

# Second Street Church of Christ



December 18, 2016

## MINISTER

Adam Cozort

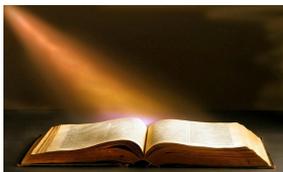
662-663-0231

## Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

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## 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***

## How lying threatens Christianity

**G**od never does anything without a substantive reason. We can trust that he knows what he is doing (Titus 1:2; Romans 11:33-34).

When we're immersed into Christ (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4), we become his servants who utilize the things he has given us, so we can be useful to his cause (Ephesians 2:10).

His glory becomes our central focus (Ephesians 3:20-21).

We're called to live to a standard (Ephesians 4:1-13). We immerse ourselves in his word and let it guide us daily (Psalm 119:105). We leave the world behind and walk according to Christ (Ephesians 4:1).

As ambassadors of truth, we're commissioned to take the gospel to the lost world (Matthew 28:18-20). In order for the gospel to penetrate hearts and minds, the deliverer must be dependable in word.

Our reputation is an undeniable part of the message. While it's true that the Word predominates, people won't listen if we're untrustworthy. They will assume we're lying or being manipulative, yet again.

We can destroy the message before it's even delivered.

Since we're a new creation in Christ, we must "put away lying" (Ephesians 4:25, NKJV) and "let no corrupt word proceed out of [y]our mouth" (Ephesians 4:29).

We can't pull a delectable meal from the garbage and expect people to eat it. That's just the reality. So how we conduct ourselves is extremely important.

It's similar to the Lord's demand that brethren don't take each other to court because it indicates that Christ doesn't have an answer (1 Corinthians 6:1).

We must not "grieve the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 4:30), because we refuse to be cooperative. He depends on our pure lives in order for his kingdom to thrive.

This is what we signed up for and heaven is worth it.

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the message  
before it's even  
delivered.***

## 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 Drive item** - see list in the back for items that may be lacking. Boxes will be put together over the next few days. If you know someone that would like a box give the name to Shea or Stephanie.

**Clothing Drive Continues** - See Debra Wren if you have any clothes to bring.

**Mystery Dinner** Dec. 31 at the building.

**New Years Eve** singing at Plainview 7—9pm.

If anyone is interested in helping.  
From the Gatlinburg Church of Christ:

Our building was fully insured. If anyone wants to help those who lost their homes, we ask them to send a contribution to the Gatlinburg church of Christ and mark it For Fire Relief. We will use it to help our members first and then others as funds permit. The address is: Gatlinburg church of Christ, P.O. Box 361, Gatlinburg, TN 37738.

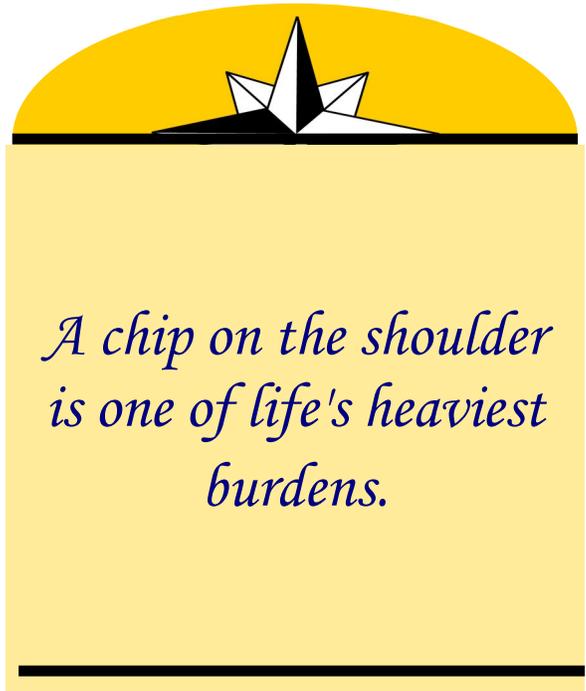
*Don't use a gallon of words to express a spoonful of thought.*

### **Rest From Their Labors...**

God's Word is very plain in its declaration that men ought to work. Whether we consider the examples of Jesus—a carpenter (Mark 6:3), Paul—a tentmaker (Acts 18:3), or Peter—a fisherman (Matthew 4:18), it is clear that work should be a part of our lives. Making this point even stronger, Paul wrote: "For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

It is also interesting to note that the Bible offers advice about how we do our work. Solomon wrote: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And Paul wrote: "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:22, 23).

