



# WATER MILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Weekly Newsletter

December 11, 2011

## Order of Worship

### Welcome

Clay Joseph

### Song Leader

Jon Ewing

#419

#250

#679

### Opening Prayer

George Downing

#916

### The Lord's Supper

Matt Keener

#875

### Contribution

Matt Keener

#497

### Lesson

Bill McFarland

#613

### Announcements

Clay Joseph

### Closing Prayer

Daniel Tovar

*You are the light  
of the world. A  
city set on a hill  
cannot be hidden.  
(Matt. 5:14)*

## WHO IS TO BLAME?

*Maybe you have heard the updated version of an old saying: "To err is human; to blame someone else is more human." The scriptures illustrate the fact that we humans tend to pass the blame for our blunders off upon someone else.*

*One of the most obvious examples of this occurred when Adam had chosen to disobey God. Confronted with his guilt, he explained, "The woman who you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree and I ate" (Gen. 3:12). He was trying to escape the responsibility for his own choice.*

*The same kind of thing happened when Aaron had made the golden calf for the children of Israel. When Moses rebuked him for the great sin, he said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil" (Ex. 32:22). Aaron was claiming that the people were to blame.*

*A third example of this feeble attempt to avoid responsibility came when Saul had failed to perform God's commandment in destroying the Amalekites. When Samuel questioned him about the things he had kept, he explained, "The people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God" (1 Sam. 15:15). According to Saul, "they" were to blame.*

*To blame someone else for wrongs is still quite common. Some justify failure to obey the gospel by blaming hypocrites in the church. Many seek to justify sinful deeds by claiming that everyone else is doing it. Often Christians will try to justify unfaithfulness by contending that elders or preachers or other church members are at fault. No such effort can succeed.*

*All of us must come face to face with this fact: we will never be any better than we are until we accept responsibility for our own behavior. When a man can blame himself for his own faults he is at least in a position to seek forgiveness and to try to improve. Nobody has ever drawn any closer to God by blaming somebody else.*

*- Bill McFarland*

### Today's Lessons:

*AM: The Gracious Heart of the Church*

*PM: Singing: Isn't it a Matter of Preference?*

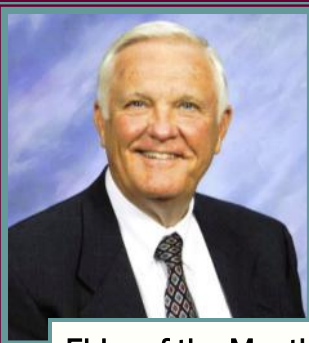
# Prayer List & Notes

## Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children. Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

### For The Record December 4

Bible Study: 248  
Morning: 333  
Evening: 215  
Wednesday (12/7): 201  
Contribution: \$10,930



Elder of the Month  
Clay Joseph

## In Our Prayers

- ☞ Herman Harris is at Cox Walnut Lawn, Rm. 311,
- ☞ Orvella Blackburn has been sick for the last few weeks
- ☞ Illene Birdsong is now at home after being in the hospital most of last week
- ☞ Jarita Nimmo is at Christian Health Care
- ☞ Lucille Ford is in Cox South ICU

### Friends and Family:

- ◆ Kerry Cole's sister, Susan Barnett, is having some heart problems; will have an angiogram tomorrow
- ◆ Samantha York's father had a heart attack this past week and had triple-bypass surgery on Thursday in Illinois
- ◆ Jan Bowling's cousin's daughter, 6-year old Shelby Davidson, is still undergoing testing at St. Jude for a tumor in her leg
- ◆ Noel Green's father-in-law is in very serious condition in the hospital in Albuquerque
- ◆ Pat Milligan's brother is critically ill

### Ladies . . .

The planning committee would like to get your feedback on the Fall Retreat as well as the Spring Tea. If you attended one or both of these events this year, please fill out a survey to offer your opinions and give us suggestions for next year. The surveys are located on the information desk.

*We need YOU in Sunday School!*



A great big thank you to all who made our Teachers' Appreciation Dinner an awesome success. Our Young ladies—Shanice Alton, Alissa Buckner, Madison Davis, Erica Dutton, Katelyn Emrick, Starr Fortner, Gabby Gellam, Selene Gellam, Jedonna Griter, Miranda Kramer, Rebekah Meinsen, Elizabeth Penner, Cyrena Skibo, Ashley Stockdale, Kaya White, Tori York; AND our Elders, Tim Bowling, Gerri Dickens, Gaitha Downing, Jon Ewing, Don Essex, Thresa Hansen, Jeanette Hardy, Helen Coltrane, Sharon Joseph, Ruth Lund, Jason Luna, Kay McFarland, Dennis Smith, Shanna Stockdale, Betty Stockstill, Lisa Stokes, Leona Snider, Ann Thiesen, Tim & Chatty Timmons, Carol Tovar, Terri Wilson and all those who helped us tear down everything. Love and blessing, Ruth Essex



Please consider sending a card or contacting at least one person on the Shut-in and Long-Term sick list during this holiday season. I'm sure they would appreciate it more than you know.

### Shut-ins:

Kay Adams  
Joy/Alice Allen  
Shirley Bartlett  
Doris Iorg  
Fern Davis  
Thelma Fain  
Irene Johnson  
Carol Law  
Carol Mahon  
Wilma Melton  
Annie Overstreet  
Wilma Spoor  
Doris Thomason  
Judy Todd

### Long-Term

Paul Bratcher  
Doris Burch  
Bonnie Cole  
Lucille/Milton Ford  
Herman Harris  
Jarita Nimmo  
Betty Shaw  
Doris Tobler  
Pat Woods  
Military:  
Matthew Patterson

This is the day to demonstrate love. A person can give without loving but never love without giving.



