



# WATER MILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Weekly Newsletter*

*January 24, 2016*

### ***Order of Worship***

***Song Leader***  
**Jon Ewing**

***Greeting***

***Opening Prayer***  
**Paul Lines**

***The Lord's Supper***  
**Jackie Buck**

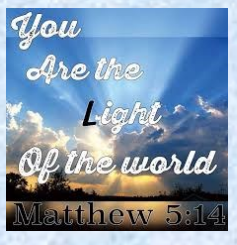
***Contribution***  
**Jackie Buck**

***Lesson***  
**Bill McFarland**

***Announcements***  
**Eddie Sanders**

***Closing Prayer***  
**Aaron Schwartz**

***Elder of the Month***  
**Eddie Sanders**



### **The Rock that is Higher**

Isn't it always a good idea to see things from a different perspective? This school year, our Water Mill Youth education plan has been centered around the idea of reading our Bibles from a higher view, adopting a theme verse, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I..." (Psalm 61:2). Our goal has been to re-read the major stories we learned as children, learning not only the individual and immediate lessons from the characters themselves, but also to see them, as best we can, as God has seen them, as individual dramas in a larger narrative – as God's working to bring about His ultimate plan, to save the world through Christ.

Thus, we have asked, "Lead us to the rock that is higher. Bring us up to the top of the mountain, to see things as You would see them, to see Your larger scheme, typically outside of our vantage." It has certainly been beneficial to read these stories, seeing their big picture position – how God used each of their individual situations, good and bad, to slowly accomplish His purpose of redeeming you and me. Seeing things from such a perspective causes one to declare, in the words of Paul, "Oh, the depth and the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out" (Romans 11:33).

It may be that this "higher perspective" idea is simply on my mind from thinking about it each week in our class, but regardless, reading those words of Paul this week struck me differently than they have in the past. Some context: Paul's somewhat complex argument in Romans 11 is to declare that God has worked through the rejection of Christ by many Jews of the day to bring about salvation for Gentile people, which in turn can work to bring about salvation of Jews. Taking a step back (or up to the high rock), Paul makes the declaration cited above – "His wisdom and knowledge are so deep and rich; how could we ever comprehend them!?" He concludes the paragraph with a doxology of sorts, reminding us of His presence behind and in it all – "For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen" (11:36).

What challenged me this week was the encouragement which follows, a passage all too familiar to many of us: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." Read in the context of chapter 11 (or in our terms, from the "rock that is higher"), Paul's challenge gains some nuance. In essence, Paul asks us to think of God's unfathomable work through the centuries in bringing about salvation of all people, then do the perfectly reasonable thing – to offer my life a sacrifice to Him whose wisdom and power are on display through the mercies He has clearly shown to us all. Why would we not give ourselves to someone who has such power and wisdom? If He can accomplish such "unsearchable" things through the annals of world history, what amazing things might He do through me? Why not strive to see our own life situations from the "rock that is higher?" Isn't it always a good idea to see things from a different perspective?

Adam

## **Family Bible Time Tonight at 5 p.m.**

# Prayer List

## Welcome Visitors

We are honored that you joined us. We hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We have an attended nursery, a cry/training room and a nursing mother's room for your convenience if you have small children.

Please fill out an attendance card and pass it to the end of the pew so that we may thank you for your visit.

## For The Record

January 17

Bible Study:	217
Morning:	307
Evening:	181
Wednesday (1/20):	NA
Contribution:	\$ 9,307
Weekly Budget:	\$10,025
Above (Below) Budget:	(\$3,211)



### Birthdays

- 2/2 Shaniece Alton
- Chace Eaves
- Don Gaunt
- 4 Helen Coltrane
- Rosalie Cruse
- 5 Todd Kraus
- Luke Lines
- 6 James Simons

