

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

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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Strive to get **CLOSER TO HEAVEN IN 2007!**

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 7 February 18, 2007

RECORDS 2/11/2007

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 62
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 80
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 58
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 66
CONTRIBUTION: \$1985

SERMONS 2/18/2007

AM: Jerry Manning
Harvest Time
PM: Jerry Manning
Procrastination, Priorities
and the Providence of God

"The ear that heareth the reproof of life
abideth among the wise." - Proverbs 15:31

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

Tuesdays (except 1st) 10 AM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Beryl Parks, 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 grandson).
- Also remember Judy Walker (back), Paul Dillard (shoulder), Ron and Margie Banks (assortment of ills), Anna Porter (who is doing some better), Marilyn Brooks (eye problems) and Trish Kelly (medicine problems).
- Judy Walker's dad, Grover Whidden in Orlando, had a pacemaker installed.
- Don Klieves has a badly torn rotator cuff in his shoulder and is scheduled for surgery Tuesday 2/20/07. He'll be out of work for at least 6 weeks.
- Phyllis Nelson, a dear friend of Don and Nancy Fields who has a recurrence of cancer.
- Bobby Hutchinson is in Guyana and his mom, Mrs. Hutchinson, is out of the hospital, but not doing too well.
- Robert Ray, a MSOP classmate of Jerry's had lung collapse and needs our prayers. He is preaching in Muncie, IN. He and Jerry were very close in school.

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

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

- The youth had a good time with the youth from the church in Thompson Georgia. They had a really excellent singing Friday night and knocked doors in the area Saturday. I'm not sure when, or if, they slept. But much good was done for all.
- We have an **activity fund** to help members that need it, participate in some of the group activities. Members are invited to contribute to this fund individually.
- Pray for the **Bible Bowl teams** that are diligently studying the book of Acts.
- **Bible bowl practice** for all teams 7PM Fridays, 5PM Sundays, 5PM Saturday at the building. The SC Statewide Bible Bowl is Sat. 3/4 at St. Andrew's Road.
- **Work Team A** will be the active Team starting Sunday 2/18/2007. They'll meet at Gerald and Janet Boyd's home at 4PM Sunday afternoon.
- Work Team **D**, remember to get your assignment cards in THE BOX!
- Our thanks to Ray and Holly Wilson for opening their home for the Work Team D meeting. They a wonderful place on a lake in Pontiac.

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” - Acts 2:46,46

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“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Great Smoky Mountain **Marriage Retreat**, February 21-24 (Wed-Sat) in Sevierville TN which is this side of Knoxville. Featuring **Keith Mosher**, instructor at MSOP and Jason Jackson, youngest son of Wayne Jackson. Retreat is free, but you have to provide your own accommodations. **Jerry Manning** knows Keith Mosher well and highly recommends this. He and Lynn plan on going.
- **Carolina Men's Fellowship**, Saturday **March 10** 9AM-3PM at Charlotte Ave Church of Christ in Rock Hill. **David Pharr, James Meadows** and others will speak at this 9th annual meeting. If you're interested in going see **Don Klieves**.
- Remember sister **Anne Louise Gordon** in LCDC in your prayers.

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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