

Upcoming Gospel Meetings:  
and Area Wide Sings

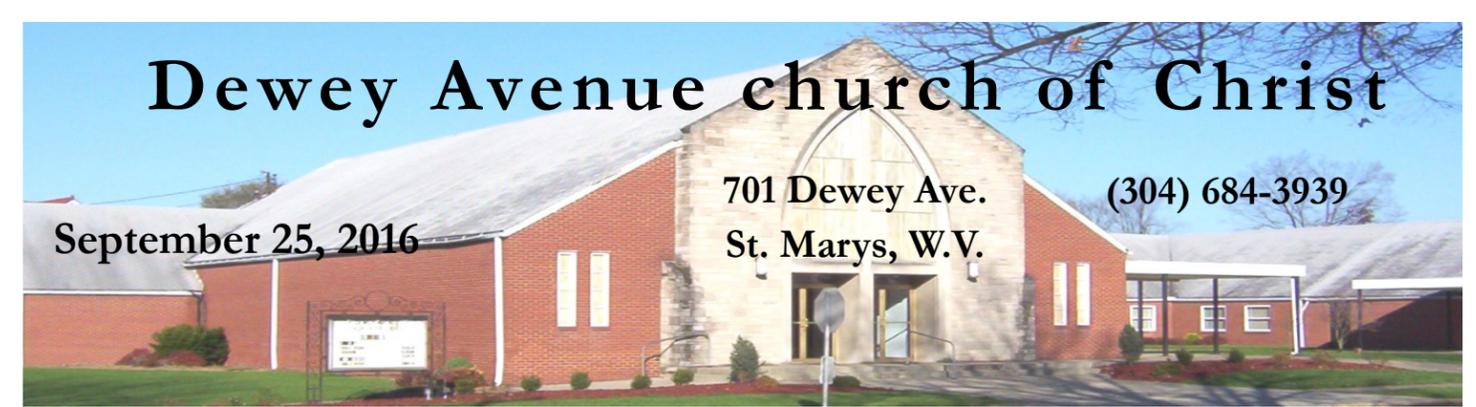
\*Friday Night Sing @ Barlow Vincent church of Christ, Sept. 30.

\* West Virginia School of Preaching Lectureship on October 23-27.

\*More info and details on the above events and more upcoming events posted on the back bulletin.

Dewey Ave.  
church of Christ  
701 Dewey Ave.  
St. Marys W.V. 26710

Sermon Notes:



- Elders:**  
Larry Butcher  
(304) 299-0221  
Dave Parks  
(304) 299-1283
- Minister:**  
Dale Parsley  
(740) 485-1607
- Deacons:**  
Brian Mercer  
(304) 684-9587  
Darren Parks  
(304) 684-1141  
Glenn Stewart  
(304) 684-3594  
Melvin Truax  
(304) 684-7921  
Lew Wilson  
(304) 684-3992

**Conviction Not Compromise**

The more I study the history of the churches of Christ in the twentieth century, the more amazed I am at what these men and women of faith accomplished.

At the turn of the last century, our fellowship numbered only about a hundred thousand adherents, largely restricted to a few areas of strength in the South and Midwest. Within a few decades the churches of Christ would represent a worldwide movement claiming several million members, with well over a million members in the United States. This phenomenal growth came early in the twentieth century. Less increase, proportionally, has occurred over the past fifty years.

Why did the church grow in those early years, and why has the growth been lackluster since mid-century? I would hazard three observations.

First, the churches of Christ in the early 1900s possessed convictions tempered by the fires of conflict. The generation before witnessed the apostasy of the vast majority of congregations as they accepted instrumental music, women leading in worship, and a looser view of biblical authority. The church grew because the church knew the truth about themselves. They understood what God expects the church to be.

Second, the churches of Christ in the early 1900s were focused on the work of the local congregation. Part of the great apostasy of the 1800s was fueled by the Missionary Society and other unauthorized institutions which encroached on the work of the church. The church grew because the church knew the truth about God's plan for the church to do His work in this world. They understood the difference between the Lord's church and religious institutions which are not the Lord's church.

Third, the churches of Christ in the early 1900s were passionate about reaching the lost. The apostate Disciples of Christ denomination began an approach of "open fellowship" with the unimmersed, beginning in the mid-1800s. The churches of Christ grew in the early 1900s because the church knew the truth about the way of salvation. They understood the difference between some-one who had been "born again of water and the Spirit" and someone who has not.

