



Family Matters

October 18, 2009

WWW.STARKVILLECHURCH.ORG

Starkville CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 East Lee Blvd
Starkville, MS 39759
Ph (662) 323-1499
Fax (662) 323-1862

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 October
Bailey Howell

Assignments

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Assignments for Sunday, October 18

Elder to Serve: David Shaw

Communion preparation: Jenkins and Weaver families

Worship assembly:

Head of Table	Todd Palmer
Serving	Jeffrey Jinkerson
Serving	John Weaver
Serving	Glynn Cox
Serving	Jim Miller
First Prayer	Bobby Thompson
Closing Prayer	Darrell Easley
Song Leader	Wesley Thompson
Media Room	J.W. Bruce

Nursery: 10:00 A.M. Teresa Stewart and Gloria Kiser
 5:00 P.M. Attended with love

Shepherds' Prayer: David Shaw and Johnie Jenkins

October 11, 2009

Worship Assembly at 8:00	196
Bible Class	289
Worship Assembly at 10:00	226
Morning Assembly Total	422
Evening worship	44
Life Groups (5 groups met)	87
Prior Wednesday, Oct. 7	227

Upcoming Birthdays

<i>Quentin Saulsberry</i>	<i>Oct 14</i>
<i>Ethel Whisler</i>	<i>Oct 16</i>
<i>Billy Caldwell</i>	<i>Oct 17</i>
<i>Jim Giesemann</i>	<i>Oct 17</i>
<i>Brent Polley</i>	<i>Oct 17</i>
<i>Joshua Pruitt</i>	<i>Oct 18</i>
<i>David Shaw</i>	<i>Oct 18</i>
<i>Julie Wilson</i>	<i>Oct 19</i>

Upcoming Anniversaries

<i>Hiram and Edith Estes</i>	<i>62 years on Oct. 17</i>
<i>Brad and Audrey Brazzeal</i>	<i>13 years on Oct. 18</i>
<i>John and Mary Fields</i>	<i>8 years on Oct. 27</i>

SHEPHERD'S PEN

At some point in time we've probably all experienced having a sick child, loved one, or pet that wouldn't eat or drink because they didn't feel like it. We **know** they need it for their own health's sake, and we worry endlessly until they do put into their body what it needs to live. Without food and water, you can watch the body slowly waste away. And my, how painful it is to watch that occur. Oftentimes when they are encouraged to eat the reply is "I'm not hungry" or "I feel full" or "It doesn't taste good" or "It'll make me sick at my stomach". Ultimately what you see is an emaciated shell of a body that results in death. But the truly sad part is that often in the later stages of starvation hunger pangs go away – the body isn't even recognizing what it critically needs to survive.

In the very same way, your shepherds worry about you and your **spiritual** body. We fully recognize that shepherds are charged with "feeding the flock", and know this as one of the absolute most important responsibilities that we have, and for which we will be held accountable. We have carefully considered what your spiritual dietary needs are, and offer up to you times of study, prayer, singing for praise and encouragement, communion with our Lord and each other, and fellowship.

And therein can lie the rub. Just because it is offered doesn't mean that it is "eaten". We have been averaging well over 300 in our Sunday morning worship assembly. That is fantastic! However, before that we have a Sunday morning Bible Class that is also specifically designed for meeting your spiritual needs, but we have at least 100 on any typical Sunday that "aren't hungry". Oh, that's not what is said. We hear things like "I just can't get up that early" or "the classes don't do anything for me". But a decision not to be there regularly says that a hunger just isn't there. Somewhere between Sunday morning and Sunday evening we also have dozens and dozens that don't participate in a Life Group or our evening assembly; again, that is saying that "it doesn't taste good" or "I feel full". We certainly see the same thing even more strongly on the fourth Sunday evening when we all assemble together rather than having our Life Groups – we often have less than half of what are there that morning. Same thing on Wednesday evenings. And for the many other "meals" that are prepared.

I know that all of us struggle with a life that is full – so many demands are there. However, when you choose to skip spiritual meals, you are making a loud and clear statement about your priorities, whether you like to think of it that way or not.

This is not a Shepherd's Pen trying to guilt anyone into coming to any given assembly. Rather, I want you to focus on how much you crave God's Word, how much you hunger for the spiritual renewal that comes through fellowship with Christian brothers and sisters. Our assembling together should never be from guilt – it should and must focus on a holy hunger for what God's table has to offer. Please prayerfully consider whether your appetite is sufficiently whetted for spiritual food. Carefully look into your spiritual mirror at your own self – is it receiving the nutrition that is being regularly offered so that you see a healthy vibrant Christian, or when you honestly look, do you see an emaciated spiritual being that is malnourished?

As your shepherds, we love you and want what is best for you. Our earnest prayer is that you feast richly from the table that is provided, and that you continue to grow stronger from the riches of His Word as they are placed before you.
 David Shaw

Building an Evangelistic Church

In the past five weeks we have had a baptism a week! Praise the Lord for those who have rejoiced in putting Christ on in baptism (Gal. 3:27)! Praise the Lord for those who are active in planting the seed! Praise the Lord for those who are “watering!” Praise the Lord that he continues to cause the increase (1 Cor. 3:6, 7)! All glory and honor goes to our amazing Lord. The fruitfulness of our labors becomes his glory. The effectiveness of our service brings him honor. As we continue to share our faith and seek the lost, keep in mind that while we are the instruments that God uses, it is he who is the source of salvation. While we are to do our work well and faithfully, the real work is the Lord’s (Col. 2:12).

