

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray Sturgill is back home and feeling much better but continues to receive antibiotic treatments.

Liz Sturgill is back home and feeling much better but is receiving dialysis treatments at Spencer and home health care visits.

Sheila Wilson, daughter of Floyd and Judy Coley, has been diagnosed with lung and lymph node cancer. She has received chemotherapy treatments at IU Health Methodist hospital in Indianapolis and is still recovering there.

Jesse Riddle will have a procedure performed on November 30th to adjust the port in his arm to allow him to receive dialysis.

Tim Burdsall is suffering with bruising and swelling of the knee and foot in one of his legs. Continue to pray for Mike Parnell's son, Bill in Arkansas as he battles cancer. He recently completed chemotherapy but is still recovering in the IU hospital Indianapolis.

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

Doris Parnell had shoulder surgery on October 31st and is doing well.

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

Jimmy Lindsay's friend Jaime has a brother who recently was incarcerated.

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 and hip problems.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services. Her husband Chet broke his leg but is now back home again.

Iris Hash is feeling better and is still staying with her daughter.

John Richardson has been transferred to the Countryside Nursing Home in Avon, IN.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

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

Haven Duncan, granddaughter of Dave and Tina, is suffering from some issues while in the Army at Ft. Benning, GA.

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)

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, December 7th at 5:00 PM. All men are encouraged to attend.

Ladies' Holiday Luncheon:

The ladies' holiday luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 3rd at 11:00 AM at the Martinsville Senior Center.

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).

November 27, 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 (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

Strife And Contention

Some few years ago I heard brother Guy Woods relate how many meetings, lectureships, and special lessons he presented each year. The brother had a startling statement when he mentioned that into every area where he had gone during the year, church troubles were prevalent. If strife and division prevails in every county of every state in the nation, I guarantee that whoever is responsible for the problems will not admit their responsibility for such troubles. Moreover, it is certain that preaching the inspired Word regarding strife will not turn the contentious person around. A blockhead is difficult to deal with, primarily because he thinks he is so wonderfully brilliant. We must keep preaching the inspired word, whether people believe it or not.

Regardless of the guilty party, the Bible is plain in its condemnation of those who cause strife. The wise man wrote, "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame" (Prov. 25:8). When Jesus taught concerning the living bread which came down from heaven, "The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat" (John 6:52). The Jews engaged in strife because they were so infernal ignorant. Ignorance breeds strife even unto the present.

When Paul wrote to Timothy, there is no doubt that the young man was laboring under harsh and difficult circumstances. Paul declared, "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers" (2 Tim. 2:14). Again he wrote, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive: but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient" (2 Tim. 2:24).

The person who causes strife is usually so blind and obtuse as to not know or care about his babbling tongue. Solomon wrote, "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins" (Prov. 10:12). Again we read, "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife" (Prov. 15:18). "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices" (Prov. 15:18). "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it is meddled with" (Prov. 17:14). "He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction" (Prov. 17:19). "It is an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling" (Prov. 20:3). "As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife" (Prov. 26:21).

"Why doest thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention" (Hab. 1:3)

The disciples of our Lord resorted to pride and strife. We learn, "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest" (Luke 22:24). To the brethren (that's what we are) Paul wrote, "Let us walk honestly as in the day; not

in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying" (Rom. 13:13). "For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults" (2 Cor. 12:20).

When Paul enumerated the works of the flesh in his letter to Galatia, he wrote of such things as, "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies" (Gal. 5:20). Brethren, please look at the diabolical sins of which strife is one. Will that make any impression on us? I do not believe the person given to strife will be benefited whatsoever. With his egotistical stupidity, he can blame all others and exonerate self. The mandate of heaven is, "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil 2:3). Paul wrote about the sorry character who, "is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings" (1 Tim. 6:4). James wrote, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:14-16).

Instead of wicked, evil, strife prevailing, Christians need to use our influence and efforts to spread the saving gospel. The inspired Paul wrote, "Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation" (Rom. 15:20). "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me" (Rom. 15:30). To the brethren at Philippi, Paul wrote, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27). To the Hebrews Paul wrote, "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin" (Heb. 12:4).

My heart aches when I contemplate the strife, schism and discord which prevails in the church. Some brother will come up with a fool notion which is prattled in the name of progress and everyone is expected to kow-tow to the brother. The church is polarized, the devil is made happy, souls are lost in hell eternally, the unity for which Christ died is made a mockery of simply because brethren do not have sense enough to keep their big mouths shut. It is still true, "where no wood is, there the fire goeth out" (Prov. 26:20). Where there are no wooden heads, the fire will not get started.

--Wayne Coats