



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

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - November 26, 2023

## Choosing a Church by Google Review?

by Troy Spradlin

Are you planning a vacation? Check the Google Reviews so you can find the best hotels and restaurants in that area. Not happy with the service you received at that department store yesterday? Be sure and leave them a bad review on Google so others will know to avoid it. Do you own a business? Well then, don't forget to ask your customers to leave you a good review so it will drive more business your way. What about choosing a church to attend? You guessed it, go and see what the Google Reviews are so you can make ... the "right" decision? Hmm.

We have become a society that heavily depends on the internet for so many things, including helping us make decisions about where to go and what to buy, all with the help of Google Reviews. Yes, even churches that have a presence on the web receive reviews from the Google search engine. Yet, I can't help but wonder, **do people actually make decisions about attending some church based off of Google reviews?** Surprisingly, I am afraid that they do!



Combing through reviews makes sense and can be helpful in many areas of our lives. For example, if someone is planning to book an Airbnb, just checking the reviews can often prevent the possibility of an uncomfortable stay. Nobody wants to go on a romantic get-a-way and then find out the room you payed for is in the basement of someone's creepy house! But, when it comes to making decisions about religious things, depending on something like Google Reviews should certainly NOT be the criteria on which you make a decision! Reviews are nothing more than people's opinions and opinion does not determine what constitutes a sound, Scriptural church of our Lord.

Instead of Google Reviews, what should be the criteria for identifying a church? The answer is simple. We should use the Bible and only the Bible. Within the New Testament, we can find all the identifying marks of what we should look for in a church. For example, one of the first things that should stand out is the name it uses. The Bible describes Jesus' church as "*the church of Christ*" in passages like Romans 16:16. In fact, it is always described as belonging to God or Jesus. That is because Jesus said, "*I will build my church ...*" in Matthew 16:18. So, **does the church you are considering carry the name of Jesus? It should.** That's important to consider in your review!

Secondly, who is the "head" of the church? Colossians 1:18 says that Jesus "*is the head of the body, the church ...*" That means no one in the church has the authority to elevate themselves as its supreme leader. Neither do we find a central office, or headquarters, presiding over the affairs of multiple churches. Each congregation in the New Testament was autonomous, meaning they governed themselves. They were also overseen by a plurality of elders as we find in Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1-4 and never by one, singular "pastor" over a congregation. A true church of our Lord follows the Bible example. So, **does the church you are thinking about attending have a supervising headquarters or a head "pastor"? It shouldn't, according to the Bible.** Is that mentioned in the review?

Thirdly, how does the church conduct its worship? According to Jesus, "*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth*" (John 4:24). That means one must be in the right state of being and they must worship according to how God prescribed it in the Bible. We can't have the attitude of just doing whatever we want, or adding things not authorized by Scripture. That's why the church of Christ sings in a cappella, for example. We follow the pattern of the New Testament. We find no examples of musical instruments being used in Christian worship until hundreds of years later, which indicates it was someone's opinion to add them, not something approved by the Word of God. So, **does the church you're looking at follow the Scriptural pattern?**

I hope you now see that matters of religion are not subject to Google Reviews. Someone's opinion, or review about a church won't help you get to heaven. Instead, go check it out for yourself ... with your Bible in hand.

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www.margaretstreetchurchofchrist.org



# MSYG EVENTS & INFO



**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. December 6  
5 pm in the FH



## YG Holiday Party

December 16<sup>th</sup>  
5 - 7 pm

Bring \$15 Gift  
for Game



KEYNOTES  
ANDREW ITSON  
RALPH GILMORE  
CHUCK MONAN

**exposure**  
YOUTH CAMP

# INTO REALITY

DECEMBER  
27-30  
2023




**2023 - 2024**

**Workshops & Info**

**December 3:** Workshop  
(Times TBD)

**January 21:** Workshop,  
Speech Dress Rehearsal,  
Registration fees due, & Pre-  
convention event deadline

IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON AGAIN!

## Kingdom Kids Christmas Party

December 10th  
3:30 - 5:30 PM  
Pajamas welcomed!  
More details to come!



## Family Enrichment Workshop

December 1 - 3  
Friday, 6-8 pm | Saturday, 2-5 pm  
Sunday, 9-11:30 am & 6-7 pm

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:  
JORDAN MOORE



# JANUARY 12 - 14

MARGARET STREET  
MARRIAGE RETREAT



*Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.  
(Same calendar with different formats available)*

Scan this QR Code for the  
**Church Calendar** on [teamup.com](http://teamup.com)



