

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Dean and Shirley Cook – Dean confined to bed and is in and out of a coma. Hospice has been called in to assist with his care. In this especially difficult time it is asked that everyone pray for Shirley and the family.

We are very proud to announce that Sean and Christa Mathews' children, Jaxson Mathews and Michaela Mathews were baptized on 12-19-20. We are so proud of these two new young Christians and for their parents as well. Please pray for Jaxson and Michaela as they begin their growth as faithful servants of Christ.

Charlie Henard's Mother (she lives in Murfreesboro, TN) has been diagnosed with Covid. She is doing well. Prayers for Charlie's Mother will be appreciated.

Eric Bowlen had shoulder surgery is expected to be recuperating with extensive therapy for the next two months. Prayers are requested for Eric.

Karen Sproles had a CT scan performed and it revealed that she has a nodule in her thyroid. Additionally, Karen had an Echo Cardia Gram that revealed an enlarged ventricle valve. Please pray for Karen.

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. Iris is also experiencing some problems with indigestion.

Jeff Sturgill (Ray and Liz's son) has been troubled with back problems but is doing good at this time.

Stephanie Sturgill is to begin Chemo treatments mon 12-24-20. Please pray for her recovery. Updates will be conveyed as they are available. Prayers are requested.

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 recently celebrated his 102 birthday and is at home doing well.

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

Donnie Thurman (Ken's cousin) has been undergoing Cancer treatments but is now at home. Donnie is not doing well and his prognosis is not good. He is not expected to survive for much longer. Your prayers are needed.

Sean Mathews – Stomach problems (ongoing)

Dalton Ward's uncle Mike passed. Please pray for the family in their loss.

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: Bob Hawkins will be away for a much deserved vacation this Sunday and the following Wednesday. Jarred Lemon will be teaching Sunday morning Bible Study as well as preaching on Sunday morning and evening worship services.

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).

December 27, 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

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

Jump Start # 2738

John 14:3 *“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”*

I thought I would write a short series about hymns that have been important to me. There are so many wonderful songs and singing is a valuable part of our worship to God. What a joy it is to sing hymns!

Near the top of the list of my favorite hymns is: “In the sweet by and by.” It’s a hymn that looks forward to Heaven. In time, or as the hymn states, “in the sweet by and by” we shall meet on that beautiful shore.

The music was written by Joseph Webster. He was known to have great bouts with depression and darkness. The lyrics were written by Fillmore Bennett. The story takes place in Wisconsin, where Bennett was working as a pharmacist. Bennett and Webster knew each other and had worked on other projects together. As the story goes, Webster came into Bennett’s store one day. He was gloomy. Bennett asked Webster what his troubles were this time. Webster replied, “It’s no matter. It will all be right by and by.” Bennett hearing those words said, “That would make a great hymn.” He took out a piece of paper and immediately scribbled down the words and handed them to Webster. Reading the words, Webster started writing down musical notes and within thirty minutes the hymn was completed. It was published and well received. It became one of the greatest pieces that the two worked on together. The hymn was written in 1868.

There are several lessons we see here:

First, we can see Heaven. The hymn states, “And by faith we see it afar.” Jesus said, “blessed are they who have not seen yet believed.” He was talking about Himself. But that idea stretches to all things spiritual. Through the pages of Scriptures we can see Moses parting the Red Sea. By faith, we see Daniel in the lion’s den and Paul singing hymns in the Philippian jail. And, by faith, we see Heaven. More than that, we ought to see ourselves in Heaven. That anticipation and joy ought to motivate us to walk closer to the Lord. It ought lead us to make wise choices and to put God at the top of all things that we do. Talking about Heaven should be one of our favorite topics. A dear friend years ago told me,

“Whenever you preach about Heaven, it’s like you just see it.” And, I told her, “I do.”

Second, by and by we shall be there. Don’t let the troubles of this life weigh you down. By and by we will be there. By and by, everything will be ok. Getting to Heaven is like any trip or journey. It takes a while to get there, but once you do, it will be so worth it. By and by we will be there. By and by everything will be ok. This tells us that things are not still up in the air. By and by we will be there. By and by is confidence, assurance and motivation. God promises. We must continue walking with Him.

Third, what a wonderful lesson about helping someone. Bennett knew Webster. He knew that he could be depressed. He put before him an opportunity to not only do something worthwhile, but it would get him out of the darkness of his mind. Rather than complaining about his friend. Rather than waiting for him to come around, he helped him. He helped him in a positive way that benefited others. Surrounding us are others just like Webster. They lean toward the negative side of life. They can pull us down with them or we can find ways to encourage, lift and remind them. This example would work well in our families.

Fourth, it is amazing what good can be done in such a short period of time. The hymn was completed within thirty minutes. Put your mind to it and use your talents and one can be amazed at all the good that can be accomplished in a short time. Another lesson here is the pulling of talents. Bennett came up with the words. Webster wrote the tune. Each on their own, likely could not have accomplished this. But together, combined, look what they did. Too many want to be a one man show. Refusing to share talent and ideas keeps more good from ever being done. If everyone was the quarterback, who would block and who would catch the passes? The church is made up of all kinds of talent. Instead of thinking who has the most or who is the most valuable, work together as a team. Bennett’s words and Webster’s musical score produced a favorite hymn for generations.

In the Sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore. Won’t that be wonderful!

Roger Shouse