

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 "fun 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.)*

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THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 39, NUMBER 49 December 15, 2013

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T J BOLEN—Deuteronomy 5:1 Hear, Learn, Do

PM: T J BOLEN—1 Thessalonians 2:13-17

"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

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

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: Anna Porter, Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.

- Our new brother in Christ, **Dylan Leahy** came forward last Sunday requesting the prayers of the church.
- **Dorothy Gray** requests prayers for herself and her husband **Roderick**. She has been promoted to a supervisory position at LMC which will give her better hours.
- **Anna Porter** continued in Richland hospital with breathing problems.
- **Stephanie Rigney** was scheduled for a PET scan last Tuesday to check that her cancer was still in remission.
- **Margaret Gamble**, Jones' sisters, continues to do well after a kidney transplant was scheduled to come home this past Friday. Pray she continues so.
- Continue to remember: **Margaret Herring, Pay Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, and Judy Walker** who all are ailing at the time and are hindered from being with us.

“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

- **Lisa Jenkins** has started a new job, but has to work evenings and weekends. She wants her son **Josiah** to remain active in the church, but he needs transportation. They are close to the church, off 378 in Park Place apt. A map is posted. Sister **Dorothy Gray** is helping but needs assistance, please see her to coordinate this.
- **Slogan for 2014?** Suggestions needed: **AS A CHRISTIAN BE SEEN IN 2014**
- **YOUNG ADULT** class Sundays, 10am in the upstairs classroom.
- Get your **Bible questions answered** Saturdays at 3pm at the building.
- Entire assembly is now being recorded on DVD thanks to brother Marshal Mancuso. See Marshall or **Jones Gamble** to get a copy for yourself or to share with someone.
- **Bible Bowl** Feb 22, 2014—Book is 2 Samuel, the New King James version.

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

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

“WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP” - Romans 12:15

- Our brother in Christ, **Bobby Hutchinson** passed away suddenly last week in Arizona. Bobby was **Anna Porter's** son-in-law and attended here when he was in town. The family will be here and a meal will be shared with them after the morning assembly. Visitation at 1pm, and service here at the building at 2pm. Interment to be at Greenlawn Cemetery at 4pm. Remember them in your prayers.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” - Hebrews 6:10

WHAT CAN I DO?

Have you ever felt left out? That you weren't important and thus not worth anything? That you couldn't contribute? 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, despite what good things people may say of us. If the Lord 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 every chance we get. The result of this that **all** members can do?

The Lord promises that if we have these things, if we work to attain them ...

“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

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