



Family Matters

January 10, 2010

WWW.STARKVILLECHURCH.ORG

Starkville CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 East Lee Blvd
Starkville, MS 39759
Ph (662) 323-1499
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Schedule of Services
Sunday
Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
Worship Assembly 10:00 A.M.
Evening Assembly 5:00 P.M.
Life Groups meet in various locations
Wednesday Bible classes 7:00 P.M.
Bible Classes for all ages

Contact Elder for January
Bailey Howell

Assignments

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Assignments for Sunday, January 10

Elder to Serve: Roger King

Worship assembly:

Head of Table	Billy Caldwell
Serving	Richard Haston
Serving	David Dabbs
Serving	Jonathan Miller
Serving	Bob Weining
First Prayer	Frank Whisler
Closing Prayer	John Weaver
Song Leader	Daniel Russell
Media Room	JW Bruce

Nursery: 10:00 A.M. Audrey Brazzeal and Kim Orr
 5:00 P.M. Attended with love

Shepherds' Prayer: Roger King and Bascom Allen

January 3, 2010

Bible Class	178
Worship Assembly	226
Evening worship	78
Life Groups (5 groups met)	79
Previous Wednesday, Dec. 2	125

Birthdays

<i>Amy Barefield</i>	<i>Jan. 3</i>
<i>Jon Shumaker</i>	<i>Jan. 3</i>
<i>Daniel Russell</i>	<i>Jan. 5</i>
<i>Lee Miller</i>	<i>Jan. 7</i>
<i>Shelana Nabors</i>	<i>Jan. 7</i>
<i>Elijah Baine</i>	<i>Jan. 8</i>
<i>Jason Perry</i>	<i>Jan. 9</i>
<i>Sherri Shaw</i>	<i>Jan. 11</i>
<i>Ray Blair</i>	<i>Jan. 17</i>
<i>Jacob Gibbs</i>	<i>Jan. 17</i>
<i>Roger King</i>	<i>Jan. 17</i>
<i>Casey Tomecek</i>	<i>Jan. 17</i>

SHEPHERD'S PEN: A PRAYER

Psalms 51:1-2 (NIV) ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

O Lord, America has sinned. Starkville has sinned. People in your church have sinned. We are serving the Baal's of this present world. As surely as your people of Israel sinned and served the Baals, we too have sinned in the same manner. The tri-Baals of alcohol, sexual impurity, and pornography are ruling in America today and we Christians are allowing this to happen. It is even happening in our local congregation. The great quad-Baals of television, movies, licentious music, and the internet with their licentious content flood our living rooms and our homes and have led us so far into sin that America, including the people of the church, are in great danger of going into captivity in a formal way. America is in danger of being ruled by a foreign power and freedom of religion is in danger of being lost for those alive today in America.

O Lord, we are already in the grip of sin due to our worship of these Baals and we have surrendered our youth over to the worship of these Baals through our selfishness and neglect. We realize there is only one way out of this quagmire and that is for us Christians to live up to our calling, in our families, our congregations, and our country. We call upon you, O God, for help and a return to Christian principles and to the practice of teaching them in our worship, and everyday in our homes to our children. We admit that we must live our lives by Christian principles and we pray that we will let our children see, by our actions of not allowing these Baals in our homes, that we are serious about following Christ.

Help us, O Lord, to throw away the worship and practices of the Baals of this world and return to you. Give us courage to begin to more aggressively monitor what comes into our homes over the television, the internet, text messaging, and songs. As surely as Israel of old worshiped the Baals of Canaan and you sold them into slavery by allowing a foreign Godless nation to invade and conquer them we realize that America is on the path to slavery and servitude to a foreign power. We are in grave danger. As surely as Israel of old called upon God and you heard them, we today call upon you to heal our people and heal our families, and heal our land so that we can truly act and live like you would have us to do. Help us, O Lord, to throw off the power of Baals, to throw them out of our homes, and our lives and return to you as the guiding light and the ruler of our hearts, our homes, and our country. We pray for the wisdom, the desire, the strength to throw away these Baals currently ruling our lives, our youth, and our country. We recognize, O God, that you have the power to help us, and we pray that we will have a greater desire to seek your help and your deliverance.

These confessions we make and these petitions we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Son of God, who is the only savior of the world.

Johnie N. Jenkins

Living Oprah or Living Jesus?

Oprah Winfrey calls it living your “best life.” So Robyn Okrant decided to live hers by the talk-show queen’s dictates for a full year. In 2008, Okrant followed every piece of advice offered by Oprah on her show, her website, and her magazine *O*—from what to wear (leopard flats) to what to buy (chairs) to what to eat (turkey burgers). Her motivation? She thought that since Oprah was the “epicenter” of the self-help and personal-growth movement, she’d put her advice to the test, just to see if it *did* lead to Okrant’s “best life.”

