



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...” 2 Peter 1:21

The Purpose of a Church Bulletin

By Alex Hale

For a little over seventeen years, the Westside church has printed a weekly bulletin. Today’s issue marks my first contribution to this effort. Churches have published bulletins for years. I have heard of congregations who once had mailing lists in the thousands. However, in many places the church bulletin is being discontinued. Worse yet, in some churches, the bulletin has become nothing more than a social calendar of events which have little to no spiritual value. In today’s article, I would like to share with you three reasons why I believe that a bulletin can be a valuable resource if used properly.

The bulletin is a tool to teach. First and foremost, this is another effort to present the teaching of God’s word. God has given the preacher many responsibilities. Among these is the charge to instruct, command, and teach the brethren (1 Timothy 4:6, 11). Though this job is accomplished through the public proclamation of God’s word (2 Timothy 4:2), there are many ways in which a preacher can teach. These include small group Bible studies, classes, and written material.

I would encourage you to read the articles which will be provided for your spiritual growth and development. Particular emphasis will be given to topics that are practical in nature, and I will do my best to list the scripture references for your further study. In addition, there will be space on the back for you to take notes during the sermons. I understand that not everyone prefers guided notes. However, I use them because I

have seen them help many, *including young children*, remain more engaged through the lesson.

So many of us spend countless hours reading books and magazines which offer no spiritual benefit. We binge-watch television shows and head to the theater to see the latest blockbuster. Should we not at least spend some time reading material that is spiritually-based?

The bulletin is a tool to inform. Scripture teaches us to care for one another. As has been done in the past, space will be provided to list those who are sick or who need prayers for other reasons. As I become more familiar with the group, this list will likely become more informative. Spiritual opportunities will also be listed for your benefit, including gospel meetings, vacation Bible schools, and nursing home visits.

The bulletin is a tool to share. Let’s get real for a moment. You may have a friend or co-worker who will *not* come to worship with you. However, he might read a quick article about marriage if his marriage is on the rocks. She might read some thoughts on eternity if she has just lost a loved one. Do not underestimate the value of planting seeds in the hearts and minds of those within your circle of influence.

Bulletins may be a thing of the past in many places. However, I believe there can still be some value from them. I hope you see that value as well, and that you will use this as a tool to build up God’s kingdom!



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am

Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper

Norman Kemper

Our Preacher

Alex Hale