

# Things Have Changed

## I Intend to...

- Look at changes within churches of Christ that show being *a cappella* to be an out of date standard for judging whether a church is faithful to the Lord.
- Present examples of these changes from the website of various churches of Christ in Tennessee, etc.
- Show why these changes came about.

“A Cappella” is not enough...

## Concerning Music in Worship

- In 1936 churches of Christ were strong in their stand against mechanical instruments of music in worship.
- Why? Because the N.T. is clear that worship is to have vocal music, or singing – 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13; 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18
- Things have changed in many churches of Christ concerning music in worship.
  - Many have compromised, having both traditional and contemporary worship
  - Traditional – a cappella, singing and making melody in the *heart*
  - Contemporary – Instrumental accompaniment, bands, clapping, worship teams which perform for the church, etc.

# Examples of Change in Worship Music

## Harpeth Hills church of Christ – Brentwood, TN (www.harpethhills.org)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website for Harpeth Hills Church of Christ. The browser's address bar shows the URL [harpethhills.org/new/](http://harpethhills.org/new/). The website features a navigation menu with links for 'WHO WE ARE', 'CONNECT', 'NEWS', 'EVENTS', 'MEDIA', 'GIVE', and 'REALM'. A secondary navigation bar includes 'I'm New' and 'Service Times & Directions'. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are visible. The main content area includes a paragraph about the church's worship style, a menu with 'WORSHIP' selected, service times for Sundays at 8:30 and 10:50am, and a 'SHARE' section with icons for Facebook, Twitter, and email. A map on the right side shows the church's location at 1949 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, TN 37027, with a 'Get Directions' link.

Harpeth Hills Church of Christ – Brentwood, TN  
(www.harpethhills.org)

At Harpeth Hills you can expect ordinary people gathering to worship an extraordinary God. We worship together, sing songs together, pray together and learn together. Our Welcome Center is directly outside the Auditorium front doors. If you need assistance locating a class, the nursery, or a restroom please visit this area. Have a question now? [Contact us.](#)

**WORSHIP** CLASSES CHILDREN PARKING

**Sundays at 8:30 & 10:50am**

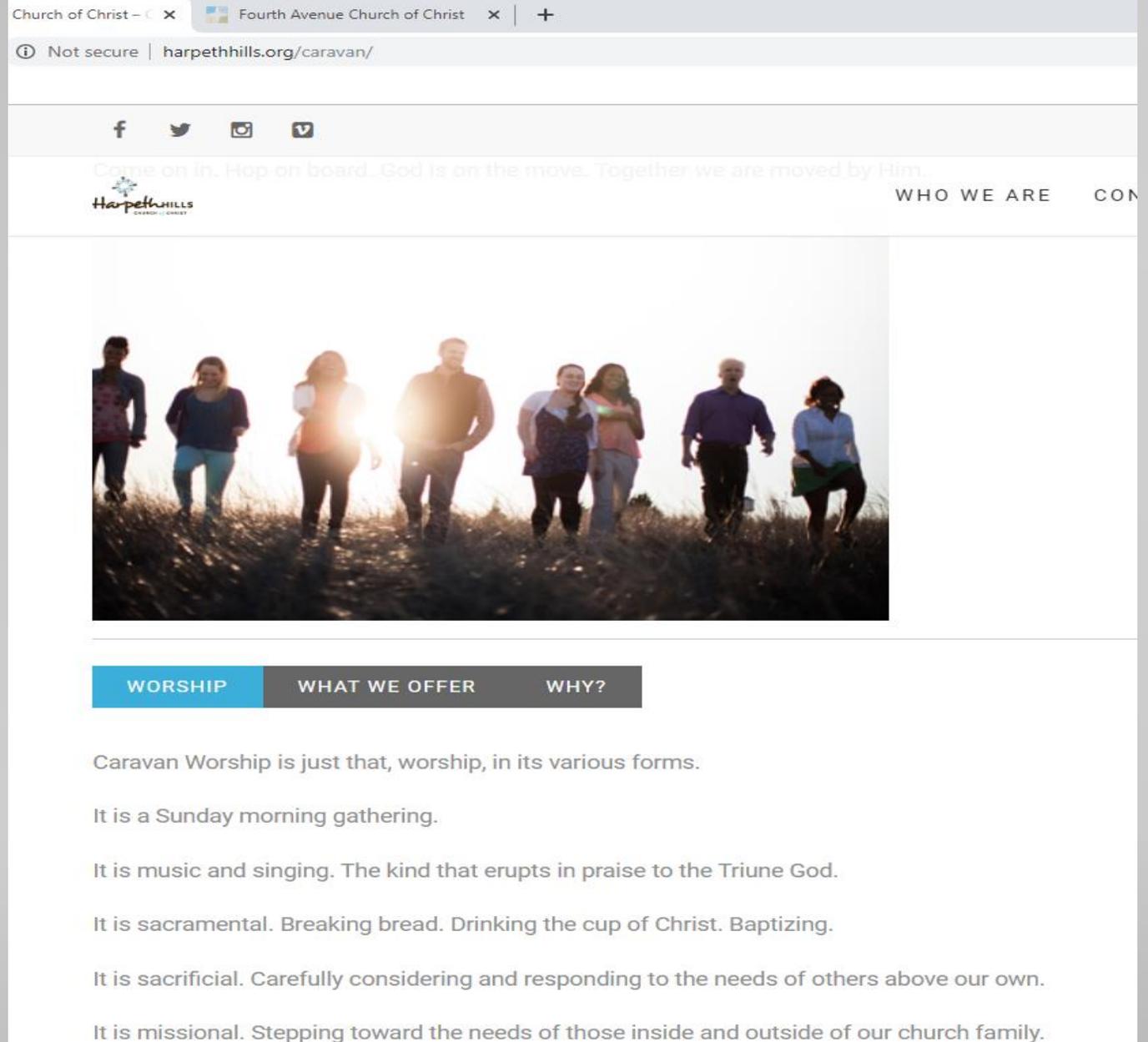
We worship as a group on Sunday mornings. Assemblies in the Auditorium are a Cappella (no instruments) at 8:30am and 10:50am. Our Caravan Worship gathering meets in the Gym at 10:50am.

SHARE [f](#) [t](#) [e](#)

1949 Old Hickory Boulevard, Brentwood, TN 37027  
[Get Directions](#)

# Examples of Change in Worship Music

## Harpeth Hills CHURCH of CHRIST – Brentwood, TN (www.harpethhills.org)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs: "Church of Christ" and "Fourth Avenue Church of Christ". The address bar displays "Not secure | harpethhills.org/caravan/". The page features a navigation bar with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. Below the navigation bar is a header with the text "Come on in. Hop on board. God is on the move. Together we are moved by Him." and the Harpeth Hills Church of Christ logo. A large photograph shows a group of people walking on a grassy hill at sunset. Below the photo is a menu with three items: "WORSHIP" (highlighted in blue), "WHAT WE OFFER", and "WHY?". The main content area contains the following text:

Caravan Worship is just that, worship, in its various forms.

