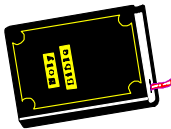


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

BEARING FRUIT

Bearing fruit is something *all* Christians *must* do. Jesus wasn't giving an *agriculture* lesson when he said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." - Matthew 7:19

Usually we jump right to the harvesting stage, wanting to pull good fruit out of thin air, much like the rich young ruler who asked Jesus, "What good thing shall I do ..." (Matthew 19:16) as if that were all there was to it. Like him, to be fruitful we should first think instead about how to *prepare* ourselves to be *able* to bear good fruit. If we prepare properly, we'll bear fruit; good fruit, and tons of it. Think for a moment on how you'd go about getting some apples:

First and foremost, you must *want* the fruit, else you won't put out the effort. If you don't like apples, would you buy an apple tree, dig a hole, plant it and water it etc.? You wouldn't, you'd quit first. We also must **know and be fully convinced** the work is worth the effort: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

Second, we must get the ground ready—us! You wouldn't drop a tree on the ground in your backyard and expect it grow. Look at the *qualities* a Christian must cultivate *in order to* bear fruit (they aren't fruit of themselves): "add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful ..." - 2 Peter 1:4-8.

Then we must plant the right seeds. Apples don't come from kudzu. If we want *good* fruit, we must plant *good* seed - God's word and wisdom, not man's: "The seed is the word of God" - Luke 8:11, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;" - Romans 1:16

The seed must then be watered and nurtured and cultivated while waiting for the harvest. You don't plant a tree then harvest the next day. We also ought to have patience and faith in God. Wait on the Lord, don't be discouraged, it will be worth it! "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." - Galatians 6:9

- Ed Kelleher, elder, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org B639 South Carolina 2/19/2006

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8 February 19, 2006

RECORDS 2/12/2006

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 54
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 102
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 77
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 78
CONTRIBUTION: \$1900

SERMONS 2/19/2006

AM Scott Parker:
I Believe The Bible
PM Scott Parker:
It's No Secret

Souls added to the church in 2006: 3

"We are bound to thank God always for you brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward one another aboundeth;" - 2 Thessalonians 1:3

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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

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“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- It was good to have **Ashley Williams** back after her absence.
- “THE PRAYER OF FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK” - James 5:15
- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Ron Banks, Beryl Parks, Mary Honeycutt, Hagood Godley**, and our shut-ins **Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg**, and **Phyllis Johnson**. Also, **Nina Ruth Meadows** (Marcella Klieves' mother), **James Mathias** (Tommy White's brother-in-law), **Frances Griffin** (Melissa's aunt), **Jack and Elma Berrier**, and **Margaret Herring** and her daughter **Ann Gunter**,
- **Jan Kelleher** is to have surgery Monday to remove a lump in her side.
- **Anna Porter** has been ill and Thursday went to the ER with a severe, life threatening, asthma attack and was admitted to Lexington County Hospital.
- **Ethel Smith** had an ultrasound to detect a possible blood clot in her leg.
- **Ted Stidham** had tests Wednesday at Lexington hospital.
- **Doris Sheppard** requests prayers for her cousin **Bobby White** of Hastings Florida who will have surgery Wed. for an aneurysm.
- **Anna Porter** requests prayers for her sister, **Janice Spence** and also her cousin **Joe Toler** who is in St. Francis hospital in West Virginia.
- **Melissa Parks** requests prayers for her sister, **Kathryn Hall** who is continuing to have problems with her blood pressure and blood sugar. **Trenton**, her newborn son however is doing well. Also, her cousin and his wife, **Philip and Molly Griffin**, are expecting their first child at the end of June. They did an ultrasound recently and found two spots on the baby's brain, possibly tumors, they're not sure. She had a amniocentises done and they are now waiting for results.
- **Marilyn Brooks** is still out, in quite a bit of pain, recovering from a fall.

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” - 1 Peter 1:7

“ELDERS ... FEED THE FLOCK OF GOD” - 1 Peter 5:1,2

- **Men**, be sure to speak into the **microphones** in the assembly so all can hear.
- It is important for **ALL** to attend **Sunday Morning bible study!** If you feel you're missing something, Bible class is a good place to go and find it.
- Please call and write Lexington County Sheriff **James Metts** and ask that he allow prisoner **Anne Louise Gordon** to be baptized: Sheriff James Metts, **PO Box 639, Lexington, SC 29071**. Telephone: 803-785-8230 option 5.

“Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ” - Galatians 6:2

I'D RATHER SEE A SERMON THAN HEAR ONE

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” - 1 John 3:18

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- The “**Lonely Hearts Luncheon**” was quite a success with 8 ladies meeting at **Jan Kelleher's** on Valentine's Day. Three who wanted to attend were not able to get out so they took lunch to them instead, and a bouquet of roses to **Mary Honeycutt** in the hospital.

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. “ - Galatians 5:14

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:21

- **Christian Block Party** this Saturday. Please meet at the building at 9AM to collect material we'll be passing out in the neighborhood. No door knocking this time, just hanging bags of materials on people's door knobs. If you can't walk, you can stuff! Bags and the material to put in them are in the fellowship hall.
- **Bible Bowl, St. Andrews Road, Sat. March 4 9AM**. We have 3 strong teams:
 - Preteen: **Chris Parks, Grant Parks, Thomas Rinehart, Kaitlyn Sheppard**
 - Teen: **Courtney Gamble, Michael Gamble, Kelly Kennedy, Brian Parks**
 - Adult: **Martha Geiger, Marcella Klieves, Tricia Parker, Faye Parks**
- **Bible Bowl study times: Friday 6:30PM, Wed. 7 PM, Sun. 10 AM and 4:30PM**. Food on Friday's and refreshments are donated by church members supporting the teams. Pray that the teams will do well. Plan on attending!
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship, Sat. March 11, 2006 at Rock Hill. 9 AM—3 PM**.
- **SPIRITUAL GROWTH seminar at West Columbia, Friday March 17, from 7-9PM and Saturday March 18, from 9AM-12PM**. There will be 30-45 minute presentations with breaks in between for folks to meet and talk; two on Friday evening and three on Sat. morning. This first seminar will be "The Bible VS Pre-millennialism", with Scott Parker, **Jon Macon of the North Columbia** congregation, Don Klieves and Ed Kelleher speaking. We'll be inviting area preachers and men to speak on various topics at future seminars, Lord willing.
- **Next Reach, Teach and Eat** meeting, Saturday 3PM, **March 25, 2006** at the home of **Gerald and Janet Boyd**.
- **Carolina Lectures, April 2-6, 2006** at Kannapolis, NC, Gospel of John.
- **Senior Rally, St. Andrews Road, Saturday April 29, 2006**.

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” - Hebrews 12:1

PARENTS—DO THE WORKS OF ABRAHAM

“For I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” - Genesis 18:19