

# The Mars Hill Messenger

September 1, 2019

Low Hanging Fruit

Anyone who has ever harvested fruit from a tree knows that the easiest picking is of the fruit which hangs on the lowest limbs. This fruit can be gathered quickly - no ladders, no reaching, no problem. This is, for obvious reasons, always the first fruit to be picked.

As Christians, we have the responsibility of sharing the gospel with the masses of lost people in the world. Considering this job can be overwhelming. There are more than seven billion people in the world today. In fact, we are told that there are currently more living people on earth than the sum total of all the people who have died throughout all time! Think of it: more than half of all the people who ever needed to learn about God and His will are out there today - waiting for us to get the "good news" to them.

How can we hope to succeed? Where should we begin? How can we tackle this enormous job? Here's a suggestion: GO FOR THE LOW HANGING FRUIT! By that I mean that we should first target the people around us that we know personally -- our friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and other acquaintances. These are the folks that we know best, and they know us. Our chances to influence them will be the greatest. Yes, we need to reach all those nameless masses out there, but why not start first by sharing God's truth with the ones right at hand? Such folks will not require special "evangelism plans," or spending large amounts of money. We can just talk to them around the kitchen table, across the back fence, or while seated at the coffee break table. We can realize a huge harvest for the Lord and His kingdom in this simple way. Let's get busy!

## 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](http://www.churchofchristmarshill.org)

### Elders

Curtis Sawrie	849-2365
Steve Shock	328-7072

### Deacons

Dan Blair	519-1173
Ralph Hunter	428-0466
Rodney Partee	328-7380
Clay Winn	472-5928

### Evangelist

David Riley	796-2052
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### Youth Minister

Dan Blair	519-1173
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### Missions

- Ted & Barbara Knight (U.S.A., Romania)
- Main Street Church of Christ (Stuttgart, Arkansas)
- Youth Outreach University [Youthoutreachuniversity.com](http://Youthoutreachuniversity.com)
- Truth For Today World Mission School
- Gospel Chariot (Africa)
- Gospel Gathering (Local)
- Camp Areopagus

## At A Glance

**September 9** – Preacher's Meeting. 10 a.m.  
**September 10** – Fellowship Supper. Center Ridge C of C. 5:30 p.m.  
**September 11** – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.  
**September 14** – Ladies' Day. Southside C of C, Batesville. 9:30 a.m. Kay Gowen, speaker.  
**September 16-23** – Main St. C of C, Stuttgart. City-Wide Campaign  
**September 18** – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.  
**September 21** – Men's Breakfast. 8 a.m.  
**September 22** – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30 pm.  
**September 22-25** – Gospel Meeting. N. Main C of C, Stuttgart. Tommy Brooks, speaker  
**September 25** – Wednesday Meal. 6 p.m.  
**September 29** – Potluck Meal after a.m. service. Early evening service  
**September 29** – Teacher's Appreciation  
**September 29-October 2** – Harding University Lectures. Theme: Fan the Flame  
**September 29** – Contribution to the Building Fund  
**October 2** – Organizational Meeting for National Door-Knocking Campaign  
**October 5** – 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Brotherhood Door Knocking Campaign  
**October 6** – Ted Knight will speak at a.m. service. Josh Moore will speak at p.m. service  
**October 20** – Elders/Deacons Meeting. 3:30

### Bible Class Lessons

Sun., Sept. 1: Lesson #176 – 1 Kings 13  
 Wed., Sept. 4: Lesson # 177 – 1 Kings 14  
 Sun., Sept. 8: Lesson # 178 – 1 Kings 15-16  
 Wed., Sept. 11: Lesson # 179 – 1 Kings 17

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### Nursery

Brittney Wells

### SOUND ROOM

Curtis Sawrie

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

### SCRIPTURE READING

Gus Smith

### A.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Curtis Sawrie

### LEAD PRAYER

Mark Mauney

Sean Vines

### LORD'S TABLE

Michael Hunter, b.

Thomas Martin, c.

Rodger Moore, c.

Caden Johns

Dennis Martin

James Moore

### P.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Caden Johns

### LEAD PRAYER

Rodney Partee

Ethan Johns

### LORD'S TABLE

Stanley Gordon

Harmon Sawrie

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### LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

### LEAD PRAYER

Ralph Hunter

Michael Hunter

### DEVOTIONAL

Steve Shock

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### Nursery

Brittney Wells

### SOUND ROOM

Curtis Sawrie

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Lambert

### SCRIPTURE READING

Harmon Sawrie

### A.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Bob Johnston

### LEAD PRAYER

Clay Winn

Roy Bulice

### LORD'S TABLE

Wade Haynie, b.