It is a Sunday morning gathering.

It is music and singing. The kind that erupts in praise to the Triune God.

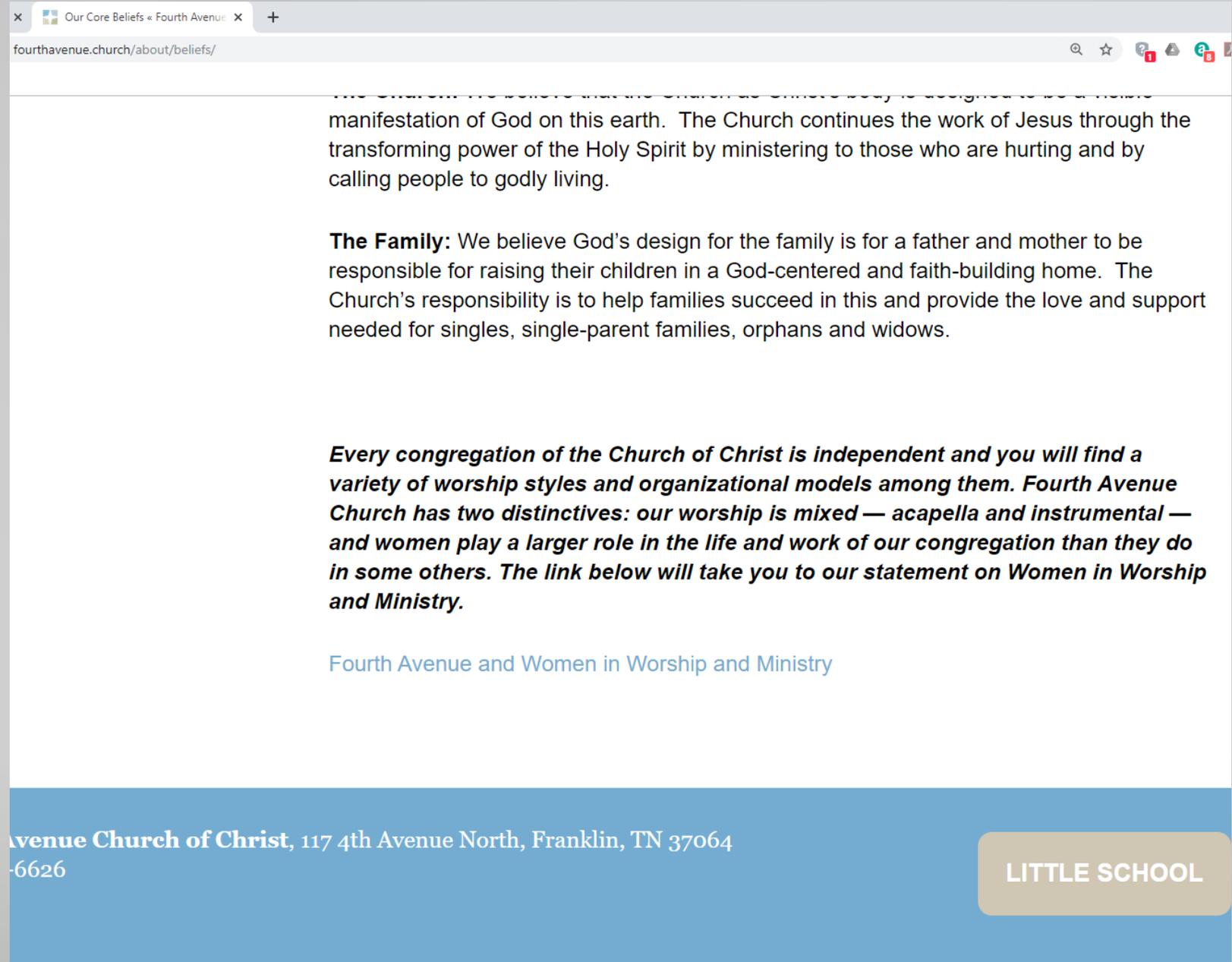
It is sacramental. Breaking bread. Drinking the cup of Christ. Baptizing.

It is sacrificial. Carefully considering and responding to the needs of others above our own.

It is missional. Stepping toward the needs of those inside and outside of our church family.

# Examples of Change in Worship Music

## Fourth Avenue – A Church of Christ – Franklin, TN (www.fourthavenue.church)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "fourthavenue.church/about/beliefs/". The page content includes a paragraph about the church's mission, a section titled "The Family" describing beliefs about family structure, and a paragraph about worship styles. At the bottom, there is a blue footer bar with contact information and a "LITTLE SCHOOL" button.

manifestation of God on this earth. The Church continues the work of Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit by ministering to those who are hurting and by calling people to godly living.

**The Family:** We believe God's design for the family is for a father and mother to be responsible for raising their children in a God-centered and faith-building home. The Church's responsibility is to help families succeed in this and provide the love and support needed for singles, single-parent families, orphans and widows.

*Every congregation of the Church of Christ is independent and you will find a variety of worship styles and organizational models among them. Fourth Avenue Church has two distinctives: our worship is mixed — acapella and instrumental — and women play a larger role in the life and work of our congregation than they do in some others. The link below will take you to our statement on Women in Worship and Ministry.*

