

The Mars Hill Messenger

February 19, 2017

We call him “**Doubting Thomas.**” But that doesn’t seem fair to me.

First of all, I think you could argue that Thomas didn’t show any less faith than the other apostles. John 20 records that Peter and John believed after entering the tomb and seeing Jesus’ burial linens. In John 20:19-24, Jesus appeared to Peter, John, and the rest of the apostles except Thomas. The rest of the apostles had the benefit of seeing first-hand the type of evidence that Thomas was seeking, while Thomas just had to rely on the testimony of others.

Should Thomas have believed the other apostles? Sure, but the fact that he didn’t doesn’t automatically make doubt the primary characteristic of his life. Like the rest of the apostles, as soon as Thomas saw the evidence for himself, he immediately believed in the resurrected Lord.

Another, often forgotten, picture of Thomas is found earlier in John 11. Here, Jesus receives word that Lazarus is gravely ill, and decides to return to Judea to see him. The problem with this is that Jesus has just come from Judea, where the Jews had tried to stone Him. The disciples try to talk Him out of His plan, but Jesus is determined, and Thomas bravely speaks up, “Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.”

For me, this picture of Thomas is the defining characteristic of his life, and it is also supported by other historical accounts. Following the Great Commission of Jesus, Thomas is believed to have evangelized in the Malabar coast of India. Strong early tradition holds that he was martyred by spearing in Madras in AD 72—he died for Christ, just as he was willing to do so many years before.

It’s not hard to find Christians who, like Thomas, experience moments of doubt. After all, until the hope that we have in Christ becomes reality, I think some degree of doubt is a natural part of faith. And while Jesus did take a hard stance against the willful unbelief of the Pharisees, He seemed understanding of genuine doubt (see His reaction to John the Baptist in Matthew 11).

David

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Bible Class	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:15 a.m.
Evening Service	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	
Bible Class	7:00 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 185
 Vilonia, Arkansas 72173
 Phone: (501) 796-2052
www.churchofchristmarshill.org

Elders

Thomas Martin	796-3741
David Riley	472-5108

Deacons

Rodger Harlan	207-2334
Rodger Moore	288-0135
Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	796-8889

Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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Youth Minister

Dan Blair	514-3450
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Missions

- **Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)**
- **Roberto Sarmiento, Costa Rica**
- **Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)**
- **Youth Outreach University Youthoutreachuniversity.com**
- **Truth For Today World Mission School**
- **Gospel Chariot (Africa)**
- **Gospel Crusade (Local)**
- **Camp Areopagus**

At A Glance

February 19 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30

February 25 – JOY Group Game Night. 5:30

February 26 – Contribution to the Building Fund

March 5-8 – Gospel Meeting. Downtown Morrilton. Speaker: Phil Sanders

March 13 – Preacher’s Meeting at the Greenbrier building. 10 a.m.

March 19 – Baby Shower for Jennifer Worlow. 3:30 p.m.

March 19 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30

March 20 – Fellowship Supper. Downtown C of C, Morrilton. 5:30 a.m. Cost: \$6

March 26 – Contribution to the Building Fund

April 21-22 – Sewing Workshop for Healing Hands International at Camp reopagus

April 16 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30

April 30 – Contribution to the Building fund

April 30 – Potluck Meal for the morning service. Evening Service immediately following the meal. No 5 p.m. service.

May 21 – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30 p.m.

May 28 – Contribution to the Building Fund

Bible Class Lessons

Sun., Feb. 19: Lesson #337 – 1 Corinthians 3-4

Wed., Feb. 22: Lesson #338 – 1 Corinthians 5-6

Sun, Feb. 26: Lesson #339 – 1 Corinthians 7-8

Wed., March 1: Lesson #340 – 1 Corinthians 9-10

February 19, 2017

Nursery

Anita Bayless

SOUND ROOM

Clay Winn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Shock

SCRIPTURE READING

Jade Smith

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Thomas Martin

LEAD PRAYER

Aaron Harp

James Moore

LORD’S TABLE

Harold Moody, b.

Caleb Shock, c.

Josh Moore, o.

Connor Marsh

Ralph Hunter

Michael Hunter

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Jade Smith

LEAD PRAYER

Josh Moore

Jacob Moore

LORD’S TABLE

Gary Lambert

Harold Moody

Wed., Feb. 22, 2017

LEAD SINGING

Michael Hunter

LEAD PRAYER

Mark Mauney

Steve Shock

DEVOTIONAL

Clay Winn

February 19, 2017

Nursery

Anita Bayless

SOUND ROOM

Caleb Shock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Shock

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Gary Lambert

A.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Jacob Moore

LEAD PRAYER

Mark Mauney

Steve Shock

LORD’S TABLE

Thomas Martin, b.

Rodger Moore, c.

Dennis Martin, o.

