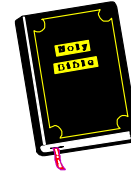


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect, shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 21-25

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Monday—Friday

“New Testament Heroes”

We Should Look to Today!

MONDAY — CORNELIUS, OBEDIENT TO THE GOSPEL
TUESDAY — PAUL, PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL
WED. — PETER, FIRST WITH THE GOSPEL
THURSDAY — STEPHEN, MARTYR FOR THE GOSPEL
FRIDAY — TIMOTHY, SON IN THE GOSPEL

“... be thou an example of the believers” - 1 Timothy 4:12

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B638 South Carolina 7/13/2008

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 27 July 13, 2008

RECORDS 7/6/2008

SERMONS 7/13/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 58
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 126
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 68
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:
CONTRIBUTION: \$3253

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning

**“FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?” - MATTHEW 16:26**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

The Bulletin
USPS-994-500
Periodicals Postage Paid
West Columbia, SC
Published Weekly By:
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

West Columbia Church of Christ
1701 Augusta Road
West Columbia SC 29169

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

ELDERS

Donald Klieves

Home Phone (803) 996-3793
E-Mail: DKlieves@yahoo.com

Ed Kelleher

Office Phone (803) 796-8858
Home Phone (803) 791-0950
E-Mail: Ed@macro-inc.com

EVANGELIST

Jerry Manning

Home Phone (803) 936-1502
Cell Phone (803) 429-3738

E-Mail: Jerry1Manning@yahoo.com
Bulletin Editor—Ed Kelleher

“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's grandson), Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Ron Banks** fell and hit his head pretty severely and is having problems standing.
- **Elgene Sanders** came forward Sunday, requesting the prayers of the church.
- The **Kelleher's** and **Merrie Chrismus** will be in Indiana for David's wedding Saturday. Please keep them all in your prayers.
- **Frank Allen's** mother, **Helen**, in Missouri has been diagnosed with colon cancer.
- **Laura Henry** is closer now, at: Lexington Extended Care, 515 Old Cherokee Road, Lexington, SC 29072 Wing: Lexington Trace, Room 128
- **Eddie Sheppard** is recovering from eye surgery last Monday.
- **Don Klieves** is working in Greenville during the week for the next 3 months or so. He's able to return home on the weekends. His cell phone is **381-5489**.
- Remember **Dianne** and **Tiffany Dillard** in your prayers.
- **Jeanette Reeves** continues to struggle with sin. Pray for her repentance.
- Remember all these, our new brothers and sisters in Christ, and brother **Manning** and those he studies the Bible with, in your prayers.

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." - 1 Peter 5:6,7

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **New Convert Class** Saturdays 11 am at the building, for **all** who are interested.
- The **youth** are now meeting on a regular basis at the building, **Fridays** at 7 pm to work on murals for our upcoming VBS.
- **VBS! Invite People! Mon-Friday 7/21—7/25, People of the New Testament: Paul, Peter, Timothy, Steven and Cornelius.** If you would like to work on material for VBS and have some time, an hour or a day, get in touch with Jerry who has a list of things that can be done to help.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Our **Fall Gospel Meeting** is scheduled Sun-Wed, **Sep 14-17, 2008** with **Billy Bland**, well known Gospel preacher and instructor at MSOP.

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 7/13—C 7/20—D 7/27—A 8/3—B

Choose the Strait Gate in 2008

NT BOOKS (27):	1 Corinthians	2 Thessalonians	1 Peter
Matthew	2 Corinthians	1 Timothy	2 Peter
Mark	Galatians	2 Timothy	1 John
Luke	Ephesians	Titus	2 John
John	Philippians	Philemon	3 John
Acts	Colossians	Hebrews	Jude
Romans	1 Thessalonians	James	Revelation

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

- **Jerry C. Brewer**, Gospel Preacher, publisher