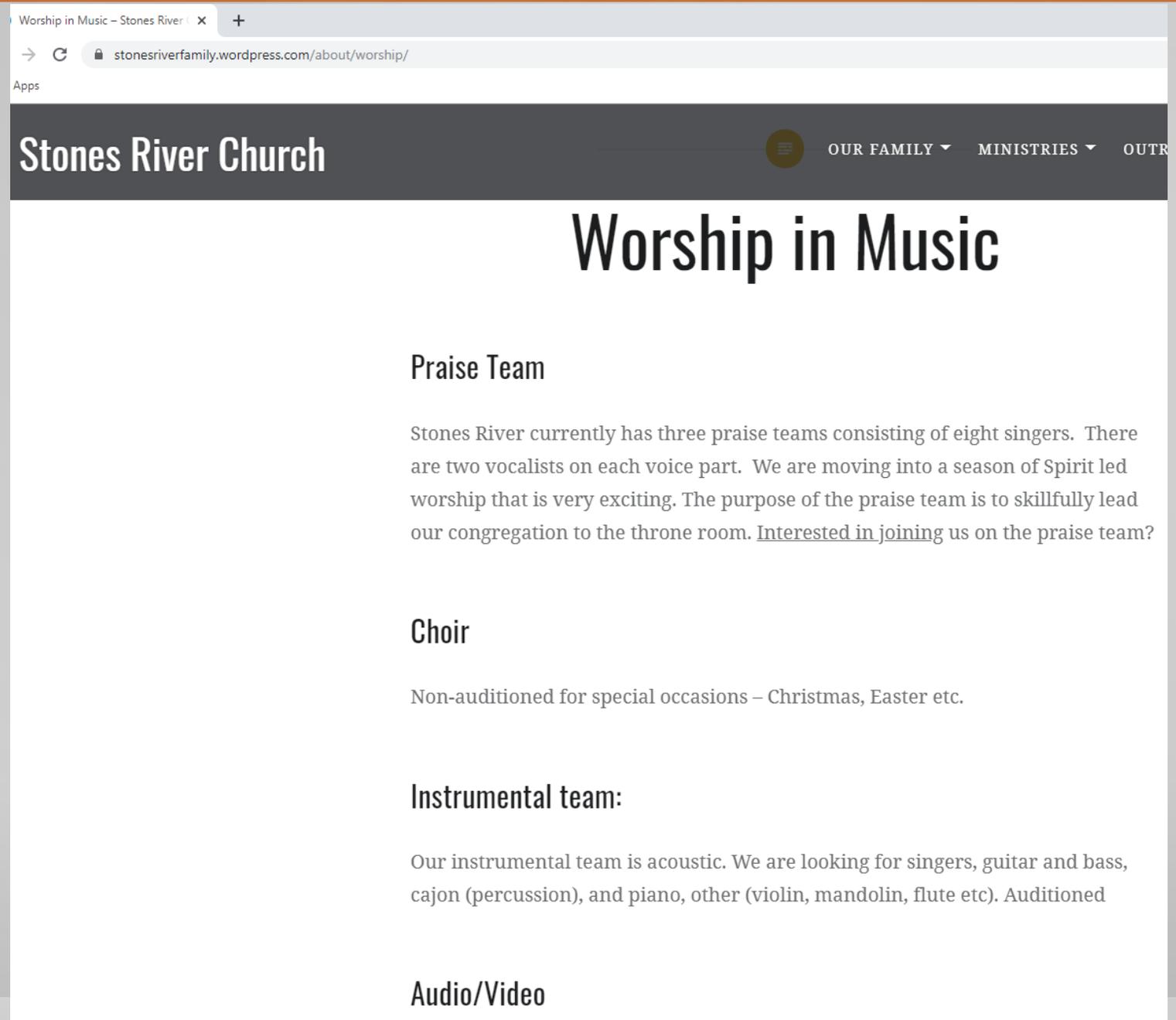
[Fourth Avenue and Women in Worship and Ministry](#)

Fourth Avenue Church of Christ, 117 4th Avenue North, Franklin, TN 37064  
6626

LITTLE SCHOOL

# Examples of Change in Worship Music

**Stones River – A  
Church of Christ –  
Murfreesboro, TN**  
([www.stonesriverfamily.  
wordpress.com](http://www.stonesriverfamily.wordpress.com))



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "stonesriverfamily.wordpress.com/about/worship/". The page header includes the church name "Stones River Church" and navigation links for "OUR FAMILY", "MINISTRIES", and "OUTR". The main content area features a large heading "Worship in Music" followed by three sections: "Praise Team", "Choir", and "Instrumental team:". Each section contains a brief description of the group and their current activities or needs.

Worship in Music – Stones River

stonesriverfamily.wordpress.com/about/worship/

Apps

Stones River Church

OUR FAMILY ▾ MINISTRIES ▾ OUTR

## Worship in Music

### Praise Team

Stones River currently has three praise teams consisting of eight singers. There are two vocalists on each voice part. We are moving into a season of Spirit led worship that is very exciting. The purpose of the praise team is to skillfully lead our congregation to the throne room. [Interested in joining](#) us on the praise team?

### Choir

Non-auditioned for special occasions – Christmas, Easter etc.

### Instrumental team:

Our instrumental team is acoustic. We are looking for singers, guitar and bass, cajon (percussion), and piano, other (violin, mandolin, flute etc). Auditioned

### Audio/Video

# Examples of Change in Worship Music

**Stones River – A  
Church of Christ –  
Murfreesboro, TN**  
([www.stonesriverfamily.wordpress.com](http://www.stonesriverfamily.wordpress.com))

of Christ adds instrument x +

dnj.com/story/life/2015/04/16/local-church-christ-adds-instruments-worship/25891291/

**Daily News Journal** HOME NEWS SPORTS BLUE RAIDERS ARCHIVES USA TODAY MORE

## Church of Christ adds instruments to worship

Murfreesboro Published 2:37 p.m. CT April 16, 2015



(Photo: Submitted)

MURFREESBORO – Traditionally, the Church of Christ denomination is known for the lack of instrumental music in worship. Some allow musical instruments for non-worship functions or fellowship activities, while others ban the practice in the church building all together.

But on Palm Sunday, Stones River Church of Christ made a radical move — at least by denominational standards — to allow instrumental worship to take place on Sunday morning.

“There’s an a cappella worship and an instrumental worship time,” said minister Tony Woodall. “We honor our (denomination’s) heritage and still have a cappella worship at Stones River, but we want to honor equally worshipping with instruments.”

For decades, the Churches of Christ have faced the controversy as more contemporary worship services have appealed to younger church-goers, Woodall said. The adamant rejection of instrumental worship has alienated the denomination from the faith community as a whole, he said.

But the change isn’t something that happened overnight, Woodall said.

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**Usher in holiday  
Oaklands Candl**

“A Cappella” is not enough...

# Concerning the Organization of the Local Church

- In 1936 elderships among churches of Christ did not oversee more than one church.
- Why? Because the N.T. teaches that elders oversee the one and only church of which they are members – 1 Pet. 5:1-2; Acts 14:23
- Things have changed in “churches of Christ” concerning the limits of elders’ oversight.

# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

North Boulevard  
Church of Christ –  
Murfreesboro, TN  
([www.northboulevard.com](http://www.northboulevard.com))

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'Campuses' page of the North Boulevard Church of Christ website. The page features a navigation menu with links for Campuses, Events, Ministries, Teaching, Members, and About. Below the navigation is a grid of six campus cards, each with a photo of a church service, the North Boulevard Church of Christ logo, and the name of the campus. The cards are arranged in two rows of three. The first row includes East Murfreesboro, West Murfreesboro, and Smyrna-LaVergne. The second row includes Iglesia De Cristo, Jidū jiāohuì, and MTSU. Each card also lists the Sunday worship time.

Campus Name	Sunday Worship Time
East Murfreesboro	8:00 a.m.   10:30 a.m.   6:00 p.m.
West Murfreesboro	10:00 a.m.
Smyrna-LaVergne	10:30 a.m.
Iglesia De Cristo	10:30 a.m.
Jidū jiāohuì	10:45 a.m.
MTSU	6:00 p.m.

