

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a thick, orange leather-bound book. The person is wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and trees under a bright sky. The overall tone is warm and natural.

What We
BELIEVE

September 2018



COMMUNITYCHURCH

Welcome to Community!

We are glad you're interested in knowing more about the Community Church family. Whether you are new to our community, seeking a church home, or wanting to develop a meaningful relationship with God and His people, you are important to us.

Our mission is to **“Love God and Love Others”!** This involves pursuing all generations with the love of Jesus Christ and helping them know Him.

- We are a people who share God's love with all people, no matter their choices.
- We believe God has called us to be a catalyst for His Kingdom by supporting and celebrating “The Church” locally and globally.
- We believe that with God, nothing is impossible, and we are trusting Him for the journey ahead.
- We are committed to helping individuals know God and make Him known.

This information is designed to inform you about the [culture](#), [beliefs](#), and [practices](#) of Community Church and to help you decide if Community is the right place for you.

So whether you're someone who has questions about faith in God, beginning a relationship with God, or if you're a committed believer who is searching for community and discipleship - you can find a place at Community Church.

Sincerely,

The Pastor, Elders, and Leaders of Community Church

AT COMMUNITY CHURCH

We Desire 4 Things For Everyone!

- **For You To Believe... Belonging Is The Beginning Of Relationships And Growth!**

The most important requirement for becoming all God wants us to be is to have accepted Christ as our Savior. With a true presence of the Lord established in our lives, we will experience the help of the Holy Spirit and all He can bring to our lives.

- **For You To Connect... Building Relationships Is The Centerpiece Of A Christian's Life.**

Jesus modeled this in His ministry, so we should too. We ask those who call Community Church their home to build relationships with those whom they fellowship and serve with. This can be accelerated through Community Groups, which include Bible studies, fellowship groups, and ministry teams. Get to know other people and do life together. Love one another as Christ loved us. The most powerful ministry occurs when believers journey through life together as they follow Christ and serve others.

- **For You To Grow... Becoming All God Has Destined You To Be!**

Jesus challenges all believers to grow. This includes growing to know Christ through your knowledge of the Bible and who you are in Him.

*"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."
II Peter 3:18*

*"Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."
I Timothy 4:7 (Ph)*

- **For You To Serve Others... Blessing Others With Your Life!**

Everyone has something to offer. Start with what you have! Volunteer and get plugged in. Begin to see your school or workplace as your mission field and yourself as God's missionary to those people. Discover and use your God-given gifts and abilities in serving God and others.

*"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..."
I Peter 4:10 (LB)*

There are different kinds of service to God ... together you form the Body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it." I Corinthians 12:5, 27 (LB)

History of Community Church

During the late 1990's, a number of believers joined together to form a new congregation that would be *"Different To Make A Difference"*. This new ministry was called Community Baptist Church.

Prior to owning this property, services were held in the Best Western, American Legion, and The Depot in downtown Guthrie.

In 1998, our current property was purchased, and a [worship center](#) was constructed. The first service in the new building was Easter 1999. Later the [Community Center](#) building was built in **2001**.



But God was not finished!

During the winter of 2002, God brought to Community Church Pastor Jim Hylton as Senior Pastor. During his four years here, Jim gave stabilizing leadership and taught Biblical truths on God's Kingdom today.



In fall of 2003, Community Baptist Church united with First Capital Baptist Church. First Capital Pastor Bill Williams joined with Pastor Jim Hylton to form the new assembly called ["Community Church."](#) During the spring of 2007, Pastor Jim moved to Missouri and, Pastor Bill became the senior pastor.

The name [Community Church](#) was chosen emphasize to being a community-oriented church with openness to other denominational backgrounds. Community Church is made up of people from many different denominational backgrounds. Many original members had a life-long affiliation with Southern Baptist denomination. In honor of that heritage of reaching people and reaching out to the world in missions, we are part of the Southern Baptist Convention, one of the greatest mission-sending agencies in the world. **At the same time**, we greatly value all Christians who follow Christ and affirm His Word, the Bible.



We are [inter-denominational](#) in our appreciation for and relationships with all Christ-believing individuals and churches. The head of our church is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is our companion, and the Bible is our light to guide us to the future.

The future is bright with hope, vision, and expectancy. We believe the Lord wants to share His manifest presence with us, so Jesus is very real to all of us. As Jesus is made real, His power will be released to meet the needs of all who are in need. We believe Jesus has all power both in Heaven and on earth. The supernatural ability of God to do "exceeding abundantly above all we think or ask" is our hope for the future.

Our Mission:

Love God
and
Love Others!

