



*Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.*

**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**  
Sunday - August 27, 2023

## **Make the Faith Your Own!**

*by Troy Spradlin*

When I was a young man - I am ashamed to say - I made a lot of bad choices in life. One of those choices led me to hang out at the back of a country music "honky-tonk," with some of my musician friends on the weekends. I was intrigued by being in a band and performing live music. Since I was too young at the time to get into the bar, my buddies would leave the back door open so that I could watch and listen to the band from their perspective. Sadly, by this time in my life, I was already beginning to doubt the Bible and waning in any faith or spirituality that my parents tried to instill in me by raising me in the church. Then, to put the "final nail in the coffin," I saw deacon Johnson out on the dance floor of that honky-tonk that night with some woman who was not his wife!

That was enough proof for me. Christianity was a farce! That same man would be at church the next morning, with Bible in hand, talking about sinners going to hell. Yet, here he was, in all his hypocritical glory, participating in sin! (Of course, I was ignoring the fact that I was also participating in sinful activities). But that was it. I was done with church. I was done with God. I was done pretending to be a Christian. To me, the whole thing was a complete waste of time. Once I was old enough to leave the house and get out on my own, I never stepped foot into a church again. As far as I was concerned, Christian "faith" was a fool's errand.



This is my story of why I left the church. I have since heard many variations of this same story from other people. In fact, there are a few disgruntled souls on YouTube who complain about why they left the church of Christ and basically, their story has many of the same elements as mine. However, my story and the majority of the others all have one thing in common, one fatal flaw, one grand fallacy - we all put our faith in men instead of God. **We viewed human beings as our example of Christianity instead of learning about it from the Bible.** We mistakenly considered the church a human organization instead of the divine, living organism it truly is. We allowed our faith to be affected by others, or grounded in our parents or friends, instead of making the faith our own.

Psalm 118:8 says, *"It is better to trust in the LORD Than to put confidence in man."* Then, later in Psalm 146:3, we find these inspired words, *"Do not trust in princes, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation."* Jesus Himself taught, *"Have faith in God"* (Mark 11:22) and *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also ..."* (John 14:4-7). Those are powerful, sobering words!

I have since learned that I was utterly mistaken. I have learned that *"we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil"* (2 Corinthians 5:10). So, the bottom line is this, it doesn't matter what someone else says or does concerning Christianity, it doesn't matter if my family are Christians or not, I have to answer for myself. I have to stand before the throne of God all alone and give an account for my actions. Deacon Johnson has nothing to do with my salvation. My mom or dad cannot vouch for me and get me into heaven on their good merit. I cannot appeal to what someone said or did as an excuse as to why I rejected God's free gift of grace. I will be held accountable for myself and myself alone.

I thank God I learned that lesson before it was too late! So, parents, help your children learn what it means to make the faith their own. Young people, I hate to admit it, but we older people will most likely let you down if our example is the sole basis for your faith. Yes, even leaders in the church will make mistakes and sometimes commit sin. But they are human beings, flawed human beings. Don't rest your faith in them. Instead, *"look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2) because *"there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). Make the faith your own!

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# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## L2L Kickoff

AUGUST 27TH  
AFTER PM SERVICES

"I am not ashamed"  
ROMANS 1:16

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. September 13  
5 pm in the FH



## BIG EVENT REMINDERS



**FUEL Retreat @ GCBC**  
**November 10 - 12**  
**6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**Sign-up by October 8<sup>th</sup>**



**Exposure Youth Camp**  
**December 27 - 30**  
**All ages are welcome**  
**Sign-up by October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**UNS UNSTOPPABLE**

GULF COAST  
AREAWIDE 2023-2024  
SCHEDULE

- AUG 13 / AZALEA CITY COC
- SEPT 17 / GULF SHORES COC
- OCT 15 / SCENIC HILLS COC
- NOV 10-12 / FUEL RETREAT
- JAN 7 / SPANISH FORT COC
- FEB 18 / EASTERN SHORE COC
- MAR 10 / UNIVERSITY COC
- APR 21 / MARGARET ST. COC

