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**OPPORTUNITIES OF WORSHIP**

**Lord's Day**  
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Services 10:30 a.m.  
Worship Services 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Wednesday Morning Class 10:00 a.m.  
Mid-Week Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



More Than A Welcome  
Awaits You At The

Church of Christ

**Church of Christ**

111 S. Curry St.  
West Plains, MO 65775

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**The Ones We Love  
In Need Of Prayers**

**Nursing Home  
Residents**

**Brooke Haven**

Vivian Lovan Room 203  
Betty Sage Room 206

**NHC**

Helen Harrison Room A9

**Pleasant Valley Manor**

Marie Carpenter Room 405  
Velta Hambelton Room 107  
Charlie Ward Room 407

**West Vue**

Margaret Alvis Room 309  
Madge Brown Room 814  
Helen Collins Room 608  
Bobby Jo Gish Room 819  
Hazel Henry Room 712  
Jean Osborn Room 617  
Lois Shelton Room 807

**Members Home-  
Bound or with On-  
Going Illness**

Loeta Barr, J. G. Batterton, Floyd & Marcella Brown, Helen Collins, Leota Crawford, JoAnne Eagleman, Marie Good, Connie Griffin, Udean Halford, James Henry, Pete & Rachael Hensley, Minnie Hicks, Sue Moore, Jean Osborn, Betty Sage, Bonnie Wallace, Leona Willard & Sibyl Wright

**Church of**

**Christ**



King James Version is requested for the pulpit, classrooms, and scripture reading.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

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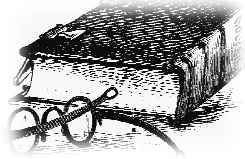
Volume 26 No. 1 January 1, 2012

**10 GUIDELINES FOR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. GOD:** Be prayerful. Remember dependence and helplessness in your relationship with God are prerequisites for spiritual health. How about a thorough spiritual check-up this year? (2 Cor. 13:5)
- 2. OTHERS:** Be helpful. Make a commitment to show love and encouragement to someone everyday (Rm. 14:19-22). Challenge yourself to be kind and helpful especially to those who least expect it! (Eph. 4:32)
- 3. YOUR MIND:** Read and think about something noble and creative every day (Phil. 4:8). Start the day with the Bible. Let the words of life fill your heart and mind before anything else gets to them!
- 4. FEELINGS:** Express them with love and honesty. Whether fear, guilt, grief, rage, shame, or anxiety, express your feelings to God, self, and a trusted friend (Prov. 27:5; 1 Pet. 3:7).
- 5. ACTIONS:** Be generous. Without thought of reward or praise be extravagant in your giving to others (2 Cor. 9:7). Give freely of your love, time, money, spirit, creativity, encouragement, and praise. Don't be stingy with the most important and powerful gifts in your possession, let your actions reflect the startling love of God!
- 6. SUCCESSES:** Be thankful (Col. 3:15). Most if not all of our successes are the result of God's grace not our cleverness or hard work. Count your blessings regularly.
- 7. TROUBLES:** Be trustful. For some mysterious reason, many times, God has chosen to make us mature through trials and hardships (Heb. 12:6-10). Look for the hand of God in every circumstance and trust His guidance in the highs and lows of life.
- 8. HEART:** Be careful (Prov. 23:7). Focus your love on the Father and Savior who reside within you. Be careful what you allow to creep in to this sacred space which belongs to God.

**9. WORSHIP: Be still (Psa. 46:10). Expressing your love and adoration to God isn't reserved for Sundays only. Don't get too busy throughout the week to make continual offerings of praise to God. Jesus is Lord of every day!**

**10. SIN: Be repentant. Don't let any sin harden your heart or break the connection between you and God. Confess your sins to the Father every day (I Jn. 1:6-10). Claim His promises that forgive you and make you pure and clean by the Blood of Jesus!**



*Dean Fitch*

## "OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD"

*Larry Yarber*

**"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (2nd Corinthians 6:17-18).**

All relationships in life are important. But, our relationship with God is the most important relationship we will ever have. Even though our relationship with every other person in the world is right, if our relationship with God is wrong, we will have lived only to lose it all, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Matthew 16:26). Therefore, it is imperative that we get this relationship right. It's the foundation for all other relationships in life.

In order to have a proper relationship with God, we must learn to put Him and spiritual things first in our life, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). And, "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all of thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:29-30). It has been said that, "God will not play second fiddle in any man's orchestra", and that, "God is either first in our lives or He isn't in our lives at all". I believe both of these statements to be true and want to encourage us all to put God first and foremost in our lives.

This means that we cannot allow anyone or any other relationship to come between us and God. Jesus said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:37). To put our parents, spouse, children, relatives, or friends before God is unacceptable. Again our Lord said, "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). James penned, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy; of God" (James 4:4). So, while we are to have and maintain a proper relationship with all of the above, to allow that relationship to come between us and God is wrong.

In order to have a proper relationship with anyone or anything, we must constantly nurture that relationship. This is as true of our relationship with God as it is with our relationship with anyone else. Some of the ways we can strengthen and nurture our relationship with God is as follows. When Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Bible says, "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him" (Luke 22:43). Prayer is one means through which we can strengthen our relationship with God. Another way we can strengthen our relationship with God is through study. Peter penned, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:" (1st Peter 2:2). Assembling with the saints is yet another way to nurture our relationship with God, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

**Since our relationship with God is the most important relationship in life, let's take the time to make it a healthy and everlasting affair.**

### Sunday Class & Sermon Titles

**Sunday AM Class:** "Jesus Defends His Disciples"

**Sunday AM Sermon:** "Giving"



**Sunday PM Sermon:** "Ted Thrasher /OABS"

**DAILY FAMILY BIBLE READING**

James 1: 2-8

**Ill or In the Hospital:** Jean Osborn is at West Vue, Room 619.  
Sybil Wright is in OMC - Room 251.  
Bill Osborn's wife Rita is in OMC also in Room 251.

**Congratulations!** Larry & Cheryl Yarber have a new granddaughter! Raegan LeAnn was born on Thursday, December 29, 2011. She weighed 71/2 lbs, and was 20 1/2 inches long.

**New Teaching Quarter:** Our New Teaching Quarter begins today. Let's all make an effort in the New Year to be here for all of our classes and worship services.

**Thank you!** A big thanks go out to all those who volunteered their time and talents in the remodeling of the small auditorium.

**Online Academy of Biblical Studies:** Ted Thrasher, who took the place of Tom Bright as director with OABS will be preaching our evening service.

**Children's Home Needs:** Paragould Children's Home is scheduled to collect groceries on Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

**Last Week's Bible Scramble Answer**

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

*Philippians 2: 3, 4*