

The logo for Alêtheia Christian Fellowship features a stylized orange mountain range icon to the left of the word "Alêtheia" in a white, sans-serif font. Below "Alêtheia" is the text "CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP" in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

Alêtheia

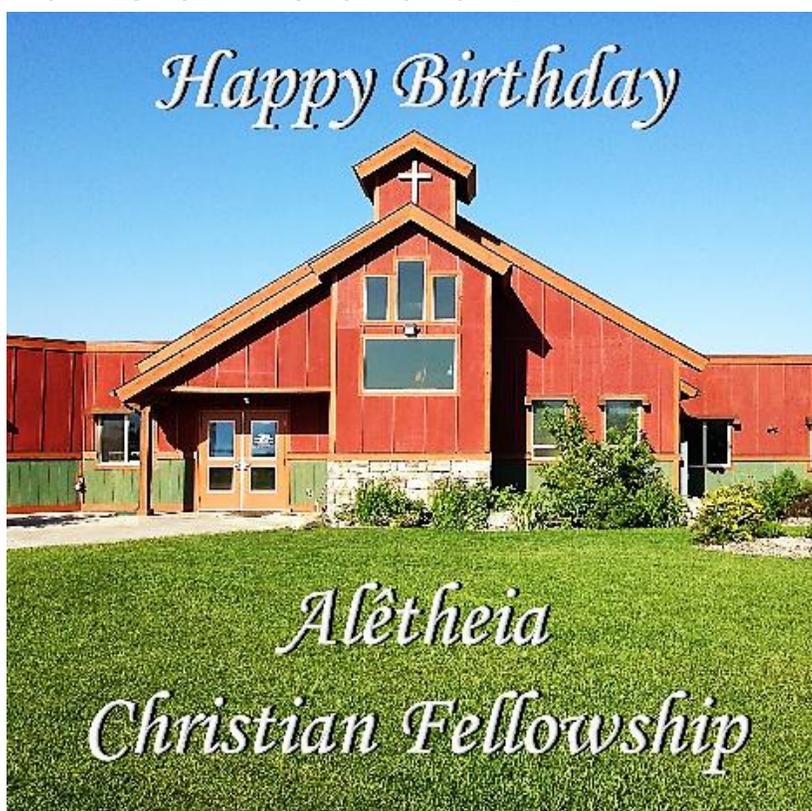
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



Welcome, Alêtheia is truth. Perhaps you all know by now that Alêtheia means Truth, ἀλήθεια, is derived from the general verb λανθάνω, in the specific form of λήθω, meaning to conceal something from someone, or to forget, or to be ignorant – to not know. Prefixed with the ἀ in Greek it makes it the exact opposite of that. So, ἀλήθεια is to reveal candidly, it is to remember, it is to know the Truth and share it transparently.

Truth is such an important idea. It's one the Wednesday night boys have been discussing - honesty - the absence of deception.

To know the Truth about yourself, to be honest with yourself about that reality and then to reject falseness, deceit, and pretense. In yourself and from yourself. You see, to avoid lying is one thing, to tell the Truth is much more, but to live the Truth is something else altogether. To live the Truth is to be like Christ. Truth - that's the name of the church.



ALÊTHEIA
FELLOWSHIP
"TRUTH IN LOVE"



JANUARY 18,
2004



← Original King's Kids



Big Sunday Crowd →

Our Mandate

Enable people to move closer to God.

Our Values

Biblical Advocacy

Resulting in:

Agapê God – Worship

Agapê His Body – Fellowship

Agapê the Lost – Preaching

Our Mission Statement:

“We Love you enough to tell you the Truth”

Our Motto:

“Truth in Love”



Andy and Jerry F. are now Elders Emeritus leaving only Derek, Jerry K., Craig, Rob and me as Elders also serving on the BOD - that's the primary distinction.

Tim C. and Jim H., the leader of the band round out the Elders Emeritus. What is an Elder? Our first glimpse goes back to Genesis. The Hebrew is זָקֵן (tzä-qān), Greek πρεσβύτερος (přēs-bü-tě-řös), which both mean an old person. Someone who has survived life long enough to be old. No small feat, especially back then.

Ancient people honored their elders because they respected their experience and they recognized the favor they must have had with God in order to get old - even today, in much of the world, most people don't.