As we continue to develop into a more evangelistic church, consider the following which I’ve adapted from a February, 1977, *20th Century Christian* article:

1. There must be an understanding of our mission and purpose—to seek and to save the lost (Lk. 19:10).
2. There must be an understanding that the ministry of reconciliation is given to every Christian (2 Cor. 5:14-20).
3. In worship and other corporate activities, the world must see our love for God and one another and our absolute commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.
4. Our preaching and teaching must speak to our everyday needs, convict of sin, lift up Christ, and urge us to live a life worthy of the calling which is ours in Christ Jesus (Eph. 4:1).
5. Unity of thought and spirit must be maintained among the membership toward common goals and in support of all the ministries of the church.
6. We must remember our power source to accomplish what God expects of us (Eph. 3:14-21; Matt. 9:37-38).
7. We must believe that it can be done! That God will give the increase. That the gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:14-17).

“Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35

Serving Him,

Andy Miller

Baptism. We greatly rejoice that **Jonathan Rudd** was baptized into Christ on Sunday, October 11. Jonathan is a graduate student in Mechanical Engineering. His mailing address, his email address, and his cell phone number are available in the church office.

Congratulations. **Jeffrey Jinkerson** was named as a National Merit Program Semifinalist. Former member **Teneka Cannon** received the WOCES Teacher of the Month award for October 2009.

Ladies Bible Class. Our fall class for ladies of all ages (college age, too) is each Tuesday morning at 10:00 A.M. This past week 20 ladies attended. Our lessons come from a book entitled, “Shine like Stars” by Sara Leighton. It is a study of the book of Philippians. A nursery is provided for preschool children.

Ladies Day. Join other ladies for a day of fun and fellowship on Thursday, October 22 for a trip to Tupelo and “Celebration Village.” This event benefits *Sanctuary Village Hospice House*, the residence of our sister Molly Miller before her death. See Pat Phillips or Mary Lou Howell for more information and sign up on the bulletin board.

PLN Coin Banks. Jim and Doris Miller will have coin banks ready again on Sunday, October 18. Please see them to pick up a coin bank.

Memory Walk. The Alzheimer's Support Group that meets in our building the first Tuesday of each month is going to participate in an Alzheimer's Memory Walk on the morning of November 7, 2009, at 9:00 A.M. at Plantation Pointe, in Columbus, MS. If you would like to be a part of the walk or would like more information, please contact Teresa Stewart.

Clothing Giveaway. Our next clothing giveaway is on Saturday, November 7. We are now collecting clothing. We still need banana boxes for organizing and sorting. Please see Todd or Cassandra Palmer or Audrey Brazzeal to help.

Coming Back Home Gospel Meeting. In Charleston, MS, “Coming Back Home – Everyone – Homecoming and Gospel Meeting of the Charleston church of Christ on East Main Street. W. Clarence Sparks of Walls, MS, is the Guest Speaker from October 18-22.

Evangelism Gospel Meeting. In Oxford, MS, “Evangelism: Lights in the World” with Jacob Holman of Louisville, KY, speaking from October 25-28 at the Calvary Hill church of Christ. “God’s design is for us to carry the gospel to the lost. How can we better fulfill His purpose and glorify Him?” For more information, call 662-234-0935 see the Calvary Hill website at www.calvaryhillchurchofchrist.org.

Winter Lectureship. The Charleston church of Christ will host their Winter ’09 Lectureship on Friday, December 4. Those speaking include Adam Miller of Saltillo, MS, Don Fox of Saltillo, MS and Dan Beardain of Winona. Please RSVP for salad lunch by calling 662-563-0523.

YOUTH BULLETIN

God was truly glorified this past weekend!! Our “Discover The Journey” youth rally hosted 22 congregations (for a total of 23 congregations including Starkville) and nearly 300 participants, including 230 from out of town. We want to express a special thanks to all who attended and also to those who helped with every aspect of Discover, including our UCSC students and resident members and our teens. Those helping in each area, from our Bible program, to the food, housing, registration, and other areas, are greatly appreciated. Dean Stewart and Wesley Thompson

This Fri Teen Guys SleepOver @ Wesley's from 8:30pm-8am

This Sun KICS Devo @ building 11:30-1:00pm

Fri, Oct 23 Teen 5th Quarter @ Woods after SHS game

Sun, Oct 25 Teen Devo @ Giesemann's after evening worship assembly

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues., 10/20 Ladies Bible Class at 10:00 A.M.

Fri., 10/23 Parents Night Out (UCSC offers babysitting)

Mon., 10/26 Fall Festival with Monday Night Supper

Tues, 10/27 Ladies Bible Class at 10:00 A.M.

Tues., 11/03 Ladies Bible Class at 10:00 A.M.

Sat., 11/07 Clothing Giveaway from 6:00-9:00 A.M.

Tues., 11/10 Ladies Bible Class at 10:00 A.M.

Fri., 11/13 Men's Chili Supper

Sat., 11/21 Jenny Cobb / Will Sneed wedding

1/31-2/3/10 MarriageMatters with Jerry and Lynn Jones

Sat., 3/06/10 Bonner Norwood / Wil Whittington wedding