

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill is back in the St. Francis Indianapolis hospital with pneumonia and sepsis.

Jeff Sturgill continues to recover from a sore on his foot.

Ray and Liz's brother-in-law in Kentucky is recovering from surgery to remove a tumor in the back of his neck.

Jesse Riddle is experiencing weakness but is sometimes able to attend Sunday AM service. He recently has been placed under hospice care.

Bob Hawkins continues to receive treatment for the veins in his legs.

Shawn Mathews will meet with a surgeon to see if he needs gall bladder surgery.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling cancer.

Please pray for Mike and Doris Parnell's neighbor's son, Jake, who has a serious illness.

Please pray for Charlene Boggs' granddaughter who enlisted in the Navy.

Karen Sproles is suffering from COVID and kidney issues. At some point she hopes to have a nerve block injection in her knee.

Glenda Coons, former member, is struggling with as of yet undiagnosed health issues and is in need of prayer.

Nan Coons, wife of Darian and daughter-in-law of Eldon and Glenda Coons was is home and now able to eat and slowly improving.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium..

2024 Gospel Meetings:

A spring gospel meeting will be held April 12-14 with brother Ronnie Whittemore of the Stop 11 Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis and a fall gospel meeting will be held September 6-8 with brother Tom House of the Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, April 3rd at 5:00.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, April 14th, following the AM services. Following the dinner, we will meet at 1:00 PM to conclude our gospel meeting with brother Ronnie Whittemore.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

March 10, 2024

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

"Preparing For Eternity"

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

MY BEAGLES AND MY BRETHREN

Jeff Grimes

All the folks who know my son Keith and me know that our hobby is “Beagling.” Beagling has to do with the training of beagles to run rabbits. Not necessarily to shoot the rabbits (I find the older I get, the less I want to hurt anything) but for the sheer enjoyment of seeing and hearing those little hounds in hot pursuit of Mr. Bunny. Listening to a pack of 4 to 6 beagles after a big cottontail rabbit is music to the ears. I told a preacher friend, “Now that’s true a’cappella music.”

Keith and I also enjoy running our little hounds in competition events sponsored by the American Kennel Club (AKC). We have been successful through the years and were fortunate enough to train and finish eight of our beagles to be recognized as AKC Field Champions.

You may not believe this, but the AKC has a rule book by which beagles that run in competition are to be judged. The AKC rule book has a list of Desirable (Positive) Qualities and a list of Faulty (Negative) Actions. As I looked over the Positive and Negative qualities described in the rule book, I could not help but think about some of my brethren. I use the term brethren in a generic sense, which would include my “sistren” as well. The positive qualities desirable for my beagles to be successful are some of the same qualities needed for all my brethren to succeed too. The same is true concerning negative qualities. There are negative qualities that beagles have that produce failure, and those same negative qualities will also produce failure in my brethren.

Now, all of this may sound strange, but it is true. Let me illustrate a few of the positive and negative characteristics mentioned in the AKC rule book and see if you agree.

The AKC rule book also lists “Desirable Qualities” for the ideal beagle to possess.

1. Proper use of Voice —“True tongue is honest claiming that running mates can depend on” (p.31). In other words, for a beagle to be barking (for the sake of barking) without actually being in contact with rabbit scent is called “Babbling” and is described as “excessive or unnecessary tonguing” (p.32).

The proper use of the tongue is also important for my brethren. The folks who wrote the AKC rule book understood that a “babbling beagle” creates more confusion and problems than it solves. When the Lord gave us His “Rule Book” (the Bible), He understood the same thing. Check these verses: [Psalms 37:30](#); [39:1](#); [71:8](#); [141:3](#); [Proverbs 8:7](#); [11:9](#); [13:3](#); [21:23](#), and [James 3:1-12](#). Are there times we are guilty of “excessive or unnecessary tonguing?”

2. Endurance —“The ability to compete throughout the duration of the hunt and to continue as long as may be necessary” (p.29). Endurance is listed as a positive quality. After all, no one wants to own a beagle that is a quitter. This trait prompted AKC to list “quitting” as a serious fault, deserving severe penalty (p.30).

Listen to what the Bible says concerning this matter, “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God” ([Luke 9:62](#)). “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back [quit], my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul” ([Heb. 10:38-39](#)). It sounds like the attitude of God toward my brethren, who are quitters, and the AKC’s attitude toward my beagles, who are quitters, are similar —both the Lord and the AKC view quitting as a severe fault.

3. Patience —“Patience is a willingness to stay with any problem encountered as long as there is a possibility of achieving success...Patience keeps a hound from bounding off and leaving work undone” (p.29).

If only my brethren could realize that patience is a “desirable quality” that produces success. Having a “willingness to stay with any problem encountered as long as there is possibility of achieving success.” Just think how many marriages could have been saved if

only the husband and wife had the patience to work through their problems instead of “bounding off” in different directions. Many “church quarrels,” as a general rule, could have been avoided if brethren exercised more patience with each other when solving problems. Stop and consider for a moment: what if the Lord’s patience with us was no better than our patience toward each other? We should be thankful that the Lord “is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” ([2 Peter 3:9](#)). Paul said: [Hebrews 12:1](#), “...Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” Brethren, “let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” ([Gal. 6:9](#)). Jesus said, “In your patience possess ye your souls” ([Luke 21:19](#)).

4. Determination —“Determination is that quality which causes a hound to succeed against severe odds. A determined hound has a purpose in mind and will overcome, through sheer perseverance, many obstacles that often frustrate less determined running mates. Determination and patience are closely related qualities and as a general rule found in the same hound. Determination keeps a hound at its work as long as there is a possibility of achievement and often long after its body has passed the peak of its endurance. Determination is desire in its most intense form” (p.29).

It is a great joy to hunt with a pack of patient and determined beagles. On the other hand, what a greater joy it is to be associated with a group of brethren with these same qualities. These are qualities Satan hates. He knows he cannot win against brethren possessing these qualities. Like Joshua of old who determined, “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” ([Joshua 24:15](#)). Paul, too, had a determination about him worthy of imitating. “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” ([1 Cor. 2:2](#)). The Determination to put the Lord first in our lives will assure our success ([Matt. 6:33](#); [25:21,23](#)).

The AKC rule book also lists “Faulty (negative) Qualities” for the ideal beagle to possess.

5. Pottering —“...Is a lack of effort or desire to make forward progress on the trail. Hesitation, listlessness...a lack of intent to make progress is marks of the potterer.”

It is a fact the beaglers (those who own beagles) that I am acquainted with will not tolerate a “pottering beagle.” A Beagler can put up with some hound faults, but “pottering” is not one of them. Life is too short for a rabbit hunter to waste time and money feeding a “pottering” beagle. Pottering beagles are suitable only to be given away as a pet to someone. Then, all that is required of such a beagle is to lie on the porch and watch for the postman. They will never know the joy of becoming part of a well-trained pack or the thrill of the chase. They are content to lie on the porch in a soft chair, waiting for someone to spoon-feed and pet them.

It is sad to say, but some of my brethren are “potterers.” They show no “desire to make forward progress.” These brethren are characterized by “hesitation and listlessness.” They never get excited about the Lord’s work or apply themselves to spiritual growth. They have to be “petted” and “spoon-fed!” There’s no initiative, never launching out on their own. Living in their own little world, they never know the joy and thrill of serving God and others. “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat” ([Hebrews 5:12](#); [2 Peter 3:18](#)).

My dear brethren, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” ([Col. 3:1-2](#)).

Precious brothers and sisters, do not let Satan confuse your minds in the difference between time and eternity.