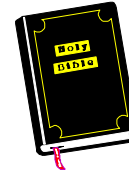


# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## 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 35, NUMBER 49 December 6, 2009

### RECORDS 11/29/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 40  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 65  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 48  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study:  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2017

### SERMONS 12/6/2009

AM: Jerry Manning  
PM: Jerry Manning

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord;  
and whether we die, we die unto the Lord;  
whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://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*

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Deborah Stoyk**, Michael's mom, is in LMC #620 with blood clots.
- **Vernicia Matthews** is home recovering from surgery.
- Continue to remember **Ron Banks** and **Marilyn Brooks** as they deal with chronic physical pain.
- Remember **Margie DeYoung** as she recovers from a fall and hurt ankle.
- **Chris Kelleher** is responding well to treatment for brain cancer.
- **Betty Mathis** is doing well and would greatly appreciate your cards, and visits.
- **Sue Island** was able to make it to the assembly Sunday!
- Remember **Anna Porter** and **Margie DeYoung** also.
- Remember **Jean Baker** as she mourns the passing of her husband.
- And remember the **Stoyk** family as they cope with much adversity.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

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

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- **Have any good ideas for a theme phrase for 2010? For example:**

**BE A FRIEND IN 2010**

- **College age Bible study Thursday 8 pm, next semester moving to TUESDAY's at 8 pm.**
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks.**
- **Pantry items** to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

**12/6** Chef Boyardee Ravioli     **11/29** Delmonte Sliced Peaches

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

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

- **Volunteers** are needed to **clean the building** in DECEMBER and upcoming months. This is a good way **you** can **participate** in and support the **good work** going on here at West Columbia. If you're willing to team up with others, sign up and we'll put teams together. Many are working very hard. This is a good way **you** can join in and encourage them! Please sign up—now! It will be encouraging to others.

## **WHAT CAN I DO?**

Have you ever felt left out? That you weren't important and thus not worth anything? That you couldn't make some great contribution. Maybe you've felt that way in the church: "Oh, I wish I could speak like that man..." or "Oh, I wish I could quote scripture like so and so ..." or "Oh, I wish I was a leader in the church like what's his name ...". Have you ever felt like that? WELL DON'T!!!

It's the **Lord** we want to be pleased with us; not other people. If the Lord is pleased with us, we ought to be pleased also. If He is pleased with us, what then does it matter what other people think of us? And the other way around too. If the Lord is **not** pleased with us, we better not be pleased with ourselves. If He is not happy with us, it doesn't matter how popular or respected we are.

Let's all aim to please the Lord. We can! He tells us how in his Word. The things He delights in are things that each and every one of us, without exception, can possess:

**“Thus saith the Lord,**

**Let NOT the wise man glory in his WISDOM,  
NEITHER let the mighty man glory in his MIGHT,  
Let NOT the rich man glory in his RICHES:**

**But let him that glorieth glory in this,**

**That he UNDERSTANDETH and KNOWETH me,  
That I am the Lord, which exercise**

**LOVINGKINDNESS, JUDGMENT, and RIGHTEOUSNESS,  
in the earth:**

**For in THESE things I DELIGHT, saith the Lord.” - Jeremiah 9:23,24**

Which of us can NOT have loving kindness, judgment, righteousness?

Young or old, rich or poor, great or small, man or woman, let's **all** strive and hunger for knowledge and understanding of God and His ways—the spiritual ways of Mercy, Love, Judgment and Righteousness.

And the way to get these is to study and practice God's word—the Bible ...

**“for if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” - 2 Peter 1:8**

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

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**