

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Randall and Linda Jones' daughter Shannon is undergoing chemotherapy at Vanderbilt University hospital.

Jesse Riddle's eyelid surgery has been rescheduled for October 18th.

Continue to pray for Mike Parnell's son, Bill in Arkansas as he battles cancer. We are encouraged to send Bill cards, letters and words of encouragement to the following address:

Bill Parnell
1667 CR 2651
Lamar, AR 72846

Clay Sturgill, Ray's brother, is in the hospital in Virginia.

Aletia Sturgill, a close friend of Ray and Liz, is in a rehab center in Virginia.

Ray and Liz's son Jeff had back surgery and is now recovering at his home.

Doris Parnell's shoulder surgery has been scheduled for October 31st.

Bob Hawkins had an outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs. He will receive more treatments in the future.

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

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance problems. She was recently hospitalized and suffered a minor stroke while in the hospital. She is now back home. 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. Her husband Chet broke his leg and will be doing rehab.

Iris Hash is feeling some better but is still 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.

Hurricane victims in Florida.

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)

Deepest Sympathy:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brother Charlie Henard at the passing of his mother in Tennessee. Charlie will be in Tennessee for several days pending arrangements.

Men's Business Meeting:

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

Fall Gospel Meeting:

Our fall gospel meeting with Brother Ronnie Whittemore will be held November 11-13. Services will be held at 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday evenings. There will be a pitch-in dinner after the Sunday morning service then a 1:00 PM service to conclude the meeting.

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).

October 2, 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

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

BRETHREN MATTER

Bill Boyd

In the days of Christ there was a fraternity among the Jews. They were divided into many factions. Some were so serious that they were deadly, yet they acknowledged each other as brethren. At Pentecost, Peter addressed the devout Jews who had gathered in Jerusalem, “Men and brethren” ([Acts 2:29](#)). They responded to the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do” ([Acts 2:37](#))? In the temple Peter said, “And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers” ([Acts 3:17](#)). Stephen spoke to the Sanhedrin and said, “Men, and brethren, and fathers, harken” ([Acts 7:2](#)). This is the sermon that ended with his Jewish brethren stoning him to death. Saul was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples” ([Acts 9:1](#)), but when Ananias came to him in Damascus, he addressed Saul saying, “Brother Saul” ([Acts 9:17](#)). When Paul and Barnabas arrived in the far distant city of Antioch of Pisidia, they went into the synagogue, and they were received as brethren. The rulers of that synagogue said to them, “Ye men and brethren, if ye have a word of exhortation for the people, say on” ([Acts 13:15](#)). Paul, in turn, addressed these Jews as brethren saying, “Men and brethren, and children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you that feareth God, to you is the word of salvation sent” ([Acts 13:26](#)), and “Be it known unto you, brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins” ([Acts 13:38](#)). From the steps of the Roman castle in Jerusalem, Paul turned to those who would have pulled him to pieces, and addressed them in the Hebrew tongue saying, “Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defense” ([Acts 22:1](#)). Before the High Priest and the Sanhedrin Paul said, “Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God unto this day” ([Acts 23:1](#)). Later, in Rome, when the Jews came to Paul in his captivity, he said to them, “Men and brethren, though I have committed nothing against the people, or customs of our fathers, yet was I delivered prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans” ([Acts 28:17](#)). And, in [Acts 28:21](#) the Jews of Rome referred to the Jews of Jerusalem as their “brethren.”

There was another fraternity growing among the Jews in those days; it was a fraternity of brethren in Christ. Christians are also referred to as brethren in Acts. The Epistle of James was written at a time when the church consisted primarily of Jews. James addressed his epistle to “the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad” ([James 1:1](#)). Eighteen times in five chapters he refers to Christians as “brethren;” eleven of those eighteen times they are “my brethren,” and three of those eleven times they are “my beloved brethren.”

Paul’s first epistles are thought to be First and Second Thessalonians. When Paul preached in Thessalonica a great multitude of devout Gentiles believed ([Acts 17:4](#)). In [1 Thessalonians 1:9](#) Paul wrote, “ye turned from idols to serve the living and true God.” There are eight chapters in these two epistles. Paul refers to the Christians in Thessalonica as brethren seventeen times. This is not a fraternity of Jews, nor of Jewish Christians, but a fraternity of Jews and Gentiles together in Christ.

Brethren in Christ matter to God. There is a salvation for all men, for Paul wrote that “the living God” is “the Savior of all men;” then he said, “specially of those that believe” ([1 Tim. 4:10](#)). God loves all men, but Paul called the elect of the Thessalonians “brethren beloved of God” ([1 Thess. 1:4 ASV](#)). Peter called the children of God, “an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession” ([1 Peter 2:9 ASV](#)).

All men matter because Paul said in [Galatians 6:10](#), “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,” but then Paul said, “especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Verily, again, all men matter, because Peter wrote in [1 Peter 2:17](#), “Honor all men,” but immediately following he wrote, “Love the brotherhood.” In Christ, “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” ([Col. 3:11-13](#))... because, in Christ, Brethren Matter.