



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

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December 30, 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

LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

As the elders closed out their planning retreat in 2008, there were two major considerations that much time had been spent on. One of course, was the evangelism program that Kelvin Pugh was developing. The other was the leadership of the congregation. Now, as we near the end of 2009, we have two additional elders and eight additional deacons. We have also had a successful year evangelistically as God's word has been sown. More than ten thousand packets of materials have been distributed into the communities around us. More than eight hundred homes have personally had someone knock on their doors. We have had more non-Christians enrolled in correspondence courses than in recent years. Our Bible Call equipment has been in use far more than in the past. Bible studies have been conducted, and four have been baptized into Christ.

As the elders completed their planning retreat in October of this year, there were again two major considerations that took up much of the discussion time. One, of course, was the evangelistic program without the leadership of Kelvin. Highlights of those plans were given in the December 9, 2009 bulletin. Those matters will not be discussed here, other than to say five team leaders have been found for the general, wide distribution. They will work toward the distribution of materials into at least ten thousand homes next year as we work toward our goal of reaching fifty thousand homes in five years. We are still working to get the team leaders for more targeted distributions and door knocking close to the building and in areas where the *House to House* publication will be mailed in 2010. The second major consideration was our curriculum and educational program. Due to the interest expressed at the congregational meeting in September, we are in the process of forming three evaluation teams. These three teams will evaluate our educational program for the adults, the junior and senior high classes, and for the classes for those four years old through eighth grade. The overlap is so the teams can determine how to fit the program together to best meet our needs. Due to the process of adding more deacons, we are already behind schedule on these. However, we will want these teams to submit their findings to the elders along with

recommendations as soon as possible. The target dates will probably have to be changed, but it should be sometime this year.

There were other matters discussed, as listed below. In some of these, decisions have been made and will be initiated soon. In other matters, more discussion and consideration will be necessary before action is taken.

- Improve the connectivity/fellowship opportunities within the congregation.
- Reduce the disparity between Sunday morning worship and other assemblies on Sunday and Wednesday.
- Encourage more personal Bible reading and more personal in depth study and development. One consideration is another, more in depth correspondence course for the congregation.
- Next year we will have song services on alternating fifth Sundays. Also, on Wednesday, song services will be alternated with the present prayer services which precede Bible classes.
- To improve communication among the leadership, the elders and deacons will meet quarterly.
- Work toward developing leadership among the youth.
- A parenting seminar will be pursued for the future, but not next year.
- Look into new initiatives for evangelism, such as a local cable program, billboards, a DVD outreach, a welcome service, and greater use of the newspapers.
- A Vacation Bible School will be conducted for the congregation. In addition two Back Yard Bible Schools will be conducted as outreach.
- We have Brad Harrub scheduled for his seminar on "Origins" Friday through Sunday, April 30-May 2, 2010. We have secured the use of a convention room at the Gateway Center for the Friday evening session. Additional matters were also discussed. Some are still under consideration. Hopefully this information will be helpful and encouraging to you.

TLM

You Can Win Over Temptation

Satan is alive and well. Some laugh at the idea of the influence of the Devil. Make no mistake he is still lurking around man seeking to devour the weak and maul the strong (1 Peter 5:8). Some, tragically, fall victim to the death grips of the prince of the world. On the other hand, those who resist the tug of evil are able to overcome the adversary. Here are a few tips the Bible gives us regarding inking over temptation.

You can WIN

I. WITH DECISION

“... every man is tempted, -when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed” (James 1:14). First, you must decide which way you are going to take -the right or the wrong way. Being indecisive never wins. Firmness and determination are always necessary if temptation is to be resisted successfully. “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

II. WITH DEVOTION

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13). The prayers of the righteous prevail. Ask God to help you overcome temptation. Believe that He is doing it now. The promises of God never fail. Jesus overcame temptation by using them. You can overcome by doing likewise. “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

III. WITH DISCIPLINE

“Blessed is the man who endures temptation...” (James 1:12). Sinful pleasures, pursuits, and practices must be avoided. Stay away from Satan's territory. Death and destruction come to those who venture into such a place. Set rules and limits for yourself. I know, it is counter culture but practicing self-control and restraint keeps the serpent at bay. With discipline, as the Apostle Paul taught, you can win over temptation. “Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22). “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

IV. WITH DENOUNCEMENT

“Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan!” (Matthew 4:10). When Jesus was tempted. He denounced Satan saying, “Get thee behind me, Satan” (Luke 4:8). With this same spirit, a child of God can rise above Satan and pronounce that Jesus **IS** my Lord and my God!

You can do it! Satan will never get tired, ask for a time out, or go on vacation. Every minute of every day we must be on our guard. “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7). “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand...” (Ephesians 6:13).

- Shane Coleman -

(Adapted - Justin church of Christ Bulletin
April 24, 2008)

Mabery's Minutes



Eight of the men recommended by the congregation a few months ago were

willing to accept the responsibility of serving as deacons. The elders met with each of these men individually. They were announced as prospective deacons two weeks ago. Members had the opportunity to meet with each of them. Sunday was a happy occasion as all eight were presented to the congregation, along with the five present deacons. All the deacons are listed [below] along with their responsibilities.

Deacons:

Chuck Adams Food Pantry
Larry Astrauskas Finance
Perry Cochran Building & Systems
Walter Craddock Grounds & House
Jeff Davis Audio/Visual Services
Wes Dewese Building & Systems
Ryan Endsley Children's Education & Youth
Ray Gill Missions
Adam Hammitt Congregational Involvement & Preschool Bible Class
Robert Patrich Cameroon Finances
Chris Waldram Worship Responsibilities
Reggie Weaver Finance & Young Adults
Michael Wyant Public Information

The Correspondent

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