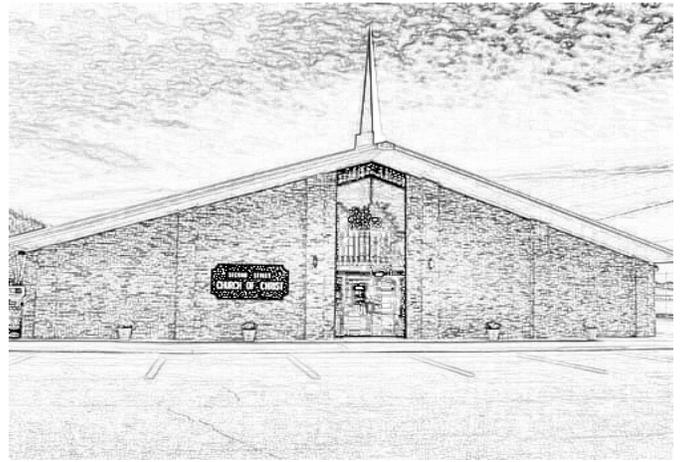


# Second Street Church of Christ



September 4, 2016

## Just keep on keeping on

### MINISTER

Adam Cozort

662-663-0231

### Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am  
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3*

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart” (Galatians 6:9 NKJV).

A group of us were riding in a van, returning from a day’s visit to one of the village churches in Bangladesh. It had been raining all day, and in the early hours of darkness the rain had gotten harder, and water was beginning to rise.

We drove into a low section of road with standing water, and as it began to grow deeper we caught up to slower traffic ahead of us. Our driver, aware that water was above the tail pipe on the van and that we were in danger of having the engine choked down, stranding us, passed the other vehicles and drove as quickly as possible until we were through the water.

I was concerned that, without traffic ahead of us to mark the way, we might get off of the pavement and get stuck, or worse, go into deep water beside the road – a ditch or a pond. But we had little choice. One option that we did not want was to be stranded in the road, at night, waiting for the rain to stop and the waters to recede.

Sometimes life is like that. You can’t stay where you are, but the way is not clear ahead either. The only wise choice is to continue as cautiously as possible. There may be more trouble ahead, but trouble is certain if you stop.

The Bible often encourages us to be patient. This quality is often misunderstood. In the Bible it rarely means just waiting for something to happen without complaining. Most often patience is endurance or persistence. So James wrote, “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. . . . Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful” (James 5:7, 11).

It is persistence in good works that is especially encouraged (Galatians 6:9). Sometimes the things we do seem to go unappreciated, even unnoticed. We try to live right and help others. We visit and encourage the sick, give to the poor, even show mercy to those who wrong us, but no one seems to care. The world mocks our faith. Even other Christians may criticize our methods or the amount of our efforts. It is

*(Continued on page 3)*

# *Announcements*

**Welcome Visitors!!** You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

**The sign-up sheet** to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

**Food Pantry** item - macaroni & cheese.

*Trays for Sept*

**Rada Malone**

*If you fear the fire of persecution,  
think about the fire of hell!*

## **He loved the unlovely**

There is one group with whom Jesus talked more than anyone except his disciples: the Pharisees.

The Pharisees are mentioned 82 times in the gospels, and almost all of those are in connection with Jesus teaching them. Just in the book of Matthew, the Pharisees are referred to 27 times. In more than one chapter in that book, there are three or more uses of the word.

Mark L. Strauss wrote, "The term Pharisee is probably derived from a Hebrew word for 'separatists,' and was applied because of the dietary and purity laws which restricted table fellowship with the common people and non-Jews." [1] Because Jesus had such close contact with "the common people," Strauss wrote that this placed him in direct opposition to them.

To be sure Jesus criticized the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and legalism, but there is another reason why he spent so much time teaching them. Like everyone else, the Pharisees were *lost*. They needed a Savior. If their self-centered egos could be set aside, Jesus might have been able to reach them. He did reach some of them. Luke reported, "The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7 NASB). Most of those priests were probably Pharisees.