# News & Activities



*Eddie and Linda Currier would like to invite everyone to a graduation celebration for Jessica here at the building next Sunday afternoon from 2—4 p.m. No presents please. She would just enjoy seeing all of you who have been an important part of her life. She is graduating from Missouri Southern.*



*January 29 will be our next 5th Sunday. In addition to our 5th Sunday contribution and Potluck Lunch, the Deacons will host a Ministry Fair.*

## Happy Birthday

### Birthdays Next Week

- 18 Anna Luna
- 19 Aubrey Cobb
- Erica Ewing
- Jedonna Griter
- 22 Jennifer Epperly
- Sue Lewis
- 23 Gabby Gellan
- 24 Greg Donoho
- Stacy Haddock
- Linda Tracy

*Too many of us stay walled because we are afraid of being hurt. We are afraid to care too much, for fear that the other person does not care at all. -Eleanor Roosevelt*



## Caroling tonight after services

- *Visitation Team 2 (Jim Meinsen's) will meet after services tonight*
- *Elders meet Tuesday at 2 p.m.*

*Contribution envelopes for 2012 are available in the office. If you currently are using the envelopes, your name has been put on that same number for 2012 and they are arranged alphabetically.*

### Water Mill Women's Book Club

The next book club meeting will be Monday, January 9. We will be discussing three books *one thousand gifts* by Ann Voskamp  
*I Know Why The Angels Dance* by Bryan Davis  
*I Stand Amazed!* by Linda Schott

## Elders, Ministers, Deacons & Staff

### Elders

Barney Crawford	417-866-0592
Clay Joseph	417-833-3002
Eddie Sanders	417-833-5712
Bob Snider	417-833-3498
Jerry Young	417-724-0324

### Minister

Bill McFarland	417-833-0110
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### Golden Age Minister

Dennis Smith	417-866-6918
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### Deacons

Scott Barton	Shannon Haddock
Tim Bowling	Matt Keener
Tim Buckner	Russell Lilly
Tom Davis	Paul Lines
George Downing	Jim Meinsen
Jim Elliff	Travis Morrison
Jon Ewing	James Simons

### Staff

Johnnie Elliff	Secretary
Tim Bowling	Custodian



## A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF OUR PLEA

By Dennis R. Smith

The church of Christ is a body of believers in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. They are convinced that the "seed of the kingdom is the word of God" (Luke 8:11) and that a reproduction of the New Testament church can be accomplished in modern times simply by planting the seed of the kingdom. This is done through an examination of the scriptures and application of its glorious passages to the lives of the members. To that end, there are many things which must be considered:

- (1) What was the church called in New Testament times? (Rom. 16:16)
- (2) How was it organized? (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 3, Titus 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 12:28)
- (3) In what kind of public worship did they participate? (Acts 20:7, 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 16:1-2, Eph. 5:19)
- (4) How importantly did they consider the word of God? (John 12:48, Rev. 22:18-19)
- (5) To whom did their first love belong? (Rev. 2:4, Matt. 22:37, 6:33)
- (6) What was their purpose upon the earth? (Matt. 28:19-20, Luke 19:10)
- (7) What was their hope after death? (John 14:1-3)

These are but a few of the things upon which we build our faith, but in the main, it is built upon the words of the Bible as a "lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path" (Psa. 119:105). (To be continued)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study ....9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship... .....5:00 PM  
 Wednesday Night Bible Class....7:00 PM

### WORKS WE SUPPORT

CHINESE AGAPE Foundation

Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern Mariana Islands

Voice of Truth International

Charles Renfro, Latin American Missions

World Christian Broadcasting

Churches of Christ Disaster Relief

Lincoln Church of Christ

Fair Haven Children's Home

"In Search Of  
 The Lord's Way"  
 7:00 A.M. Sundays  
 KOLR TV 10

"Know Your Bible"  
 10:30 A.M. Sundays  
 Springfield 33  
 KSPR-TV



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Office Hours:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday

## Service Rosters

### THIS MORNING

**AM Nursery:** Pat Malanowski/O. Blackburn  
**Greeters:** Mark & Cheryl Friend  
**Van Driver:** Russell Lilly/839-4048  
**KYB Phone:** Van & Barbara Barnes  
**Serve** George Downing/Jeff Fisher  
**Communion:** John Dutton/Jackie Freeze  
 Verl Duncan/Mark Friend  
 Jon Ewing/Ryan Friend  
 Briley Ewing/Blanton Glenn

### THIS EVENING

**Song Leader:** John Mahon  
**Opening Prayer:** Van Barnes  
**Lesson:** Bill McFarland  
**Closing Prayer:** Larry Baggett  
**Communion:** George/William Downing  
**Nursery:** Alice Buckner/Jenny Carroll

### NEXT WEEK, December 18

	MORNING	EVENING
<b>Song Leader:</b>	Jon Ewing	John Mahon
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Jerry Young	Verl Duncan
<b>Communion:</b>	Tim Timmons	George/W. Downing
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Aaron Tovar	Randy Blackburn
<b>AM Nursery:</b>	Jill Morrison/Meredith Reaves	
<b>PM Nursery:</b>	Lee Ann Donoho/Karen Duncan	
<b>Greeters:</b>	Blanton & Betty Glenn	
<b>Van Driver:</b>	Lance Griter/866-2818	

### MONTH OF December

**Ushers:** Jerry Stockdale/  
James Simons  
**AV Room:** Scott Barton/  
Jeremy Thurlkill  
**Secure** Paul Lines/  
**Building:** Tim Buckner

### Wednesday, December 14

**Devotional:** Jeff Fisher  
**Song Leader:** Isaac Tovar  
**Opening Prayer:** Ted Crabtree  
**Closing Prayer:** Barney Crawford  
**Van Driver:** Don Tracy