

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: Ed Kelleher

PM: Ed Kelleher

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

**“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6**

**“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” - James 2:16**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

West Columbia Church of Christ  
1701 Augusta Road  
West Columbia SC 29169  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

**JOIN US IN  
PRACTICING  
NEW TESTAMENT  
CHRISTIANITY  
TODAY,  
COME SEE!**

SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM , 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
*Nursery provided*

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays 3 pm  
*Everyone Welcome!*  
Bring your friends & Bible questions

EVANGELIST

none at present time  
other than the members  
Full time position open

BULLETIN EDITOR

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# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## Some Responsibilities of Church Membership

I have yet to find a passage of scripture that supports the “member at large” ideology. By that I mean, a member apart from a local congregation. The Scripture teaches the value of individual Christians being recognized as part of a local, autonomous congregation of God’s people. While it’s true that all those who have obeyed Christ through penitent faith and baptism are members of the church of Christ, in a general sense, it is equally true that those same individuals should identify themselves with a local body of New Testament Christians.

This past week, I went through some old files that I had received from a “retired” preacher. I ran across a piece of paper that has turned yellow and brittle due to the heavy weight of age. Based on some of the other documents that I found in the same folder, I’m guessing this piece is at least fifty years old.

On this tattered, yellow piece of paper is an article that someone wrote about church membership. I would like to share it with you.

Every relationship in life involves some responsibility. Membership in the church of the Lord bestows upon us the highest and holiest privileges and blessings conceivable to men.

It also involves great responsibilities and serious obligations [1 Cor. 12:12]. A man takes pride in fulfilling his obligations. A Christian should be eager to fulfill all obligations that go with church membership.

Let us study some of them, at the same time examining ourselves to see if we are fulfilling them so as to be approved of the Lord.

### Local membership:

The local congregation is the only unit of organization we can read of in the New Testament for carrying on the Lord’s work that is assigned to the church. For a Christian to be in full fellowship with the church, he must be associated with, and be a part of, and be amenable to a local congregation. The New Testament does not describe the status of “A member at large.” We find Paul always associating himself with a congregation of Christians (Acts 9:26-30; 13:1-3).

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**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

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

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Merrie Christmus, Dorothy Gray & family, Margaret Herring, Pat Joyner, Jan Kelleher, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, Stephanie Rigney.*

- **Margaret Herring** is to have surgery on her toe, pray it gives her relief.
- **Anna Porter** has moved back to NHC on US 378, but is very weak.
- **Sharon Mancuso** will be working on the West Coast for a week.
- **Megan Stoyk's** pregnancy is progressing well and is past the critical point.
- **Also remember:** **Mike Kennedy** still undergoing tests; **Jan Kelleher** continuing treatment for metastatic disease; **Merrie Christmus** with shingles on her head; **Laura Nichols'** friend **Lee** whose cancer thankfully has not spread; **Margaret Herring** who is suffering many ills;
- **Pray for all these** and the work of the Lord here at West Columbia. Give **thanks** to God for his goodness and love for us.

**"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 5:10**

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

- **Congregational Photo** turned out good! It's up on our website (hiding).
- **Bible Bowl**—February 23, 2017—Book of LUKE.
- The **church website** has been updated, please make **suggestions** to **Ed**.
- New **Visitor Welcome** sheet to give to visitors to our assembly are in the foyer.
- We're looking for a new evangelist, suggestions welcome!
- **Please sign up to provide Meals for College Students**— in conjunction with class taught by **Spencer Strickland**, every Wednesday. Sign up sheet in foyer.
- **INVITE SOMEONE TO VISIT US!** Give them one of the **church cards** that are on the table in the foyer. If you take some, please use them.
- See the **thank you and visitor cards on bulletin board in foyer**.
- Invite people to come to the informal Q&A **Bible study**, Saturdays 3pm.

**"Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked." - Psalms 97:10**

**Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!**

### **ARE YOU READY?**

**“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**

**Saturday 3pm Bible studies will help you get ready!**

## **Some Responsibilities of Church Membership - (Cont. from page 1)**

### **Subjection to the elders:**

The elders are to exercise oversight over the local congregation (1 Peter 5:1-5). We (members) are to “obey them that have the rule over [us]” and “they are to watch for [our] souls” (Heb. 13:17; 1 Tm. 5:17-19).

### **Joint participation or fellowship in the work of the local church:**

Each member is to be ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1-2). “Every joint supplieth” the needs of the church (Eph. 4:16). “Every tree shall be known by its fruit” (Luke 6:44). “Prove your own work” (Gal. 6:4-5).

### **Preserve the unity, peace and harmony of the body of Christ:**

“I beseech you that there be no divisions among you” (1 Cor. 1:10). “Mark them which cause division” (Rm. 16:17-18). “Endeavoring (make some definite effort) to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3).

### **The church has a mission—the salvation of souls:**

We must be united with Christ that we might bring forth fruit unto God (Romans 7:4). Branches that do not bring forth fruit will be cut off and cast into the fire (John 15:2).

The “Christian at large” is defeating the very purpose of the local congregation—the preaching of the Gospel to the saving of souls. He is assuming no responsibility; and, sometimes he may be shirking it.

The apostle Paul said that the things written down in the past were done so that we might learn (Romans 15:4). While I understand these words to be referring to the Old Testament Scripture, I do believe they teach a valuable principle. Great Christian soldiers of the past are still teaching us by what they have written. I for one am grateful that we can still learn from these men today.

—**Neil Richey**, Gospel Preacher, Augusta Road Church of Christ in Greenville, SC.

## **Books of the Old Testament—Good to memorize them!**

Genesis	1 Kings	Ecclesiastes	Obadiah
Exodus	2 Kings	Song of Solomon	Jonah
Leviticus	1 Chronicles	Isaiah	Micah
Numbers	2 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Nahum
Deuteronomy	Ezra	Lamentations	Habakkuk
Joshua	Nehemiah	Ezekiel	Zephaniah
Judges	Esther	Daniel	Haggai
Ruth	Job	Hosea	Zechariah
1 Samuel	Psalms	Joel	Malachi
2 Samuel	Proverbs	Amos	