Jesus always loved those who were unlovely. He healed the demon-possessed man who lived in tombs (Mark 5:2-8). One could imagine what a frightening sight this man was who was living among the dead, breaking all of his chains and cutting himself. Spiritually, the Pharisees were just as unlovely.

But, then again, aren't we all? We are all lost in sin and need a savior. The Pharisees' problem was that they saw themselves as the only good in the world and refused to see themselves for what they really were. How many of us have had (or still have) that problem?

Jesus loved them. Bottom line. He loves everyone. He loves you, and he is waiting for you to surrender your will to his and obey the gospel.

[1] "Four Portraits, One Jesus," by Mark L. Strauss, Zondervan Publishers, p. 132

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# THE SIN OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

*Learning from Acts 5:1-11*

## Why should we care?

IT IS THE FIRST RECORDED DEATH IN THE DAYS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.

IT IS THE FIRST SIN RECORDED AMONG THE CHURCH – LYING.

IT HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE FIRST CENTURY CHURCH.

THE LORD WANTED THE CHURCH TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING HE DEEMED VITAL TO THEIR SURVIVAL.

## The setting

MANY OF THE CHRISTIANS IN JERUSALEM WERE NOT FROM THERE.

THERE WERE GREAT NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, AND PROVISIONS FOR THESE NEW CHRISTIANS. (4:32-35)

THE CHURCH WAS BECOMING WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA WANTED A SHARE OF THAT REPUTATION.

## Their sin

IT WAS NOT THAT THEY KEPT BACK A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS.

IT WAS NOT JUST THAT THEY LIED TO GOD AND THE APOSTLES.

THEY HAD LOST THE PERSPECTIVE OF GOD JUDGING FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

THE STEPS THEY WERE WILLING TO TAKE FOR OUTWARD GLORY WOULD SERVE AS A SHOCKING LESSON FOR THE EARLY CHRISTIANS.

## Their continuing message...

GOD KNOWS THE HEART AND THE ACTION, WE CANNOT HIDE.

WHATEVER WE GIVE (MONEY, TIME, ETC.) MUST BE WITHOUT ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

“WE SHOULD NOT OVERRATE OUR LIBERALITY. NEITHER UNDERRATE OUR ABILITY.”

ARE WE BEING HONEST AND FORTHRIGHT IN OUR SERVICE TO GOD?

*(Continued from page 1)*

easy at such times to say, “What is the use? What good am I doing?”

But the Spirit calls, “Don’t grow weary.” For those who do not lose heart – that is, are not discouraged – there will come a time of reaping. No one else may know what we have done, but God does. He sees all, and he cares. The time is coming when all will be made right.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

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## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**            **9:00am**  
**Worship**                **10:00am**  
**Evening**                **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**            **7:00pm**

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Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Psalms 133:1**

The process for becoming a Christian  
is the same as it was over 2000 years  
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a  
Christian. These commands are from  
God and must be obeyed from the  
heart to become a Christian.

### Prayer List



|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Paula Wanner     | Matthew Horton     |
| Joey Pierce      | Faye Johnson       |
| Troy Yarbrough   | Phillip Pharr      |
| Barbara Blackman | Stephanie Moore    |
| Jeanie Ivy       | Larry Sartain      |
| Dorsa Sparks     | Jennifer Steger    |
| Lou Dodson       | Shane Stevens      |
| Mike Braden      | Allison Heitzman   |
| Tim Denson       | Jim Johnson        |
| Sammy Green      | Brenda Leatherwood |
| Charlotte Lard   | David James        |
| Kay Pope         | Henry Vandagriff   |
| Janice Moody     | Ellie Sander       |



### September Birthdays

*Josiah Cozort 9/1*

*Adam Cozort 9/5*

*Janey Dees 9/20*

*Carol Taylor 9/30*

### September Anniversaries

*Jeffrey & LaSha 9/23*

### Sympathy

*Taylor Family*