In contrast with the dynamic growth of the past, the churches of Christ have stagnated in recent years. I believe there is a direct correlation between our lack of growth and the muddled thinking that now characterized a large part of our fellowship. We need to return to the profound truths, revealed by God, which show us the plan God has for the church and the pattern we must follow to bring the message of salvation to a lost world.

Found at: <http://www.gospeladvocate.com/category/bulletinbites/>

NEWS & NOTES

**Prayer Meeting:** Tonight at 6:00pm.

**September 25:** Birthday/Anniversary Potluck Dinner after evening service.

**October 8:** Kids Farm Trip. More details to come.

**October 13:** Sing at Carehaven @ 7:15pm.

**October 22:** Hayride. More details to come.

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*Thank you for your prayers and graduation gifts.*

*~With Christian love,*

*Bethany Mote*

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\*Any updates or information for the bulletin please contact Terri Parks @ 304-684-1141 or email at terrinazelrod@hotmail.com

**The Great Debate 2016**

**Tuesday, September 27th**

**Mershon Auditorium**

**The Ohio State University**

**Columbus, OH**



The Debate:

Dr. Alexander Rosenburg, an atheist who is Professor of Philosophy at Duke University, will affirm, "Since I know that there is vast human and animal suffering, I know that a benevolent, omnipotent God does not exist."

Defending the existence of God is Dr. Ralph Gilmore, a Christian Theist who is Professor of Bible and Philosophy at Freed-Hardman University. Dr. Gilmore will affirm, "The use of suffering as a moral criticism against God implies the absolute moral law of God; therefore, God exists."

Seating is reserved. The tickets to the debate are free. Transportation will leave the Camden Avenue Church of Christ parking lot at 3:00 PM, on September 27th. Transportation is free, however you will be responsible for your own meal. To reserve a seat at the debate and on the bus, contact Dana Slingloff at (304) 428-0504 by September 20th.

UPDATES



\*Colleen Kiester continues to recovery at home and having difficulty.

\*Ed Wilson continues to battle cellulitis.

\* Kathy Lancaster is still battling illness at this time.

\* Evelyn Hall is not doing well at this time. She is home.

**Remember those on our prayer list:** Scott Judge, Sue Holland, Evelyn Hall, Marie Newland, Kathy Lancaster, Colleen Kiester,, The Butcher Family, Geraldine Stewart, Barbara Eddy, Jessie Williamson, Fran Kettren, Richard Parson, Frank Powell, Luella Law, Gail Mote, Gene West, Terry Hubner, Kenny Lancaster, Bill Duer, Pat Duer, David Nunn & Madeline McFadden. Remember those who are shut-in, receiving cancer treatments, traveling and military.

**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday:**

*Morning:*

Bible Class: 9:30

Worship: 10:30

*Evening:*

Prayer Meeting: 6:00

Worship: 6:30

**Wednesday:**

Bible Study: 7:00

**THOSE SERVING September 25th:**

*Morning Worship:*

**Announcements:** Darren Parks

**Song Leader:** Eric Croasmun

**Ushers:** Rodney Ramsey, Hal Powell

**Communion:** Brian Mercer, Joe Elrod, Hunter Williams, Jesse Barnhart, Elmer Burns, Cole Butcher

**Reading and Prayer:** Lew Wilson

**Closing Prayer:** Dave Parks

**Door Greeters:** Joe Elrod Family, Larry & Delores Butcher

*Evening Worship:*

**Communion:** Gerald Burns

**Prayer:** Wirt Cook

**Closing Prayer:** Connor Lancaster

*Wednesday:*

**Song leader:** Eric Croasmun

**Prayer:** Dave Lancaster

**Closing Prayer:** Brian Mercer

**THOSE SERVING October 2nd:**

*Morning Worship:*

**Announcements:**

**Song Leader:**

**Ushers:**

**Communion:**

**Reading and Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

**Door Greeters:**

*Evening Worship:*

**Communion:**

**Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

*Wednesday:*

**Song leader:**

**Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

**Radio and TV Programs**

**Good News of Peace:** Sundays: 8:00 AM on WRRR 93.9 FM

**Gospel Broadcasting Network:** Dish Network Channel: 9407 (noon); Direct TV Channel: 376 (7:30 AM)

**In Search of the Lord's Way:** 7:30—Channel 4, Parkersburg; 7:30—Channel 15, Parkersburg; 8:00— Channel 7, Wheeling; 11:30—Channel 5, Clarksburg

