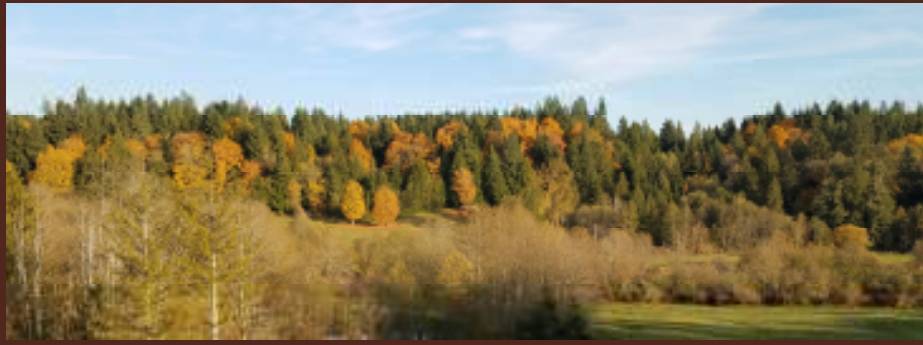
James Greer shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com to listen.

Woodrows

The Woodrows are in need of a place to live by the end of the month. Please contact Pam or the office if you have or know of any suitable living arrangements.

Serving November 19, 2017:

Prayer Leader:	Dave Snyp	Communion Prep:	Barbara Chasteen
Scripture Reader:	Gene Gerard	Communion Cleanup:	Bratcher Family
Offering Thoughts:	Brandon Zepf	Song Leader:	Darrell Fry
Communion Meditation:	Troy Hill		
Servers:	David Lawrence & Jacob H.		
Ushers:	Brandon K. & Terry Bratcher	Children's 9:30 Helper:	Karen Taylor
Greeters:	Lori Sanders & Deloris Lawler	Children's Church:	Kelli Keagle
Prayer Partners:	Ken & Tammy Avery	Preaching:	Gene Gerard
Sound:	Charlie Hammock		
Slides/Lighting:	Lisa Bratcher		



November 12, 2017

Worship: 74

Class: 42

Offering: \$2,484.00

Taking Care of Our Building

Parents, please remind children and teens that they need to clean up after themselves: wrappers, papers, cups, etc. Also, keep sticks, leaves, and rocks outside. There is paper provided in the foyer for coloring on during the service. The Welcome cards and blue post-cards are reserved for the purposes they are intended. Teachers, please have kids clean up and reset the chairs in your classrooms the last 10 minutes of class.

Fall Work Party

When: November 18th, 8:00am-5:00pm

Where: Delano Bay Christian Camp

What: Get the camp ready for winter! Lunch is provided.

Area-Wide Thanksgiving

When: Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 6:30pm

Where: Woodinville church of Christ

22502 75th Avenue SE

Woodinville, WA 98072-9777

What: Singing at 6:30, Meal at 7:00. Mark Jamieson of the Puyallup church of Christ will be speaking. Contact 425-481-4008 if you would like to participate in the song-leading.

Men's Breakfast

When: December 2, 2017, 8:00 am

Where: Lakeview church of Christ

1709 South 112th Street

Tacoma, WA 98444

Suggested Donation: \$4. All proceeds benefit Delano Bay Christian Camp.

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Renata Clark

Michelle Herbert

Karri Schmeltzer's mother & father

Connie Greer

Frankie Gower

Delores Brun

DeLoris Lawler's daughter Elaine

DeLoris Lawler's friend Linda

Runell Mason

David Latham

Wayne Hammock's friend Rick

Melvin Byrd

Encouragement:

Mitchell Family & Theresa Saint over the passing of Gene Mitchell & Armani Saint

Mary Peters

Wayne Hammock

Family & Friends of DJ Magneson

John Kaiser family-loss of child

Travelling:

James Greer

Darrell & Laura Fry

Jim & Cindy Snead

Other:

Herberts expecting their 7th child

All those who are dealing with loss and recovery due to the fires, floods, and hurricanes.

Our children, church, nation, President Trump and ministries.

That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.

Wildland Firefighters in Idaho, a brotherhood of Gene Mitchell

(Continued from page 1)

The Priority of Jesus

When I was a kid, my mother used to tell me, “You can only have one priority.” There can only be one thing that’s most important in your life. There can only be one thing that takes precedence over everything else. As a father, I am determined that baseball will NOT be our family’s priority.

In Matthew 10:37-39, Jesus said this about being His follower:

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

If Jesus was talking to us today, wouldn’t He say, “**Whoever loves baseball or soccer more than me**

is not worthy of me, and whoever loves football or basketball more than me is not worthy of me”? Jesus said His kingdom must be our priority. Everything else must be considered “rubbish” in comparison (Philippians 3:8).

Bottom Line

Every Christian family must decide how they will go about making sure sports never become idols in their homes. We all must make sure that in our own hearts, and in the hearts of our children, some mascot does not sit on the throne where Christ should be seated. We must not allow sports to rule over our lives, dictating our schedules and determining our emotional state. We are going to have to turn off some games and verbally declare, “Sports are not an *ultimate* thing in our home.”

We are going to have to be **incredibly intentional to spend far more time, money, and energy on the things of Jesus Christ** than we do on sports. Children intuitively understand what is most important in your home. They pick up on the verbal, and non-verbal, cues about what takes precedence. They can tell if games and practices are more important to us than worship, Bible study, evangelism, and service to others. **It isn’t just the sermons we preach with our mouths, but the sermons we preach with our wallets and our calendars.**

As my boys grow, I have to constantly ask myself the rhetorical question, “Am I raising athletes or Christians?”

I love you and God loves you,
Wes McAdams
September 20, 2017
www.radicallychristian.com

Port Orchard Church of Christ
4135 Carr Lane SE
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360.876.2604
churchpococ@gmail.com
www.pococ.weebly.com