

Worship Servants:

This week: 10/1/23

Sermon: Matt J
Preside: John S, McCloud,
Scott S, Kolton S
Opening Prayer: Barry S
Closing Prayer: Phillip E
Singing AM: Doug M
Singing PM: 1st Sunday

Next week: 10/8/23

Sermon: Matt J
Preside: David H, Alex H
Justin H, Don C
Opening Prayer: John S
Closing Prayer: Dylan N
Singing AM: Alex H
Singing PM: Bert S

Sermon Notes



MERCEDES DRIVE

CHURCH of CHRIST

October 1, 2023

VOL. 16 NO. 40

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 - Kitty Waldrop
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 | October 17th, 7pm
Dylan and Koli's House

MEN'S BREAKFAST | October 22nd @ 7:45am
At the building.

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

THE STRUGGLE OF TWO TEMPLES

Tyler King

The deeper I dive into the Old Testament, the more I am struck with awe as I gaze upon the scenery. Being able to witness the salvation of the Lord from terrifying armies, watching grace and mercy be poured out to a rebellious people, hearing the shouts and cries of the first temple worship, experiencing heartbreak and grief as man aimlessly stumbles in darkness. It's a beautiful and inspiring journey to walk through this breathtaking canon of the Hebrew scriptures. Yet, at the same time I am also met with the harsh and unsuspecting interrogative of "where do I stand in this lesson?"

Such was the case as I personally studied through the brief two-chapter book of Haggai. In Haggai's time, the Jews experienced the resolve of captivity. The Assyrians were defeated, the Babylonians were defeated, and the Persians gave the Jews liberty to go back home and continue with their life. You can imagine the excitement that permeated the Hebrew people as they returned home after many generations of exile. They quickly got to work on reconstructing the temple and the energy was electric. Until it wasn't.

Have you ever started a project and never finished it? That's what happened here with the temple. You don't have to read very far into Haggai to see how this upset the Lord. Haggai 1:4, "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains in ruin?" You can hear the frustration in God's tone as He draws a contrast. "You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it" (1:6). The people got too distracted with life's physicality, they abandoned their spirituality.

Then the introspection hits. I love praising on Sunday, worshipping with other believers, praying for our futures, and sharing stories of our week. But then Monday happens, and so do all the other days of the week. I seemingly forget the priority of God's temple and focus on MY temple—the things I wear, the food I eat, the retirement that I woefully try to save, the upkeep on my car, and so on. Those things aren't wrong, until they completely bulldoze my progress in the Kingdom. I believe it's possible to carry a balance between the "two temples" of life. God's frustration wasn't that His people had houses; it was that they focused so much on *their* things that His house became neglected. Eventually, the people turned around and through the leadership of Zerubbabel, they got to work. Let's carry the momentum and get to work.

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Yvonne Cicero's great aunt Nell Tomlin is starting radiation for cancer.
- Bridgett Hobson friend of Juanita, her brain tumor is back.
- Kandi Smith has Pneumonia
- Leisa Duncan and recovery from surgery
- Ms. Media and her recovery
- Sarah Martin, Heather's Mom, recovery from knee surgery
- Ladon Bracken, friend of Ramays, diagnosed with bone cancer
- Marilynn Shackelford health struggles
- Corah Kinard 3 year old with significant health struggles
- RICK HAYES, friend of Doug Milligan, has medical issue and in need of prayers.
- SHANE ACKER'S DAD still in hospital with a stomach abscess
- SIBLING OF DONNA DAILEY'S grandchild has kidney cancer and treatment is starting
- CHARLES MARCHANT passed away
- KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles (He is bleeding again)
- TOM NOLAN and his health
- APRIL HOWTON, friend of Bethany, was diagnosed with Breast cancer
- RHONDA HOLISTER is a member at Central and was diagnosed with cancer
- 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. ... 71
 Worship P.M. 41
 Wed P.M.40

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$3,550.00

BUDGET

Weekly.....\$3,000.00

