



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

Welcome! We're glad you are here!
Sunday - January 14, 2024

Singing Men & Crying Babies

by Troy Spradlin

There are numerous congregations of the Lord's church scattered across the globe. Some estimates say there are as many as 40,000 churches of Christ worldwide. Indeed, much evidence exists proving that the church is growing and thriving in many countries today. That is encouraging! But on the other side of that coin, it is also rather disheartening to see so many congregations deteriorating in places like Europe and even here in America. It's sad that some congregations have had to close their doors due to severe membership decline or having all died.



Sometimes closures happen as a result of demographic changes, economic collapse of a community, or an unfortunate church split. Yet, the most common denominator leading to congregational collapse is apathy - specifically, the lack of evangelism. When a church stops reaching out to the community with active, personal evangelism, decline will surely follow. The congregation at Laodicea in Revelation 3 was guilty of such complacency. Jesus admonished them, *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. ... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent."* (3:16,19). Oh! How I pray no congregation of the Lord's church today receives such a reprimand!

Let us all pray fervently for every church of Christ to be faithful, sound, and always evangelistic.

Concerning this thought, I recently heard a powerful statement about how one might identify a strong, healthy congregation. It was said, **"The signs of a healthy congregation are singing men and crying babies."** That is so very true when you really think about it! It means there are certain elements present that ensures the continual propagation of the Lord's church. It means His disciples are putting into practice "all the things He commanded us" (Matthew 28:20). It is, indeed, a good description of what constitutes a growing, thriving church of our Lord.

A church that has "singing men" is an indication of effective evangelism and teaching. This is such an important point because sadly, for many places around the world (including here in America), the biggest challenge for the church is a lack of men among the membership. There are numerous congregations consisting primarily of women because the men of the community refuse to work, take on their proper responsibilities, and/or fulfill their roles. Thus, there aren't enough men in some churches to have a rotation of worship duties, carry out evangelistic efforts, or provide the leadership structure that is prescribed in the word of God. (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Tim 2:12, 3:1-13)

For men to be singing implies that not only are males present in the church, but they also understand passages like, 1 Cor 14:15, *"I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding."* It is evidence they have been taught the precepts of Scriptural worship and are manifesting their appreciation toward God as Creator. They are not entrapped by worldly distractions, nor afraid to exhibit their faith in a godly manner! Singing men have reached the potential God intended for His creation and are serving Him with all their heart (Ecc 12:13; Mark 12:29-31).

A congregation with "crying babies" is a sure sign of growth. It means young families are sitting in the pews and raising up their children *"in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."* (Ephesians 6:4) It is somewhat ironic that some people complain about noisy children in services while, in reality, they should be rejoicing! Instead of a membership stagnating and declining into oblivion, there is potential for perpetuity. Churches with children have the blessed opportunity to teach and cultivate precious souls into future disciples and faithful leaders, who will in turn, do the same when their time arrives (2 Tim 2:2). Crying babies means they are present among the church, hearing and observing how Christians think, walk, talk and interact with one another. It shapes their social skills, their manner of reasoning, and gives them understanding of the most important thing of their lives - salvation.

I thank God that Margaret Street church of Christ has many singing men and many crying babies!

6745 Margaret Street / margarst@bellsouth.net / 850.623.8191
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



2023 - 2024

**Upcoming Workshops
& Info**

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

**YG BIRTHDAY
NIGHT**

Wed. January 17th
4:30 pm in the FH



**MSYG SINGING
SERVICE
PROJECT**

JANUARY 17 | 4PM
SODALIS SENIOR LIVING



**SNAC
SUNDAY NIGHT
AFTER CHURCH**

January 28 | @ McReynolds

**MSYG
Parent Meeting**

January 28 | 4:30 pm | Room 303



MSYG GIRLS ARE INVITED TO

**2024
GALENTINE DINNER**


Friday, February 9th | 6 PM
Hosted by Theresa Tucker



**Youth
Guys
Night**

Friday, February 2nd @ 7 pm
\$10 each (*Sign-up & pay by January 21st*)

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:
*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests,
but also for the interests of others.
Philippians 2:4*



**Digital access to our Calendars on your
computer or personal device.**

Scan this QR Code for the
Church Calendar on teamup.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Ron Bartanen* - recovery
- Becky Bernardi - prayers (AGingerich's mom)
- Cassie Buchanant* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- Caitlin Crider* - surgery, recovery
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester*)
- Dawson Hitchcock* - covets prayers
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae
- Gail Mantie - health, tests (Amber D. mom)
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Patsy Prince - septic, ICU (L.Burnham*)
- Ashley Ray* - ACL surgery, recovery
- Lee Smith - fractured vertebrae, kidney infec.
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)

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
- Debbie Hill* and family - loss of Mary Salinas
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Doug Lee & family* - loss of mom, Betty
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- 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
- 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)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Sherry Davis* - compression fracture, PT
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues (Alonna's friend)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Terry Jennings* - home PT/recovery
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Theresa McHargue - ill, prayers (Gallagher*)
- Ron Miller - esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Mary McGriff* - @ home recovering
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Ruth Phillips* - health, prayers
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Donnie Turner - (Helms*)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- 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

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Darrell Bozeman*
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis* - treatments
- Sheryl Downy - surgery (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jennings - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- 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)

Expectant Mothers

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

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock - Baptized 12/31/23
- Dawson Hitchcock - Restored 12/31/23



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

MORNING

Opening Prayer Josh Jennings
Song Director Caleb Overton
Sermon Troy Spradlin
..... "The Great Day of the Lord is Near!"
Scripture Reading Cooper Jennings
..... Zephaniah 1:14-18
Closing Prayer Phillip Webb

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Philip Lester Nick Bartell
Holden Raley Eddie Longmire
..... Dalton Lester (Balcony)
Comments Rick Bird

EVENING

Opening Prayer Phillip Webb
Singing Jon Raley
Scripture Luke McReynolds
..... Revelation 11:15
Comments Rick Bird

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Hatcher family
PowerPoint Brooks Ann Singley
Greeters Jak Gallagher
Secure Building Chris Davis

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director ... Luke M/Brody Crider
Opening Prayer Judsen Jennings

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 162
AM Worship 216
PM Worship 92
Wed. Night Bible Class 149
Contribution \$7,921
Weekly Budget TBA
2023 Average Contribution \$7,921

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 your contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- **Food Pickup : 2/6/24 @ 9:30 AM**
- **Preparing Boxes:**
 - 2/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 2/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Distribution : 2/8/24 @ 2:30 PM**

EDUCATION

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



OWLS BIBLE STUDY
ANGELS AND DEMONS
Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM
Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



Scan this QR Code to open webpage for Online Giving

STAFF

Troy Spradlin Preacher / Minister
..... cell: 850-910-2868
..... spradlin.troy@gmail.com
Casey Bearden Family Minister
..... cell: 706-889-3222
..... caseybearden@live.com
Blisse Hatcher Church Secretary
..... cell: 850-625-8911
..... margarstcoc@gmail.com
Scott Shanahan Missionary
..... cell: 865-443-9856
..... scottshanahan@hotmail.com
Trevor Smoot Domestic Missionary
..... cell: 937-417-4297
..... smooterii@outlook.com

ELDERS

Rick Bird 994-3148
..... rickbird424@gmail.com
Phillip Webb 232-7431
..... pw_webb@hotmail.com
Joe Wilson 206-8350
..... jaw@wilsonharrell.com

CONTACT FOR JANUARY:

Primary..... Joe Wilson
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