John Foster, c.

Mark Mauney, c.

Steve Dixon

Steve Shock

Dan Blair

### P.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Harmon Sawrie

### LEAD PRAYER

Jarrod Partee

Carey Wells

### LORD'S TABLE

Gary Lambert

Harold Moody

September 11, 2019

### LEAD SINGING

Caden Johns

### LEAD PRAYER

Thomas Martin

Rodger Moore

### DEVOTIONAL

Dan Blair

Those involved in providing our devotional time on Wednesday evenings are asked to please help us be ready to begin our Bible Study time by 7:15.

### Show Me Your Friends...

The Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes wrote, "Tell me what company thou keepest, and I'll tell thee what thou art." Cervantes was not a prophet, he simply understood the strong influence friends exert over our lives. You can tell a lot about a person by the company they keep. Scripture brings this truth to light.

#### Show me your friends...

**And I'll show you your religious convictions.** David wrote, "I am a companion of all who fear You/ And of those who keep Your precepts" (Ps. 119:63). Our companions will help or hinder us in letting our light shine, doing good works, devotion to God and in getting to heaven. We ought to be concerned if we realize all our close friends are either godless or involved in false religion.

**And I'll show you your favorite activities.** Proverbs 23:19-21, "Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man in rags." We do things with our friends. Obviously, we do not choose friends so we can AVOID them. We want to spend time with them and generally pursue common interests. Are you involved with the party-hard, drunken, drug-using crowd? Well, guess what that makes you.

**And I'll show you how you value wisdom.** "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). Your friends encourage you in the direction they are heading. The company you keep is commentary on your current values and a variable in future decisions. Thus you want to be with those who show wisdom and set goals for their future. Don't be with those who can't see past the weekend.

**And I'll show you your feelings about proper speech.** "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19). Some people's mouths are a hotbed for sin: gossip, profanity, anger, criticism. Let us remember, "Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Cor. 15:33).

What do your friends say about you?

Andrew Roberts

One of the reasons why ungodliness prevails so much is because Christians do not want to get involved. More than 450 years ago, Martin Luther wrote: "If I profess with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and is to be steady on all the battlefield; it is mere flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point."

### PRAYERS NEEDED

**Vanessa Ellison** will have rotator cuff surgery on Tuesday.

**Kenneth Baxter** is in Salem Place Rehab Facility room R28.

**Clay Johns** is recovering from knee surgery.

**Phillip VanWinkle**, preacher for the Foothills congregation in Searcy, is gravely ill.

**Extended Sick List:** Roy Bulice, Amy Smith, Ronnie House, Dorothy Glover, Shelia Riddle, Nell Bostic, Paula Stocks, Martha Walker, Alex Lafferty, Nita Patrom, Mark Allen, Pam Webb, Barbara Fowlkes, Barbara Knight, Charlene Lasley, Martha Green, Gladys Widner, Robie Permenter, Jerry Walker, Jerry Almond, Anna Kay Jones

### FAMILY NEWS

Building Fund: \$4,150 was contributed to our building payment last week. Thank you for your generosity.

Minutes: The Minutes of last week's elders/deacons meeting are available on the table in the foyer.

Gospel Chariots: Mike Knappier with Gospel Chariots will be at Mars Hill to report.

Fellowship Meal and Singing: The Center Ridge congregation will host the Fellowship Meal on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. Please let David know if you plan to attend so a count can be turned in.

Wednesday Meals: The meals will begin again on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. They will be served each week at 6 p.m. If you would like to help with the preparation and serving of a meal, please sign the sheet on the table in foyer. If you are willing to contribute to the purchase of food for the meals please see Bob Johnston. Everyone is invited to attend and bring family and guests.

### A Fifty-Year Old Decision

"People do not accidentally attend worship without missing one worship service for twenty years. They must have planned to always attend. Soon after I obeyed the gospel in the fall of 1909, I read of an old brother who had not missed going to worship a single Sunday in 41 years. That story caused me to resolve and to purpose in my heart that I would never miss the worship on a single Lord's Day as long as I lived, if possible to attend. I have missed four Sundays in over fifty years, and then it was because of illness.

Once I made that decision, the question has not come up as to whether I would attend church services or not. In fact, I did not decide last Lord's Day to go to worship, not the Sunday before. That decision was made more than fifty years ago. It is a sin for any member of the church to miss the worship unless he is unable to attend. The very nature of our religion is such that those who feel this is a burden need to be converted."

- by Gus Nichols