



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.  
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 37, No. 46

November 18, 2009

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM  
Bible Study 10:30 AM  
Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM  
Bible Study 7:00 PM

#### Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

[www.collinsvillecoc.org](http://www.collinsvillecoc.org)

## IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?

**A** Many today minimize the importance of the church. People seem to be religious, but they do not want anything to do with organized religion. They want Christ but not the church. They want to be spiritual and godly, but they do not want the church. They want God in their lives but not the church.

Friend. One cannot separate Christ from the church. Neither can one separate God from the church.

The church is important because it is the blood bought institution built by the Lord. Jesus said, *"I will build my church..."* (Matthew 16:18). The church is not some man made institution like the Lion's Club or some other community organization. There are those who treat the church as such today. They treat it as if it makes no difference what they do to it or in it. The church was built by the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God who became poor that men might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). He is the sinless One, who was, who is, and who will always be --the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is to be loved (1 Corinthians 16:22). Certainly, if He is to be loved, then the institution that He built should be loved as well.

Not only did Jesus build the church, He bought that institution known as the church. He purchased it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The word "church," as found in the New Testament, is from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which means "the called out." The church is not a building, but it is made up of those who are "called out," called out of the world of sin by the gospel to be sanctified, set apart by God (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). It was for the church, the called out, that Christ gave himself (Ephesians 5:25-26). Those who call upon God as Father were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:17-19).

The church is the blood bought institution built by the Lord Jesus Christ. It should be loved and respected. It should be built up and honored. It should not be demeaned and belittled. It should not be neglected and forgotten.

The church is important because it is the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15).

The house of God can refer to the dwelling place of God (Ephesians 2:19-22; Acts 17:24; 2 Peter 2:5). Both the tabernacle and the temple were referred to as the House of God. God's presence was there. Though God does not dwell in temples made with hands, these were the places where the High Priests came into His presence, and it represented to Israel the dwelling place of God. The church is important because God dwells in the church, the Body of Christ.

But the house of God can, also, refer to the family of God. He is to be called upon as Father (1 Peter 1:17). Christians are known as His children (Romans 8:16). The church is important because in it one can call God his Father and be known as His child. In the church, therefore, one has the tender loving care of family. One has, in the church, a Father that knows his every need and provides for him through His providential care. In the church, then, one also has brothers and sisters that love him (Romans 12:10). They care for him and share his joys and his burdens (Galatians 6:2; Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26). Brotherly love should, therefore, rule in the church.

Because the church is the house of God, the dwelling place of God and the family of God, it should be respected and loved. God is present in the church. God's children are in the church. It should, also, be built up and honored. One should not tear down and count as nought the dwelling place of God or the family of God.

Being spiritual is commendable. But being an active part of the church is God's plan.

TLM

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## FORGET NOT ALL HIS BLESSINGS

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Psalm 103:2)

We're thankful for:

**Peace:** Philippians 4:6-7. "let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

**Hope.** 1 Peter 1:3. "According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

**Love.** 1 John 4:18. "Perfect love casts our fear." Romans 5:5. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

**Joy.** 1 Peter 1:8. "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."

**Comfort.** 2 Corinthians. 1:3-4. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

**The Holy Spirit.** Ephesians 1:13-14. "When you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

**An Inheritance.** Ephesians 1:11. "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will." An inheritance that Peter described in 1 Peter 1:4 as imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in Heaven for you. Paul stated, "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light, momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:16-17)"

**Truth.** John 8:32. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

**Life.** Ephesians 2:4-5. "But God, being rich of mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us. Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."

**Scriptures.** 1 Timothy 3:15. "How from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. "

**Forgiveness.** Colossians 1:14. "In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of our sins."

- David Gardner  
-Pineville church of Christ,  
Pineville, LA  
(emp. added)

### Mabery's Minutes



The elders  
thank you for  
your response  
as we called  
asking for

recommendations for additional deacons. Two of our goals for 2009 were to find additional men recognized by the congregation that were qualified and willing to serve as elders. Immediately after the appointment of two additional elders we began developing a process for additional deacons. From those recognized by the congregation, several men have been found willing to serve. We are in the process of interviewing those men and hope to put them before the congregation soon for your consideration. We should then be able to appoint additional deacons by the end of the year or early next year.

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