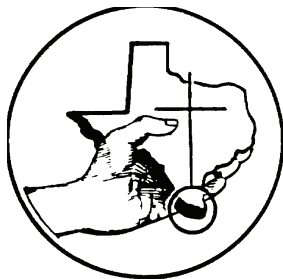


# Church of Christ Pharr

*Committed to Meeting the Spiritual and  
Physical Needs  
of the Valley*



## Assembly Schedule

*Presently meeting for worship and bible classes  
at 625 E. Sam Houston in Pharr, Texas.*

### Sunday Morning:

**Bible Classes:** 9:00 A. M.

**Worship:** 10.00 A. M.

**Sunday Evening:** 6:00 P. M.

**Wednesday Evening:** 7:00 P. M.

**Call:** Adrian Siller, Minister  
956-787-3303; 956-223-6789

**Email:** northpharrcofc@sbcglobal.net

**Website:** cocnpharr.com

## History

In July 1950 a small group of about 20 Christians met for the first time as the **Pharr Church of Christ**. In 1952 and then in 1961, this congregation constructed church facilities at 625 E. Sam Houston. In the late 60's a Spanish-speaking congregation was also begun and presently meets in an adjacent building.

In December, 1990, a group of Christians began a new fellowship in the McAllen-Mission area. This congregation met together as the **Church of Christ North**. Its major emphasis was in planting Spanish-speaking churches in poor neighborhoods known as “colonias” and providing benevolent help in these communities.

In September 2003, God moved these two congregations toward a merger which took place shortly afterward. Our congregation is now focused on bringing the gospel to the city of Pharr and the surrounding communities in Hidalgo County and northern Mexico.

Given the demographics of this area, our work is largely centered on reaching Hispanics who make up about 90% of our population.

## Doctrine

The **Church of Christ** strives to be **non-denominational** in its doctrine, believing that the Lord's church is “one” (**Eph 4:4-6**) and that all those who are Christians should be of **one mind** regarding the essential doctrines of the Christian faith and should follow the word of God as their **one and only** source of authority.

Our doctrinal emphasis is really just a reflection of that which is emphasized in Holy Scripture. And this emphasis is simple yet profound.

The Bible really tells one story and one story only: the story of God's love! Despite all of man's efforts to destroy his relationship with his Creator, God has been at work, even before the foundation of the world, lovingly planning a way to have **eternal fellowship** with his creation (**Eph 1:4-10; Rom 5:6-10**).

This He has accomplished through His only son, **Jesus**. At the right time (**Rom 5:6**) God sent His son to earth to live among and interact with His creation; to heal His creation and to paint the “**portrait of a servant**” in human colors so that we could “see” what love is and what love does. Yet, primarily, He sent His son to “**lay down his life**” at the hand of sinful men so that all mankind might be forgiven and reconciled through the son's **perfect sacrifice** (**John 3:16; I John 3:16**).

Then God **raised** Jesus from the dead and bestowed **all authority** on Him until time ends as we know it. God has made Jesus “**Lord**” of all creation; God has determined, therefore, that none can approach Him except through this Son. And every knee, both here and beyond, will one day bow before Jesus (**Phil 2:5-11; I Cor 15:27**).

The Bible story (Old and New Testament) focuses on the story of Jesus. We also want to keep our eyes on Jesus. Jesus is the center of all things for Christians (**Col 1:15-20**). What He did freely for us (“**grace**”) must serve as the primary motive for man's response (“**faith**”) to God (**Eph 2:4-7; I John 4:19**). Man's response to God's love, of course, is necessary if reconciliation and forgiveness are to take place. Why? Not because man's actions “earn” him anything before God. It's because **faith** is about “relationship” and “relationship” is never one-sided! Faith is never simply an emotional or intellectual exercise; faith must become a way of life. That is why Paul says: “three things remain—faith, hope and love.” These three must endure and lead us and sustain us on our journey home to God (**I Cor 13:13; Col 1:23**).

This is the essence of our doctrine. At the Church of Christ in Pharr, we strive to preach the good news (“**gospel**”) of Jesus Christ and call men and women to respond through faith. This is what Paul calls “the obedience of faith” (**Rom 1:15; 16:26**).

## Membership

Anyone who has responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ in accordance with the Bible is encouraged to place membership with our congregation. Scripture uses the term “**faith**” to refer to man's proper response to the gospel. Coming to faith in Christ requires:

1. **Belief.** Conversion begins when a person **hears** the “bad news” that **all men are sinners** in God's eyes and deserve **His wrath** (**Rom 3:9-10**). Then comes the “good news” that **God sent His only son** to die for man's sins, thus rescuing all those who **believe and put their trust in this Son, Jesus** (**Rom 10:9**).
2. **Repentance.** Once a person is convinced that Jesus is the Son of God who died for his or her sins, then that person must **feel sorrow** for both his sinful thoughts and actions and must **repent** of his past (**Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:10; 2 Pet 3:9**). Repentance requires a **genuine change of heart** (**Rom 6:17**), a **change of direction** in one's life and a **commitment to follow** in the steps and example of Christ (**Matt 10:38; 1 Pet 2:21; 2 John 1:6; Rev 14:4**).
3. **Confession.** To become a Christian one must be willing to **make Jesus “Lord”** over his life and **confess their faith** publically (**Rom 10:9-10; Phil 2:11; 1 Tim 6:12; 1 John 2:23; 4:15**).