How did Okrant describe her year long experiment? Her summation of how the year went was “stressful and costly.” She bought things she did not need and many that were worthless, from vitamins to her wardrobe to a backyard fire-pit (even though she has no backyard where she lives). After investing over 1200 hours and over 4700 dollars, life was worse not better. Okrant’s discovery is not necessarily a slam against Oprah’s advice as much as it is a slam against pursuing worldly wisdom. As Solomon found out for himself, when you pursue after things of the world, “all is vanity and striving after the wind, and there is no profit under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 2:11).

Imagine what would happen in 2010 if Robyn Okrant decided to live her life by Jesus’ dictates for a full year? What if in 2010 she followed every piece of advice offered by Jesus through the Word of God? Do you suppose she would find it to be “stressful and costly?” Do you suppose she would waste her money and her time? Would she not find peace instead of stress and fulfillment instead of emptiness? Imagine this year if she invested 1200 hours of service to the Lord and gave over 4700 dollars towards the work of the Lord? Do you suppose she would come to discover the “best life?”

Even more importantly, what would happen in 2010 if *you* decided to live *your* life by Jesus’ dictates for a full year? What if in 2010 you followed every piece of advice offered by Jesus through the Word of God? Do you suppose *you* would come to discover the “best life?” Hopefully you have already made this discovery. Hopefully you already have experienced the “best life” because you have continually sought to follow the life of Jesus. In case you’ve forgotten, it is Jesus who is the ‘epicenter’ of the universe. He is the one who grabs our hearts and turns our heads and causes us to take pause and listen. The best news is that his advice will lead us home.

Serving Him,

Andy Miller

Sympathy. We express deepest Christian sympathy to the Caldwell family and to Mary Fields upon the loss of her husband, our brother in Christ **John Fields**, who passed from this life on December 31. His funeral was Monday, January 4. Continue to remember the Fields family in prayer following the loss of John, as well as John’s 38-year-old niece who died during surgery for a broken leg. We also express deepest Christian sympathy to the family of **Tag Williams** who passed from this life early in the morning on Tuesday, January 5. The visitation is Wednesday, Jan. 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. at Calvert Funeral Home in West Point. The funeral will be at Calvert Funeral Home on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 2:00 P.M. The Mississippi Highway Patrol will serve as honor guard and pall bearers. Please remember the Williams family in prayer during this time of loss.

A “**Build the Vision**” update will be given by the elders this Sunday, January 10 at the close of our morning service. Keep in your prayers our building expansion.

Baby Showers. All ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring **Ashley and Jerry Fremin**. Sunday, January 24, at the home of Pat Phillips from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M. Ashley is expecting a boy and is registered at Target. And, all ladies are invited to a baby shower honoring **Juan Thompson** on Saturday, January 23, at 10:00 A.M. Juan does not know if it is a baby girl or a baby boy. Come celebrate a new life at the home of Susan Savage.

Marriage Matters Clear your calendar now for Sunday, January 31 thru Wednesday, February 3. These will be four dynamic days for our “Marriage Matters” conference. Jerry and Lynn Jones will help give us the tools for enhancing and strengthening our marriages. While we are planning a 15,000 mail-out to our community and will have 1,000 brochures available to share with friends—the best advertising will be by word-of-mouth. Begin sharing with your friends, co-workers, and neighbors concerning this marriage building conference. Continue praying for this wonderful opportunity to enrich our marriages. For more information, visit our webpage at starkvillechurch.org and click on “Marriage Matters” near the bottom right-hand corner.

Pantry It’s time to restock our food pantry! Items needed are: flour, sugar, corn meal, jelly, English peas, string beans, corn, canned fruit, cereal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned meats, Bisquick baking mix, instant potatoes, pancake mix and syrup.

Ladies Retreat Cancelled “The decision has been made to cancel the ladies retreat at the desert this year. It will be picked back up in 2011. This way the focus for January will be the Marriage Matters Seminar.”

** YOUTH BULLETIN **

This past Thursday the Woods hosted a New Year's Eve party at their house for the Teens, KICS, and their families. There were more than enough snacks and plenty of games. The time passed very quickly with everyone having fun fellowshiping with one another. Wesley Thompson

This Sun KICS Devo @ Wesley's 2-3:30pm
Jan 15-17 Evangelism University (Registration should be turned in)
Jan 21 Teen F.A.S.T. @ Wesley's 6-8pm
Jan 24 Teen Devo @ Cobles

The Starkville Church of Christ
is a Christ-centered, Bible-based family
striving to be like Jesus and committed to
sharing Him with others.

UCSC 2010 Reunion

Due to changes in the rules at MSU, we will not be able to apply to use the Bost Center on Sunday until six months before the event. We are now planning the dates of August 6-8, 2010, for the reunion. We will make application for the Bost Center the last of January or early February. As soon as we get confirmation, we will notify everyone and also any changes that will have to be made. Pass the word. We are looking forward to seeing you in 2010!



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

1/31-2/3/10 MarriageMatters seminar with Jerry and Lynn Jones
Sat., 3/06/10 Wilburn Whittington / Bonner Norwood Wedding at Starkville church of Christ