

From the Minister's Desk

Is Instrumental Music a Doctrinal Issue?



Orpheus Heyward

In an effort to try to justify the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, some say that their use is not a doctrinal issue. God has spoken in the New Testament that singing is the kind of music we must use if we expect to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Singing is the limit of God's command. Some may say, "The Bible does not say not to use mechanical instruments of music in worship." When God gives a command to do something, He does not have to say, but don't do this, and don't do this, etc.

People today may think that it makes no difference if they add mechanical instruments of music in worshipping God. In the Old Testament we have the example of Nadab and Abihu who were also presumptuous in their thinking that it made no difference. In Leviticus 10:1-2 (NIV) we read, "Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the Lord, contrary to His command. So fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them and they died before the Lord."

In Leviticus 16:12-13 God commanded, "Then he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from the altar" of burnt offering to burn the incense in the tabernacle. But Nadab and Abihu decided to do it their own way and get the coals of fire somewhere else. They offered unauthorized fire. They died a horrible death because they did something God did not authorize. Just as Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire, is there any excuse for people to offer unauthorized mechanical instrumental music to the Lord?

The use of mechanical instruments of music in worship does make a difference, because God has never permitted man to devise the plan or means for his worship of God. This is very serious, because we will lose our souls through presumptuous sins just as Nadab and Abihu lost their lives through their presumptuous sins. Judgment Day will be too late to find out that it is wrong to use unauthorized mechanical instruments of music to worship God. -- copied

WEST END ACTIVITIES & INFO

Brothers! This year our breakfasts will be every third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. Be sure to attend and bring a visitor if you can. The next breakfast is 1/17 at Thumbs Up Diner, 1617 White Way, Atlanta, GA 30344. Contacts are Adam McGill (404-388-9536) and Al Simmons (678-698-5125).

The **Annual Ladies Bible Class Breakfast** will be hosted at the home of William and Gayron Johnson, January 31 from 9-11 a.m. Please sign up in the foyer. All ladies are invited.

The next **Marriage Enrichment/Dynamic Marriages course** will be held starting January 26, 2009 for eight weeks. See Robert and Stella Wilson to sign up or visit www.MarriagesMadeStronger.com.

The **2009 Marriage Retreat** will be held August 20-23 at the Winshape Conference Center on the campus of Berry College in Rome, GA. The cost is \$470 per couple and includes all meals and lodging. Payment plan is as follows: \$125 on February 1, then pay monthly. See Robert and Stella Wilson with any questions.

The **"Becoming One" marriage class** will be held for six weeks starting on February 5, 2009. This course is for all graduates of the Marriage Enrichment Class from any year. Cost is \$50 per couple and includes all materials. See Robert and Stella Wilson to sign up.

Fine-tune your Bible skills by attending West End's one-hour weekly seminar **"How to Study the Bible"**. It is held EVERY TUESDAY from 7-8 p.m., and is specifically designed to improve your Bible knowledge through hands on, instructor-led, proven techniques. Orpheus Heyward conducts the class.

Men of Valor – The Men of Valor Men's Bible Study Class will not be held until a date announced in January. Listen for information from Bro. Heyward for when this class will resume.

AREA EVENTS

Attend the **Ladies Day of Edification** on February 21 at the Locust Grove CofC, 240 Beersheba Church Rd., Locust Grove, GA. The guest speaker is West End's own Joyce Hall. The theme is, The Titus "2" Woman. The event starts with breakfast from 8 to 8:45 a.m. The program is from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For additional information call 770-957-6999 or 678-994-4668.

Attend the **Ministers' Institute Conference** in Ft. Lauderdale – Registration continues for the 33rd Annual Ministers' Institute Conference set for January 17-22, and is sponsored by W.F. Washington and the Golden Heights CofC in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Our own Orpheus Heyward is conducting a three-day seminar on the book of Ephesians. Visit www.MinistersInstituteConference.com for details and to register. Anyone is welcomed to attend this conference.

Zero, The Project to End Prostate Cancer: Drive Against Prostate Cancer, sponsored in part by Radiotherapy Clinics of Georgia (RCOG) is offering free screening for men age 45 and older, with or without prostate problems. For dates and locations visit www.thewestender.com. The screenings are a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) blood test along with an optional Digital Rectal Exam (DRE). Direct questions to Kanita Key, Health Ministry Coordinator, at 770-987-0554 or nitabane@yahoo.com.

Georgia AGAPE Needs West End Foster Parents

Georgia's foster care system is changing and Georgia AGAPE is making appropriate adjustments as a result. AGAPE is finding ways to bring hope to children's lives. One major change is the rise in the number of sibling groups being referred who must be placed in foster homes together. This change is positive as it keeps brothers and sisters together and it provides the opportunity to make a greater impact on the whole family unit. GA AGAPE needs more West End families to in ministry to children. We hope and pray that you will consider becoming foster parents to not just one child, but also to his or her sibling(s). Our program is changing to effectively support families to care for two, three or even more children. The next foster parent orientation and training class will begin on January 23. Please call Jayne Osburn at 770-452-9995 to find out more about this opportunity to make a huge difference in children's lives (James 1:27).