- ◆ Continue to remember Eula Compton, Rachel Lilly, Marsha Bower, Dale Harp, Thelma Pendergrass, Jackie Buck, Tim Timmons, Don Essex
- ◆ Bill Culley continues to improve
- ◆ Karen Duncan is home recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- ◆ Ruth Essex will have to have carotid artery surgery but does not have a date yet.
- ◆ Illene Birdsong as she deals with possible injuries from a recent wreck.
- ◆ Seldon Essex and his ongoing health issues

### Friends & Family

- ◆ Coyeatte Ewing's dad, Jim Hammond, is in the hospital in West Plains
- ◆ Leah Freeze's mom, Glynda Gardner, and her continuing battle with cancer
- ◆ Ruth Reaves' brother, Jimmie Hocker, as he deals with cancer; Debra Davis' 19-year old great-niece, Courtney Price, as she deals with leukemia; if you would like to send a card, her address is Ms. Courtney Price – P4, American Family Children's Hospital, 1675 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53792.

Prayer Request: Elizabeth Lilly asked for prayers as she continues to deal with the struggles in her life.

**The Elders will present the 2016 Budget at this evening's service.**



PM Service on January 31st will be an evening of singing. Please plan to join us!

### Long Term/Shut-Ins

- Kay Adams
- Doris Burch
- Eula Compton
- Fern Davis
- Ella Mae Findlay
- Ann Freeze
- Chloe Gaddis
- Jerry Gillespie
- Doris Iorg
- Thelma Pendergrass
- Sandra Pengenot
- Nancy Snider
- Doris Tobler
- Judy Todd

### Expectant Mom

Sara Stipp/July



We extend our sympathy to Kenna Taylor and her family in the sudden loss of Kenna's brother-in-law in Texas last Sunday.



**Elders, Deacons, Preachers meeting next Sunday afternoon (31st) at 3 p.m. Please be present if at all possible.**

*People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do.*

*"for the tree is known by its fruit" (Matthew 12:33).*

*January 31st is the 5th Sunday this month. All contributions that day will go toward the building.*

### New Phone Numbers

Ron Bower/417-380-8799  
Marsha Bower/417-380-8770

# Upcoming Events



## The Church: Organism or Organization?

Lonnie Jones from Huntsville, AL

**Friday, February 5**

**7:00 PM - Two Are Better Than One**  
(Ecclesiastes) *(Everyone)*

**Saturday, February 6**

**8:00 AM - Meet with the elders**

**Raising Spiritually Reliant Children**

(each of the group sessions Saturday will center around this theme - we all have a responsibility in raising the next generation for the Lord's church)

**9:30 AM - Adults with children at home**

(Youth or adults in the 12:30 session can take care of children)

**11:00 AM - Pot-luck lunch**

**12:30 PM - All other adults**

**2:00 PM - Devo at James River Nursing Home**

**3:00 PM - Youth**

**7:00 PM - Significant Obscurity (Everyone)**

**Sunday, February 7**

**9:00 AM - The Duh-huh Sermon (Matthew 25)**

**10:00 AM - My Role In The Body (1 Corinthians 12)**

*We would like to encourage every family to make a special effort to be a part of this special weekend event. - The Elders*

## Elders, Ministers, Deacons & Staff

### Elders

Scott Barton	417-234-2679
Barney Crawford	417-866-0592
Jon Ewing	417-569-8698
Eddie Sanders	417-833-5712
Bob Snider	417-833-3498
Jerry Young	417-724-0324

### Minister

Bill McFarland	417-833-0110
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### Youth/Associate Minister

Adam Blaney	304-520-9800
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### Deacons

Tim Buckner	Aaron Morrison
Tom Davis	Travis Morrison
Jim Elliff	James Simons
Matt Keener	John Stayton
Russell Lilly	Mike Thurlkill

### Staff

Johnnie Elliff	Secretary
Tim Bowling	Custodian

## LTC Dates

- ◆ Puppets/Drama meet today after services (all day); also meet on 2/7, 21, March 6, 13, 20
- ◆ 2/16 Pre-convention 2 deadline
- ◆ 2/29 Registration deadline
- ◆ 3/20 Presentation night after evening services
- ◆ 3/25-27 Convention



◆ 2/14 Areawide Youth Night at

Water Mill

- ◆ 5/28 Ultimate AWY day
- ◆ 6/7-16—West Virginia Mission Trip

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## Ladies Bible Class

Thursday Ladies Class will resume on February 4th at 10:30 a.m. The topic of study will be **"The Road to Forgiveness"** by Nancy Eichman. See Linda Currier to purchase your book (new \$10; used \$5).

