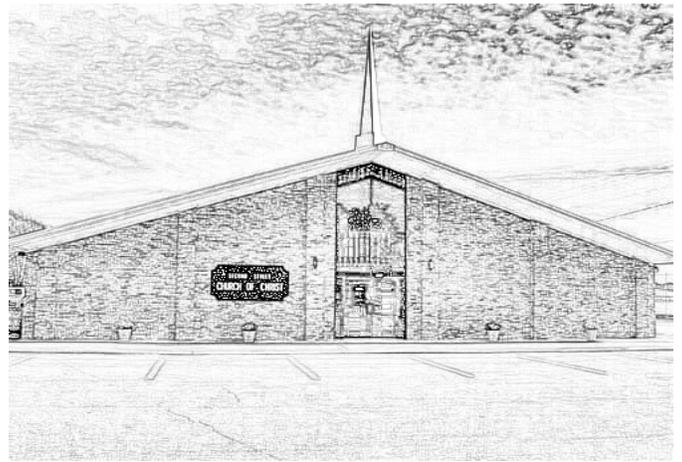


# Second Street Church of Christ



February 4, 2018

## MINISTER

### Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

Website:  
secondstreetcofc.com



## 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*

## What preachers wish congregations knew about preachers

*He* stands in the pulpit every Sunday. He must be deeply spiritual. Never has any doubts, never feels discouraged, because he is a spiritual leader, right?

Well, you might be surprised to find that your preacher is human. Have you ever wondered what he wished you knew, but was afraid to tell you?

- He wishes you knew that preachers don't just work on Sunday. Consider what we ask of our local preachers. If he delivers four lessons a week, that's two hundred messages a year (if you give him two weeks off), a thousand messages in five years. If he delivers thoughtful, spiritual messages, that implies time in prayer and preparation. No, he doesn't come up with great messages by waving a preacher wand. Don't worry, if he's not studying, you will be able to tell the difference. Aside from preparing messages, he visits the hospital, shut-ins, counsels the disturbed and mollifies the upset and antagonistic. He is on call 24/7. Many is the time when he will return to the office at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday to complete a sermon because of funerals, counseling, visitation and so on.

He wishes you would bring your critiques to him, rather than other members or their wives. If you have a concern with something your preacher said or did, follow Matthew 18:18-20 and Galatians 6:1,2. Speak to him first, and do so in a gentle and loving manner.

- He wishes you knew that his wife does not have any special position in the church. Just like the doctor's wife does not dispense medicine, the preacher's wife should not be expected to be some kind of spiritual wonder woman. She is a member of the congregation, under the care of shepherds, just like all the other members.
- He wishes you knew how hard it is to please everybody. If he wears a tie, he's too stuffy, if he wears his shirttail out he's too casual; he should cover first principles, he should tell us something new; he should spend more time in visitation, he should spend more time preparing sermons.
- If he is a family man, he has the same financial concerns as the rest of the congregation does. He worries that he has no pension (the vast majority of preachers

*(Continued on page 2)*

## 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.

**Ron Deaton** will be speaking today.

**Scripture and Songs** next Sunday followed by a fellowship meal.

## True Food

I've been told that there's a health-food restaurant in the northeast with a billboard that says, "Eat here and live a long life!" Not wanting to be outdone, the barbecue place next door put up a sign that reads: "Eat here and die happy!"

Food is essential to each of us, without it we die. What bread is to hunger, Jesus is to spiritual life. After miraculously feeding bread and fish to 5,000 people, Jesus spoke of a superior bread that every person must feed on when he declared in John 6:35, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jesus emphasized that He sustains and fulfills our spiritual lives. His point is that we need Him more than we need food. Just as we die without food, we will spiritually die without Christ. Jesus can fill our every need.

Mark Tonkery

Parkersburg, WV

*(Continued from page 1)*

do not have one), he worries that he cannot buy his wife a new outfit every once in a while, he worries that when he is elderly and in poor health that he will be destitute. Ask yourself: if the congregation gave their preacher the average salary of the congregation, would his salary increase or decrease?

Sometimes, he wants to quit. Satan wants him to quit. Enemies of the cross want him to quit. It feels like even his own brethren want him to quit. He feels he is taken for granted. Brethren rave about preachers of yesteryear, or preachers at various lectureships, and he wonders if he is "chopped liver." Paul once declared, "and who is sufficient for such things?" (2 Corinthians 2:16).

- He wishes you knew that sometimes he will have to say something unpopular and uncool if he is to truly speak for the Lord. He hopes there are mature Christians who will back him when he does that.
- He wishes you knew how much he cares. He weeps over a member who leaves the faith, a teen who succumbs to drugs or drink. When you weep at a funeral over a beloved brother or sister, he must deliver the message; but he weeps on the inside.
- He wishes you knew how much a simple card or message saying "Thank you" meant to him. Every preacher has a shoebox of these messages, and when he's down, he pulls it out and reads it again. Text him, message him, say the words "Thank you" and specify what you're grateful for.

Paul suggests the proper attitude toward your preacher: "Honor such men," he says (Philippians 2:29). Isn't it time you honored your preacher?

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## Can you answer this question?

“*Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*” (Matthew 7:3).

This question is meant to be answered. Someone once told me, “We see ourselves with rose-colored glasses; we see others with magnifying glasses.”

Why DO we so easily see the faults of others, but not our own?

With our eyes, we drink in the world around us. We think we see so clearly. In fact, we do not see as clearly as we think we do (cf. John 7:24). Appearances are often deceiving.

- The guy coming out of the bar may have just been servicing the cooler.
- The girl who always takes the lead may just be overcompensating for deep insecurity.
- The highly-successful star athlete may just want his dad to notice him.

The only person we really can see is the self. Even then, we have the ability to deceive.

We can erect interior walls in this house. We may even build a maze. We most certainly build closets.

We are not our body or our feelings. We are not our inclinations or experiences. We are the person watching them in the theatre of the mind.

- We are connected, yet separate from those things.
- We are observing our decisions, our thoughts, our memories.
- That is who we really are.

The degree to which we know ourselves is the degree to which we can answer Jesus’ question. If we spend all our time in “outer” space, we won’t even hear the question. We’ll think it’s rhetorical.

*Why DO we so easily see the faults of others, but not our own?*

Superficiality is like eating candy. It’s cheap. It’s accessible. It tastes good. This is how most people live.

Living introspectively is a challenge. It takes time and effort to be honest, to clean our own house.

- It humbles us.
- It makes us less quick to judge.
- It makes us quicker to extend mercy.
- It makes us compassionate and vulnerable.

How many people do you work with who are like this? Family members? Fellow Christians?

You can sense who introspective people are by their humility, patience, mercy, compassion and unconventional honesty.

Why do we see the speck? Because logs are harder to move.

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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	David Alexander
Cassie Tierce	Ruth James
Betty Moore	Francis Mortland
Stephanie Moore	Barbara Trollinger
Ralph Montgomery	Linda Parker
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
James Adams	Christian Harris
Jimmy Searcy	Patsy Wanner
Christy Hickox	Brenda Leatherwood
Susan Vandagriff	Kenneth Orrick
Tonia Martin	Misty Inmon



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.



### February Birthdays

*Edna 2/3*

*Alan 2/11*

*Wallace 2/11*

*Larry 2/16*

*Wendell 2/19*

### February Anniversaries

*Jim & Faye 2/28*

### Sympathy

*Wren Family*

*Wells Family*