But with all of that being said, Christians have the privilege of looking forward to a time that is free from work. This time is not merely the retirement that so many long for—it is eternal rest which results from being faithful to Jesus. Describing this John wrote: "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them'" (Revelation 14:13). While the labor of the Christian on earth never ceases, the eternal rest which awaits will be worth it all. There is a rest waiting for those who faithfully serve God. It is found in heaven. *Chad Ramsey*



# How to build the church

*L*et's start with an important declaration: I think we all want the church to grow. The question is, how?

Church growth has become an industry these days with studies and literature all over social media. Those who care about the church might lend some of these an ear. And yet there are cautions to observe, too.

Never surrender biblical truth in order to "spread the net wider." Sheer numbers of bodies on church pews does not equate spiritual growth. Methods that work in one part of the world, at one time in history or for one person's talents may not work in another. The Bible, too, is interested in church growth, and we might consult it for guidance in this department.

So what does the church need in order to grow? Do we switch preachers like a pro football franchise until we get the "right one"? Do we pour money into some slick public relations company? Do we scamper around trying to copy the latest method from other congregations that have found a "formula"?

Take a deep breath! Here are some things we can do, attainable by every congregation of the Lord's people.

**We can ensure a converted membership, where Christians "seek first" Christ's kingdom (Matthew 6:33).**

The church will never grow *collectively* beyond the level of commitment of members *individually*. Do you care what happens to your congregation? Do you care what happens to its members? Some care enough to point out where others go wrong, but the committed child of God seeks to do his part to make things better.

**We can be a praying membership.**

Now that is an activity attainable for all, isn't it? Paul often sought the prayers of his brethren. "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will boldly make known the mystery of the Gospel" (Ephesians 6:19). If you want a better preacher, pray for him. If you want a better congregation, pray for her!

**We can be a united membership.**

I am always impressed with Paul suggesting to the Corinthians: "Why not rather be defrauded?" (1 Corinthians 6:7). Is there ever a principle at stake more important than my petty feelings? What about the reputation of the church in the community? What about the well-being of God's people, the church?

**We can make use of our talents and opportunities.**

Paul envisions a church where "each [member] does its part" (Ephesians 4:16). When God wanted to provide salvation for the community of Jerusalem, Ephesus or Tennessee, what did he do? What kind of "growth method" did he adopt? KNAAN News Short wave radio? Bible correspondence from Galilee?

*He used a church!*

Please, please, read that last line again. He utilized the collective talents and resources of a group of God's people. As E.M. Bounds declared, "People are God's method. The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better people."

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biblical truth in  
order to "spread  
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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**

### Prayer List

Paula Wanner	Debra Brewer
Joey Pierce	Faye Johnson
Phillip Pharr	Elizabeth Posey
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Larry Sartain	Flora Wanner
Jennifer Steger	Carolyn Holcomb
Lou Dodson	Shane Stevens
Mike Braden	Lynn Sander
Tim Denson	Jim Johnson
Sammy Green	Brenda Leatherwood
Charlotte Lard	David James
Jimmy Searcy	Aletha Ray
Steve Harris	Dianne Vandagriff
Manzy Caldwell	



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.



### December Birthdays

*Flora Wanner 12/3*

*Faye Johnson 12/15*

*MaKayla Johnson 12/17*

*Steve Holcomb 12/21*

*Jan Higginbottom 12/26*

*Joe Horton 12/29*

### December Anniversaries

*Sympathy*

*Gober Family*