Scan this QR Code for a simple list  
of **Upcoming Events** on our website

# CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

## Recent/Urgent Requests

- Pat Ann\* - No more cancer! Praise God!
- Connie Bartell\* - prayers, encouragement
- Cassie Buchanan\* - surgery, recovery
- Caitlin Crider - back brace, upcoming surgery
- Sherry Davis\* - compression fracture, PT
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester\*)
- Terry Jennings\* - home PT/recovery
- Josie Locklin\* - fractured vertebrae
- Dan Mense - heart surgery (Pat's brother)
- Ashley Ray\* - ACL surgery, recovery
- Damiyah Scott - surgery, recovery (J.Carter)
- Troy Spradlin\* - prayers, encouragement
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery

## Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley\* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick\* - loss of mom, Kandi
- Sarah Davis & family\* -loss of Gigi, Norma
- John Hart Ellis\* - loss of wife
- Gary Good\* - loss of sister
- Hatcher family\* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Doug Lee & family\* - loss of mom, Betty
- 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\*

## Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman\*)
- 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
- Linda Mann\* - Shut In
- Larry McDaniel\*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller\*
- Ruth Phillips\*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines\* - Victorian Manor
- Mary Salinas\* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (J.English mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton\*)

## Students in College

- Haley Bartell • Savannah Smith
- Seth Crider • LizAnn Webb
- Stephen English • Nick Webb
- Caitlyn Frizzell • Lily Weathersbee
- Jackson Lash • Reed Wilson
- Caleb Owens • Lexi Wildes

## Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher\*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee\*)
- Janice Carter\* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire\*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee\* mom)
- Myrna Fuller\* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Gary Good\* - tests
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham\* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's\* friend)
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes\*)
- Martin family\* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff\* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff\*- recovery, sciatic nerve
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth\*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes\*)
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham\*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott\*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia\*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher\*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms\*)

## Military

- Nick Bartell - Ft. Walton Beach
- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Japan
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey\* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

## Mission Works

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

## Expectant Mothers

- April Estain - January 2024
- Hannah Newcomb - April 2024
- Tara Henry - June 2024

## Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Darrell Bozeman\*
- Misty Bray\* - (Bird\*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott\*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis\*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher\*)
- Jack Davis\*
- Pat Deforest\*
- Sheryl Downy - surgery (Burnham\*)
- Eddie English - (R.English\*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley\*)
- Ricky Jenning - (McGriff\*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff\*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley\*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff\*)
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell\*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey\*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill\*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton\*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin\* friend)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher\*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley\* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff\*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher\*)
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English\*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

## 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
- Gary and Sherian Good\* - Identified
- 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
- John & Holley Raley family\* - Identified
- Philip and Lanya Lester family\* - Identified



# SERVING WITH HONOR

## SUNDAY, NOV 26

### MORNING

Opening Prayer ..... Dane Harrington  
 Song Director ..... Mason Chandler  
 Sermon ..... Troy Spradlin  
 ..... "Unfiltered Faith (Part 3)"  
 Scripture Reading ..... Brett Napier  
 ..... Hebrews 6:4-6  
 Closing Prayer ..... Phillip Webb

### Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Matthew Henry ..... Allen Overton  
 Jeremy Dunaway ..... Jared Lee  
 ..... Cooper Jennings (Balcony)  
 Comments ..... Mike Scott

### EVENING

Opening Prayer ..... Bob Locklin  
 Singing ..... David English  
 Scripture ..... Dawson Hitchcock  
 ..... Revelation 8:2-6  
 Comments ..... Mike Scott

### Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep ... Stephanie Wilson  
 PowerPoint ..... Brooks Ann Singley  
 Greeters ..... Eddie Longmire  
 Secure Building ..... Blake Hatcher

### WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ..... Brody Crider  
 Opening Prayer ..... Jak Gallagher

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class ..... 158  
 AM Worship ..... 200  
 PM Worship ..... 106  
 Wed. Night Bible Class ..... 134  
 Contribution ..... \$13,247  
 Weekly Budget ..... \$11,280  
 2023 Average Contribution ..... \$9,620

### 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.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of you contribution.

### BENEVOLENCE



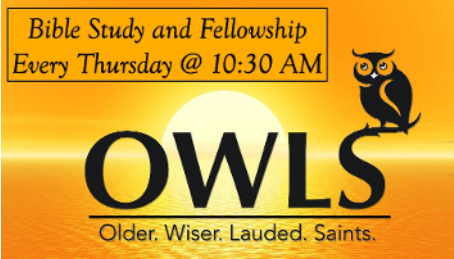
Margaret Street CHURCH of CHRIST

## FOOD PANTRY

Food Pickup : 1/9/24 @ 9:30 AM  
 Preparing Boxes:  
 1/10/24 @ 5:30 PM  
 1/11/24 @ 9:30 AM  
 Distribution : 1/11/24 @ 2:30 PM  
**NO PANTRY IN DECEMBER**

### 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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**Joe Wilson** ..... 206-8350  
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### CONTACT FOR NOVEMBER:

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

## 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