

### **Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Sheila Wilson's condition has worsened. She has been admitted to Methodist hospital in Indianapolis and is receiving hospice care. The family has been called in to comfort her. Sheila Wilson's condition has worsened. She has been admitted to Methodist hospital in Indianapolis and is receiving hospice care. The family has been called in to comfort her. Liz Sturgill continues to have dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week. She had a new stint port inserted last week.

John Richardson is suffering from COVID.

Debbie Cook, daughter-in-law of sister Shirley, fell and fractured her spine.

Ray Sturgill's brother Darrell in Virginia is suffering from a sore on his leg.

Levi Day, son of John and Megan Day of the Shelbyville Rd. congregation, was accidentally hit in the head with a garden hoe. He underwent surgery at Riley hospital and had a metal plate inserted. However, he is doing well.

Sherrie Williams had successful back surgery and is recovering at home.

Michaela Mathews hurt her wrist and is wearing a brace awaiting further evaluation.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She had a monitor implanted to help determine if there are issues with her heart.

Karen Sproles recently had some skin cancers removed but will see a specialist to examine another cancerous spot on her neck. She also has a cyst on her knee and has had a steroid injection to treat it.

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

### **Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John and Terry Richardson

### **Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

### **Deepest Sympathy:**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Floyd and Judy Coley and their entire family at the passing of sister Sheila Wilson at Methodist hospital on Friday. Arrangements are pending.

### **Deepest Sympathy:**

Mac Jones, father of Randall Jones, passed away in Kentucky last week. Mac passed away on his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please keep Randall and his family in your prayers.

### **Paris Church of Christ Ladies' Day:**

The ladies of the congregation are making plans to attend a ladies' inspiration day at the Paris, IL Church of Christ on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information to follow.

### **Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> following the morning services. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service.

### **Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

### **2023 Gospel Meetings:**

A Spring meeting will be held May 19-21 with brother Ben Vick of the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis. A Fall meeting will be held November 10-12 with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN.

### **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**

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-4)

March 12, 2023

## ***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](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## YOU BETTER ASK GOD FIRST

Nathan was a great prophet of God. He lived during the reigns of David and Solomon. It was he who rebuked David for his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 2:1-10). To rebuke David, Nathan used the parable of a rich man taking a poor man's "little ewe lamb." With the statement "Thou art the man." Nathan brought David to his knees.

Nathan was a good man but he learned you had better ask God first. He told David what to do before he inquired concerning God's will. "Now it came to pass, as David sat in his house, that David said to Nathan the prophet, Lo, I dwell in an house of cedars, but the ark of the covenant of the LORD remaineth under curtains. Then Nathan said unto David, Do all that is in thine heart; for God is with thee. And it came to pass the same night, that the word of God came to Nathan, saying, Go and tell David my servant, Thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not build me an house to dwell in" (1 Chron. 17:1-4).

David felt bad about living in a nice house while God was worshipped in a tent. He desired to build a house for God. Without asking God what He wanted, Nathan told David to do what was in his heart. He should have asked God first. God said to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, Thus sayeth the Lord: Thou shalt not build me a house to dwell in" (1 Chron. 17:4). When it comes to religious matters, you had better ask God first.

Let's consider the importance of asking God first.

Before you say one God is as good as another, you had better ask the true God first. God, the Father Almighty, is the Creator of heaven and earth. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:1-2). What less than Almighty strength could bring about the creation? There are many that are called God, but to us, there is but "one God." "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him" (1 Cor. 8:5-6). There is, "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:6).

Before you say the Bible contains errors, you had better ask God first. The Bible says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (Psalms 19:7). Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). How could we know truth if the Bible is full of errors? Paul reminded us that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). You can have total confidence that the Bible is God's revelation and that it is correct.

Before you say the church is not important, you had better ask God first. The Bible tells us that Christ purchased the church with His own blood. Paul told the elders at Ephesus to, "take heed...unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath

purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). The church is Christ's house. The Hebrew writer spoke of "Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:6). The church is Christ's "own house." The greatness of Christ's love for the church is revealed in His giving Himself unto death for the church. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).

Before you say one church is as good as another, you had better ask God first. Christ built and preserved only one church. Jesus said, "I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). God is glorified through the church. "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21). The seat of God's praise is the church. The seed of the kingdom (Luke 8:11) does not produce different kinds of churches. We are called in "one body" —"one church" (Col. 3:15; Eph. 4:4).

Before you say that baptism is not essential to salvation, you had better ask God first. Saul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Saul was told to join himself to the Lord by baptism. At baptism, one is embracing Christ —the Christian religion, the privilege and responsibilities of it. Jesus said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16.) In our baptism we are "calling on the name of the Lord" for our salvation.

Before you say Christians can use mechanical instruments of music in worship, you had better ask God first. We cannot be guided by the mind of Christ and use instrumental music in worship. The New Testament clearly instructs Christians to sing. Paul wrote, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5:19). Singing is a vital part of worship and it must be done God's way. God's way is simple. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col. 3:16.) The Hebrew writer wrote, "I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee" (Heb. 2:12.) Mechanical instruments are simply out of place in Christian worship. In singing, we worship God with a divinely created instrument —the heart.

To be saved from sin, a lost person must Hear something and Do something as a result of what he has heard. The lost must Hear of Christ and His kingdom (church). They must then be Baptized as penitent believers in response to the Gospel message (Acts 8:5-13; Acts 8:26-40). For the lost to be saved there must be the preaching of the Gospel message (1 Cor. 1:21), Faith is required (Mark 16:16). Repentance is a command (Acts 17:30). Faith becomes known through our Confession of Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10); and then the act of Baptism results in forgiveness and entrance into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4). In Christ we must be sure our actions are governed by God's will.

Always remember to ask God first. -- Charles Box