

The Mars Hill Messenger

January 23, 2022

<p>Sunday, January 23, 2022 SOUND ROOM</p> <p>Clay Winn ANNOUNCEMENTS Steve Shock SCRIPTURE READING Dan Blair LEAD SINGING AM/PM Curtis Sawrie LEAD PRAYER AM/PM Doug Ellison Rustin Barnett LORD'S TABLE Bob Johnston, b. (AM/PM) Thomas Martin, c. (AM/PM) John Foster, o. Mark Mauney</p>	<p>Wednesday January 26, 2022 LEAD SINGING Randy Riddle LEAD PRAYER Harold Moody Gary Lambert</p> <p>Bible Class Lessons Sunday, January 23: Lesson #365: Paul: Acts 23 Adults: Life of Christ Wednesday, January 26: Lesson #366 "Paul: Acts 24 Adults: Life of Christ Sunday, January 30: Lesson #367: Paul: Acts 25 Adults: Life of Christ</p>	<p>Dale Haynie is in ICU at St. Vincent's hospital recovering from surgery. Courtney Winn has been very sick this week. Wade Haynie continues to improve. Lou Riley will have surgery on Wednesday. Patti Jones is suffering from Covid. Gladys Widner has been able to go back to her home from rehab. Stanley Gordon is not doing well. Kenneth Johnston, Bob's brother, is having many serious health issues. Lee Adkisson is scheduled for surgery February 28th. Lester Percy, Ellen Barnett's father, is recovering from surgery. Francie Percy, Ellen's step-mother, has broken her wrist. Carlton Clayton, Roy Bulice, Ova Lea Leighton, Martha Walker, Paula Stocks, Charlene Lasley</p> <p>At A Glance February 12 – Sweet-Heart Dinner. K-4th and their parents. 4:30 p.m.</p>
---	--	---

Elder Selection: Members of the congregation are asked to please revisit the men you think are qualified to serve as elders of the congregation. Submit those names to David for discussion at the next Men's Meeting.

Sunday Evening Worship: Mars Hill members are urged to take advantage of 5 p.m. worship service each week.

Sweet-Heart Dinner: Saturday, February 12th, 4:30 p.m. at the Mars Hill building. For K-4th Graders. Girls bring their dads and boys bring their moms. Pictures will be taken. Meal: spaghetti, salad, green beans, and dessert. Please sign up by February 9th. The sheet is on the table in the foyer.

Service Project: Sunday, February 13th. K-4th Graders will meet at the Mars Hill building at 4 p.m. to bake cookies for the shut-ins.

Self-Denial!

Jesus wasn't "playing" when he said, "*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*" (Luke 9:23). That's heavy stuff, but it is exactly what God expects of His people – self-denial! When we became Christians, we made a commitment to God to deny ourselves many of the pleasures in life in order to serve Him, the church, and other people.

In the parallel passage in Matthew, Jesus asked, "*For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*" (Matthew 16:26). To put it in the plainest terms, Jesus is asking, "What good will it do you if you have the biggest house, the best recreational vehicles, go on the best vacations, send your kids to the finest schools, attend the best parties, go to weekend sporting events, or get the big promotion at work, if it means you'll wind up on the wrong side of judgement. Will you exchange these temporary pleasures and then spend eternity in hell?"

Yes, that's heavy, but it's exactly what He means. To make it even more difficult, our friends and neighbors are going to think we're crazy because we don't take part in every social event that's happening (1 Peter 4:4). Because we are totally committed to Christ, we'll make these sacrifices in order to serve our heavenly Father and in the end, it will be worth it all. Jesus also said, "*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*" (Matthew 16:25).

~David