<https://northboulevard.com/campuses/east-murfreesboro>

“A Cappella” is not enough...

### **Concerning Organization of the Local Church**

- In 1936 churches of Christ didn't have women as worship leaders, preachers, or ministers.
- Why? Because the N.T. teaches that worship is led by the men, while women have a submissive role – Titus 2:15; 1 Tim. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 14:34
- Things have changed in churches of Christ concerning women's roles in the church and its assemblies.
- Many churches of Christ employ women in worship to lead prayer, read scripture, and serve at the Lord's table

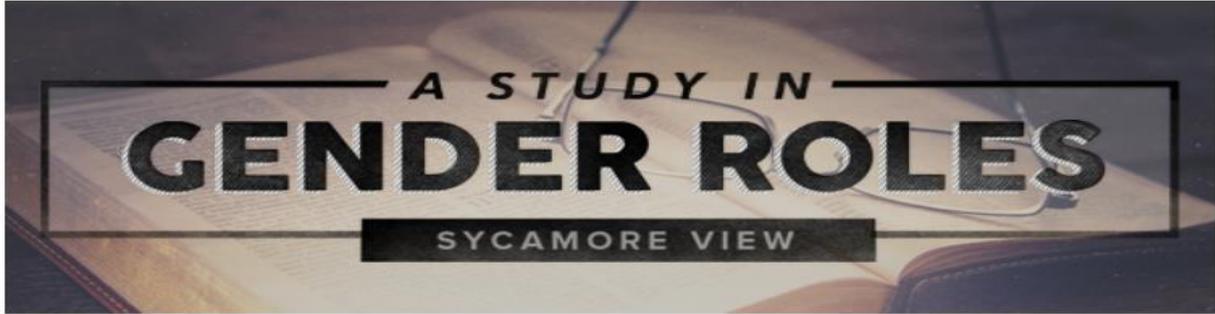
# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

**Sycamore Church of  
Christ – Memphis, TN**  
([www.sycamoreview.com](http://www.sycamoreview.com))



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "sycamoreview.org/grs". The website header features the Sycamore View Church of Christ logo, which consists of a green tree with a cross as its trunk. Below the logo is a green navigation bar with the following menu items: Home, Discover, Connect, Serve, Give, Events, and Media.

## Gender Role Study



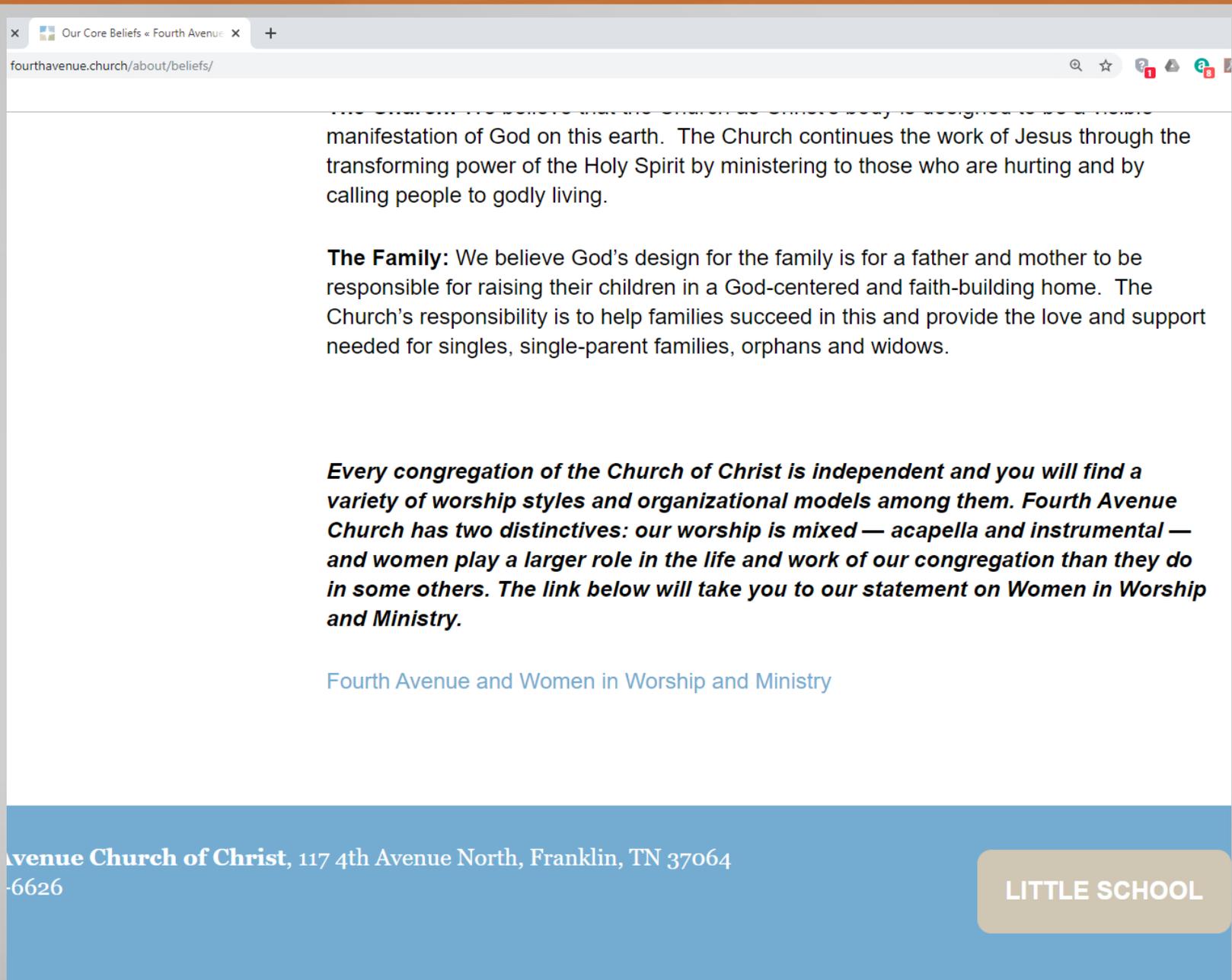
The banner image shows an open book with a pair of glasses resting on it. The text "A STUDY IN" is written in a smaller font above the large, bold text "GENDER ROLES". Below "GENDER ROLES" is a black rectangular box containing the text "SYCAMORE VIEW" in white.

In the summer of 2012, a team of shepherds and ministers was formed to study and discern the role of women in public worship. As we considered the culture and context of early Christians, we were forced to ask difficult questions about interpretation as we sought answers from scripture. Through a variety of settings, we have studied, prayed, fasted, and sought wisdom from other churches that have also reconsidered this important issue. The study has been an exciting, challenging, and sometimes uncomfortable process as any deep, objective study of God's word often becomes.