**PARENTING  
SEMINAR**

**DECEMBER  
1-3**

**JANUARY 12 - 14**

**MARGARET STREET  
MARRIAGE RETREAT**

## Forfeiting Peace

by Casey Bearden

We often sing the song, *What A Friend We Have In Jesus*, which is such a beautiful reminder of how great our God is, but there's one line that strikes me more than the others - "Oh what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." I often forget that we purposefully allow ourselves to live in a life of frustration and discontentment, carrying all of our baggage along the way, all because we give up the opportunity for God to be a part of it and help us through it. One of my fellow ministers once spoke about something similar to this when he referenced us as not being know as people of prayer. Not that we don't pray, but it's not as emphasized, practiced and leaned upon as much as other communications of worship to God.

In considering those two thoughts, I ask myself and everyone else, "Why not?" "Why are we not more dependent on the gift of prayer?" The writer of the hymn clearly points out the fact that prayer offers so much, and we purposefully forfeit, give up, those blessings when we don't use it. That makes **1st Thessalonians 5:17** an even more beautiful statement in scripture when Paul says, "Pray without ceasing." Why? Not just because God wants us to be praying to him continually, but also the fact that we have the opportunity to do so anytime we need, or want, to.

There is a blessing of great peace in taking the thoughts, cares, and concerns of our hearts to a God who understands, and can/will help. Don't forfeit, purposefully give up, that blessing. Become a person of prayer.

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Gale Broadfoot - knee surgery, recovery
- Sherryn Canniff\* - health, pain
- Renee Decker - final stage /kidney (Lester\*)
- Harrison Freeman\* - burn damage, recovery
- Cory Gilreath - hospital, tests (Longmire\*)
- Gary Good\* - tests (Frahm\*)
- Sarah Goldman-car wreck, surgery (Frahm\*)
- Terry Jennings\* - Sacred Heart, prayers
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff\* - heart procedure, recovery
- Glenn Price\* - heart surgery, recovery
- Ruth Williams\* - recovery, healing

## Grieving a Loss

- Brooklyn Bostwick\* - loss of mom, Kandi
- John Hart Ellis\* - loss of wife
- Hatcher family\* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Linda Loftin\* and family - loss of Jim\*
- Elsa Nunes\* - loss of brother, Guillermo Deir
- Scott Shanahan - loss of father, Kevin
- Vonada family - loss of Troy\*

## 2023 Recently Baptized / Restored / Identified

- Jada Crider\* - Baptized
- Brittany Parker\* - Baptized
- Dawson Hitchcock\* - Baptized
- Matthew & Ashley Gingerich\* - Baptized
- Olivia Gingerich\* - Baptized
- Lanie Scott\* - Baptized
- Ashley Scott Buckley\* - Baptized
- Sharon Parker\* - Baptized
- Jan Holmes\* - Identified
- Mike and Addie Frahm\* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings\* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings\* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway\* - Identified
- Alan & Heather Overton family\* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family\* - Identified

## Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Nick Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

## Mission Works

- Shanahans\* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

## Other Requests / Health Issues

- Patricia Ann\* - prayers, health (MZL)
- Mike Brown - stroke, recovery (frmer mem)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher\*)
- Bob Black - health (Lipford\*)
- John Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Winston Burnham\* - health
- Janice Carter\* - tests, waiting on results
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis\* - health
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee\* mom)
- Myrna Fuller\* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - recovery - heart failure
- Donald Hamilton-surgery, recover (McGriff)
- Jackie Hamilton - Covid (McGriff\*)
- Daphne Hamilton - surgeries, health
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Barbara Helms\* - health
- Chris Hollis - (McGriff)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Marcia Jones -loss of cousin (Kenya's\* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Martin family\* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Elsa Nunes\* - health, fell in the past. recovery
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham\*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott\*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia\*)
- Gloria Vonada\* - health
- Jan Whitney\* - heart procedure, recovery

## Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey\* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas
- Cole Weathersbee - Great Lakes, Illinois

## Cancer

- Darlene Baxley\* - hospice, prayers
- Darrell Bozeman\*
- Misty Bray\* - (Bird\*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott\*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis\*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher\*)
- Jack Davis\*
- Pat Deforest\*
- Eddie English - (R.English\*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley\*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff\*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell\*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey\*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill\*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton\*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin\* friend)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley\* - good news!
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff\*)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms\*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Mel Wilcox - (Gallagher\*)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

## Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Sherryn Canniff - homebound
- Sherry Davis\* - The Blake (Davis/Napier\*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis\*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia\*- Fort Walton Beach
- Betty Lee - homebound (D. Lee's mom\*)
- Linda Mann\* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel\*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller\*
- Ruth Phillips\* - Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines\* - Victorian Manor

## Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024

## Directory Pictures

Make up pictures will be 8/27 & 9/3 in the Library right after AM Services!

