

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

Tina's Aunt Janie's cancer has returned .She had a reaction to her chemotherapy and was hospitalized. Her husband, Dutch, had an emergency operation and was hospitalized also. Both are at home now.

Shannon Jones (Randall Jones' Daughter) is in Vanderbilt Hospital having a problem with blood clots in her colon.

Judy Coley's procedure went very well and Judy is back worshipping with us. Your prayers were appreciated.

Al Reynolds is making progress in therapy for improvement in the use of his hand s.

Iris Hash has been diagnosed with her Hiatal hernia but still no decision has been made as to have surgery or not. Iris has some new medication and is also on probiotics and doing a lot better.

Karen Sproles is still having difficulty walking. She is currently going to a "Balance" center for therapy.

Delores Hendrickson's bother, Richard, passed on 10-22-20. Prayers for the family will be greatly appreciated.

Virginia McKinney has been in quarantine due to a friend having Covid.

Gary Knoy (Dave's cousin) is having some stomach issues

Stephanie Sturgill is at home and continues doing better.

Linda Bush is at home and doing better. It has been decided that the procedure will not be necessary and she is no longer wearing the heart monitor

Ernest Brown is at home and doing quite well.

Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy) is doing much better.

Donnie Thurman (Ken's cousin) is undergoing Cancer treatments. Prayers are requested.

Sean Mathews – Stomach problems (ongoing)

Edwin Parnell's PET scan results were very positive with no new cancer found.

Dean and Shirley Cook will be leaving to spend the winter in Florida on 11-9-20.

Dale Pflaum (Shirley Cook's nephew) is in a second round of Chemo therapy. Prayers are greatly appreciated.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale

**Pray For The Work We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia)

Charles DiPalma (Mission work in Australia and New Zealand)

Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

**Upcoming Events:**

Friday Nov. 6- After the Mtg. hour, there will be some cake and punch to celebrate Ernest Brown's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Everyone is invited!

Fall Gospel Meeting with Brother Charles Blair – November 6, 7 – 7:00PM

Sunday November.8 - Bible Study 9:30 AM, Worship 10:30AM

Following AM Worship – Fellowship Pitch-In

Afternoon Worship – 1:00PM

**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).

November 9, 2020

***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

1 Samuel 17:40 *“He took his stick in his hand and chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in the shepherd’s bag which he had, even in his pouch, and his sling was in his hand; and he approached the Philistine.”*

Our verse today surrounds the courageous, brave and trusting young David. He was off to fight a giant, a literal giant. One who stood over nine feet tall. For more than a month, this giant had been taunting Israel. King Saul and his troops hunkered down in fear. Young David, while taking food to his brothers, hears the blasphemous Philistines. David, just a shepherd, not a soldier, takes it upon himself to fight this wicked Philistine.

David doesn’t have a sword, armor or even a spear. His weapon of choice is his sling. David stops at a brook and picks out five smooth stones. And, off he runs to meet Goliath in battle.

I have always been amazed that David chose five stones. Why five? It was a single shot sling. So, why five?

Some might wonder and even say aloud, if David truly trusted the Lord all he needed was one stone. The other stones showed that he wasn’t sure if God would come through or not?

Interestingly, the text does not tell us why David chose five. Why not three? It sure is a stretch and a judgmental spirit to question David’s faith because he picked up five stones and not just one. God doesn’t seem to rebuke David for taking that many rocks. Had David just ran up to the giant without any stones, believing that God would see him through would be just pure foolishness and even testing God. No, David picked up five.

David is just a teen. Maybe he might drop one. Maybe he might miss the giant. Maybe one stone wouldn’t be enough to bring down such a large warrior. Five stones. Having more would keep David prepared. He was ready for anything.

Now, don’t you think that we can learn some lessons from all of this. We are not facing a giant, but we are facing uncertain times, pandemics, life out of normal, and a host of things that we do not like.

· I hear some say, “Just trust the Lord.” Some have even ignored local guidelines about safety, masks, social distancing because “we trust in the Lord.” That kind of thinking would have David jumping over the brook and running to the battle lines with nothing. Why do I need a rock? I trust in the Lord? Where is your faith?

Trusting God doesn’t mean you park common sense. And, the problem with common sense is that these days it’s just not very common. Folks run to extremes and they believe the sky is falling all around them. God will get us through, but we also need to stop by a brook and pick up a few rocks. It’s not God alone, nor is it us alone. We partner with God. He’ll do His part, He always does. The question is, will we do our part?

· Anticipation and planning and preparation are woven into those five smooth stones. Kill the giant, and who’s to say that his armor bearer won’t charge you? Who’s to say that the Philistine line won’t attack? You can say that there was an agreement, whoever is killed become the servants of the victor. That’s true, but would you trust the words of Philistines? Five stones. Anticipating. Being prepared. Ready.

So how do we prepare for another pandemic? What have we learned? How do we do things better than what we were doing in the past? Is getting back to normal the best we can do? What have we seen through all of this? How many stones are necessary?

· David changed the norm for battle. No helmet. No shield. He had to use Goliath’s sword to cut the giant’s head off. Five smooth stones. He changed battle thinking. A young teenager with a bag of rocks and a heart full of God was more powerful than all the weaponry of Israel. And, maybe after all this year, we will look at what works and it may not be what we always thought or what we have always done. Five stones. Not helmets, shields and swords.

Some will let this current season pass and be none the different and none the better because of it. Some will just return to the way things were and hope that everyone forgets this year. But for a few, they will have the vision, forethought and insight to see things better, to learn great lessons and to come through this stronger, closer and more practical than ever before.

Five smooth stones...if you had to pick out five things that would have helped you before this pandemic began, what would they have been?

Roger Shouse