In ancient times, and in many tribal areas of the world today, a town, city or other grouping of people - we can collectively call a community, would recognize mature, wise, experienced, steadfast men, typically over 50 years of age, who would put the community interests ahead of their own interests. These men were the Elders, and they would sit in council "in the gate".



The weakest point in a defensive wall is where there's an opening. City gates in those days were massive structures with two or more layers of doors. (This is the Ishtar Gate from Babylon in the Berlin Museum) It was a reasonable place to add rooms. These rooms functioned like the port of entry - something similar to emigration and customs in one, border security and import and export taxation in another, storage and supplies in still others. It was where all the people passed through and was a convenient place to administer things. The most ornate gate room was where the Elders met in council.

We such a reference in Genesis 19:1, “Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening as Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.” Another example is Proverbs 31:23... Remember the Proverbs 31 woman? She’s this wonderful, idealized, woman and according to verse 23, “Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.”

Such Elders operated as the judges of the community and as those giving the direction for the community. Democracy, or a representative government, as we know it, never entered the picture. Usually, there would be a king, or a ruling elder, sometimes both. In cases where an individual was leading the community, the elders functioned as his advisors. There was no appeal beyond them - together they functioned as the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches for their community.

One of the most grievous things, denounced by God, that an Elder could do, was to be swayed by the people in any way. To make a decision that was not right for the community as a whole, or to judge unjustly, whether to gain popularity with the people, or due to a bribe, or to curry favor, or to gain more power, or harm

an enemy, or to advance their own agenda, was reprehensible - or so God says. Elders are supposed to be big-picture people with integrity to do what is right even if everyone hates them for it.

They would direct trusted younger men to carry out their guidance for their community. These guys were called Deacons with a big "D". Since that is just a word reflecting the Greek word *διάκονος* meaning servant, some people use the English term trustee instead. The entire point of Deacons, or Trustees, is to carry out the direction of the Elders by leading the people in that direction.

Roughly 26 centuries ago, the Neo-Babylonians (who built this gate) destroyed the first Jewish Temple built by Solomon and exiled the people to Mesopotamia. This necessitated a modified form of Judaism, ultimately leading to the Synagogue system, in which each town would build a special structure - a church building - and meet there for worship and Biblical instruction.



Each Synagogue would have a Rabbi functioning as the pastor and a group of Elders to perform the same functions as the secular Elders did. The Rabbi was an educated guy who would read the Scriptures and then explain what was read. The people would learn, and they would pray, and they would sing psalms in worship, and they would fellowship together - in fact the word synagogue is actually Greek, not Hebrew, συναγωγή (sü-nä-gō-gā), meaning to gather together in one place. Christianity simply ripped off the Jewish Synagogue system. We changed the names of things and added Communion. The qualifications of Elders and Deacons are outlined in the Bible.

The first mention of Christian Elders is in Acts 11. We see in the Pastoral Epistles that some Elder were Ruling Elders and some of them also were teaching preachers of the Scripture (I Timothy 5:17). Such elders were also called ἐπίσκοπος (ě-pēs-kŏ-pŏs), meaning to oversee as in to supervise, which actually comes from the Latin translation. We get our word Episcopal from it, just as we get our word Presbyterian from πρεσβύτερος.

At Alêtheia we simply recognize a call, or an anointing, from God upon a mature Christian man and follow through, appointing him as an Elder. It is a lifetime appointment unless resigned, or removed for cause.