- Baptism.** The Bible says that Jesus Christ died, was buried and was raised to live forever—thus He is the **first** to conquer sin and death. The Bible also says that **believers** participate with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection when they are “**baptized**” (immersed in water). We “die to sin” when we are “buried in water” and “rise in newness of life” when we come “out of the water” (**Rom 6:4-11; Col 2:11-12**). At baptism our sins are forgiven (**Acts 2:38; 22:16; Tit 3:5; 1 Pet 3:21**) and we are incorporated “into Christ,” that is, into His body, the Church (**Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27**).
- God’s promises.** Once we have come to faith in Christ, God promises the **forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit and eternal life** in the presence of God and His Son (**Acts 2:38; Rom 6:23; Eph 1:13-14; Rev 22:1-5**).

*Maybe you are not yet a Christian but would like to study or talk about it? We would be very happy to help you with that decision!*

## Opportunities for Ministry

The **Church of Christ** in Pharr is keenly aware that 87% of Hidalgo County’s population is made up of Hispanics. Since the mid 80’s we have focused our goals toward reaching the Hispanic population with the gospel, especially those living in substandard rural areas know as **colonias**. In fact, over 25% of the county’s population lives in these conditions. If you are interested in helping to bring the gospel to some of the poorest people in this country, then please consider joining us in that cause. We currently work with missionaries and congregations in five colonia population centers here in the Valley. Our plans are to periodically plant even more churches in the future.

We also work in **northern Mexico** with congregations in **Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Allende, Monterrey and Matamoros** to bring the gospel to the people there.

Because we often work with the poor, our ability to provide **benevolent help** is crucial. We participate with several congregations and individuals from other parts of the country who bring mission teams and work with us to provide housing and other types of aid for needy families. Part of our task is to plan and coordinate these projects and provide housing for these visiting teams. If you like to

work with your hands, you might really enjoy being involved in this ministry. We can certainly use your help!

We also work in local centers of incarceration (**jail and prison ministry**) to bring hope to the inmates of these facilities. Often the **only hope** some of these persons have rests in **eternal hope**. Faith in Christ assures them that their “future” will be far different than their past and present circumstances.

## Worship

**Corporate Worship.** Churches of Christ are known for their emphasis on the **Lord’s Supper, the Ministry of the Word and Acappella singing**.

We commemorate the death of Jesus Christ every Lord’s Day in the service of the **Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:13-20; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 11:18-34)**. Weekly participation in this communion meal is not only a timely reminder of the love of God as expressed in the sacrifice of His son, but also links us to Christians past, present and future who come to the “table of mercy” as an expression of their faith and gratitude for God’s gift.

We also revere the Bible as “God’s revealed word” to His creation. To read, meditate upon and explain God’s word to both believer and unbeliever is an important function of our worship together (**Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27; 1 Tim 4:13; Rev 1:3**). We encourage all members and visitors to listen to what God has to say to His people from His “own hand” and to study individually to discover what God’s purposes are for our lives.

**Churches of Christ** are well-known for their practice of **Acappella singing** (singing without instrumental accompaniment). Convinced of the priority of this type of singing biblically, historically and aesthetically, churches of Christ lift up their voices in corporate song as one of the purest forms of praise to God, exemplifying the harmony of body and soul in upward worship, while, at the same time, serving to edify one another (**Eph 5:18-20; Col 3:15-16**).

**Personal Worship.** We also believe that the Bible teaches the concept that worship is not simply something that takes place once a week in a corporate setting. Biblical worship encompasses one’s **whole life** and requires a sacrificial and holy lifestyle as a person’s faithful response of thanksgiving to our loving God. We are to present **our bodies** as “**living sacrifices**,” as the apostle Paul says (**Rom 12:1; 1 Pet 1:14-16; 2:5**). Constant and fervent **prayer** is indispensable to the life of the church and to the individual Christian.

## Organization

The Lord Jesus said that He would “build his church” (**Matt 16:18**). The Bible points out that Christ is the **head** of the **church**, which is His **Body (Col 1:18)**. **Churches of Christ** believe, then, that it is **Christ’s “plan”** which must be followed if the church is to function as its builder and head intended.

**Churches of Christ**, therefore, strive, as best they understand, to maintain the organizational structure of the first century church as described in Scripture:

- Churches of Christ function as separate, autonomous congregations, each with their own leadership, but as part of the larger universal body of Christ.
- Churches of Christ select a plurality of **elders** or **shepherds** in each separate congregation who lead and pastor these churches (**Acts 20:17-35**). Qualifications for these men are set out in Scripture (**1 Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9**).
- Special servants known as **deacons** may also be appointed to perform special tasks of service (**1 Tim 3:8-13**).
- Churches of Christ recognize that certain biblical positions of leadership such as **apostles** and **prophets** were temporary in nature and no longer exist (**Acts 1:12-26; 1 Cor 13:8**).
- Churches of Christ set apart men known as **evangelists** whose primary responsibility is to preach the gospel to non-believers and teach obedience to the Lord’s commands to believers (**Acts 21:8; Eph 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5**).
- Churches of Christ do not recognize a **clergy-laity** distinction among Christ’s body. All Christians are “saints” with their own special gifts and talents. In Christ’s plan for His church, all members must function individually and corporately if Christ’s body is to grow and fulfill its purpose (**1 Cor 12:4-26; Eph 4:11-16**). In Christ’s church, the Holy Spirit is given to the body and to each member separately to enable and empower the church to fulfill God’s purpose for it (**Rom 14:17; 15:13; 1 Thess 1:5-6; Gal 5:16-26**).
- The purpose of the Church is to make known to all nations the good news of Jesus Christ the Son to the praise and glory of God the Father (**Eph 3:9, 10, 21; 1 Tim 3:15**).

### Mailing Addresses:

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2013 Spring Glen     | P. O. Box 152      |
| Mission, Texas 78572 | Pharr, Texas 78577 |