

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

The word "church" can refer to the church universal (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:23) - the whole body of baptized believers, or to a local body of Christians (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2).

When you were baptized into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4), He added you to His church (Acts 2:41, 47). This refers to the church universal, the body of all the saved who belong to Christ (Eph. 2:16; 4:4; 1:22-23). On the other hand, such expressions in Scripture as "the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Cor. 1:2) refer to a local church, a congregation of those who belong to the Lord in a particular locality who have banded together to work and worship collectively in those things God would have them to do. The Christian, while added to the universal church by the Lord, joins himself to the local church like the apostle Paul did with the church in Jerusalem in Acts 9:26.

Every Christian needs to be identified with a local church. When a child of God moves from one locality to another, he should seek out a faithful group of the Lord's people and identify with them in order to fulfill his share of the collective responsibilities the Lord has given him. For, you see, the local church is the only collective functioning unit revealed in the New Testament. The church universal has no organization with which it can function. Nor are there any structural ties between local churches. Each local congregation is an independent, autonomous, i.e., self-governing, group.

God has designated that when there are qualified men to serve, each local church should be organized with elders, deacons and members (Phil. 1:1). The qualifications for elders are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. The deacons' qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Elders are to tend the church (1 Pet. 5:2) and rule over it (Heb. 13:17) by exercising oversight (1 Pet. 5:2), to watch out for the souls placed in their charge (Heb. 13:17), to admonish the unruly (1 Pet. 5:1-2) and be an example to all (1 Pet. 5:2). Deacons are special servants who attend to those things the church needs and the elders direct them to accomplish. If there are no qualified men in a congregation who can serve in these offices, a local church may exist and function by using such an expedient as a business meeting -- a meeting of the men of the congregation which determines the course of action the church will follow in accomplishing the work of the Lord.

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IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 38, NUMBER 7 February 26, 2012

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

HONOR

PM: ED KELLEHER

HATE MORE

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

“Let us not be weary in well doing;
for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” - Galatians 6:9

JOIN US IN
NEW TESTAMENT
CHRISTIANITY
TODAY!

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

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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

To be announced

EVANGELIST

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Margaret Herring, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier and Phyllis Johnson.*
- We rejoice with the **Sheppards** and **Janet Boyd** as **Ryan Sheppard** is home on leave from overseas.
- **Grant Parks**, who has juvenile diabetes, has been having a particularly hard time with swings in his blood sugar of late. The family requests your prayers.
- **Anna Porter** is at **Still Hopes** in West Columbia for rehab and care following her surgery. **Anna** is in good spirits and should be mended and home soon. Her address and phone number are posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer.
- **Ken Parks** will be training in Charlotte, NC.
- **Tommy White had** is using a walker to keep pressure off his knee as he recovers. He hopes to back with us the 1st of March..
- **Margaret Herring** continues to suffer many health problems, sinus and bronchitis.
- Give thanks to God for His mercy, and pray for all these, and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." - Psalm 27:1

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Singing this Wed. Then in March, **Floyd Richbourg** will be teaching the Wed. night Bible class, starting with 1 Corinthians.
- **Building Cleaning** signup for the New Year is posted in the Foyer.
- The parking lot is well lit up at night now. Our thanks to brother **Jones Gamble** for getting that done. Also, we appreciate **his** publishing a list each week of those we missed on Sunday. Give those folks a call, or send a card to see if their ok, and to encourage them and let them know we miss them.
- **Bible Study at Church Building, Saturdays 3 pm**, all are invited and please invite visitors to come! It's a good way for people to learn more of us. An informal session around a table with everyone using their bibles and Strong's Concordances.

"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." - Proverbs 16:19

IN THE BIBLE WE'LL DELVE IN 2012

SAVE THE DATES!

- **Carolina Men's Fellowship** in Rock Hill Saturday March 10.
- **Ladies Day**, Augusta Road Church, Greenville, March 17
- **Gospel Meeting** at West Columbia with David Pharr Sun-Wed April 22-25.

"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

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, continued from page 1

The Christian's Responsibilities To Members Of The Church

As a member of the church the Christian is a part of the family of God (1 Tim. 3:15). Being a family member carries responsibilities. As a part of the universal church one has responsibilities to all Christians worldwide. Being a member of a local church, though, he sustains peculiar responsibilities to those who are his fellow-members in that local body. It is like being a part of the physical family. When one is born he becomes a part of a large family with aunts, uncles, cousins, etc., to whom he has responsibilities. But he also is part of a nuclear family of mother, father, sisters and brothers to whom he has special moral and spiritual obligations over and above those he has to the rest of his relatives.

Some Of The Christian's Responsibilities To Other Members Of The Church

- * Love (1 Pet. 1:22)
- * Edify (Eph. 4:16)
- * Encourage (Heb. 10:24)
- * Teach and Admonish (Col. 3:16)
- * Bear Burdens (Gal. 6:2)
- * Comfort (1 Thes. 4:18)
- * Forgive (Eph. 4:32; Matt. 6:14-15)
- * Work Together (Phil. 1:27)

— **Gene Taylor**, gospel preacher, the Church of Christ in Tallahassee, Florida

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” Colossians 1:18-23

“ ... The churches of Christ salute you “ - Romans 16:16

REMEMBER OUR GOSPEL MEETING 4/22-25

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