Jacob Moore

Joey Moore

Aaron Harp

P.M. SERVICE

LEAD SINGING

Randy Riddle

LEAD PRAYER

Joey Moore

James Moore

LORD’S TABLE

Josh Moore

Connor Marsh

Wed., Feb. 29, 2017

LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

LEAD PRAYER

Dan Blair

Curtis Sawrie

DEVOTIONAL

Roy Bulice

Forgiven and Forgotten

In 2016, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series. They last won the Series in 1908. That opportunity, over 100 years ago, almost didn't happen.

Fred Merkle was in his second year of his professional baseball career. He had signed with the New York Giants in 1907, and in 1908 the Giants were locked in a tight pennant race with their arch-rivals, the Chicago Cubs.

On September 23, the Giants hosted the Cubs at the Polo Grounds in New York. With the score tied 1-1 with two outs in the 9th inning, Merkle singled, advancing Moose McCormick from first base to third. The next batter, Al Bridwell, also singled, which allowed McCormick to score and seemed to seal the crucial victory for the Giants. Jubilant New York fans stormed through the center field exit and onto the field in celebration.

Fred Merkle, seeing the rush of oncoming fans and convinced that the game was over, headed to the dugout without touching second base.

This was noticed by Johnny Evers, the Cubs' second baseman, who alerted umpire Hank O'Day and went after the ball. Evers fought through fans, found the ball, and relayed it to Chicago shortstop Joe Tinker at second base.

According to baseball rules, since Merkle had not touched second base and Tinker touched the base while holding the ball, Merkle was out on a force play, and Moose McCormick's game-winning run was nullified. Merkle's base-running error would cost the Giants the game, which was ruled a tie, to be replayed at the end of the season only if the two teams were tied in the standings.

Of course, they were, and when the game was replayed, Chicago won, and the 19 year-old Merkle was blamed for losing the pennant. The Cubs went on to win the World Series that year.

Fred Merkle would go on to have a respectable major league career that would span 18 seasons, one which produced 1,580 hits, 290 doubles and a .273 batting average but he would never live down the "Merkle Boner," as his 1908 mistake came to be known. In fact, it's really the only thing he is remembered for today.

A lot of people are remembered only for their worst moments. But that is one of the most comforting aspects of Christianity; we may still make mistakes, but those are not what God remembers about us. In 2 Corinthians 5.17, the Apostle Paul says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

I've always felt sorry for Fred Merkle, and have thought that it isn't fair that he is remembered only at his worst, for a mistake that he made as a 19 year-old kid. But his story reminds me of this: thanks to the blood of Christ, we don't have to be remembered for our worst moments; they can be washed away.

David

PRAYERS NEEDED

Heather Partee is having problems with her heart and will see a doctor tomorrow.

Tamara Kimbrell is suffering with a kidney stone.

Tom Hedrick was bitten by a spider and seeing a doctor.

Ova Lea Leighton is continuing to take shots in her eye.

Gladys Widner, Mike Widner's mother, fell on Wednesday and is bruised and sore.

Sabrina Gray has undergone her final cancer treatments and test show no more cancer.

Georgia Smith has been very sick this past week.

Carolyn Brown is at home under hospice care.

Extended Sick List: Alex Lafferty, Bob Johnston, Monteen Ward, Bill Ward, Shelia Riddle, Martha Walker, Nell Bostic, Nita Patrom, Jeane Harvey, Mark Allen, Paula Stocks, Pam Webb, Guillermina Chavez, Linda Brown, Mary Bronson, Judy Riley, Allie Sawrie, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Hannah Smalley, Charlene Lasley, Tami Baker, Gordon Newsome, Ava Walker, John Riddle, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones, Barbara Fowlkes, Jim Canter

FAMILY NEWS.

Sympathy: Amanda Stem, Nell Bostic's niece, passed away on Tuesday. Our love and sympathy are extended to the family.

Secret Sister Potluck: After services this morning. All the ladies are invited to attend.

JOY Group Game Night: BURGERS and BINGO! Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at the building (fellowship room in the back). Brings desserts or snacks and a bingo prize from home (A white elephant prize). There is a signup sheet in the foyer.

Building Fund: The contribution next Sunday will go toward our building payment. Please be as generous as possible.

Baby Shower: All the ladies are invited to attend a Baby Shower for Jennifer Worlow on Sunday, March 19th, at 3:30 p.m.

Pantry Items: Dried beans, rice, Macaron and Cheese, and canned goods.

- *Sin denied is twice committed.*
- *He who aims at nothing is certain to hit it.*
- *Kindness always pays, and it pays best when it is not done for pay.*
- *Happiness comes to us when we stop whining about the things we do not have, and begin offering thanks for the things we do have.*
- *Friendship is a plant we must water often.*
- *When it is hardest to pray, we should pray the hardest.*