As a result, we have concluded that before God, there is a calling and clear examples from Scripture to move in the direction of expanding women's roles in public worship. We believe it to be in keeping with what would have been experienced in the early church as well.

# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

## Fourth Avenue Church of Christ – Franklin, TN (www.fourthavenue.church)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "fourthavenue.church/about/beliefs/". The page content includes a paragraph about the church's mission, a section titled "The Family" describing its beliefs on family structure, and a paragraph about independent congregations. A blue link is provided at the bottom of the page.

manifestation of God on this earth. The Church continues the work of Jesus through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit by ministering to those who are hurting and by calling people to godly living.

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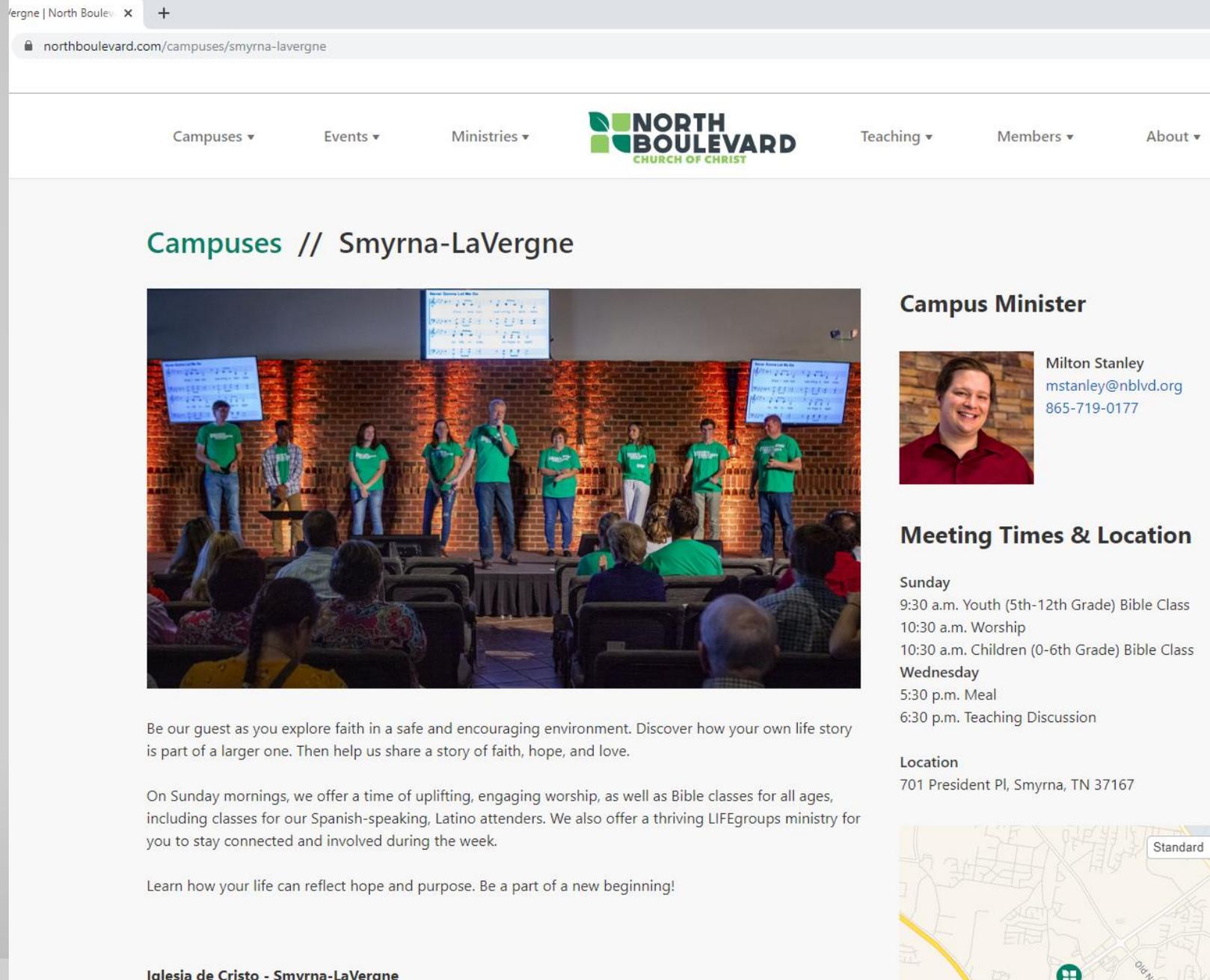
[Fourth Avenue and Women in Worship and Ministry](#)

Fourth Avenue Church of Christ, 117 4th Avenue North, Franklin, TN 37064  
6626

LITTLE SCHOOL

# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

## North Boulevard Church of Christ – Murfreesboro, TN (www.northboulevard.com)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [northboulevard.com/campuses/smyrna-lavergne](http://northboulevard.com/campuses/smyrna-lavergne). The navigation menu includes "Campuses", "Events", "Ministries", "Teaching", "Members", and "About". The main heading is "Campuses // Smyrna-LaVergne". A large photograph shows a church service with a band on stage and a congregation. To the right, the "Campus Minister" is identified as Milton Stanley, with contact information: [mstanley@nblvd.org](mailto:mstanley@nblvd.org) and phone number 865-719-0177. Below this, the "Meeting Times & Location" are listed. The meeting times are: Sunday 9:30 a.m. Youth (5th-12th Grade) Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Children (0-6th Grade) Bible Class; Wednesday 5:30 p.m. Meal, 6:30 p.m. Teaching Discussion. The location is 701 President Pl, Smyrna, TN 37167. A map is partially visible at the bottom right. At the bottom of the page, the text "Iglesia de Cristo - Smvrna-LaVerane" is visible.

ergne | North Boulev x +

northboulevard.com/campuses/smyrna-lavergne

Campuses ▾ Events ▾ Ministries ▾ NORTH BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST Teaching ▾ Members ▾ About ▾

### Campuses // Smyrna-LaVergne



**Campus Minister**



Milton Stanley  
[mstanley@nblvd.org](mailto:mstanley@nblvd.org)  
865-719-0177

**Meeting Times & Location**

**Sunday**  
9:30 a.m. Youth (5th-12th Grade) Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Children (0-6th Grade) Bible Class

**Wednesday**  
5:30 p.m. Meal  
6:30 p.m. Teaching Discussion

**Location**  
701 President Pl, Smyrna, TN 37167

Be our guest as you explore faith in a safe and encouraging environment. Discover how your own life story is part of a larger one. Then help us share a story of faith, hope, and love.

