

because we like him, he lives close, or he has the ability that will help us grow? What can we do to enhance our attendance, develop our youth, evangelize our community, and comfort our elderly? Can we develop or appoint elders? How can we best use our time, energy, and opportunities to bring glory to God?

Many congregations seem to start over completely every time they hire a new preacher. The curriculum changes from something the church spent thousands of dollars on to some pet study the preacher likes. A new method of evangelism is adopted until the preacher moves. I knew one congregation that did not withdraw fellowship from any wayward members while they were looking for a new preacher. When he arrived he was given the duty of writing letters to discipline these members who he had never met. Preachers and congregations need to work together. The church should not stand still when a man leaves, nor should they do everything differently as soon as he arrives. I am grateful we do not have this mentality here.

Just like we should get rid of unneeded items in garage sales, so we should also look to clean out the church from time to time. Of course, we could throw out old lesson books, malfunctioning copy machines, and ancient files on attendance. But we should also examine some old traditions that we might need to change. We should look at bad habits that have crept in among us and throw them out. We should look at what we ought to do and consider what old attitudes might be standing in our way.

Every congregation is unique. There is no rule of thumb that applies everywhere. We need to look at where we are, who we have, and what changes we need to make; so we can please the Lord, strengthen our congregation, and mature individually.

Mooresville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooresville, IN 46158

June 4, 2017

Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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Mooresvillecoc.com

Our quarterly singing has been re-scheduled. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on June 16. Tell your friends and be here yourself to sing praises.

Thank you to Dusty and Didi for taking care of the preaching duties while Ron and Marynell were away.

Are you keeping up with your daily Bible reading? Schedules are in the back rack on the table.

Dewey Davis was expecting to return home this past Thursday after having his surgery. He enjoys visits.

Shannon Phillips will have her surgery on June 6. Pray for success.

Wes Fisher's sister will have out patience surgery on the 5th.

Matthew 6 handouts are on the back desk if you did not receive a copy on Wednesday night for your Marriage on the Mount workbooks.

Pray for those who've fallen away.

**Where Could
I go, but to
Worship
Services**

Taking Inventory

Ron Roberts

We are getting ready for our neighborhood garage sale. No, this bulletin is not an advertisement. It is the time the Roberts family takes a physical inventory of our possessions. This is a time we see how blessed we have been. We can also see how frugal or wasteful we have been. Unlike the retailer who takes inventory so he can know what to stock up on, we make an evaluation so we can know what to clear out.

It is good to take an inventory of our possessions, but it is also good to check up on our progress. When we have set goals to lose weight, save money, or collect Coke products; it is good to measure how much we have prospered from the time we set the goal to the current position we find ourselves in. If the goal was set with a deadline we can see how far we have gotten, how far we have to go, and how much time we have left to reach the end we aimed for.

Christians need to take a spiritual inventory as well. We need to see where we are, set goals to improve, and examine how well we have done. Paul told the church in Corinth to undergo a self examination.

2 Cor. 13:5 says, “**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates.**”

This examination is good for us as individuals as well as for the congregation. Where are we now? Where are we going? How do we plan to get there? How long will it take? How will we measure success?

I have known a number of congregations who focused on a theme for a year: *prayer, peace, wisdom, or humility* for instance. The elders will suggest things to be done. The preacher will do lessons on the subject. The Bible classes will incorporate the theme in their studies.

Other churches will propose general practices to improve their spiritual development: Daily Bible reading, attendance, curriculum...

I suspect most of us do not take an inventory of our growth. When I was recently at a Gospel meeting one sister told me how her family had gotten weaker since I saw them two years ago. Another brother said he now realized some things he had overlooked about himself. The sermons hit some areas where they saw they needed improvement. This is why we need to attend each worship service and pay attention to the teaching. Unfortunately, many saints will refuse to make any application to themselves. Others will see the need to change, make a resolution to change, and lose interest shortly thereafter.

What sort of thing do we need to check in our spiritual inventory? How about: When was the last time I took a turn teaching Bible class? How many worship services have I attended this month in contrast to how many were offered? Have I visited any of the shut-ins? Have I read my Bible and prepared my Bible lessons for class? Have I developed any new abilities as a class teacher, song leader, or encourager of others? Have I contributed monetarily consistently (doubling up when I have been away for a week)? Have I evaluated my contribution in regards to my prosperity? Do I get raises in pay without giving anything more to God? Is my usual behavior an encouragement or a discouragement to my brethren? Do I always expect others to come to my aid, or do I frequently come to the assistance of others?

Paul also called for a self examination when we partake of the Lord's Supper. In 1 Cor. 11:28 we read, “**But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.**” Paul is telling us that our minds must be engaged when we worship. How often do we attend in a comatose state? We get our bodies in the pew, but our mind is off in Neverland. We never listen, never apply, never give an amen or make a comment. Do we go to worship or go to a church building? If you do not see the difference then you need to be revived!

What sort of things do we need to inventory as a congregation? How about our Gospel meetings? Should we have them twice a year? Should we propose topics to our speaker? Should we select a preacher