

For The Record	
Bible Study.....	.54
Sunday AM.....	.74
Sunday PM.....	44
Wednesday.....	35
Contribution.....	\$2012
Budget.....	\$1550
Over/Under YTD.....	+ \$4854

Sermons:
A.M. The Church at Smyrna
P.M. The Church at Pergamos

Mark Your Calendar

December 13 Ladies' Gift Exchange
December 23 Kids' Holiday Party
December 23 Roger Russell preaching
at both services
December 31 New Years Eve
get-together

**West GA School of
Biblical Studies**
Classes Begin January 7, 2008
Registration forms are available on the
table in the foyer.

Privileged To Serve (December)
Announcements..... Gary Anderson
Lord's Supper..... Kiley Fordham
Wed. Singing..... Phil Harrington
Clean Building
Bill and Connie Dedmon

Plan of Salvation

Hear - (Rom. 10:14) "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

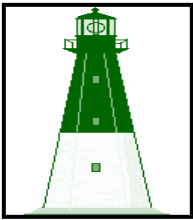
Believe - (John 8:24) "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

Repent - (Luke 13:3) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess - (Rom. 10:9) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Be Baptized - (Acts 2:38) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Be Faithful - (Rev. 2:10) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY
Bible Study 10:00
Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

SHEPHERDS
Bill Dedmon
James Harrington
Greg Holloway
Donnie Truett

DEACONS
Bud Benefield
Phil Harrington
Gerald Scales

MINISTER
Bill Dedmon
Office: (770) 258-7974
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OUTREACH
Ken Lovvorn

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Jerome Thompson

MISSIONS
Roger Leonard
Corinto, Nicaragua

The Gospel Light
"To give light to them that sit in darkness..." Luke 1:79

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**Be faithful
unto death,
and I will
give you
the crown
of Life.**
Revelation 2:10

COMMON ELEMENTS IN THE LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

The seven churches of Asia to which Jesus sent letters through the apostle John were Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The content of these letters is recorded in chapters two and three of the Book of Revelation. Each letter contained its unique aspects, yet in each of these seven letters there were also some common elements – portions of each letter were the same as the message that the saints in other cities of Asia received.

One common element in each letter was the Sender – Jesus Himself was the source of each letter. It is a rich study in and of itself, just to note how Jesus describes Himself in the introductory part of each letter. Another common aspect in each letter is the fact that they were all addressed "to the angel" of the local church. Since the Bible does not reveal who these messengers (the literal meaning of "angel") were, we will not speculate.

In each of these seven special letters we also read that Jesus told the congregations, "I know thy works" (2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15). This statement is at the same time revealing, sobering, and encouraging. First, it reveals that Jesus must be God, for He knows all things. Second, for Jesus to say "I know thy works" also serves as a solemn reminder that He is completely aware of all that we are doing. This is at the same time encouraging, because it lets us know that He understands what we are going through and is prepared to make intercession for us before the Father as we live for Him (Hebrews 7:25).

Fourth, somewhere near the end of each letter there is also Jesus' charge, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22). These words to the early disciples were not written just to take up time and space. God's Spirit wanted them to know His will, so they needed to take heed to what He said. The Holy Spirit speaks to man only through the Bible, as the Bible is God's final revelation to man, His complete truth (John 17:17; 16:13). This being the case, we, too, ought to give heed to the Spirit's message. God does not want His children to live "as they well please," but according to His revealed truth.

A fifth common element in each of the seven letters to the churches of Asia is a promised reward from the Christ that would be given to those that overcome and are faithful. "To him that overcometh" is promised a wonderful blessing from Jesus (2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21). Though different terms are used by Jesus to express the reward that awaits the faithful, the meaning is the same in each case – those that overcome and hold fast the faith will receive a crown of life (2:10). What a great promise! We don't have to be a famous Christian to reach that heavenly city. We just need to be humble, faithful servants of the Master.

In five of the seven letters there is a message of rebuke to those that were living improperly, or else holding to and/or supporting false teachings. Jesus rebuked them because He loved them (3:19). The only two congregations of which Jesus did not speak of any specific sin being in their camps were Smyrna and Philadelphia. On the other hand, for six of the seven churches Jesus had at least some words of commendation. The one congregation that had the dubious "honor" of being the only one about which Jesus said nothing favorable, was the one in Laodicea.

The spiritual lessons in these seven letters are legion. May God bless each of us as we dig in to learn them, then strive to apply them in our own lives and teach them to others.

-- Roger D. Campbell - Union Grove church of Christ, Cleveland, TN

www.ugcoc.org



Welcome to our visitors. You are our special guest. Please fill out an attendance card so we may have a record of your attendance.

Sunday Morning Devotional

December 9

Song - Gerald Scales

Scripture and Prayer - Casey Ballard

December 16

Song - Kiley Fordham

Scripture and Prayer - Bill Nolen

Wednesday Night Devotional

December 12

Song - Phil Harrington

Devotional - James Harrington

Announcements - James Harrington



Both M.E.P groups will meet tonight following the evening service. There will not be a meal. The group will meet to send cards. Ken has put a signup list on the bulletin board to indicate your preference of the night you wish to meet for M.E.P. of Sunday night or Tuesday night.



We are planning a New Year's Eve get-together at the building December 31. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will be coming soon.



If you need to borrow chairs or tables from the fellowship room, please sign them out on the list in the storage room.



Kelly Thompson had heart surgery at Piedmont on Thursday, she is doing well; **Ellis Thompson** will have surgery at Tanner on Tuesday; **Richard Drummond**, April Fordham's father, will have back surgery on December 18; **Ken Lovvorn**; **Jay Truett** had a motorcycle accident last Saturday—has broken ribs and collarbone; **Audrey Marlow**, Ken Lovvorn's aunt; **Willard Elder**, Jada Truett's father; **Taylor Brown**; **Jean Allen**, Eva Johnson's sister; **Melinda Harlin**; **Jeff Denney**; **Bill Johnson**; **Irene Harrington**; **Elsie Benefield**; **Ida Mae Holloway**; **Ansley Sud-deth**; **Ruby Dedmon**, Bill's mother; **Melinda Fendley**, Sandra Harrington's sister, **Dwayne and Tina Noles**.

Serving in our military:

Tony Goodman, Jason Benefield, Cope Rowell, Keith Freeman.



Sherry Scales has written a newsletter regarding the Ladies' Gift Exchange on Thursday night, December 13, at 6:30 pm and the Kids' Holiday Party on Sunday night, December 23, after service. Please get a copy from her for these two events. The kids will be drawing names soon.



Bill and Connie will be spending the holidays in Ringgold. Roger Russell, Bill and Billie Nolen's son-in-law, will be preaching at both services on December 23.



The "Pewpacker" class will not meet until January 6.