



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

**Welcome! We're glad you are here!**  
Sunday - September 3, 2023

## I Am Not the Pastor

*by Troy Spradlin*

I love ministry! Being a preacher and minister has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I am so thankful for the many opportunities God has provided me to serve in His kingdom. The privilege of attending a Bible school, serving as a missionary in Latin America, being the pulpit preacher at Margaret Street, and all the Bible studies in homes, workplaces, parking lots, or prisons is something I consider immeasurably precious. I would not trade this vocation for anything in the world. But with all that being said, there is one thing I do not like about ministry ... I do not like to be called "Pastor." Many people mistakenly call me "pastor," which hurts my heart, for several reasons.

For one, it hurts my heart because it reminds me of the vast amount of religious confusion there is in this world. Due to many centuries of false teaching by several religious institutions, the term "pastor" has been abused so much that people no longer know its Biblical meaning. Those who serve in ministerial leadership positions in those organizations have elevated themselves above everyone else in the church, creating a separation, often referred to as "clergy" and "laity." Yet, **no member of the church is more important than another!** The Bible makes no such distinction. "*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another*" (Romans 12:5). Preachers were not elevated above the rest of the congregation in the first-century church and neither should they be today! Paul admonished the church on this very point in his letters, explaining that Christ is the only head of the church (cf 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 3:5-9, & 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:21-22).



Secondly, it makes me sad to be called "pastor" because it is an indication of one's misunderstanding of spiritual things or Biblical principles. I don't want to embarrass anyone who unknowingly uses that term, but I do want to help as many as I can to get to heaven, and that requires continual spiritual growth according to Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 5:12. Part of that growth involves learning how to do Bible things in Bible ways and calling Bible things by Bible names. The word "pastor" has a very specific meaning in the Scriptures. It always refers to a shepherd. The only time the word shepherd is applied to someone in church leadership in the Bible is in conjunction with a plurality of elders (cf Acts 14:23, 20:28). According to 1 Peter 5:1-5, these men are also called bishops, overseers, and presbyters. Not once in the Word of God do we see a singular "pastor" overseeing a congregation.

For one man to present himself as the pastor in charge of a congregation is utterly foreign to how Jesus set up His church. There is no such position. In fact, Jesus said, "*Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven*" (Matthew 23:9). He is saying that no one is to be elevated in the church, His church. That position is already occupied. Therefore, **if the Bible never uses such terms for elevating one man above the rest, then we shouldn't include it in our daily vernacular either.** It also means there are no titles for church leadership positions such as, "Reverend, Father, Friar, Curate, Rector, Cardinal, Pope, Metropolitan, or Monsignor."

Thirdly, it makes me sad to be called "pastor" because it takes the focus away from the true pastors, the rightful shepherds of the flock, the elders. The Bible says they have a special job in the church, in that they "*watch out for your souls, as those who must give account*" to God for their oversight (Hebrews 13:17). So, while it is often expected that the preacher must visit the sick, elderly, shut-ins and make hospital visits (which is perfectly fine for him to do), it is the elder's responsibility to fulfill that role in the church according to the Bible (see James 5:14, for example).

Lastly, while I am qualified to be a preacher, I am not qualified to be a pastor (elder) because he must have "*faithful children*" (1 Tim 3:4; Titus 1:6). Since Andrea and I have no children, I cannot be an elder. So, while I greatly appreciate the respect someone intends towards me when they use that word, I am still not "the pastor."

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# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



**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

## YG BIRTHDAY NIGHT

Wed. September 13  
5 pm in the FH




**Upcoming Dates:**

**September 6 –**  
Commitment Forms due  
& Bible Bowl begins

**September 10 –**  
1<sup>st</sup> Workshop (Times  
TBD)

## 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>**

# PARENTING SEMINAR

## DECEMBER 1-3

# JANUARY 12 - 14

## MARGARET STREET MARRIAGE RETREAT

## It's Real

by Dale Jenkins

The grief is real. The pain of losing the dearest person on earth or an extremely close friend is real. The broken hearts are real. The loneliness is real. The fear of the unknown is real. The emptiness is real. The hurt caused by broken friendships is real. The worries about the possibility of losing a job are real. The financial concerns are real. The hurt caused by someone you love walking away from the Lord is real. It's all real, or at least it feels real as you walk through it. Can I tell you what else is real? The promise that God will never leave us or forsake us is real. The knowledge that He has provided a Comforter for us is real. The love of family is real. The compassion of people who understand the real meaning of friendship is real. The support of other Christians who sincerely care is real. The blessings of being a part of God's Family are real. The commitment from our Loving Father that all of this is temporary is real. The call of God for His people to come before His throne at any time is real. The glory and the promise of Heaven are real. The fact that we someday will live forever in a place where there is no cancer, no disease, no sin, no pain, no sorrow, no heartache, and no loss is real. All of the promises of God are real. Dear brothers, let's do everything we can to make sure that the painful realities of this life do not overshadow the joys of this life or the life to come.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. - Philippians 4:4 - 8*



# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Sherryn Canniff\* - health, pain
- Renee Decker - final stage /kidney (Lester\*)
- Harrison Freeman\* - burn damage, recovery
- Cory Gilreath - hospital, tests (Longmire\*)
- Sarah Goldman-car wreck, surgery (Frahm\*)
- Terry Jennings\* - SHH, mass in throat
- Lipford family\* - Paul's parents, travels
- Richard McCool - blood clot removed, stent
- Mary McGriff\* - recovery, sciatic nerve
- Glenn Price\* - triple bypass 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 Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria 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
- Scott Graham\* - Baptized
- Jan Holmes\* - Identified
- Mike and Addie Frahm\* - Identified
- Terry & Judy Jennings\* - Identified
- Josh & Stephanie Jennings\* - Identified
- Jeremy & Amber Dunaway\* - Identified
- Allen & Heather Overton family\* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family\* - Identified

## Students in College

- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Savannah Smith
- 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)
- Gale Broadfoot - knee surgery, recovery
- Mike Brown - stroke, recovery (former 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\*-back surgery soon
- Sherryn Canniff - health, prayers
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- 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
- Gary Good\* - tests (Frahm\*)
- 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)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Marcia Jones -loss of cousin (Kenya's\* friend)
- Joe King\* - spine issues, PT therapy
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Martin family\* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Elsa Nunes\* - fell/recovery, arthritis
- 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\* - PET scan 9/5
- 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

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman\*)
- 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

**Adult Bible Study**  
Margaret Street CHURCH OF CHRIST

**SUNDAY MORNINGS (9:00-9:45 AM) September - November**

Classes	Teacher:
Auditorium - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Peter (September 3-October 5)	Joe Wilson
Jeremiah (October 22-TBD)	Troy Spradlin
Classroom 302 - Through the Bible - Joshua	Helen Cannon
Classroom 303 - The Journey... A deeper dive into THE WAY	Richard McCool

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS (6:45-7:30 PM) September - November**

Classes	Teacher:
Auditorium - The Gospel According to John	Chris Davis
Library - Jesus in Genesis	Ron Bartanen
Classroom 303 - (20 Something's) Grace	Blake Hatcher

**Directory Pictures**

Make up pictures will be 9/10 in the Library right after AM Services!

**Elders & Ministers**

Trevor and Brooklyn Bostwick  
Ashley Scott Buckley  
Scott Graham  
Mike and Addie Frahm  
Sharon Parker

**Spiritual Gardening Ladies Day**

September 16th  
2-4 PM  
Located in the Fellowship Hall  
Transportation is available

# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

**MORNING**

Opening Prayer ..... Matt McReynolds  
 Song Director ..... Casey Bearden  
 Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
 ..... "Twelve Ordinary Men"  
 Scripture Reading ... Luke McReynolds  
 ..... Matthew 10:1-4  
 Closing Prayer ..... Rick Bird

**Serving Communion (Left - Right):**

Darrell Bozeman ..... Judsen Jennings  
 Gabriel Lee ..... Brody Crider  
 ..... Pat Mense (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Chris Davis

**EVENING**

Opening Prayer ..... Steve Fulton  
 Singing ..... Elliot Wilson  
 Scripture ..... Richard McCool  
 ..... Philippians 3:12-17  
 Comments ..... Chris Davis

**Worship Service and Preparation:**

Communion Prep ..... Elsa Nunes  
 PowerPoint ..... Connie Bartell  
 Greeters ..... Rick and Mary Lou Bird  
 Secure Building ..... Jak Gallagher

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

Song Director ..... Mark Hitchcock  
 Opening Prayer ..... Justin Davis

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:**

Sunday Bible Class ..... 179  
 AM Worship ..... 216  
 PM Worship ..... 129  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 152  
 Contribution ..... \$8,855

**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**

**EDUCATION**

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

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for online giving

## STAFF

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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