Elders & Ministers  
Trevor and Brooklyn Bostwick  
Ashley Scott Buckley  
Mike and Addie Frahm  
Lester family  
Overton Family  
Sharon Parker



## Quarterly Ladies' Birthday Luncheon

SEPTEMBER 2ND  
11 AM

LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. CELEBRATING JULY-SEPTEMBER BOYS



## Ladies Reconnect Weekend

Whenever You Choose To Plant Yourself

# Bloom

September  
22nd - 24th



# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... Justin Davis  
 Song Director ..... Paul Lipford  
 Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
 ..... "The Power of Prayer"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Darrell Bozeman  
 ..... James 5:13-18  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phillip Webb

### Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Eddie Longmire ..... Dane Harrington  
 Pat Mense ..... Jake Newcomb  
 ..... Dawson Hitchcock (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Jared Lee

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Josh Owens  
 Singing ..... David English  
 Scripture ..... Cooper Jennings  
 ..... Revelation 5:13-14  
 Comments ..... Jared Lee

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ..... Jeff Scott family  
 PowerPoint ..... Matt McReynolds  
 Greeters ..... Mason Chandler  
 Secure Building ..... Phillip Webb

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Summer Series ..... Jason Green  
 ..... Jacob and Esau  
 Song Director ..... Elliot Wilson  
 Opening Prayer ..... Troy Spradlin

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 186  
 AM Worship ..... 206  
 PM Worship ..... 117  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 151  
 Contribution ..... \$10,459

### TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class ..... 9:00 am  
 Sunday AM Worship ..... 10:00 am  
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm  
 Wednesday PM Bible Class ..... 6:30 pm

## Visitors:

### Thank you for coming!

### You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

***Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!***

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is Thursday, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa for Bible studies, meetings, etc.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.

### BENEVOLENCE



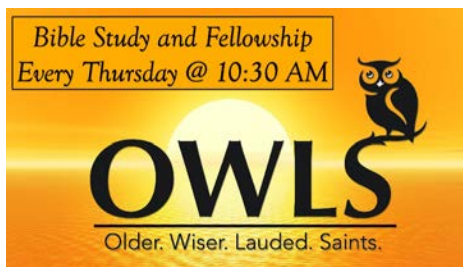
Margaret Street CHURCH of CHRIST

### FOOD PANTRY

Food Pickup : 9/12 @ 9:30 AM  
 Preparing Boxes:  
 9/13 @ 5:30 PM  
 9/14 @ 9:30 AM  
 Distribution : 9/14 @ 2:30 PM  
 Please consider donating travel size toiletries!!

### EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



Bible Study and Fellowship  
 Every Thursday @ 10:30 AM

# OWLS

Older. Wiser. Lauded. Saints.

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

## STAFF

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## ELDERS

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### CONTACT FOR AUGUST:

Primary..... Phillip Webb  
 Secondary ..... Rick Bird

## DEACONS\* & MINISTRIES

Administration ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Benevolence..... Dennis Maduell  
 Building & Grounds ..... Paul Lipford\*  
 Education ..... Chris Davis\*  
 Evangelism ..... Troy Spradlin  
 Finance .....  
 Fellowship ..... Jeff Scott\*  
 Involvement ..... Joe Taylor\*  
 Lads to Leaders ..... David English  
 OWLS ..... Stephen Fulton  
 Missions ..... Mike Scott\*  
 Visitation ..... Bob Locklin  
 ..... Mason Chandler  
 Kingdom Kids ..... Dane Harrington\*  
 Worship ..... Blake Hatcher\*  
 Youth & Family ..... Casey Bearden