

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

Floyd and Judy Coley were involved in an auto accident Monday. Floyd needed stitches in his leg and has a cut on his hand. Judy has a broken nose and broken thumb. Testing suggested that a fluctuation in Judy's blood pressure may have contributed to the accident. She underwent several tests on her heart and is temporarily wearing an implantable heart monitor for further evaluation. Floyd and Judy are both now at home recovering.

Joni McConnell was admitted to the St. Francis hospital in Indianapolis due a possible mild stroke. She suffered balance and short-term memory issues. Testing revealed that she did not have a stroke but rather a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA). She is now at home and doing well.

Bob Hawkins and his entire family, Mike and Doris Parnell, Shirley Cook and Ken Roosa have all been recovering from COVID.

Evelyn Murphy has been experiencing weakness and fatigue.

Karen Sproles' great grandson died of a stab wound and leaves behind a 3 year old child. Please pray for all of them.

Jesse Riddle's eyelid surgery has been postponed until later in the month.

Ray and Liz's son Jeff had back surgery and is now in rehab in a facility in Ellettsville. He hopes to return home soon.

Mike Parnell's son Bill, in Arkansas, had successful back surgery to remove a tumor. He is awaiting biopsy results.

Doris Parnell's shoulder surgery is being rescheduled due to her contracting COVID.

Bob Hawkins will undergo an outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs.

Gerald Dunn, brother of Susie Riddle, is in a health care institution in Bedford and is experiencing memory issues.

Gloria Hale has been moved to the Garden Villa rehab center in Bloomington.

Charlie Henard's mother in Tennessee is in failing health and under hospice care.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance problems. She will be wearing a heart monitor to help in diagnosing her problems.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services.

Iris Hash is still battling kidney and gastric issues and is staying with her daughter.

John Richardson has been admitted to the hospital in Greenfield, in need of a colostomy.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

Haven Duncan, Dave and Tina's granddaughter in the Army, has a broken foot.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

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

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

**New Sister in Christ:**

Congratulations to Caylyn Mathews who was recently baptized into Christ. We rejoice and welcome her into the body of Christ and the newest member of our Morgan St. family. Congratulations to Sean, Christa, Jaxon and Michaela as well.

**Contributions for Angel Grimes:**

A Go Fund Me page has been setup on Facebook to help Ken and Sherrie's daughter Angel with Darryl's medical expenses. Direct contributions can also be given to Ken and Sherrie.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, September 14th at 5:00 PM. All men are encouraged to attend.

**Fish Fry:**

Our annual fish fry will be Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Martinsville City Park.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 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).

September 11, 2022

***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

**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

## THE LORD'S CHOICE IN A CHURCH

There is a slogan that has been extremely popular for many years. In most newspapers that advertise the worship services of churches in any community, you will find these words of encouragement: “**Attend The Church Of Your Choice.**” These words please most people, and this is the primary reason they are in the paper each week. It is the “democratic” thing to do. The majority of people are happy with the slogan as they believe such a statement brings glory and honor to Christ. But does it? This is the question for us to consider as we turn to the only book that can give us a truthful answer—the Bible.

Long before the birth of Christ it was prophesied: “*in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever*” (Dan. 2:44). Jesus, during His ministry on earth, said to Peter, “*I will build **my** church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of **the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven*” (Matt. 16:18-19, emph. MLW). One will note that the word “church” is singular, not plural. Christ promised to build only one church—His church. Other inspired Scriptures affirm this truth. The apostle Paul notes that there is but “*one body*” (Eph. 4:4). One will also observe that the Scriptures affirm that Christ is the “*head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all*” (Eph. 1:22-23). Paul also records that Christ has promised to save only His “*body*” (Eph. 5:23).

Since God does not lie (Titus 1:2) and His Word is always true (John 17:17), let's ask some questions. If Christ were on earth today,

1. Would He attend His church or some man's church?
2. Would the Savior attend the church purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28) or one purchased with man's money?
3. Would the Lord attend a church of which a man or group of men serve as its head or the one of which He is its head?
4. Do you believe Jesus the Christ would attend a church governed by the creeds and votes of men that continually change or the church that is governed by His Word which forever been settled in Heaven (Psa. 119:89)?
5. Would the Lord attend a church authorized by His Word, or a church that is authorized by man?
6. Does or does not the Lord's choice in a church matter?
7. Which church would He choose to attend?
8. Would Christ choose the church that wears His name and thus gives Him the honor and glory rightly His, or would He choose a church wearing a man-made name that honors a human being?

These are questions that demand serious thought, cannot successfully be ignored, and they certainly deserve an answer! Most people choose a “church” for the wrong reason:

1. Some choose a particular “church” because of its beautiful architecture. We are not, however, commanded to worship the building, so this is not a valid reason.
2. Some choose a “church” solely because of what it can *offer* their children. Their children's wants and desires evidently means much more to them than the Lord's commands. They have in mind fun and games, pizza parties, ski trips, camping trips, volleyball, softball, and an appealing chauffeur (oops, youth minister) to shuttle the young folks to and from their entertainment appointments. But the truth of the matter is that the Lord's church is *not* in the entertainment and recreation business. Period! Parents should be the “youth directors,” and they are the ones responsible for all recreation and entertainment engaged in by the young people.
3. Some folks choose a “church” because of its size as if large numbers are to be equated with spiritual success. The truth is that only a few were saved in the ark (1 Peter 3:20) and a few, not many, will be in Heaven (Matt. 7:13-14). Why is it so often true that numbers carry more weight with men than the Lord's will?

If one is truly interested in the salvation of his soul, he will surely desire to attend the Lord's church! One distinguishing characteristic of the Lord's church is that it was established on the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 33 as promised in Holy Scripture. Any “church” that comes into existence after A.D. 33 cannot be the Lord's church. The name (designation) “**church of Christ**” is not a man-made name but a Scriptural term (Rom. 16:16). It does not honor and glorify man. It shows ownership and gives honor and glory to the one whose blood purchased the church—the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28).

No, the “attend the church of your choice” slogan is **not** found in the Bible! This alone should run up a red flag in a person's mind who believes in the authoritative Word of God. This slogan is the product of man's thinking and man's wisdom. One should remember Jehovah declaring, “*For my thoughts [are] not your thoughts, neither [are] your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For [as] the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts*” (Isa. 55:8-9). All roads do **not** lead to Heaven as so many believe. Jesus is very clear in declaring, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:6). There are not many “ways,” or many “truths.” Eternal life is found only by following the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. One cannot have it his way and the Lord's way!

Why not choose to be a member of the Lord's church that He promised to build? Obey the Gospel plan of salvation: **Hear** (Rom. 10:17), **Believe** (Heb. 11:6), **Repent** (Luke 13:3), **Confess** (Rom. 10:9-10), and be **Baptized** for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16) so that the Lord can add you to His church (Acts 2:47).

Choose the congregation of the Lord's church you attend because of people's love, reverence, and respect for the Word of God. Are you willing to abide by the Lord's choice in a “church?” Make your choice the Lord's choice so that your soul may prosper (3 John 2)!

-- Marvin L. Weir