

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK

The New Testament uses several terms to describe those men who are to oversee local congregations of God's people. The word "elder" (Titus 1:5) speaks of one who is mature in the faith, while the word "shepherd" speaks of the work these men have in watching over the flock of God.

Like shepherds of literal sheep, elders have the obligation to keep the sheep from straying (Heb. 13:17), to lead them to water and pasture (1 Pet. 5:2), and to protect them from all danger (Acts 20:29-30). The prime function of an elder is not to watch over the money or take care of business matters, but to "watch out for your souls, as those who must give account" (Heb. 13:17).

There is a big difference between the work of a shepherd and a herdsman. Men have to drive cattle, but sheep have to be led. Elders in the church of our Lord will not drive the flock -- they will be out in front leading by their example. The shepherd's voice will never direct the sheep to a path which the shepherd himself did not tread -- and even if it did, the sheep would follow the shepherd himself. Elders need to understand that there is a difference between leading and barking orders.

I have known of elders who actually sleep during sermons -- such men are a shame and disgrace to the church of our Lord. A "sleeping shepherd" is unworthy of the name he wears, and unfit to guard the flock.

Shepherds in the Lord's church are to serve as an example to the rest of the flock. "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct." (Heb. 13:17). The word "follow" means "to imitate".

Elders should have a life that is worthy of imitation. Elders are to serve as an example of a godly father and worthy husband; they are to be a good example as a neighbor and citizen in their community; they are even to provide a good example in the recreation they choose. **(Continued on Page 3)**

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” - Acts 20:28

Following is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6 February 10, 2008

RECORDS 2/3/2008

SERMONS 2/10/2008

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 56
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 107
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 67
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 44
CONTRIBUTION: \$2315

AM: Jerry Manning
PM: Jerry Manning
PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD
VAIN RELIGION

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." - 1 Corinthians 2:4,5

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

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.
- Brother Paul Dillard is having a very difficult time health wise and Dianne and Tiffany aren't doing much better either.
- Prayers are requested for Margi DeYoung's daughter, Terri who is to have surgery soon.
- Remember Jan Kelleher, Anna Porter, the Dillards, Ron Banks and Eddie Sheppard as they all continue to fight illness.
- Jerry requests prayers for his sister, Lynn Drago who is gravely ill with cancer, that she obey the Gospel.
- Remember all these and brother Manning and his bible studies at LCDC and Heartland assisted living center in your prayers.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,
all ye that hope in the Lord." - Psalms 31:24

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- A NURSERY ATTENDANT is on call each Sunday to help with infants. Sign up sheet is in the foyer. See the USHER for assistance.
- Elgene Sanders is looking for a used car.
- SIGN UP! to provide refreshments to the Bible Bowl teams who will be meeting Fridays and Saturdays to practice.

"FOR AS A MAN THINKETH IN HIS HEART, SO IS HE" - PROVERBS 23:7

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

- Ralph Cook obeyed the Gospel and was baptized into Christ Sunday morning after the assembly. He had been studying with our evangelist.
- Anna Porter is a great-grandmother. Ashlin Sharon Hutchinson was born last Saturday to Melissa and Stevie in Arizona. She weighed 8 lbs 2 oz. Anna will be flying out there Friday to stay for a couple of weeks.
- Pamela and Jeremy Palmgrin want to be identified with and under the oversight of the elders of the congregation here at West Columbia. They live in West Columbia, behind LMC and have been meeting with us for several months. Their daughter Leslie joined our PreTeen Bible Bowl Team.
- Lynn Manning made it back safely from Tennessee and we rejoice to hear her daughter-in-law Wendy's surgery to remove a tumor was wonderfully successful.

“Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love,
being of one accord, of one mind.” - Philippians 2:2

Rejoicing for others is one way to ...
Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK —(Continued from Page 1)

Peter served as both an apostle and elder (1 Pet. 5:1). He admonished elders to "shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by constraint but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." (1 Pet. 5:2-4).

Those men who have prepared for the eldership in their youth and have served well in the service of our Lord have the promise of receiving a great reward both now and eternally. "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." (1 Tim. 5:17).

- David Padfield, Evangelist, church of Christ, Zion, Illinois

Are you preparing to lead? It's up to you to ...

Choose the Straight Gate in 2008

- **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.
- **SAVE THE DATE!** Ladies Day at West Columbia, Saturday April 12, 2008.
- **CAROLINA MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** near Rockhill, SC, Saturday March 8, 2008
- **State Wide Bible Bowl** at St. Andrew's Road church of Christ, Saturday February 23. The West Columbia Teens and Pre-Teens are defending champions.

YOUR SERVANT—FOR GOOD OR ILL

I am your constant companion.

I am your greatest asset or heaviest burden.

I will push you up to success or down to disappointment.

I am at your command.

Half the things you do might just as well be turned over to me,

For I can do them quickly, correctly, and profitably.

I am easily managed; just be firm with me.

Those who are great, I have made great.

Those who are failures, I have made failures.

I am not a machine, though I work with the precision of a machine and the intelligence of a person.

You can run me for profit, or you can run me for ruin.

Show me how you want it done. Educate me. Train me.

Lead me. Reward me.

And I will then...do it automatically.

I am your servant.

Who am I? ... I am a habit.