

## Worship Servants:

**This week: 1/29/23**

Sermon: Matt Jones  
 Preside: Dylan N, John S  
 Barry S, Caleb O  
 Opening Prayer: Scott S  
 Closing Prayer: Bert S  
 Singing AM: David D  
 Singing PM: 5th Sunday

**Next week: 2/5/23**

Sermon: Matt Jones  
 Preside: Philip E, Danny D,  
 McCloud S, Justin H  
 Opening Prayer: Glenn E  
 Closing Prayer: Ken R  
 Singing AM: John S  
 Singing PM: Alex H

## Sermon Notes:

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MERCEDES DRIVE

# CHURCH of CHRIST

January 29th, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 5

### Service Times

**Sunday:** Bible Class 9 AM  
 Worship 10 AM  
 Worship 6 PM

**Wednesday:** Bible Class 6 PM

### Elders

Danny Dailey 205-799-0917  
 David Dailey 205-765-7260  
 David Harbin 205-292-3515

### Deacons

John Sloan  
 James McDonald

### Minister

Matt Jones 205-616-1165  
 EMAIL: matt65jones@gmail.com

### Church Contacts:

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- 17303 HWY 11 Vance, AL 35490
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- mdchurchofchrist.wordpress.com
- Mercedes Drive Church of Christ
- facebook.com/mdchurchofchrist

## Welcome

VISITORS, we are glad you are joining us today! We pray that you will find our worship service to be reverent and uplifting. If you have any questions about anything you see or hear, please do not hesitate to ask!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- LADIES' BIBLE STUDY** | February 7th 6:30pm  
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall  
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.
- SATURDAY SISTERS** | February 11th, 9am  
 Host - Jean Cicero  
 Teacher - Courtney Conner
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** | February 14th, 6pm  
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall  
 Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

- TEENS IN THE WORD** | February 21st, 6pm  
 At the Jones new home, 2445 Crystal Lake Rd
- MEN'S BREAKFAST** | February 26th, 7am  
 At the building.

**GIRLS FOR CHRIST** | February 26th after services

**1ST SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP STARTS BACK NEXT SUNDAY 2/5/2023!!!**

**CHECK BULLETIN BOARD IN FOYER FOR MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!**

## When God is Not Listening

Cory Waddell

In *John 9:31*, a beggar healed of blindness from birth makes an intriguing statement as he argues the case for Jesus being a legitimate man of God and prophet. (He does not yet understand Jesus' true identity.) The formerly-blind man says, "We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him." This affirmation has provided fodder for many sermons, Bible class discussions, and speculations on valid prayer. It is important that we not apply this sentiment carelessly, in ways not substantiated by scripture. This man was not an inspired witness, and as such, his words need to be carefully evaluated. Some thoughts for us to consider regarding this theological argument made by a passionate recipient of Jesus' healing power.

It is true that God reveals there are times he does not listen to some prayers. This goes back to the time of the Old Testament, which incidentally, was the ONLY scripture the blind man had to draw conclusions from in *John 9:31*. There were multiple times in which God said to the chosen people of Israel, "I will not listen to your prayers anymore." His reasoning is very specific. God's ears turned away from their prayers when their hearts and actions turned away from sincere pursuit of God's will. Consider *Isaiah 1:12-17* and *Zechariah 7:8-13* in which a lack of basic morality, justice, mercy, and human decency trumped Israel's acts of worship (sacrifices, songs, festivals, etc.). Furthermore, we read in *Proverbs 28:9*, "If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." *Psalms 66:18* adds, "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Peter will say that a man's prayers can be "hindered" if he fails to live in an understanding way with his wife (1 *Peter 3:7*).

Contrast this with the multiple accounts of men and women whose prayers were heeded, despite the fact that they were not part of the Jewish covenant with God. *Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4)*, *Naaman (2 Kings 5)*, and *Cornelius (Acts 10-11)* are a few examples. Clearly, they did not have all of their theology and understanding about God correct, yet their hearts were diligently searching Him...and God heard their prayers. I think we need to use a great deal of caution in assuming whose prayers God does and does not hear. It seems rather plain that God's criteria do not require having all the intellectual pieces and understandings in place for Him to hear. If so, He would have never turned His ear away from Israel, and would never have heard these gentile believers. Rather, it seems that God is searching the sincerity of the heart to know if there is genuine pursuit of Him or not. And that is simply something I cannot see the way God does.

When we hit our knees in prayer this week, it may be most prudent to focus on our own situations, instead of assuming about others'. Let us closely search our own hearts to make sure we have an authentic pursuit of what God wants in our lives.

## WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **GREYSON ROPER** Senior at BHS has kidney failure and pneumonia
- **AMY SAVAGE** Ruth and Phillip's daughter has pneumonia
- **MICHAEL EDMONDSON**, has a fast spreading cancer, given 12-18 mos. to live.
- **DEVIN SOLIS**. David D's friend, had a heart attack and bypass surgery
- **LYN'D DUNNWOODY** Debbie's Brother in Law's Daughter, has breast cancer
- **MELISSA DEWBERRY** having back problems and will be receiving treatment
- **MIKE BRAMBLETT'S FATHER** is awaiting biopsy results.
- **MR. PRICE** at Brookwood, his wife was put into hospice care
- **NATALIE KIZZIRE** encouragement in her walk with Christ
- **LARRY HARCROW** was in a bad car wreck this and has serious injuries
- **DEBORAH**, friend of Kitty, lost her 2nd husband in 3 years
- **KATIE**, friend of Kitty's daughter, has been having life struggles lately
- **JAMIE KELLEY**, James Hall's daughter, health struggles, is home still needs prayers
- **JAMES HALL** needing prayers and is needing encouragement
- **HEATHER MELSON**, Stephanie Mills' old coworker, lost her baby before birth.
- **BETTY RAMAYS** brother's son is having problems
- **KOLIS GRANDMOTHER**, Keep her in your prayers
- **MARLOWE CHASON**, Cicero's relative, born prematurely 12/14. Pray she gains weight
- **CADEN HACKNEY**, Cicero's relative, 9 month old who had open heart surgery Nov. 30th
- **SHIRLEY CARTE**, friend of the Daileys, diagnosed with breast cancer
- **RANDY PERKINS**, friend of Ken Ramay, diagnosed with cancer.
- **KENZI SWINDLE** and family she has cancer and is 4 yrs old and want to be home.
- **RUBY MILLIGAN**, Doug's SIL, has T-Cell Lymphoma. Pray for her and Don.

### ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 90  
 Worship P.M. .... 58  
 Wed P.M. ....64

### CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,878.00.

### BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00



Don Cicero	2/4
Monalisa Harbin	2/7
Juanita Watkins	2/8
Koli Nichols	2/15
Alex Harbin	2/16
Charlie Banks	2/18
Barbie Smith	2/19
Donna Dailey	2/20
Ruth Edwards	2/23
Izabella McDonald	2/28