

Worship Servants:

This week: 9/17/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: Dylan N, Doug M, Justin H, Matt S
 Opening Prayer: Danny D
 Closing Prayer: Ken R
 Singing AM: Alex H
 Singing PM: Justin H

Next week: 9/24/23

Sermon: Matt J
 Preside: Barry S, John A Lee S, Phillip E
 Opening Prayer: Danny H
 Closing Prayer: Glenn E
 Singing AM: John S
 Singing PM: Braxton M

Sermon Notes



MERCEDES DRIVE
**CHURCH of
 CHRIST**

September 17, 2023 VOL. 16 NO. 38

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 Harbin 205-292-3515

Deacons
 John Sloan
 James McDonald

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

Welcome

UPCOMING EVENTS

- LADIES' BIBLE STUDY |** October 3rd, 6:30pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the first Tuesday.
- SATURDAY SISTERS |** October 14th, 9am
 Host - Monalisa
 Teacher -
- 1st Sunday Fellowship |** October 1st
 Regular Morning Services
 3pm - Teens/kids activities at building
 5pm - Devotional / Singing
 6pm - Fellowship meal
- MEN'S BIBLE STUDY |** October 10th, 6pm
 MDCOC Fellowship Hall
 Held monthly on the second Tuesday.

- TEENS IN THE WORD |** September 19th, 7pm
 Dylan and Koli's House
- MEN'S BREAKFAST |** September 24th @ 7:45am
 At the building.

LADIES REVELATION STUDY | 2nd & 4th Sundays
 1PM at the building
 Taught by: Helen Mulaparthi

**Check the bulletin in the foyer for more
 announcements and upcoming events.**

Church Contacts:
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Why You Should Consider Attending a Church Lectureship

Tyler King

There are numerous reasons why some individuals don't attend church lectureships. Admittedly, I myself have given my fair share of reasons why I didn't want to go to a lectureship/seminar. Reasons such as "lectureships aren't really my thing," or "I don't want to get involved in the politics of the various speakers," or "I have better things to do." While some of those stand as fair reasons why one would avoid lectureships, consider a few thoughts concerning these conferences:

Lectureships are one of the easiest ways to strengthen your faith – Being someone who has had experience in preparing lessons for a lectureships, composing manuscripts, witnessing the behind-the-scenes workers who labor tirelessly to iron out the logistics, and engaging in meetings concerning topics and speakers, I can say for a fact that being a listener is one of the easiest contributions one can bring to a lectureship. This by no means should ever discount the role of the listener, for without the presence of people, a lectureship is entirely futile. Yet if you are looking for a way to support your faith, church lectureships are an excellent venue to achieve that. Teachers and preachers have spent hours, days, and even weeks preparing lessons and have had you in mind the entire time (Col. 3:16).

Lectureships help bring us together – In my opinion, half the reason why I attend lectureships is so I can see friends and family. Sometimes it takes a big event in order to collect our closest acquaintances in one central location. Lectureships serve as a great way that we can put a mark on the calendar and look forward to it. They are a way for us to spend time together over meals, at each other's houses, and even have meaningful conversations in a hallway or foyer (as I've experienced many times). We need to understand that the Hebrew writer did not have Sunday morning worship exclusively in mind when penning Hebrews 10:25. While Sunday can certainly fit that criteria of "meeting together," I believe so can lectureships. Furthermore, the lessons are usually composed in a way that are meant to "stir one another up."

Lectureships help us discover new friends – I can't tell you how many times I have had a C.S. Lewis moment of "wait, you too?!" at a church lectureship. Sometimes I have that moment when I hear someone speak, and I rush up to meet them after the lesson and then a friendship is developed. Other times, I have made new friendships by meeting other attendees. I met one of my dearest friends, David Lee, at a church lectureship several years ago and within a couple of days, I found myself hanging out and eating cereal at 2:00AM with him while discussing deep theological topics. Through the gathering of saints, we discover lifelong friendships (2 Tim. 4:11; Col. 4:7-17).

Lectureships carry the capacity to glorify God – Typically there is vibrant singing, heartfelt lessons, meaningful fellowship, and electrifying energy. While these types of events serve to be a great encouragement horizontally, I'd suggest that they go vertically as well. Numerous times in scripture we read how unity is an attribute that each community of believers should have. It is in these times of spiritual unity that we loosen our grip on the world and its vices and embrace the warmth of the church. In a world filled with hatred, division, hopelessness, narcissism, status, and envy, a lectureship can often saturate one's mind with the beauty of scripture and the refreshment of brotherhood (Ps. 133).

Lectureships can bring to light thoughts or feelings – One of the primary reasons why I enjoy reading books is because of the phenomenon that takes place when an author says something in a way that I think, "yes! That's exactly how I'm feeling." Interestingly, sometimes it takes someone saying something for me to even acknowledge a certain thought or feeling. Without that event, certain emotions or thoughts would've remained concealed. From Nathan prescribing David a woefully relevant parable to Peter delivering a world-shattering sermon on Pentecost, we see this same principle take place in scripture. Healing and victory arrives when others help us in our journey to realization, invitation, consolation and admonition.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Marilynn Shackelford health struggles**
- **Corah Kinard 3 year old with significant health struggles**
- **MARLOWE CHASON, Mrs. Jean's brother great-grandchild, is a premie baby.**
- **RICK HAYES, friend of Doug Milligan, has medical issue and in need of prayers.**
- **SHANE ACKER'S DAD is in ICU on a ventilator**
- **SIBLING OF DONNA DAILEY'S grandchild has kidney cancer and treatment is starting**
- **CHARLES MARCHANT passed away**
- **Barbie's dad is sick and awaiting test results.**
- **KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles (He is bleeding again)**
- **MCDONALD family and their battle with COVID**
- **TOM NOLAN and his health**
- **APRIL HOWTON, friend of Bethany, was diagnosed with Breast cancer**
- **Dailey's will be traveling and moving**
- **Friend of Regina Hunt is in bad health and homeless in Jacksonville, FL**
- **RHONDA HOLISTER is a member at Central and was diagnosed with cancer**
- **REACH FAMILY with recent losses of Olaree and Commodore.**
- **TAYAH EDWARDS, Jojo's friend, all healthy and doing well.**
- **SHIRLENE CARGILE, friend of Barry, her cancer has come back**
- **JESS, Ruth Edward's DIL, her recovery from back surgery**
- **TODD TEAL, Doug's niece's husband, had stint put in and is recovering.**
- **RONNIE HOWARD and his recovery from open heart surgery**
- **KENZI SWINDLE, 6 years old, is fighting cancer and broke her leg**
- **BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues**

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 68

Worship P.M. 37

Wed P.M.39

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,527.00

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

