

(Cont. from page 1)

3. **Conversations don't include spiritual matters:** It's no wonder why evangelism is so difficult sometimes. If we can't bring up scriptural, spiritual matters of discussion with our Christian family, what makes us think we'll be able to do the same with the lost? Just imagine having a discussion with Paul or Peter that didn't include the work of the church or some point about Jesus. That seems incredibly unlikely and we need to make it our goal to make it just as unlikely that we won't discuss such important matters with our brethren. Take note of the kind of conversations that happen before and after worship at your congregation. Are they all focused on the weather, sports and other current events or is there continued discussion on the topics brought up by the sermon or Bible Class? What about your own interactions? Do you think to bring up the Bible, prayer requests or words of encouragement or do you remain on a shallow level in most of your interactions? If we want our congregations to grow spiritually, we need to make the Word a bigger part of our lives as individuals.
4. **Fellowship ends when the doors close:** If the lights being turned off and the doors being locked on every Sunday night signals the last time members are going to see each other before Wednesday night (or the next Sunday morning), we can hardly claim a commonality with the church of Acts 2. Yes, life is busy and hectic and crazy sometimes, but a church that isn't involved in each other's lives won't ever be able to connect with each other beyond shallow, superficial interests (like the conversation topics mentioned above). It's that genuine love and care for each other that is supposed to distinguish us from the world ([John 13:35](#)).

Hopefully we can all truthfully claim that we want to be active workers in thriving congregations. While there is always work to do, the good news is that it's not all that difficult. We just need to commit ourselves to God and to each other. Consider your prayers and the things you're saying. Pay attention to how much you bring God into your conversations. Spend more time around your Christian family.

Most will react in one of two ways: they'll grow along with you and start being accustomed to greater fellowship and increased focus on the Word, or they'll become uncomfortable and avoid Christian activity. Truthfully, we need to start having congregations where it's awkward and uncomfortable to be inactive and lukewarm. Too many times, it's the other way around, where the passionate members are the ones that stand out as being different. Let's all purpose to start changing that culture.

This and That

—Items for the food pantry: canned corn, peas and canned meat

—If you are interested in being a sponsor for the Yorktown Elementary School Food Pack Program, please see Genny Stults. That project will be starting very soon.

—Girl's Year Round Song Leading: If you are interested in participating in this venture, come to the first meeting of the 2015-2016 year on August 30th after



Christians

They walk in all humility and kindness and falsehood is not found among them. They love one another. They rescue the orphan from violence. They do not refuse to help widows. He who has, gives ungrudgingly to those who lack. If they see a stranger, they take him home and treat him as a brother. When one of their poor passes from the world, any one of them who sees it, provides for his burial according to his ability. And if they hear about one of their number being in prison or being oppressed for the name of the Messiah, all of them provide for his needs. Thus, they labor to become righteous as those who expect to see their Messiah, and to receive from Him the glorious fulfillment of the promise made to them. Truly, this is a new people, and there is something divine in them."

Written to the Emperor Hadrian (117-138), just a few years after the death of the Apostle John.

(From West Side Archives)

Volume 21, Issue 33

West Side Window

August 23, 2015

SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study —
9:30 am
Worship — 10:30 am
& 6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study —
7:00 pm

MINISTER

Michael Gors

ELDERS

Michael Gors
Gary Reynolds
Larry Reynolds
Todd Stults

DEACONS

Don Allison
Fellowship

Kendall Clark
Benevolence

Jim Clark-Visitation

Lowell Huffman-Media

Volker Jaromin—
Communication and
Advertising

MISSION WORKS

Russia & India

Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of

Preaching

Ronnie Gootam

Southeast Institute of

Biblical Studies

Preaching

Caleb Taylor

Jonah Stults

Florida School of

Preaching

Scott Pfettscher

New Hampshire

Laconia Church of
Christ

Shane Belanger

4 Signs of a Spiritually Sick Church

Jack Wilkie, Focus Press

“Culture” has become a popular buzz word in the business world over the last few years. Successful organizations realize that they have to create a culture of productivity, accountability, and growth if they want to sustain their success. Basically, this means that those involved in the organization need to be on the same page. They all need to recognize that certain attributes will keep them from doing well with the company, and certain attributes will help entrench them as a part of the work. As the church, we need to look at our culture and realize that we've been plagued with a sickness. This sickness must be eradicated if each of our congregations are going to grow strong in the Lord. We've created a culture where it's far too easy to slide into a comfortable Christianity, where a member can have a minimal role in the work of the church and as long as that's fulfilled, we're doing fine. But that's not the kind of discipleship Christ established. How do you know when this disease is affecting your congregation? Here are 4 symptoms of a spiritually sick church.

1. Attendance isn't important: A congregation can't be healthy if it's considered no big deal when its members skip worship. When sports, school, hobbies, or any other activities are considered perfectly normal and acceptable reasons for not being present with the body on Sundays, it's a sign of a church that is a convenience in the lives of its members rather than a priority. It says that we think worship is exactly where we need to be as long as we don't have something better to do (Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-19 aren't just about singing—they remind us how important it is for Christians to be together and encourage each other. Additionally, what the New Testament teaches us about the Lord's Supper goes beyond just remembering Jesus; death, its also about the fellowship we all have together in his blood, remembering Jesus' death. Its also about the fellowship we all have together in his blood. That's not something a healthy church takes lightly or neglects when it's inconvenient.