On Sunday mornings, we offer a time of uplifting, engaging worship, as well as Bible classes for all ages, including classes for our Spanish-speaking, Latino attenders. We also offer a thriving LIFEgroups ministry for you to stay connected and involved during the week.

Learn how your life can reflect hope and purpose. Be a part of a new beginning!

Iglesia de Cristo - Smvrna-LaVerane

## Women Ministers

(names and places of  
employment deleted)

Kids' Minister



leads our ministry for newborns through 5th graders. She plans and coordinates all education and events for children as well as serving as a resource to parents.

## Women Ministers

(names and places of  
employment deleted)

Student Minister



works with our Student Ministries Team that serves our 6th-12th graders with Robbie Forrester and Clint Peyton. Emma works to plan events which include the teams objectives & plans for the entire Student Ministry.

# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

## Highland church of Christ – Abilene, TX

Highland to the list of Church x +

reporternews.com/story/life/faith/2019/09/15/add-highland-list-churches-christ-oking-women-preach/2291802001/

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### Add Highland to the list of Churches of Christ elevating women to preaching roles

Loretta Fulton, Special to the Reporter-News Published 12:06 p.m. CT Sept. 15, 2019 | Updated 10:11 a.m. CT Sept. 16, 2019

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Palm Sunday 2019 is a day that Karen Cooke will look back on the rest of her life as a turning point.

She is in her second year at Abilene Christian University's Graduate School of Theology, where she is seeking a master of divinity degree. Cooke has three more semesters to go, but what she learns during that time isn't likely to have the impact she felt in the spring.

That was the day she was invited to be guest preacher at The Refuge, a small Church of Christ congregation that meets in the old Northwest Church of Christ on North Willis Street.

"I was the first woman I ever heard preach in church," Cooke said.

She will preach again Sunday at Minter Lane Church of Christ, where she is a member.

**Holidaykind**

Santa grants soldier's daughter's Christmas wish



# Examples of Change in Gender Roles

## Highland church of Christ – Abilene, TX

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article. The browser's address bar shows the URL: [reporternews.com/story/life/faith/2019/09/15/add-highland-list-churches-christ-oking-women-preach/2291802001/](http://reporternews.com/story/life/faith/2019/09/15/add-highland-list-churches-christ-oking-women-preach/2291802001/). The page features a yellow promotional banner for a "THANKSGIVING SALE" offering "\$3 for 3 Months" with a "SUBSCRIBE NOW" button. The main navigation bar includes the "Abilene Reporter News" logo and links for HOME, NEWS, BUSINESS, SPORTS, and a weather widget showing 59°. A secondary navigation bar contains "USA TODAY", "MORE", a search icon, and another "Subscribe" button. The article content is titled "And now Highland" and discusses the Highland Church of Christ's decision to allow women to preach. The text states that the announcement was met with a neutral response and that church congregations are autonomous. It also notes that while individual congregations are not subject to directives from ruling authorities, they have historically denied women the opportunity to preach or hold other leadership roles. To the right of the article is a "Holidaykind" advertisement for a "Marine pulls off massive Christmas surprise for mom" video, which includes a small image of a family and a caption: "The family planned on video-chatting Nathan while they opened Christmas gifts...".

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**And now Highland**

With that precedence, it isn't surprising that an announcement made a week ago at Highland Church of Christ that women will now be allowed to preach was met with neutral response.

It wasn't the bombshell news flash it once would have been. Church of Christ congregations are autonomous. There is no hierarchy in place, no jurisdictional conferences led by bishops such as in the United Methodist and Episcopal churches, among others.

Though individual congregations aren't subject to directives from ruling authorities, historically they have been united in denying women the opportunity to preach or to hold other leadership roles.

**Holidaykind**  
Marine pulls off massive Christmas surprise for mom

The family planned on video-chatting Nathan while they opened Christmas gifts...

“A Cappella” is not enough...

## **Concerning the Work of the Church**

- In 1936 churches of Christ followed the work of the church revealed in the N.T.
  - Local churches evangelized – Phil. 4:15-16; 1 Thess. 1:7-8
  - Local churches edified their members – Acts 20:26-28, 31-32
  - Local churches practiced benevolence – Acts 6:1-6; 2 Cor. 8:1-4
- Things have changed in churches of Christ concerning the work of the church.
  - Churches are no longer satisfied with drawing the lost through the gospel and keeping the saved through proper worship and bible teaching
  - Churches today provide “fellowship halls” and full-blown recreational programs for their youth, adults, and senior citizens.

Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

**Auditorium/  
Gymnasium**



Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

Talent  
Show



Talent Show 2016 - YouTube x +

youtube.com/watch?v=v6aGtmUC3nk

Apps

YouTube Search

Talent Show 2016

69 views • Apr 20, 2016

Tusculum Church of Christ  
18 subscribers

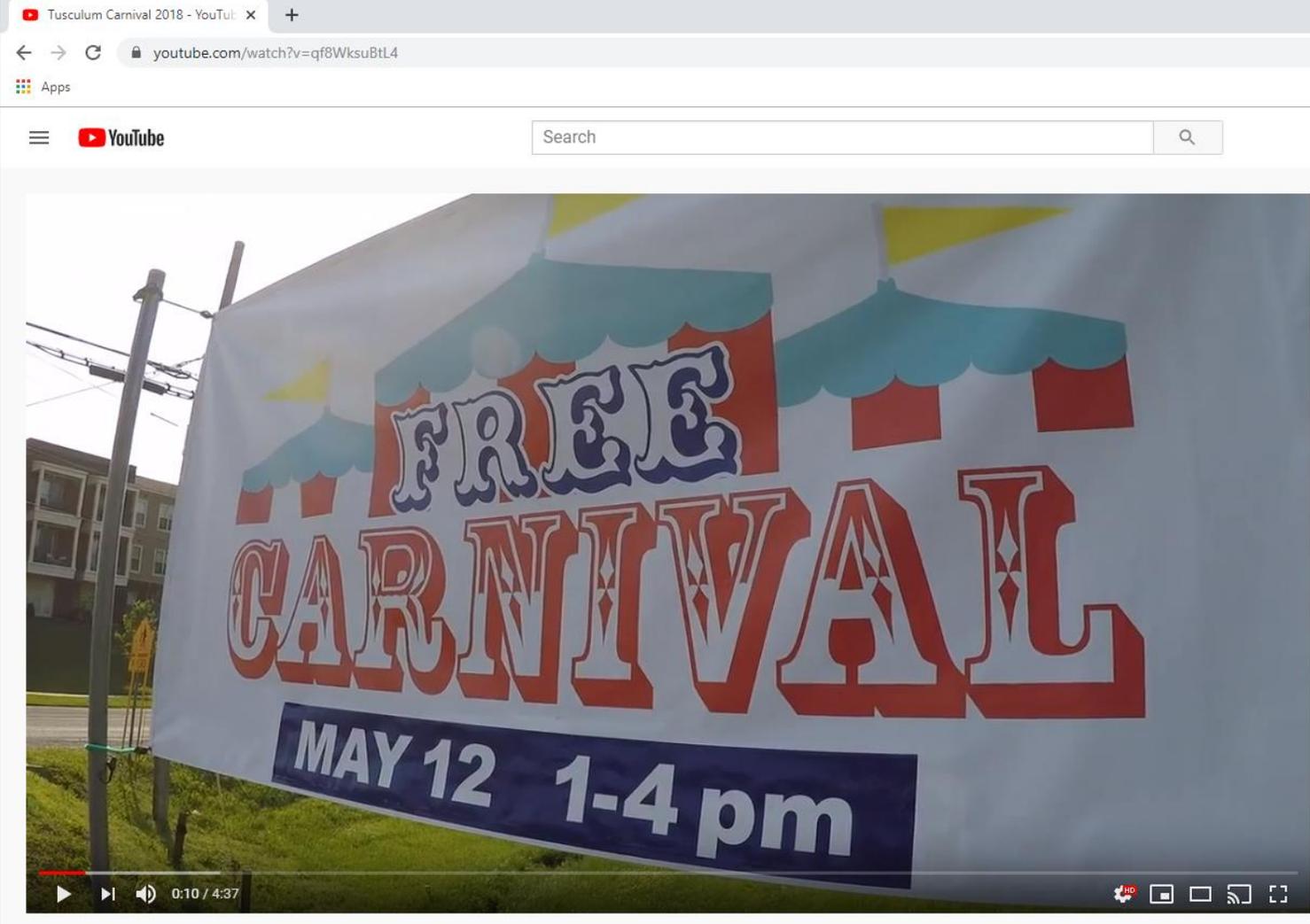
Tusculum's Got Talent talent show and auction to benefit youth summer missions.

