

# The Mars Hill Messenger

December 15, 2019

## You Preach First

The first sermon preached each Sunday is not by the minister of the gospel, but by you.

You preach a message about the importance of the Scriptures when you bring your Bible.

You preach a message of good cheer when you say, "Good morning!" to those you meet when you park your car and when you are in the hallway and classroom.

You preach a message of hope and joy when you sing enthusiastically during the song service.

You preach a message about the power of prayer when you fervently inter into our times of prayer together.

You preach a message about respect for God, His word, and His servant when you listen attentively while the preacher is speaking.

You preach a message about faith when you give your offering.

You preach a message of love when you smile, say hello, and introduce yourself to visitors.

Many messages are preached before the minister stands up to bring his message. If your message is positive and consistent, then the message given from the pulpit will be much better received.

Come each Sunday prepared to preach your sermons!

## 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 514-1440  
Ralph Hunter 428-0466  
Rodney Partee 328-7380  
Clay Winn 472-5928

### Evangelist

David Riley 472-5108

### Youth Minister

Dan Blair 514-1440

### 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

**December 15** – Holiday Potluck  
**December 24** – Meal at 5 p.m.; Song Service at 6 p.m. No Bible classes.  
**December 29** – Ted Knight report at a.m. service  
**December 29** – Weekly contribution will go to the Building Fund  
**January 13** – Preacher's Meeting. Greenbrier C of C. 10 a.m.  
**January 14** – Area-Wide Fellowship Supper.  
**January 24-26** – Youth Outreach University  
**January 26** – Weekly contribution will go to the Building Fund

### Bible Class Lessons

Sun., Dec. 15: Lesson # 205 – Jude  
Wed., Dec. 18: Lesson #206 – Revelation 1  
Sun., Dec. 22: Lesson #207 – Revelation 2  
Wed., Dec. 24: No Classes

December 15, 2019

### Nursery

Brittney Wells

### SOUND ROOM

Dan Blair

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curtis Sawrie

### SCRIPTURE READING

Harmon Sawrie

### A.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Caleb Shock

### LEAD PRAYER

Ethan Johns

Rodger Harlan

### LORD'S TABLE

Dennis Martin, b.

Clay Johns, c.

John Foster, c.

James Moore

Mark Mauney

Steve Dixon

### P.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Michael Hunter

### LEAD PRAYER

Rodger Harlan

Sean Vines

### LORD'S TABLE

Mike Widner

Jack Hancock

December 18, 2019

### LEAD SINGING

Caden Johns

### LEAD PRAYER

Bob Johnston

David Hall

### DEVOTIONAL

Ralph Hunter

December 22, 2019

### Nursery

Brittney Wells

### SOUND ROOM

Curtis Sawrie

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curtis Sawrie

### SCRIPTURE READING

Gary Lambert

### A.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Thomas Martin

### LEAD PRAYER

Sean Vines

Clay Winn

### LORD'S TABLE

Steve Shock, b.

Dan Blair, c.

Curtis Sawrie, c.

Byron Sawrie

Caden Johns

Wyatt Bradshaw

### P.M. SERVICE

### LEAD SINGING

Caden Johns

### LEAD PRAYER

Clay Winn

Roy Bulice

### LORD'S TABLE

Tom Hedrick

Stanley Gordon

December 24, 2019

### LEAD SINGING

All Men

### LEAD PRAYER

Doug Ellison

Connor Marsh

### DEVOTIONAL

Michael Hunter

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.

## PRAYERS NEEDED

**Roy Bulice** was able to be in worship service last Sunday.

**Phil Autrey** is having problems with his heart.

**Wade Haynie** will undergo surgery on Thursday to remove blockage to his legs.

**Jesse Ellison** will undergo neck surgery on Wednesday.

**Extended Sick List:** Kenneth Baxter, Amy Smith, Ronnie House, 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

Holiday Potluck: After the morning service this morning. The afternoon worship service will be held immediately following the meal. No 5 p.m. service.

Kid's Konnection: No Kid's Konnection today.

December 24<sup>th</sup>: The mid-week service will be held on Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. A meal will be served at 5 p.m. and a song service will begin at 6 p.m. There will be no Bible classes.

Building Loan: There is approximately \$10,000 available for a balloon payment at the end of December. Everything donated the remainder of the year will go directly against the principal. If you wish to give toward this end of the year payment please see Thomas Martin.

Retreat: A Men and Boys Retreat is being planned for Friday evening, January 31<sup>st</sup>, through noon on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at Camp Areopagus if there is enough interest. If you are interested in attending please sign the sheet on the table in the foyer.

## Singing

We sing "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" to teach and admonish one another (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Many efforts have been made to distinguish a psalm from a hymn from a spiritual song, but none have found wide acceptance.

We recognize, however, that "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," as a group, are distinguished from drinking songs, love ballads, war songs, comic ditties, etc.

The sentiment, the words of the song, accomplish the purposes for which we are directed to sing them: praising God and teaching and admonish one another. Tempo and harmony are important, but the words are more so. Singing can accomplish both purposes. Organs, pianos, keyboards, guitars, and drum sets accomplish neither.

--Cecil May, Jr. (via Preacher Talk)

## When Truth Hurts

Though not a Biblical proverb, the Scriptures certainly support the saying: "The truth hurts!" Like most proverbs, it doesn't always apply. Sometimes the truth is pleasant or even relieving. Think how Jacob must have felt when he learned the truth that his beloved son Joseph was not dead! But truth can be agonizingly painful at times. When that is the case, what can we do?

First, we could water down the truth to ease the pain. Many of Israel's prophets watered down the truth. Faithful prophets were calling God's people to repentance, threatening them with destruction unless they returned to God. The false prophets, however, were saying, "Peace, peace," when there was no peace (Jeremiah 6:14). Truth was terribly uncomfortable.

Proclaimers of truth were profoundly unpopular. So it is today. Shall we join up with the false prophets, then? May it never be! Let us endure the pain rather than condemn ourselves to eternal pain.

Second, when the truth hurts, we could become angry with the messengers. Upon hearing the truth from Stephen, the Sanhedrin members "were cut to the heart" (Acts 7:54a). This word literally means to be sawn in half. Stephen had just verbally sawn those men's hearts in two! Ouch, that hurts! Unfortunately, rather than admitting their guilt and reversing course, those self-willed officers became furious. Like enraged animals, they "gnashed at (Stephen) with their teeth" (7:54b). Finally, "they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him" (7:57, 58a). Though they silenced Stephen, the truth remained. They killed the messenger, but could not kill the truth.

By contrast, when 3000 people felt the pain of truth in Acts 2, they asked what to do to be saved. Peter had convicted them of murdering their own Messiah. "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37). This is a different word for "cut" than in Acts 7; here it means to be pricked or pierced. We might say Peter had stabbed them in the heart with the truth. Ouch again! But this time the reaction was completely different. They were sad, not mad. They sought relief, not revenge. When Peter told them how to receive remission of sins, they promptly complied with the terms he revealed.

Which will you choose? Will you water down the truth to give false comfort to yourself and others? Will you lash out in anger against the truth and its messengers? Or will you believe and obey the word of the Lord? Sometimes the truth hurts. But remember, the truth will make you free (John 8:32).

David