2. Prayers focus only on the physical: It's important to pray for the sick, the injured, the traveling and such but if that is all we focus on in our prayers and our requests, it shows just how earth-focused we've become. Though Paul often mentioned the physical needs he and his fellow workers shared, his prayers showed his true priorities. He prayed that his brethren would be filled with the knowledge of God (Ephesians 3) and that they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col. 1). That they would know the love of Christ and that H would live in their hearts through faith (Ephesians 3) and that they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col.1). While we don't have the gift of Paul's eloquence, we do need to make sure our prayers aren't lacking in focus on our spiritual growth, opportunities to reach the lost and our relationships with God.

(Cont. on page 4)

WORSHIP FOR AUGUST 23, 2015

MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Don Allison
 Song Leader: Lowell Huffman
 1st Prayer: Chad Bobo
 Scripture: Jim Clark
2 Corinthians 3:1-3
 Sermon: Larry Reynolds
“Decide to Make a Difference”
 Closing Prayer: Sean Bobo
 Sound Room: Gary Reynolds

COMMUNION SERVERS

West Side— Outside: Brett Allison
 Inside: Don Allison
 East Side— Inside: Danny Odle
 Outside: Rick Cox

EVENING WORSHIP

Announcements: Don Allison
 Song Leader: Lowell Huffman
 Prayer: Jim Clark
 Scripture: Carl Gilstrap
Acts 19:8, 9
 Sermon: Larry Reynolds
“A Leader’s Work”
 Communion Table: Danny Odle
 Closing Prayer: Sean Bobo
 Sound Room: Gary Reynolds

Group Two Duties for August

—Greeters
 —Building Lock-up for Sun. and Wed.
 —Communion Clean-up
 —Communion Prep for August: Nancy Bateman
 Group Leaders: Lowell & Charlene

Remember in Prayer

Andrew Weyman, Toddler son of Chris and Kelly, from Waynedale. Diagnosed with leukemia. Receiving chemo at Riley in Indianapolis.

Brenda Huffman, Diagnosed with re-occurrence of lung cancer. Sister-in-law of Delores

Dave Porter, Stage 4 cancer. Friend of Gail Parker

George Robison, Margaret Goodman’s brother who lives in Indianapolis. Diagnosed with cancer in several vital organs

Herb & Betty Smith

Janie Miller, Hodgkin's Lymphoma. This is Mike’s aunt & his mother, Marty’s sister.

Jeremy Fortner, Advanced colon cancer which has invaded his lungs. Has begun chemo. Jeremy is the 41 year old nephew of Kendall Clark

Laura Spaulding, Breast cancer. Co-worker of Genny Stults

Linda Bigler, Residing in rehab facility. Battling return of tumors to brain.

Lowell Huffman, Left eye surgery on Tuesday

Mary Halstead, Age 95, Aunt of Nancy and Cindy, fell in her home, resulting in amputation of leg. Blood clots have developed

Michael & Monica McNeal, daughter of Mark Stewart. Monica and her husband are grieving the loss of his mother.

Mike Bayer, Recuperating at home from second heart attack

Ralph Zeek, Residing in Willow Bend Nursing Facility.

Sandra Crawford, Cancer. Wife of Kendal Clark’s friend

Sandra Mincey, Patient at Bloomington Hospital needing aortic valve replacement. Aunt of Jessica Gors.

Sharon Adams, Diagnosed with spinal ailment. Co-worker of Genny

Wendy Allison, Daughter of Ellen’s neighbor. Allison is in an induced coma at BMH

Let us be mindful of all those who are traveling to Polish the Pulpit in Tennessee this weekend and next week. God speed to all and may the journey bring knowledge and understanding to each person.

Our Shut-ins: Remember with prayer, cards & visits

Evelyn Vannatter—Elmcroft
 Forrest Hurst—Elmcroft
 Jim & Marylou Witty—At home
 Lana Blanchard—Albany Health Care
 Vada Zeek—Willow Bend

Attendance for the Week of August 16th

Sun. AM Bible Study	76
Sun. AM Worship	101
Sun. PM Worship	67
Midweek Bible Study	60

Midweek Service, Aug. 26th

Speaker: Charles Blair
 Song Leader: Sean Bobo
 Prayer: Jim Clark



Lela Proctor—August 23
Pam Smith—August 26
Bethany—August 29
Jim Witty—August 29
Jane Clark—August 30
August Birthdays

Coming Soon

August 25, Men’s Breakfast at IHOP, 8 a
August 25, Women’s Breakfast at IHOP, 10a
August 26, Last session of the Summer Series with speaker, Charles Blair at 7p
August 27, Ladies Deep Bible Study at 7p
August 27, High School and College Devo at Towne Acres at 7p
August 30, Girls Year Round Song Leading class, after morning service
Sept 6, Devotional at Bethel Pointe at 2p. Girls Year Round Song Leaders should be there at 1:45p
Sept 12, Elders and Deacons Meeting at 10:30a
September 7, Labor Day Breakfast at Morrow’s Meadow. Bring breakfast fare, lawn chairs, games, family and friends. Stay as long as you like, the pavilion is ours for the day. Breakfast served at 9a
September 19, Goshen church of Christ Ladies Day with speaker, Tiffany Secula. See flyer on bulletin board.
October 25-28, “Re-energizing the Church in Troublesome Times,” at Greenfield church of Christ



Our hearts are sad as we mourn the loss of our long time brother in Christ, Jim Hoover. Jim was 77 years old and had been a part of West Side from the beginning. He took part in the building of the church house and saw the congregation come to fruition in 1961. He was a steadfast worker in the church and served as a deacon and the treasurer at different times. All around West Side, one can see his work as an electrician and his building skills that stand out, saying he was here and worked and cared deeply for the Word and for the Church. We are reminded of the scripture in Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest.”