Our Team Values:

- Work Ethic** *(We Go The Extra Mile)*
- Teachable** *(We Are Constantly Developing Ourselves)*
- Humble** *(We Don't Seek Recognition)*
- Resilient** *(We Will Not Be Defeated)*
- Fun-Loving** *(We Create Fun In The Journey)*
- Flexible** *(We Are Willing To Change)*
- Culturally Relevant** *(Our Ministries Impact Our Community)*

OUR BELIEFS & PRACTICES

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into **actions**. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following **beliefs and practices**:

1. **The Bible is our Sole Authority!**

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living and for determining our purpose and structure.

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." II Timothy 3:15

*Psalms 1:2; 119:11, 72, 105, 130, 140; Proverbs 29:18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
1 Corinthians 9:22-23; 14:22-25; Colossians 4:2-6; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 12:1,2;
Ephesians 4:11-12; 5:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 4:6, 13, 16; 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:16&17; Philippians
1:9-10; 4:8-9; Colossians 1:10-12; Colossians 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 2:15,*

2. **Spirit-led Living is the Means!**

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right and to be like Him. *(Jesus said) "I am the Vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing."*

John 15:5 (Philippians 2:13, Ephesians 5:18)

3. **Changed lives is our Win!**

The truths of the **Bible** ministered in **grace** within the **fellowship** of believers, produce changed lives. For lives to be changed, all three elements are necessary.

A person is transformed from the inside out, not from the outside in. Society is best changed by changed people. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

*Luke 19:1-9; John 8:1-11; John 12:1-11; Matthew 6:14-15; 1 John 1:7-9; Hebrews 10:24-25;
Philippians 2:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-10; 1 Peter 1:16;
1 John 1:7-9*

4. **Every Believer is a Minister!**

Every believer receives spiritual gifts at the time of salvation. Through these gifts, believers find fulfillment and effectiveness in serving Christ. We place our emphasis on Scripture being the tool God uses to develop our faith and equip us for ministry. Therefore, we are dedicated to assisting believers in discovering, developing, and demonstrating their gifts. We are also committed to a church organization built on spiritual gifts.

Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Timothy 1:3-8; 1 Timothy 4:9-13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 2:8; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:8-11

5. **Generosity is our lifestyle!**

We believe giving is a reflection of our **heart**, our **trust**, our **commitment**, and our **faith**. We should **give** as God has given to us; fully and because of love.

2 Corinthians 9:5-8

6. **We Are Self-Governing!**

The recognized head of our church is Christ (not any person, group, or religious organization). While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be **self-governing** and **independent** from any denominational control. In relating to future “daughter churches” that we sponsor, we will encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

*“Christ is the head of his Body, the church. He is the source of the Body’s life...”
Colossians 1:18 (GN)*

7. **We Believe In Immersion!**

We practice **baptism** by immersion under water - the way Jesus was baptized. We believe salvation is through the blood of Christ, and baptism, is our confession of salvation.

“For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ...” Colossians 2:12 (GN)

8. We Are An Elder Led Church!

The New Testament clearly teaches the church is to be led by a plurality of godly leaders (elders). Their assignment falls into **four categories**. **First**, they are given both the responsibility and authority to skillfully and lovingly **lead** the flock. **Next**, they are to **feed** the flock, offering accurate and insightful teaching of the Scripture. **Third**, they are to **care** for the flock. This care is shown in the love, concern, prayers, ministry, and adept management of church resources. **Finally**, they are to **protect** the flock from harmful influences and beliefs.

These leaders are known by **three titles**, each of which reveals a separate aspect of their function. All three titles are used in 1 Peter 5:1-2; *“Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;”*

They are **first** called **“elders.”** An elder (Greek “presbuteros”) is a godly leader, whose wisdom and maturity are respected by God’s people. **Next**, these are leaders who give oversight. That is, they are **“overseers”** (Greek “episkapos”). An overseer is a person who is a good manager of resources and guardian of people. **Finally**, these leaders are called **“shepherds,”** which is also translated as **“pastors”** (Greek “poimain”). This word refers to the role of caring for and leading the flock.

It is important to note that within the New Testament model of church organization, authority for leadership is not granted to just one individual pastor, nor is it given as democratic rule by the congregation. Instead, the Scripture states that authority for leadership is conducted by a **plurality of leaders** who are appointed by the church and accountable to God.

The Scriptures further teach that when the elders are supported by the church, both the church body and individual Christians will flourish. (Heb. 13:17; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Pet. 5:1-5; Acts 20:28). These elders do not form a separated “clergy class” of Christians. Instead, the elders, some of whom fill church vocational roles, others non-vocational roles, **are brothers** with the people, **always seeking God’s best for the members of the church.** (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 2 Cor. 8:19)

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

“For this reason, I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you.” (Titus 1:5)

As a result of these principles...

...we will **staff**, **structure**, **preach**, **teach**, **sing**, **budget**, **calendar**, **evaluate**, and **build** according to the purpose God reveals.

This will bring glory to Him through our lives.

*“For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be the glory forever! Amen.”
Romans 11:36 (NIV)*