January 31, 5:00 PM – Middle School AWYN

**Jackson St. in Willard will host their annual MIDDLE SCHOOL Area Wide Youth Night January 31. This is for grades 5-8. We will take a bus which will leave at 4:15-4:30ish. See Adam if you are interested in going.**

### LADIES EVENTS:

**Women's Conference at Harding University, February 19-20, The Sacred Journey**

**Women Walking With God conference, The Greatest of these is Love, at the Hartman Arena, Park City, KS, April 15-16 See Brochures on the Bulletin Board.**



**We are placing a second Hoodie order—\$20.**

**Several regretted not getting a hoodie**

the first time around, so we are placing another order. I NEED TO KNOW ASAP if you want one, but we also need to spread the word around. I have to have 12 ordered to get the price. ANYONE can get one - kids, parents, younger siblings, anyone else. I just need to try to get them in by next week.

P.S. - Some are ordering the hoodie as a zip-up instead of a pullover, so that is an option too. Thanks! (Adam)

## SERVICE ROSTERS

### THIS MORNING

**Greeters:** Randy & Orvella Blackburn  
**Van Driver:** AM/Luis Tovar  
  
**Serve**  
**Communion:** Scott Nichols/Steve Prewitt  
Aaron Schwartz/James Simons  
John Stayton/Adam Stipp  
Jerry Stockdale/Tim Stockstill  
Colton Orum/Jon Davis

### THIS EVENING

**Song Leader:** Travis Morrison  
**Opening Prayer:** Gene Lund  
**Lesson:** Elders  
**Closing Prayer:** Dustin Stokes  
**Communion:** Eddie Currier/John Dutton

### NEXT WEEK (January 31)

	AM	PM
<b>Song Leader:</b>	J. Ewing/K. Cole	Travis Morrison
<b>Opening Prayer:</b>	Todd Kraus	John Mahon
<b>Communion:</b>	Brendan Carroll	E. Currier/J. Dutton
<b>Closing Prayer:</b>	Brock Snitker	Larry Baggett
<b>Greeters:</b>	Tim & Jan Bowling	
<b>Van Driver:</b>	Kevin Wuench/833-6134	

### Wednesday, January 27:

**Devotional:** Barney Crawford  
**Song Leader:** Byron Nichols  
**Prayer:** Verl Duncan  
**Van Driver:** Travis Morrison/343-7451

### MONTH OF JANUARY:

**AV Room:** Scott Barton/Bruce Tindall  
**Open Building:** Tim Timmons  
**Secure Building:** Tim Buckner

*Please see Mike Thurlkill if you are unable to serve.*

### WORKS WE SUPPORT

CHINESE AGAPE Foundation  
Joey & Tammy Treat, Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Steven Ashcraft, West Africa Mission  
Voice of Truth International  
Charles Renfro, Latin American  
Missions  
World Christian Broadcasting  
Churches of Christ Disaster Relief  
Fair Haven Children's Home  
"In Search of the Lord's Way"  
7 AM Sundays KOLR TV 10  
"KNOW YOUR BIBLE"  
10:30 AM Sundays/Springfield 33/KSPR

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study ....9:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship... .....5:00 PM  
Wednesday Night Bible Class.....7:00 PM



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A. Blaney: [ablaney1028@gmail.com](mailto:ablaney1028@gmail.com)

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Friday