



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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WHEN IS CHURCH OVER?



"YEAH, CHURCH IS OVER BY 11:30 SO MEETING AT OLIVE GARDEN AROUND 11:45 SHOULD BE FINE." IT WOULDN'T BE UNCOMMON TO HEAR SOMEONE SAYING SUCH ON ANY GIVEN SUNDAY, BUT IT MAKES ME WONDER ... WHEN IS CHURCH OVER?

JUST BECAUSE THE SONGS WERE SUNG AND THE SERMON WAS PREACHED DOESN'T MEAN THAT CHURCH IS OVER. THE FOYER FELLOWSHIP OR SUNDAY MEAL YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS FROM THE CHURCH (SEE ACTS 2:46), EXTENDS WELL PAST 11:30. IN FACT, OUR CHURCH ASSEMBLES AGAIN ON SUNDAY NIGHTS AT SIX. CHURCH ISN'T OVER AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE. FURTHERMORE SOME COMMITTEES AND BOARDS MEET AT 5:00 OR 7:00 ON SUNDAYS. CHURCH DIDN'T END FOR THEM AT 11:30.

SO, MAYBE TO BE MORE SPECIFIC WE SHOULD SAY THAT CHURCH IS OVER AFTER SUNDAY. HOWEVER, THAT WOULD NOT BE TRUE EITHER. I DARE SAY EVERY MORNING MANY OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS, (AND ESPECIALLY OUR NEW PRAYER FORCE TEAM) ARE PRAYING FOR PARTICULAR PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH. THOUGH THEY MAY NOT BE PRAYING TOGETHER, TOGETHER THEY ARE PRAYING. (SEE ACTS 1:14). CHURCH IS NOT OVER.

YOU SEE CHURCH HAPPENS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. EVERY WEEKDAY DEBBIE KENNEDY ASSISTS PASTOR ANDY AND MYSELF WITH VARIOUS PROJECTS AND MANAGES THE CHURCH OFFICE. ON MONDAYS THE CHURCH OFFERINGS GIVEN ON SUNDAY ARE DEPOSITED AND CHECKS ARE WRITTEN BY OUR TREASURER FOR MISSIONARIES, UTILITIES, SUPPLIES AND STAFF. ON TUESDAYS PASTOR ANDY AND I MEET TO DISCUSS OUR CHURCH AND COORDINATE OUR MINISTRIES. CHURCH IS NOT OVER.

SOME MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT OUR CHURCH ATTENDANCE ON WEDNESDAYS IS ABOUT THE SAME AS SUNDAY MORNINGS! WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE LADIES' BIBLE STUDY, AWANA, THE WAY (TEENS), ADULT BIBLE STUDY AND CHOIR REHEARSAL, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO HAVE OVER 150 PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF OUR BUILDING ON WEDNESDAYS. CHURCH IS DEFINITELY NOT OVER. WE ARE GROWING IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD. (SEE 11 PETER 3:17-18).

A COLLEGE AND CAREER GROUP (YAK) MEETS ON THURSDAYS. TEENS HAVE ACTIVITIES ON SOME FRIDAYS OR SATURDAYS, AND MEN MEET FOR PRAYER EVERY SATURDAY MORNING. CONSIDER TOO THE SMALL GROUPS AND SUPPER SIX MEETINGS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. AND WHAT ABOUT THE DOZENS OF HOURS THE PASTORS, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH WORKERS PUT INTO PREPARING SERMONS AND LESSONS. CHURCH ISN'T OVER ON SUNDAY.

THE REALITY IS THAT CHURCH IS A 24/7 ENTITY. CHURCH IS NEVER OVER!

LOOKING UP,
PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE