

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

## THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH

We are taught in the New Testament that Jesus would build but one church. He called this one “my church” (Matt. 16:18). We are to inquire what sort of church Christ did build. In order to determine the church that Christ built, we must go back through 20 centuries and visit Jerusalem on that eventful Pentecost which occurred after the ascension of Christ to the Father. We must examine with unbiased minds the preaching of Peter on that day.

**Peter's Sermon In Acts 2:** On this Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. There were physical manifestations that accompanied the miraculous descent of the Holy Spirit. When these manifestations were noised abroad, a great multitude came together.

There were dwelling in Jerusalem at that time Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. They had come to Jerusalem to keep the Passover and had remained to keep the feast of Pentecost 50 days later. When they came together, they heard the apostles speaking in their own tongues and were confused about what they heard. They did not understand the extraordinary events that were taking place. Some even concluded that the apostles were drunken and even made that charge.

But Peter, speaking by the Holy Spirit, denied the charge and explained the phenomenon. He said those events were in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel. He continued to speak and quoted from David to show that Jesus of Nazareth was the long-looked-for Messiah. He convinced many in the multitude. They had crucified the Christ who had been raised from the dead and ascended back to the Father. By Peter's words, they came to belief in Christ.

**Terms Of Admission:** When the multitude had been convinced that the Messiah had been crucified, many of them said, “**Men and brethren, what shall we do?**” Peter then continued and said, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call**” (Acts 2:38-39). “**Then they that were gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls**” (Acts 2:41).

Here we have the first preaching that was done under the commission that Jesus had given the apostles after His resurrection. He had said, “**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be damned**” (Mk. 16:15-16). The terms of remission of sins were the terms of admission into the church. These people complied with them and were added to His church. - **Continued on Page 3**

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 24 June 14, 2009

RECORDS 6/7/2009

SERMONS 6/14/2009

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 44  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 78  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 48  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 52  
CONTRIBUTION: \$2395

AM: Jerry Manning  
A TRUE FRIEND  
PM: Jerry Manning  
A PILLAR OF SALT

“For as the body without the spirit is dead,  
so faith without works is dead also.” - James 2:26

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

The Bulletin  
USPS-994-500  
Periodicals Postage Paid  
West Columbia, SC  
Published Weekly By:

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169

### 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.
- **Margaret Herring** isn't doing well, remember **Carolyn Lee** also.
- **Sarah Owens**, is in room 838 at LMC being treated for cancer.
- Prayers for **Lynn Drago** are especially coveted as she is in final stages of cancer.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

**"For we are saved by hope... but if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." - Romans 8:24,25**

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

- **Ladies!** Meet with **Lynn Manning** at the building on **Tuesday**, June 23rd at 6:30 to work on cutting the patterns for the Comfort Pillows. Bring good scissors
- **No Ladies class** in June and July as people are traveling.
- **Transportation** is needed for sisters **Betty Mathis** and **Marilyn Brooks**.
- **ON HOLD! WORSHIP SERVICE** training for the men, Wed 6 pm, till after VBS.
- **Volunteers** needed to **clean the building**. Sign up sheet in the foyer.
- **Foundation Class**, Saturdays 11 am at the building. All are invited.
- **Visual Aids** help needed for VBS, see brother Manning.
- Starting July 5, during our first Sunday luncheons, we'll have reports and discussion with the church on various works we're engaged in. All are encouraged to attend.

**“But to do good and to communicate forget not:  
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” - Hebrews 13:16**

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

- **John Manning** graduates from MSOP Sunday 6/21. **Lynn and the boys** will be going up this Sunday (6/14) to help John pack. **Jerry** will be going up next Saturday. They'll all be returning Monday 6/22. Remember them as they travel.

**"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
- 1 Corinthians 15:57**

### “... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

**WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 6/14—C 6/21—D 6/28—A 7/5—B**

**All members in the congregation are assigned to a Work Team  
Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!**

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**

### **THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH—(Continued from Page 1)**

They continued steadfastly in the apostles teaching, which means they were instructed how to live in the church. So the preaching of the gospel was essential to making church members. The gospel must be believed, sins must be repented of, and people must be baptized into Christ in order to become members of this church.

**The Test Applied:** Suppose that Peter were to arrive in this country today. What church would he attach himself to? If he could find a church with the terms of admission like he preached on Pentecost, then he would know that was a church of Christ. If he did not find a church with the same terms of membership, he would know that church was not the one Christ built.

If Peter should join any one of the present-day denominations, he would put himself in a church that Christ did not build. It is impossible for us to think that an inspired apostle would put himself into a church established by uninspired men and governed by uninspired regulations. If he should join the Methodist Church, he would have to subscribe to the Methodist Discipline. If he should join one of the Baptist Churches, he would have to subscribe to its peculiar creed. If he should join the Presbyterian Church, he would have to subscribe to its Confession of Faith. None of these admit people on the same terms that Peter preached on the day of Pentecost in Acts two.

**Christ's Church Today:** Since we can learn from the New Testament what it took to establish the church of Christ on the day of Pentecost, and since the gospel that was preached on that day is preached now, and people hear it, believe it, and obey it today just as they did in Acts two, we have the same church that was established on Pentecost.

If the members of this church continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship and breaking of bread and prayers as the first members did, we will have a church like the one that was established on Pentecost. In fact, we would have the identical church that was established on Pentecost.

Putting it another way, if the same gospel is preached today that was preached on Pentecost in Acts two, and people hear it, believe it, and obey it as they did on Pentecost, and then live as the early Christians lived, we would have the same church that was established on Pentecost.

If people know what was preached on Pentecost and what was believed and practiced, and know what is preached and practiced today, they can know or identify the church of Christ and distinguish it from religious denominations. People today need not be mistaken or confused. It is possible for the same gospel to be preached that was preached then, for people to believe the same gospel as they did then and to live as they did then as members of the church. This would then constitute them members of the church of Christ, and make a group of such people a church of Christ.

**- Henry Leo Boles, 1874-1946, Gospel Preacher**

**JESUS: ONE BODY—ONE CHURCH!**

**“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” - Ephesians 1:22,23**

**Let Your Light Shine in 2009!**