

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Liz Sturgill continues to have dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week. She has been experiencing difficulties with a new stint that was inserted.

Ray Sturgill's brother Darryl continues to recover from foot sores.

John Richardson has been suffering from gallstones.

Karen Sproles had another cancerous growth removed and the procedure and testing on the growth went well. She is also still receiving steroid injections for her knee.

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.

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

Pray for those who suffered loss during the recent tornados, those responding to their needs and especially, the families of those who lost their lives.

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)

Ladies' Bible Class Resumed:

The ladies' Bible class has resumed on Thursdays at 11:00 AM.

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 22nd. More information to follow.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, May 7th 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, May 3rd 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).
6. **Faithful Christian Living**, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

April 16, 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

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

“I BELIEVE THE LORD, BUT...”

Spiritual matters take priority over worldly matters.

Many people who profess to be Christians would angrily protest if they were told they did not believe the Lord. A failure to believe Christ is not a new problem. During His earthly ministry, Jesus said to the Jews, “And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not” ([John 5:38](#)). Jesus repeated His indictment again, saying, “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words” ([John 5:46-47](#)). Words have meaning! Jesus forthrightly declares, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” ([John 12:48](#)). The majority of people who profess belief in the Lord (that He exists) do not believe Christ (obey his word)! Proof will be offered to back up this assertion. Members of religious denominations claim to believe in Christ, but they do not believe what He said about building His church. Jesus clearly states, “I will build my church” ([Matt. 16:18](#)). One cannot believe this statement of the Lord and believe that He intended to build many different churches! Man has absolutely no right or authority to establish or build a church. Paul affirms Christ’s teaching on this matter in saying, “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling” ([Eph. 4:4](#)). Speaking by inspiration, Paul proclaims, “For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all made to drink of one Spirit” ([1 Cor. 12:13](#)). The Lord’s church is blood bought ([Acts 20:28](#)), and did not originate in the mind of man. Christ is “...head over all things to the church, which is his body” ([Eph. 1:22-23](#)). One cannot deny the singular nature of “the church” (the one and only church)! The Lord has promised to one day save His body [church] ([Eph. 5:23](#)) —but not multiple man-made religious bodies teaching contrary to His divine will! Those who align themselves with “churches” established by men may believe in Christ (that He exists), but they do not believe nor obey what He taught. Many people believe in Christ but do not believe what He said about being called by the Gospel. It is not unusual to hear one talk about his “experience” that occurred before he was “saved.” Just about every one of these “experiences” told to me differs from every other person’s supposed “experience.” The truth is that the Bible mentions nothing about any “experience” preceding one’s salvation. Please realize that one will search the Scriptures in vain for an “experience” that he or she had before being saved. Every person called by the Lord is called in exactly the same way — by the precious Gospel ([2 Thess. 2:14](#)). The Lord’s plan for one to become a member of His church requires Hearing His Word ([Rom. 10:17](#)), Belief ([Heb.](#)

[11:6](#)), Repentance ([Luke 13:3](#)), Confession ([Rom. 10:9-10](#)), and water Baptism for the remission of sins ([Acts 2:38](#)). Nothing else is included in God’s plan for man to be saved. The Gospel is the only “power of God unto salvation” ([Rom. 1:16](#)), whether Jew or Gentile! One may believe in Christ, but he does not believe Christ if he refuses to obey His Gospel plan of salvation. Many church members believe in Christ but do not believe what He said regarding the kingdom of God being first in their lives. The world we live in is a busy place. There is always something to do. However, the Lord has instructed believers to “seek...first his kingdom, and his righteousness” ([Matt. 6:33](#)). Brethren must learn that spiritual matters take priority over worldly matters. One fails miserably to seek the kingdom first when he allows things such as sports, company, school activities, recreation, or vacation take priority over assembling with the saints to worship God. The Scriptures nowhere states that decent and legitimate activities are to be sought first in one’s life! No amount of excuses or rationalizations will demote spiritual matters into second place. Brethren may believe in Christ, but they do not believe what He said in [Matthew 6:33](#) when they allow worldly activities (no matter how good and innocent) to cause them to forsake assembling with the saints ([Heb. 10:25](#)). Some brethren believe in Christ but do not believe what He said about those outside of His body being lost! It has already been established that there is a Gospel plan of salvation. Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” ([Mark 16:16](#)). The Lord did not say, “He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved,” but this is exactly what those of denominational persuasion teach. Sadly, many brethren today are convinced there will be saved people who are not members of the Lord’s church! The word of the Lord declares that salvation is IN Christ ([2 Tim. 2:10](#)), and that one is “baptized INTO Christ” ([Rom. 6:4](#); [Gal. 3:27](#)). Paul understood and taught that vengeance will be rendered to “...them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” ([2 Thess. 1:8-9](#)). One may claim to know the Lord while refusing to obey His will, but John writes, “He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” ([1 John 2:4](#)). One does not believe Christ who refuses to obey Him!

No person can refuse to obey the Lord’s commands and expect to go to heaven. God’s great love and mercy for man does not negate obedience! Never forget what is taught in [Hebrews 5:8-9](#): “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” Christ is not the author of eternal life to those who merely believe in Him, but to those who believe “and obey him.” -- Marvin L. Weir