

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

Liz Sturgill continues to receive dialysis treatments.  
Jesse Riddle is in Miller's Merry Manor rehab center in Mooresville, and will begin dialysis treatments.  
Judy Coley is suffering from shingles.  
Shirley Cook will have knee replacement surgery on September 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Shirley Cook's sister-in-law will return to the Cleveland Clinic this week for surgery.  
Delores Hendrickson returned home on August 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Mike Parnell's sister, Brenda, has been diagnosed with Alzheimers and dementia.  
Aleta Sturgill, friend of Ray and Liz Sturgill has diabetes and kidney problems.  
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some issues but is now able to get out.  
Karen Sproles is doing better but continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.  
Karen's daughter, Jean English, had surgery August 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Karen's former daughter-in-law is in a coma.  
John Richardson still has a sore on his leg and will have gall bladder surgery soon.  
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.  
Glenda Coons is being treated for AFib.  
Randall Jones is recovering from COVID.  
Dave Knoy will begin 7 weeks of radiation and 6 months of hormone treatments.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

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

**Congratulations and Prayers:**

Congratulations to the Daniel Goshorn family who are expecting another child.  
Please keep them in prayer.

**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 back of the auditorium.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today following the AM services. After the pitch-in we will have a worship in song at 1:00 PM then dismiss for the day.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Fish Fry:**

Our annual fish fry will be held on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the City Park.

**Gospel Meeting:**

Our fall gospel meeting with brother Bill Boyd of the Rockliff Church of Christ in McMinnville, TN will be held November 10-12.

**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).

September 3, 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

## Lessons Learned From Nehemiah

Marvin L. Weir

Most remember that the children of Israel were carried into Babylonian captivity because of their lack of faith in the true and living God. In 605 B.C., Babylon conquered Israel. Among those deported into captivity were Daniel and his friends (II Chron. 36:6-7; Dan. 1:1-3). In 598 B.C., Ezekiel and about 10,000 others were carried into captivity. In 586 B.C., the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed and the city burned, and all except the very poor were taken to Babylon (II Kings 24:20-25:21; Jer. 39:1-10). When the time came where God saw fit to allow a remnant to return to Jerusalem, they managed to restore true worship, but did not rebuild the walls.

In 536 B.C., Zerubbabel led the first return from Babylonian captivity. In 457 B.C., Ezra leads the next return of God's people. In 444 B.C., Nehemiah leads the final return. While in captivity, Nehemiah learned about the conditions of his brethren and the temple. He prayed to God that he might be able to return to Jerusalem. His prayer was answered. Upon Nehemiah's arrival, he set about the task of repairing the walls and God's house.

The Lord's church today can learn valuable lessons from Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the temple walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah **investigated** and saw the great need to restore the walls of the temple. The work was too important to ignore. God's house had been in disarray far too long. Thus, Nehemiah led the effort to begin the task.

We need brethren today who will take a serious look at the needs of the Lord's church. Some congregations carefully maintain the physical structure but are in spiritual shambles. More people are needed who will insist that God's pattern for worship and Christian living be followed. We need brethren like Nehemiah who will take the lead in encouraging others to do God's will.

Nehemiah called for **volunteers**. No one was coerced to help. No bait was dangled before people to entice them to help. Nehemiah wanted people to help who truly loved God. He knew that one who willingly volunteers to do God's work will be a happy worker and devoted to the task at hand.

It is no different today in the Lord's church. God's wants willing laborers in the kingdom who lovingly respond to His commands.

Unless one is willing to "*deny himself, and take up his cross daily*" (Luke 9:23), he is not likely to volunteer to do much work in the Lord's vineyard.

The people were **united** in their efforts to repair the temple wall or they would have not been successful. The brethren worked side by side, cooperating one with the other, and steadfastly remained dedicated to the task at hand. They refused to be distracted by worldly people and worldly matters.

Brethren today must understand the necessity of speaking the same thing and being "*perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (I Cor. 1:10). Protection from false teachers is needed just as badly today as was protection from Nehemiah's enemies, "*Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites...*" (Neh. 4:7-8). Nehemiah says of his devoted workers that "*they all builded the wall and they that bare burdens laded themselves; every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other held his weapon*" (Neh. 4:17).

In doing the Lord's work today one must not forget to have in his hand the "*the sword of the Spirit*" (Eph. 6:17). May we always strive to "*give diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Eph. 4:3).

Nehemiah's volunteers **cooperated** in rebuilding the wall. All had a job to do, and each one did his individual task. Each member of the body of Christ today has a job to do as they contribute to the needs of the kingdom (cf. I Cor. 12:13-27). Nehemiah did not allow his people to become discouraged. Enemies from within and without did not deter the workers from their task. The devil never wants God's work to succeed. A stumblingblock will always be provided courtesy of Satan. Some today say that the work of the Lord's church cannot be accomplished in the way the Lord intended. Such is false thinking and far from the truth. Let us never become discouraged in building upon a solid foundation (cf. Acts 4:12; I Cor. 3:11; Matt. 27:24-27). Nehemiah's volunteers had a **mind** to work. They did not show up for only two hours per week. They did not possess the attitude that someone else could and should do the task. They prayed to God that they could be used for His service and glory — and God used them! If we as members of the body of Christ possess the proper attitude and have a mind to work in His vineyard, the Lord will also use us to His service and glory. May we all have the spirit of Nehemiah!