0 0 SHARE SAVE ...

SUBSCRIBE

Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

Spring  
Carnival



Tusculum Carnival 2018 - YouTube

youtube.com/watch?v=qf8WksuBtL4

YouTube

FREE CARNIVAL

MAY 12 1-4 pm

Tusculum Carnival 2018

33 views • May 29, 2018

Tusculum Church of Christ  
18 subscribers

Highlights from the 2018 Free Carnival at the Tusculum Church of Christ.

SUBSCRIBE

Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

**Carnival  
Pony Rides**



Tusculum Carnival 2018 - YouTube

youtube.com/watch?v=qf8WksuBtL4

YouTube Search

Tusculum Carnival 2018

33 views • May 29, 2018

TCC Tusculum Church of Christ  
18 subscribers

Highlights from the 2018 Free Carnival at the Tusculum Church of Christ.

Like 0 Dislike 0 Share Save

SUBSCRIBE

Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

**Carnival  
Inflatables**



Tusculum Carnival 2017

33 views • Apr 4, 2018

Tusculum Church of Christ  
18 subscribers

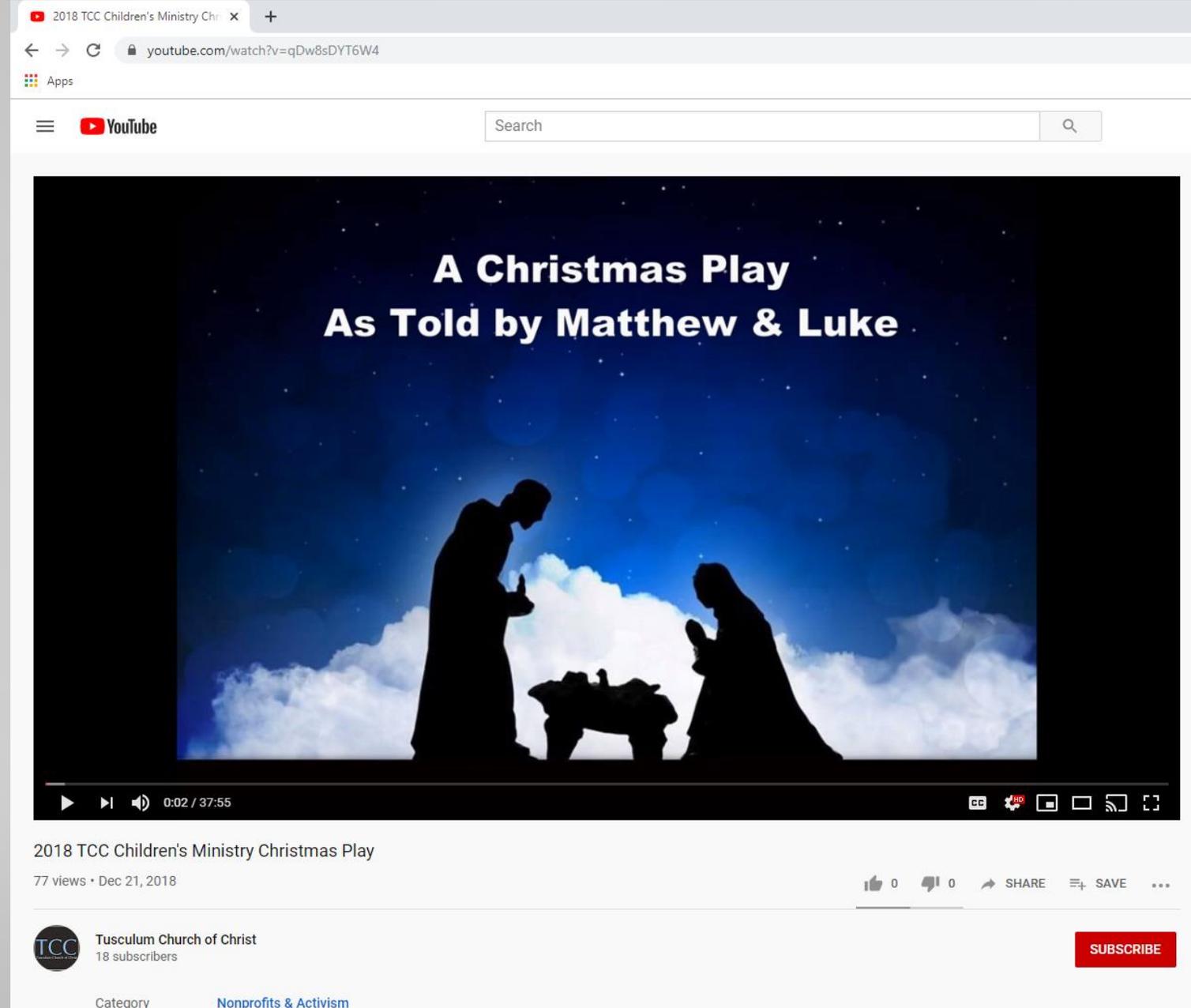
Category Nonprofits & Activism

SUBSCRIBE

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player. The video title is "Tusculum Carnival 2017". The video content is a photograph of several large, colorful inflatable slides (blue, purple, green, and red) set up on a grassy area. In the background, there are buildings and other people. The video player interface includes a search bar, a play button, a progress bar showing 2:37 / 4:45, and a "SUBSCRIBE" button for the channel "Tusculum Church of Christ" which has 18 subscribers. The video is categorized as "Nonprofits & Activism".