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday



All are informed and reminded that West End's Congregational Meeting will be held next Sunday, January 18 following an abbreviated worship service at 10:45 a.m. Please make plans to be in attendance. Listen for more details from Bro. Heyward today.

Got Baptized or Placed Membership from Another Church of Christ?

All individuals and families placing membership with West End from another Church of Christ, or those that have been baptized here should attend our New Converts class with Orpheus Heyward or the our Orientation Class respectively. Those placing membership are strongly urged to attend the Orientation class led by members of West End's leadership. Contact elder, I. David Logan (404-755-1016) with any questions about the Orientation Class. Both classes are held in the red brick house located adjacent to the main building during regular Bible School class times. Those placing membership will be advised of the classes available for them and their families. Contact minister Orpheus Heyward (678-592-3397) or any elder or deacon with any questions.

Baptisms

- 12/31 **Liveta Jones** (Atlanta)
- 12/31 **Ronald Robinson** (Atlanta)
- 1/1 **Regina Campbell** (Hampton)
- 1/4 **Tiarra Streeter** (Atlanta)
- 1/4 **Taylor Fleweller** (Fairburn)

Placed Membership

- 1/4 **Carolyn Andrews** (Atlanta)

Baptismal Certificates – If you were recently baptized and have not received your baptismal certificate, please see or contact Sony Heyward.

Church Directory/ Yearbook Photos Deadline Extended

You still have time to be included in West End pictorial directory/yearbook. **The deadline has been extended through today for photos. Go directly to the brick annex to take your photo. Direct any questions to Cassandra Arnold, Johnnie Sawyer, and Gwen Williams. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!**



Coming in March Bible Bowl & Skills Competition

WEST END CHURCH OF CHRIST youth in action

The West End Youth in Action (YIA) Ministry will host a Bible Bowl & Skills Competition on Saturday, March 14 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Bible Bowl questions will come from 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, and 3

John. Parents and other volunteers are needed to write questions for this event. See YIA coordinators Natasha Harty, Jabari Sykes, Anitra Patrick, and Brittany Houston starting today to volunteer to write questions for our four grade categories. Volunteers will also be needed to help with refreshments.

Youth Registration Continues – All West Enders with children are asked to stop at Youth Registration table in the foyer to register your child for upcoming youth activities. Registration continues through January 2009.

Teacher's Training Day Jan. 24

All bible class teachers are strongly encouraged to attend the West End Teacher's Training Day, scheduled for Saturday, January 24 from 9 - 11:30 a.m. This training will include helpful information regarding effective and efficient lesson planning as it relates to the delivery of God's Word. Please plan to be in attendance as we endeavor to build a strong spiritual foundation through the education of each member.

SICK & SHUT-IN

To be included or to have someone included or removed from this listing please contact Gayron Johnson at the church office.

- Sandra Davis**, daughter of Kate Hendrix – Decatur Hospital, Long Term Acute Care Unit, ICU, 5th Floor, 450 N. Candler Street, Decatur, GA 30034; 404-501-6590. **Ossie Porter** (mother of Bill Moore) – A.G. Rhodes Homes, 350 Boulevard, SE., A Wing, Room 102, Atl., GA 30312.
- John White** – Reliable Health and Rehabilitation, 3301 Lakewood Ave., Room 115, Atl., GA 30310; 404-406-7427. **Jessie Davis** – Buckhead Health & Rehabilitation, 54 Peachtree Park Dr., NE, Room 407, Atl., GA 30309. **Joyce Mapp** – 3371 Hyland Dr., Decatur, GA 30032.
- Cressie Lawson** – 450 Fairburn Rd, SW, #14, Atl., GA 30331. 404-696-2548. **Annie Glaze** – A.G. Rhodes Home at Wesley Woods, Room 421, 1819 Clifton Rd., NE, Atl., GA 30329.
- Barbara Edgerton** – 2469 Baywood Dr., S, Atl., GA 30315; 404-438-6659. **Tallulah Latham** – 320 Fairburn Rd., Apt H-6, Atl., GA 30331. 404-505-1581. **Willie Mae Marrow** – 3060 Continental Colony Pkwy., Apt. 502, Atl., GA 30330. 404-344-9990. **Elizabeth Perkins** – 2748 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy., Apt. 121, Atl., GA 30318. 404-792-9115. **Elnora Bethel** – 3700 Potomac Dr., East Point, GA 30344. **Daneka Vickers**, daughter of Mack and Sandra Freeman. **Annie McArthur** – 751 Fairburn Rd., SW #2212, Atl., GA, 30331. 404-699-2939. **Anreka Johnson**.