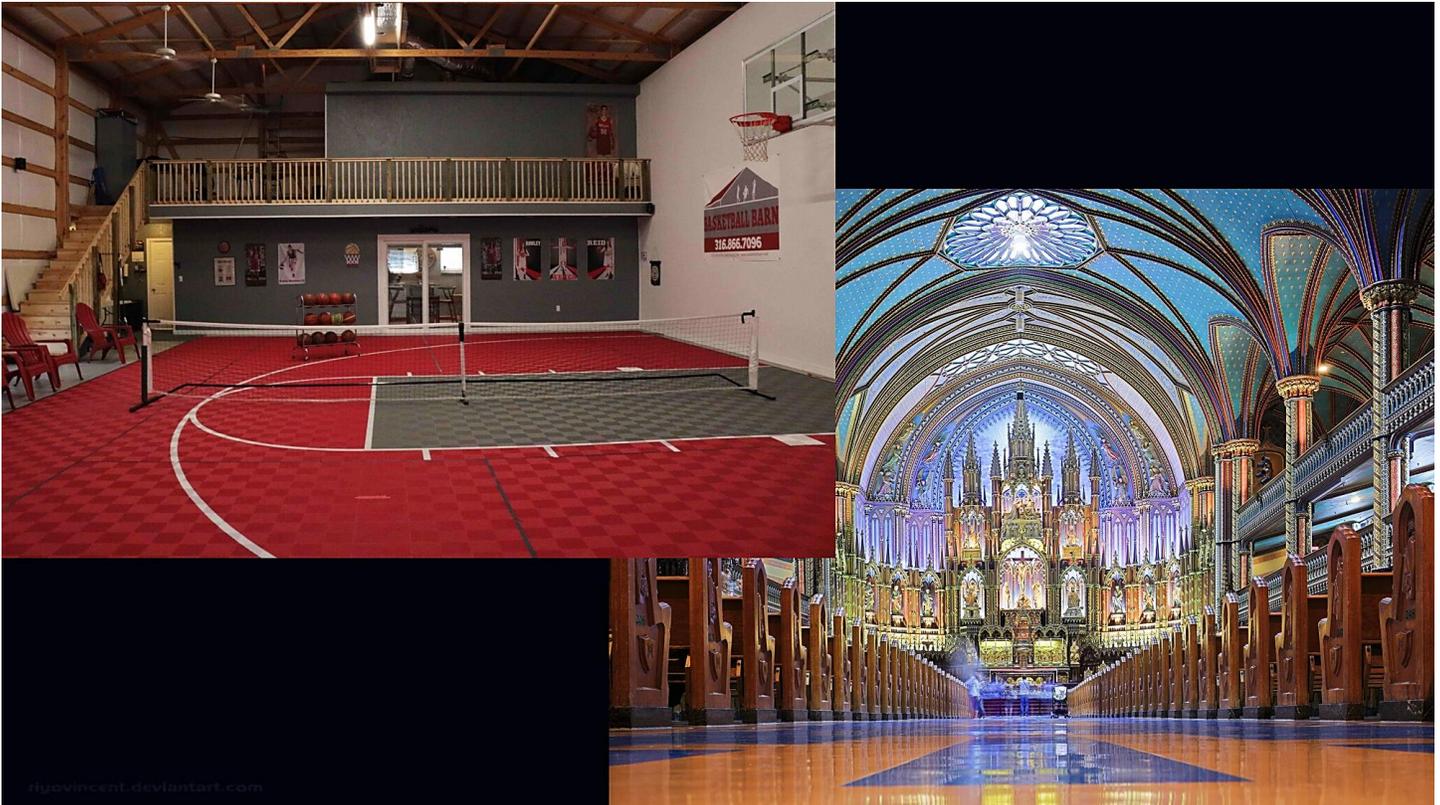
In America we add another completely secular element for tax and other legal purposes. We incorporate. That legally necessitates a board of directors. Since it's a non-Biblical requirement anyone could theoretically be appointed. In practice we have made the Elders the Board. While Elders serve indefinitely, the Board positions are annual appointments. A person may serve an unlimited number of one-year terms coinciding with the calendar year.



The Elders Emeritus position does not include a position on the Board. Andy, Jerry Fredericks and Tim, under the direction of Jim, will be leading the Deacons in a much more active ministry of helping and visitation to our church family.

Our Deacons are John F., Thad C., Bryan S., Todd S., Tom C., Chris M. and Joe S.

Stacey S. is my assistant and my boss. She is the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Kim O. is our financial guru.



Two years ago, I stood here and announced our intention to break ground on a new building in the spring. Covid interrupted those plans pushing us back a year and a half. Back then, I said the reasons we needed the building were to give us more classroom space, more bathrooms, and a bigger fellowship hall. We always had in mind a large fellowship hall that could accommodate us all, but also function as a gym for our growing children's and youth ministries.

We also said that we needed more parking, a bigger lobby and a bigger sanctuary. Finally, I said it was

going to be far more like the upper left picture, than the lower right picture.

Well, we were not only delayed by Covid, we were also greatly diminished in our financial capability with the shortage of everything including labor and the local inflation of everything especially building.

