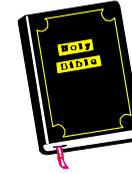


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

WHAT WILL BUILD A STRONG CHURCH?

Not sensationalism! Nor more committees, or more programs, or a "fan and games" emphasis! These things may be "right-on" for civic clubs, social clubs, and country clubs, but not for the Lord's church!

What does it take to build a strong church? I believe with all my heart that the following things are essential:

- 1. Strong Bible preaching and teaching!** God's word, when it is disseminated plainly, forcefully, uncompromisingly, and yet kindly, will BUILD UP! Paul said, "I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up..." (Acts 20:32).
- 2. Exemplary leadership!** Men who make themselves "Examples to the flock," and who are careful in tending it (I Pet. 5:2,3). To grow, the church must have quality leadership - men who know how to lead and will do so!
- 3. Christian living on the part of every member!** Unimpeachable conduct so clearly evidenced in the lives of Christians will illuminate the way for many in the realm of darkness. Read Matthew 5:16 and Philippians 2:15.
- 4. Congregational warmth and love!** The fellowship of the Lord's church should be so sweet and precious that the whole community takes notice, and observes, "See how they love each other!" Without this, a congregation will never be what God would have it be!
- 5. Compassionate hearts!** The church of Christ needs to be known as the most tender-hearted bunch of people in all the world—ready and willing to help all, and especially those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:9,10).
- 6. Evangelistic fervor!** The emphasis of the early church was soul-winning. The church will grow when we cease not to "teach and to preach Jesus as the Christ" every day, wherever we have opportunity! Read Acts 5:42.
- 7. An "I want to serve" attitude permeating the congregation!** People serving the Lord because they love Him, and they want to serve, and not out of a spirit of drudgery.
- 8. An atmosphere of happiness, friendliness, cordiality, and hospitality!** No stranger should ever come into the midst of the Lord's church without being graciously greeted and welcomed by a happy, friendly membership! We must reach out to others and not just "visit" with friends only.

It is my conviction that these eight ingredients will build a strong church! I pray fervently that all eight will become a reality here, more than ever before!

(On the Internet, this article is attributed in various forms to various sources. This version is approximately the one attributed to Maxie B. Boren in The Spiritual Sword, January 1981.)

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 49 December 10, 2006

RECORDS 12/3/2006

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 52
 Sun 11 AM Assembly: 97
 Sun 6 PM Assembly: 72
 Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 62
 CONTRIBUTION: \$1953

SERMONS 12/10/2006

AM: Jerry Manning
 DO YOU LOVE ME?
 PM: Jerry Manning
 DRAWING CLOSE TO GOD

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:
 and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you
 a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:” - 1 Peter 3:15

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

www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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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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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, Hagood Godley, Margaret Herring, and our shut-ins Jessica Herring, Zudora Clegg, and Phyllis Johnson. Also, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack Edwards (Melissa Parks' father), Jack and Elma Berrier, Nathaniel Manning (Jerry and Lynn's g'son).
- Remember Frank Allen, Ethel Smith, Tricia Kelly, Debbie Sheppard, Paul Dillard, Gwen Pittman, Marilyn Brooks, Caroline Lee, Garland Matthews and Eddie Sheppard who all especially need our prayers for physical and other difficulties.
- Brother Ron Banks is down for awhile after a painful knee treatment.
- Doris Sheppard had an MRI Thursday for a possible pinched nerve.
- Marilyn Brooks was out last Sunday on Dr's orders, recovering from surgery.
- Jimmy Lee, Carolyn's husband, is at home receiving palliative care now where it's hoped he'll be more comfortable than in hospice care. Your prayers for them during this trying time and a card would be appreciated.
- The Dillard's were out sick last Sunday. Paul is better but Wed. Dianne wasn't.
- Jan Kelleher has been ill for some time and it seems to be a reaction to a new chemo drug. She's stopped taking it and seems to be doing better finally.
- Jean Glott, of North Columbia, continues to recover slowly at home from an unexpected accumulation of medicine in her body. Pray for her and Pete.
- Sister Gwen Pittman has been ill but we rejoiced to see her Wed. night in class.
- Donna Godley, daughter of Jean and Hagood Godley, has meningitis and is facing a long recovery. Being a school teacher, she's also out of work.
- Brother Bill Yonce had to have some toes amputated.

“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.” - 1 Timothy 2:8

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

- Margie DeYoung came forward repenting of missing the assembly for so long and was restored to Christ.
- Nicole Kelly, grand daughter of Eddie and Doris Sheppard, birthed Elisabeth Rose Wednesday. She weighs 6 lbs and 11 oz and all are doing well. This is the Sheppard's second great grand child.
- Carolyn Stidham has a car and is better able to make the assemblies now.
- Melissa Parks reports her dad, Jack Edwards, is doing some better.

“I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities;” - Psalm 31:7

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- Michael Stoyk's mother, in Virginia, has a recurrence of a brain tumor.
- Lee Field, Don Fields' sister-in-law, whose husband was killed by lightning last year in Kentucky, has been diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer.

“for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.” - Psalm 6:8,9

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **BIBLE BOWL BOOK** is the Acts of the Apostles. The SC State Wide Bible Bowl will be held **Saturday March 3** at St. Andrews Road. The West Columbia Teen and Pre-Teen teams are defending champions. Please make plans now to attend and help during the time the teams are studying so we all might be encouraged and built up.
- Brother Manning went to jail! He's made good progress against considerable obstacles but was finally introduced to the facilities and staff at LCDC as a potential Chaplain. Pray that a door will be opened wide for him to teach there!
- The final total for member's contributions to the **SE Children's Home** change can campaign was **\$275**.
- **Building Cleanup Sign Up** sheet for 2007 is posted. Please sign up!
- The **Power Point Projector** has arrived. We're checking to see the best ways to use it. We hope to start off the New Year using it to project **announcements**, words and notes of **songs** and **scriptures** for sermons with our assemblies.
- Due to the faithful, willing and generous **contributions** of the members here, our work is increasing. We've maintained such an excellent payment record with the bank, that they have **released the mortgage** on the **church residence**.
- Remember our sister **Anne Louise Gordon** in LCDC who continues to do good work for Christ and his church despite very trying circumstances.

“To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:” - Romans 2:7

“PROVOKE TO LOVE AND GOOD WORKS” - Hebrews 10:24

- The **Youth Group** did a good job cleaning the building. Thank a youth!
- **Work Team A** will be the active Team again this Sunday.
- Dawn and Jones Gamble invite the church to their home **Friday 7PM Dec. 15**.
- The **Adult Sunday Bible class** finished their study of “The Church: A Biblical Perspective this past Sunday. They started in September 2004. The new study will be **The Acts of The Apostles**, to coincide with the Bible Bowl.

“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” - Titus 2:14

“BE KINDLY AFFECTIONED ONE TO ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY LOVE” - Romans 12:10

- Pray for our brothers and sisters who we've been missing recently at the assemblies of the church for worship and Bible study. Visit them; give them a call; write them a card; let them know they are loved and missed and wanted.

Tom and Jackie Adkins, Robert and Michelle Laffoday, Patricia Kelly Barbara Berry, Ed Johnson, Talitia and Jerome Zimmerman

“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” - Galatians 6:1,2