Tusculum  
church of  
Christ—  
Nashville, TN

**Christmas  
Play  
(As Told by  
Matthew &  
Luke??)**



The screenshot shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL `youtube.com/watch?v=qDw8sDYT6W4`. The YouTube logo and a search bar are visible. The video player itself shows a dark scene with silhouettes of figures against a bright, cloudy sky. The text **A Christmas Play As Told by Matthew & Luke** is overlaid on the video. Below the video, the title **2018 TCC Children's Ministry Christmas Play** is shown, along with **77 views • Dec 21, 2018**. The channel name **Tusculum Church of Christ** with **18 subscribers** is listed, and a **SUBSCRIBE** button is present. The video category is **Nonprofits & Activism**.



**Why have the Changes Come?**

**Brethren Changed their View of  
Bible Authority 70 Years Ago!**

“No Pattern”:

### Churches Started Supporting Institutions to do their Work

- Churches of Christ had fought institutionalism in the form of the Missionary Society 90+ years before.
- Brethren embraced institutions for benevolence as “**brotherhood homes**” and for edification as “**brotherhood colleges.**”
- This was a departure from scripture which shows local churches doing their own work of benevolence and edification under their own oversight.
- Brethren were warned of this departure from the old paths of God!

## Guy N. Woods

- **Abilene Christian College Lectureship, 1939:** “The ship of Zion has floundered more than once on the sandbar of institutionalism. The tendency to organize is characteristic of the age. This writer has ever been unable to appreciate the logic of those who affect to see grave danger in **Missionary Societies**, but **scruple not to form similar organizations** for the purpose of **caring for orphans** and **teaching young men to be gospel preachers.**”

## The Irony

- The very institutions churches started supporting 70+ years ago are now pushing these liberal changes on the churches.
- The colleges brethren began supporting in the 1940-50s now offer *degrees in local church recreation/social programs*, with many of these programs being open to *women*.
- Most of these colleges *now allow women full participation in their on-campus worship services*.
  - Lipscomb University, Abilene Christian, Lubbock Christian, Oklahoma Christian, Pepperdine University, Rochester University, York College
  - These schools are training young people and preachers to bring women leaders and women preachers, as well as bigger social/recreational programs, into churches of Christ!

“No Pattern”:

## Brethren Changed the Authority of Elderships

- Brethren began harnessing local churches together under the centralized control of one eldership, calling it a “sponsoring church.”
- The sponsoring church was introduced and defeated 35+ years earlier by David Lipscomb and the **Gospel Advocate**.
- **David Lipscomb:** “All meetings of churches or officers of churches to combine more power than a single church possesses is wrong. God’s power is in God’s churches. He is with them to bless and strengthen their work when they are faithful to him...But for one or more to direct what and how all the churches shall work, or to take charge of their men and money and use it, is to assume the authority God has given to each church. Each one needs the work of distributing and using its funds as well as in giving them.” (**Gospel Advocate**, March 24, 1910).
- Ironically, Lipscomb University is now a big supporter of the abuse of eldership authority!

## Brethren Warned Against this Departure

- **Foy E. Wallace, Jr.:** “For one church to help another church bear its own burdens, therefore has scriptural precedent. But for one church to solicit funds from other churches for general distribution in other fields or places, thus becoming the treasury of other churches, is quite a different question. Such procedure make a sort of society out of the elders of a local church, and for such there is no scriptural precedent or example.”  
(**Gospel Advocate**, May 14, 1931)
- Most churches of Christ of that day didn’t listen and opened the door for the abuse of eldership authority we see today!

“No Pattern”:

## Brethren Changed the Church's Work

- Churches began to entertain their youth and members, using their classrooms “which were already there” for eating together, etc., **which was warned against!**
- **B.C. Goodpasture** (*Gospel Advocate*, May 20, 1948): “For the church to turn aside from its divine work to furnish amusement and recreation **is to pervert its mission**. It is to **degrade its mission**. Amusement and recreation should stem from the home rather than the church. The church, like Nehemiah, has a great work to do; and it **should not come down on the plains of Ono to amuse and entertain**. As the church turns its attention to amusement and recreation, it will be shorn of its power as Samson was when his hair was cut. Only as the church becomes worldly, as it pillows its head on the lap of Delilah, will it want to turn from its wonted course to relatively unimportant matters. Imagine Paul selecting and training a group of brethren to compete in the Isthmian games! Of his work at Corinth he said: ‘For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified’ (1 Corinthians 2:2).”
- Despite the warnings, this departure led to churches designing their building with kitchens, fellowship halls, gymnasiums, and having all sorts of recreation and entertainment!

# The Interesting Thing

- Brethren and churches in the 40's behind these changes claimed they were **scriptural**, and that the changes **would go no further!**
- Faithful brethren warned that supporting institutions, the sponsoring church, as well as changing the use of their buildings, would lead to instrumental music in worship, women preachers, church kitchens and fellowship halls, gymnasiums, and all kinds of church recreation and entertainment!
  - At that time you could not tell the difference in a church that accepted these changes and one that didn't, except by looking at a budget statement.
  - Today, the differences are clearly seen in the fact that these churches have proved the predictions warned of by faithful brethren to be true!

# “Why I Left The Christian Church” by Floyd Decker

- Christian Church has women counselors, directors, and lecturers
- Christian Church has educational directors, associate ministers, and youth directors
- Christian church has missionary, benevolent, and educational organizations, and the work of the church
- Christian church has Christmas and Christmas
- Christian church has denominations, leaving the impression all are brethren
- Christian Church seeks to get crowds with youth meetings, campaigns for Christ, rallies, etc.
- Christian Church emphasizes society and the physical man by appealing to the carnal nature with church carnivals, bands, plays, choruses, dramatics, church kitchens, camps, and fellowship halls
- Christian Church elevates the preacher above other members with such titles as Pastor, Doctor
- Christian Church misuses the name “Christian,” which is a noun, by speaking of “Christian Churches,” “Christian Schools,” etc.
- Christian Church owns, supports, and operates publishing houses, radio stations, hospitals, and benevolent societies
- Christian Church owns, supports, and operates schools for secular education through theological schools
- Christian Church has a compromising spirit, will not defend its doctrine, and is a denomination

**There are no small departures  
from Bible authority!**