Our dreams of a building with a sanctuary, paved parking and an entrance died. We scaled back and even so, we will have a building that will be finished on the outside, but unfinished on the inside. That “weathered in” building will be phase 1 completed.

If we were to finish the interior the way we envision, we would have 2 large spaces that could be configured in a variety of ways giving us different sizes and numbers of classrooms with up to 5 individual rooms. In addition, a desperately needed storage room, and a large open space for activities and fellowship. That would be phase 2.

The extra bathrooms, increased parking, lobby and sanctuary size would be phases 3, 4 and 5. Each

phase obviously costs money, and we'll take them as we are able financially.

Phase 1, Building Exterior \$240,000

Phase 2, Building Interior \$240,000

- A. Postpone until we have the cash.
- B. Do the work ourselves.
- C. Increase giving to cover the cost now.
- D. We take a \$200,000 loan.

Phases 3-5

Phase 1, approximately \$240,000 is covered. Phase 2, will be about that same amount - roughly \$240,000. We already have about \$40,000 cash for that phase in the building fund.

There are four options we face with phase 2.

- A. Postpone however long it takes until we have the cash in hand to pay for it outright.
- B. Spend about half that amount and do the work ourselves.

C. All of us increase our giving to come up with the money now.

D. We take a \$200,000 loan.

Working with the Board, Stacey, Karen, and Kim we have a 2022 budget - We will give it final approval tomorrow.

2021 actual income, cash & expenses

Regular giving **\$271,000**. Restricted giving **\$21,000**.

Land sale **\$37,000**. Total income **\$329,000**.

Bank **\$104,000**. Bldg. **\$90,000**. Other **\$16,000**.

Building: **\$185,000**. Facility: **\$33,000**. Office: **\$10,000**.

Equipment & Furniture: **\$11,000**

Wages, Payroll taxes, Employer costs: **\$127,000**

Church Life: **\$11,000**. Church Support: **\$27,000**.

Total **\$219,344**.

In our first year Alêtheia Christian Fellowship received \$47,000 in total giving. By 2007 our average year was just under \$200,000. Then the lean years in 11', 12', and 13'. We rebounded in 2014, actually went over \$200,000 in 2019. Last year was our best year to date.

Total giving, including a large donation posthumously by Miss Nell, was \$271,000 plus restricted giving to the building fund and to missionaries etc., was \$21,000, for a total giving by this congregation last year, of just under \$300,000. Very generous indeed. Beyond that we sold our strip of literal swampland to our neighbor for an additional income of \$37,000. That does, of course, bring the grand total to roughly \$330,000. God is good to us.

We spent a bunch last year primarily on the building. We have already paid about \$185,000 and have remaining in the fund \$90,000. We will owe about \$50,000 to complete phase 1, and as I said that will leave about \$40,000 towards phase 2.

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Total income \$329,000.

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Oth: VBS 1k, Men's 2.4k, Ben 4.5k, Mission 6k

Building: \$185,000.

Facility: \$33,000.

Insurance & Tax 8.7k, Gnnds 4.6k, Clean 7.2k
Office: \$10,000.

Equipment & Furniture: \$11,000

Wages, Payroll taxes, Employer costs: \$127,000

P=88k, S=33k, K=6k

Church Life: \$11,000.

Parties 3k, Camp 2k

Church Support: \$27,000.

Missions 18k

Total \$219,344.

2022 budget (2021 actual):

Facility: \$33,000 - \$33,000.

Office: \$7,000 - \$10,000.

Equipment & Furniture: \$15,000 - \$11,000.

Wages, Pay tax, Emp. costs: \$127,000 - \$127,000.

Church Life: \$13,000 - \$11,000.

Church Support: \$26,000 - \$27,000.

Total \$221,000 - \$219,344.

2022 budget (2021 actual):

Facility: \$33,000 - \$33,000. More expense, tighter budget.

Office: \$7,000 - \$10,000. Tighter budget.

Equipment & Furniture: \$15,000 - \$11,000. New building furnishings.

Wages, Pay tax, Emp. costs: \$127,000 - \$127,000. A 2% increase on wages amounting to no real change in total.

Church Life: \$13,000 - \$11,000. Bigger commitment to fellowship.

Church Support: \$26,000 - \$27,000. Based on 10% just estimating a 2022 income of \$260,000 for planning purposes.

Total \$221,000 - \$219,344. Less than 2k difference.