

What Am I Saying When I Assemble with the Saints?

May we cultivate and maintain the attitude of David, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1). How sad to see

empty seats when we assemble to worship our God! (Heb. 10:25). Attending worship services is more important than we may think. Let us notice a few things that I am saying when I assemble with the saints.

I am saying that I need to maintain my spiritual growth. If you take a coal of fire and lay it on the hearth it will grow cold and die. Likewise, if a Christian stays away from the Lord's work he will grow cold and die spiritually. There is no exception to this rule.

I am saying I love the Lord and want to be with him. The Lord is present when we assemble (Mt. 18:20). We enjoy being in the presence of those we love.

I am saying I feel I need to go and am needed. Christians need the association, the teaching, the prayers, and the spiritual communion which can only come from God's people. Yes, we need each other.

I am saying I need to satisfy my spiritual appetite (Mt. 5:6; I Pet. 2:1,2). If we were to lose our physical appetite we would look at it as a danger signal. When one starts missing worship services why is it that we do not look at this as a danger signal?

I am saying I need to set a good example. We teach by example. What kind of advice are we giving by our absenteeism? What kind of advice are we giving to our children? (Eph.6:4). What kind of advice are we giving to our companion? (I Pet. 3:1-7). What kind of advice are we giving to non-Christian neighbors? (Mt. 5:16). What kind of advice are we giving to new babes in Christ?

I am saying I want a good conscience. When we miss the first service our conscience is hurt. After missing several times the conscience becomes seared. We do not feel guilt any more. (I Jn. #:20,21)

-to be continued

Principles to Sustain Us

Our Wednesday auditorium class has been studying First Peter. This book speaks of tumultuous times and gives God's people remedies for dealing with trials and troubles. Persecution was already in their midst, but was about to increase. How should they handle it? How would they handle it? The principles found in this book have sustained those suffering trials throughout the years and continues to do so today. In concluding a thought, the Holy Spirit through Peter gives us some principles to sustain us in I Peter 3:8, where He stated, "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." Notice these principles:

Harmony ("be ye all of one mind")- Unity is stressed in the New Testament. The seven "ones" given by Paul stress unity (Eph. 4:4-6). The lack of unity in the Corinthian church brought about strong words of condemnation (I Cor. 1:10-3). Matters concerning "the doctrine of Christ" are not to be compromised (II Jn. 9-11). There must be harmony in the body.

Sympathy ("having compassion one of another")- The word compassion literally means "a feeling with." Paul told the Romans to "weep with them that weep" (Rom. 12:15). Through the illustration given, he instructed the Corinthians to care for one another (I Cor. 12:25, 26).

Charity ("love")- Love's great qualities are widely known (I Cor. 13:4-8), but not so widely practiced. Love for each other should characterize God's people (Jn. 13:35). We are to "love the brotherhood" (I Pet. 2:17).

Fraternity ("as brethren")- The love we are to have in this instance is particular in nature. It is brotherly love (Rom. 12:10; I Jn. 3:14, 15; 4:20). There are many organizations that hold to principles of fraternal closeness, but none should be so characterized as the Lord's church.

Empathy ("be pitiful")- The ASV uses the word "tenderhearted," and the literal interpretation of the word is "good-hearted." One characteristic of God's child is that he has a good heart. Empathy manifests itself in pity and compassion. As Jude states, such compassion can "make a difference" (Jude 22).

Courtesy ("be courteous")- Courtesy is for the most part forgotten in our day. That courtesy which we once labeled as "common" is no longer such in modern society. These days we take note of one who demonstrates this quality. As Christians, it should be a common practice among us and characterize each one of us.

-Eddy

Teens

Congratulations to Chelsea High in her recent accomplishments on the Salem Track Team.

May Dates:

May 6—TBS—tonight after services

May 20—Graduation Banquet—after morning services

Registration forms are in the foyer for VCC, Horizons, and the bus. Fill them out and turn them in ASAP!

Dates for Teens:

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

Summer Youth Intern— *The elders are pleased to announce that Grat Tucker will be serving as our Youth Intern this summer beginning May 27. More information to follow.*



In two weeks we will be honoring our High School Graduates. This year we will be honoring Chelsea High and Luke Guard from Salem

High School. Plan on being in attendance on May 20 after morning services to let these two know how much they mean to us. We will be having a Pot-Luck lunch so bring your favorite dish and join us for this event.

We welcomed a new brother in Christ last week with the baptism of Preston Duff.



Also Sam Valentine and Josh Whitlow asked for our prayers in their behalf.

West Side's Older Workers

The next regular meeting of the WOW Group will be Tuesday, May 8 at 10:30.

Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

Team 2 - Bob Garby

A congregational picnic is scheduled May 19 at 4 p.m. at the Garby's home. Everyone welcome.

Team 3 - David Brown

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

Address Corrections

Betty Buckner
5814 Penn Forest Place
Roanoke, VA 24018
772-1371

(Stickers are available in the foyer)

Bonnie Mellon
bheadstart@aol.com

Susan Mountcastle
mountcastle2@wmconnect.com

Diane Tucker
3242 Fleetwood Avenue

Josh Whitlow
jwhitlow1@verizon.net

Please update your directories!!



SICK

Glenna Richardson had surgery on Thursday. She is in LGH and will have additional treatments in the future.

Ryan Simms underwent emergency surgery on Wednesday night to remove his appendix. He should be home now.

Marguerite Charles is back at home at Richfield after her stay in the VA.

Sandra Wood is home on complete bed rest. She is still waiting for results.

Evelyn White is scheduled for neck surgery on June 29 at UVA.

Effie Wimmer underwent a medical procedure on May 4.

Allison Stricklin, **Greg & JoAnn's** daughter-in-law, is suffering from effects from an E-coli infection in her kidneys.

Kassidy Foster, young friend of **Olivia Valentine**, lost her leg last week to cancer. Send wishes to: www.kassidyspage.com.

Susan Mountcastle has an appointment with a vascular surgeon on Monday.

Remember the following in prayer: **Luetta Gregory, Larry Phillips, AC Janney, Betty Jenkins, Liz Mullins, Gary Sartain, Danny Blevins.**



Happy Birthday this week to:

Josh Whitlow—5/8

Brian Bush—5/9

Charlie Puckett—5/10

Mitch Jearls—5/13

MAY & JUNE ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS:
Tic-Tacs (Cy's fav is green) and low fat microwave popcorn. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!



TEEN BIBLE STUDY

The teens will have Teen Bible Study tonight after evening services at the Teen Center.

WOW GROUP MEETING

The WOW group will meet Tuesday at 10:30 here at the building.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The monthly Men's Breakfast will be next Saturday at 8AM at Famous Anthony's.

WEDDING

The wedding for Ashley White and Brett Jones will be here at the building next Saturday at 1:00.

VBS SCRIPTS

Just a friendly reminder, the VBS scripts need to be in to Greg Edwards on May 13.

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The Area-Wide Preachers Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, May 22 at 10:30.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Wednesday Fellowship will be May 16 at 5:45. Menu: Pork BBQ, salad, chips & dip. **NEW payment plan:** there is a box located in the kitchen for payments; so you still **need to sign up** and then pay at the door!

WEDDING

The wedding for **Andy Duran** and **Erin Leddy** will be May 26. Directions are on the board, and if you need a room, see Bob Garby.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

West Side Church of Christ will celebrate our 40th Anniversary/Homecoming on September 9, 2007. Please make plans now to be in attendance.

REGISTRATION FORMS

Please pick up your registration forms for VCC, Horizons, CTS and the Bus Trip. They are located in the foyer.

May 2007

Announcements Fred Altizer to
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham il
Opening Prayer (AM) ie
5/6 Danny Guard o-
5/13 Herb Baker ir
5/20 Barry White
5/27 Norris Gearhart

Preside at Communion Charles Maness
Serve Table Jim Harrington Charley Puckett
Adam House Jerry Anderson

Closing Prayer
5/6 Bobby Martin
5/13 Gene Benefield
5/20 Collin Gregory
5/27 Jim Bush

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)
5/6 Tom Richardson
5/13 Claude Crowe
5/20 Don Petitt
5/27 Crawford Keith

Scripture Reader Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer (PM)
5/6 Greg Edwards
5/13 Lyn Shrader
5/20 Murphy Scott
5/27 Eric Earnhart

Serve Table (PM) Mike Durham Sam Valentine

Song Leader (Wed) Charlie Gwaltney

Prayer (Wed)
5/2 Jerry Anderson
5/9 Mark Brooks
5/16 AC Janney
5/23 Glenn Hartman
5/30 Squeaky Valentine

Door Man Bob Garby
Greeters Pettits Dixons
Nursery Attend R. Durham K. Jearls
Ushers John Black Curtis Oakes
Handouts Mark Brooks George Mellon
Garrett & Bradford Durham
Alternates Bob Garby
Prepare comm. M. Peverall S. Baker
Cards & Pencils N. Pelfrey S. Durham

Last weeks attendance 4/29 & 5/1/07
Bible Class— 143 Worship Service—169
Eve. Worship—112 Wed. Service—126
Contribution—\$5233